

Cyclists incensed after bike pedal blamed in Sierra wildfire

By Kurtis Alexander, San Francisco Chronicle

A lot of things can start a wildfire: lawn mowers, gunfire, smoldering cigarettes. It makes sense in a state dried out by drought.

But the latest culprit – a bike – is largely unheard of as a source of ignition, and is being met with disbelief in some circles.

U.S. Forest Service investigators say a bicycle pedal that scraped a rock and shot sparks on a mountain bike trail was responsible for a 122-acre blaze in the Eastern Sierra last month, a finding that unleashed a firestorm of incredulity on the Internet.

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