



Dave Wiens

Meet Dave Wiens. He's Executive Director of the International Mountain Bike Association. A member of the Mountain Bike Hall of Fame, Dave created and led the Mountain Sports program at Western Colorado University. He also had noticed erosion on the trails that he and other bikers loved and started mobilizing people to do trail work.

That led to his founding of Gunnison Trails where he spearheaded successful advocacy campaigns, especially with the Board of County Commissioners. But he realized that the work was much bigger than trails and recreation; "If all we do is build and maintain mountain bike trails, we are doing a public disservice," he says. There had to be conversations with groups like hunters who felt that recreationists were violating their spaces – a situation that now the mountain bike enthusiasts are facing with motorized trail vehicle owners. "Compromise is essential," says Dave, "and it starts with getting to know and understand people, even if you don't agree with them. "Escalation is too easy. And really, no one wants to fight."

A key ingredient for his success in bringing people together – and ultimately helping craft public lands use policies – is that he's a great motivator of people. He can pack a room, yes, but he believes what he really is doing is to enable people to see the bigger vision and know how they can play a part to make things happen. He can let go of his own ego in order to facilitate agreements. "My secret? I don't need to get the credit."