Survey Results (including comments): Skiing Direction on Dog Trails

The two survey questions were:

1. Should Pooch Paradise and Wild Dog be one-way for all skiers whether they are skiing with or without dogs? Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Don’t care\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. When you ski these trails, do you ski

With dog \_\_\_\_\_\_ Without dog \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Sometimes with & sometimes without \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Ski w/dog | Ski w/out dog | Sometimes ski w/ dog |
| YES | 50 | 18 | 26 |
| NO | 7 | 62 | 29 |
| DON’T CARE | 30 | 23 | 16 |

**Comments** (# of responses with given comment in parentheses – these might not be 100% accurate):

\*\*\* Many comments began with few lines saying Thank-you. Sometimes the thanks were specific (I didn’t keep track of #s of these as it was not the focus of the survey):

* Expressing appreciation for the dog trails
* Acknowledging the excellent job that groomers did this year under difficult conditions
* Thanking the club for offering opportunity to express opinions about this issue

**1) Safety concerns**

* Dangerous to have 2- way skiing (11)
* Skate skiers are the main problem because dogs run down the centre of the tracks (6)
* Don’t care (ski without dog) but recognise safety concern if ski with dogs
* Fear for dogs’ safety – skiers coming down hills fast
* Many negative encounters/near misses with skate skiers
* Don’t understand why anyone skis in wrong direction – it just causes trouble.
* Mystified by why shifting to a safer patter poses challenge – a public safety issue. Dog trails at other clubs are one-way

**2) Unpleasant to have 2 way skiing**

* Stress of anticipating anger, danger negatively impacts ski (2)
* Rudeness (from dog skier x 3; non-dog skier x 1)
* Told by skiers w/out dogs to keep dogs on own side of trail - unrealistic
* Don’t want to run into dogs when skiing; one way for all reduces interactions with not nice dogs (from non-dog skier)
* Several times skate skiers made angry comments when dog was in the middle. Stopped coming/partner stopped coming because wasn’t enjoying ski (2)
* Skiers w/out dogs on trails should anticipate dog interaction and not be annoyed by that. If uninterrupted skiing is important, could consider other trails.

**3) change direction mid-season or frequently (3)**

**4) Encounters**

* Dogs get in the way – usually at bottom of hills
* Problem is skate skiers with dogs who are far ahead of their dogs
* Issue with dogs is no owners are around and dogs follow us
* Non-dog traffic needs to anticipate that will encounter dogs and “respectfully proceed with caution”/not be angry/grumpy (3 from non-dog skiers; 1 from dog skier)
* Like to meet people with dogs (from a non-dog skier)
* Dog owners more likely to see me and organise their dogs if I’m coming toward them (from non-dog skier)
* Prefer to see dogs coming (from non-dog skier)

**5) Skiing both directions without dog**

* Feels like different trail when reverse direction (9)
* Appreciate being able to ski in both directions (3)
* Our right to be able to ski in both directions (1)
* Never had a bad encounter (3)
* There have been no collisions (2)
* Wild Dog was designed to ski both ways – people have to take some measure of real vs. perceived risk – real risk is small
* If skiers don’t mind running into dogs, then allow to go either way

**6) Only 1 trail should be uni-directional**

* Wild dog because of sharp corners and steep hills
* One way on Pooch Paradise but not necessary on Wild Dog because so quiet

**7) Other patterns**

* Want trails 2-way for all
* No dogs on trails period (because of poop)
* Suggest The Pup be both ways for skiers with dogs
* One way for all where there are hills

**8) Other comments**

* Signage could be simplified if one way for all
* Easier to join up loops if not have to think about direction
* Easier to pass if all one way
* Anyone on trails should expect dogs so training that can’t be disturbed by the occasional dog should be discouraged on these trails
* Ski without dog so answered “no” but would say “yes” if had dog
* People with dogs are only tolerated on trails

**9) Hard to know what to do with these comments**

* When ski with dog, want everyone to ski in same direction, but when ski without dog, want two way
* Very important to respect needs and wishes of longtime club members
* Collisions are not an issue on other (non-dog) 2-way trails
* Might be helpful to know mountain bike experience
* Good to foster sense that anyone is welcome

**10) Comments about survey**

* Survey missed day pass holders
* Delete responses because have email addresses, i.e. identifying information (3) **NOTE: THIS HAS BEEN DONE**
* Concerned that if complain then dog trails will be shut down/dogs will be banned from trails (4)

**11) Beyond scope of this survey**

* Need/want more dog trails (3) incl. expand to 5K Pine Creek but no more (1) or take over all Pine Creek (2); open Pine Creek to dogs Mon-Thur but not on weekends
* Keep Pine Creek dog free (2); want dogs off Pine Creek
* Poop is out of control (3); I don’t ski dog trails because of all of the poop (2)
* Dogs running free in parking lot annoying and unsafe (2)
* Suggest that people bring own trowel
* Want lit dog trails
* Suggest dog pass/dog membership to reflect added cost (2)