



Horse riding trials in wilderness – Kosciuszko National Park

Introduction

The NSW Government is committed to providing opportunities for horse riding in NSW national parks. This includes a trial of horse riding in five wilderness locations through a two-year wilderness pilot. The pilot will assist in determining whether horse riding in wilderness can occur without causing irreversible damage to park values. The pilot proposals are outlined in [Strategic Directions for Horse Riding in NSW National Parks](#).

Information on the pilot, including the matters discussed below, is available on the [wilderness horse riding trial](#) webpage.

What trails are involved in Kosciuszko National Park?

The trails available for horse riding in wilderness in Kosciuszko National Park (see map) are the:

- Nine Mile Trail
- Ingeegoodbee Trail.

These traverse the declared 'Pilot Wilderness Area' and access to them is via the Barry Way, about 62 kilometres south of Jindabyne.

The Nine Mile Trail runs from the Pinch River camp off the Barry Way until it meets the Ingeegoodbee Trail (about 10.4 km). The Ingeegoodbee Trail runs north-west to Tin Mine Huts and south-west to the park boundary on the NSW–Victoria border (about 21.6 km in total). These trails (particularly the Nine Mile Trail) are very steep and cross difficult terrain, rising from about 300 to 1200 metres above sea level.

Important safety and access advice for park visitors

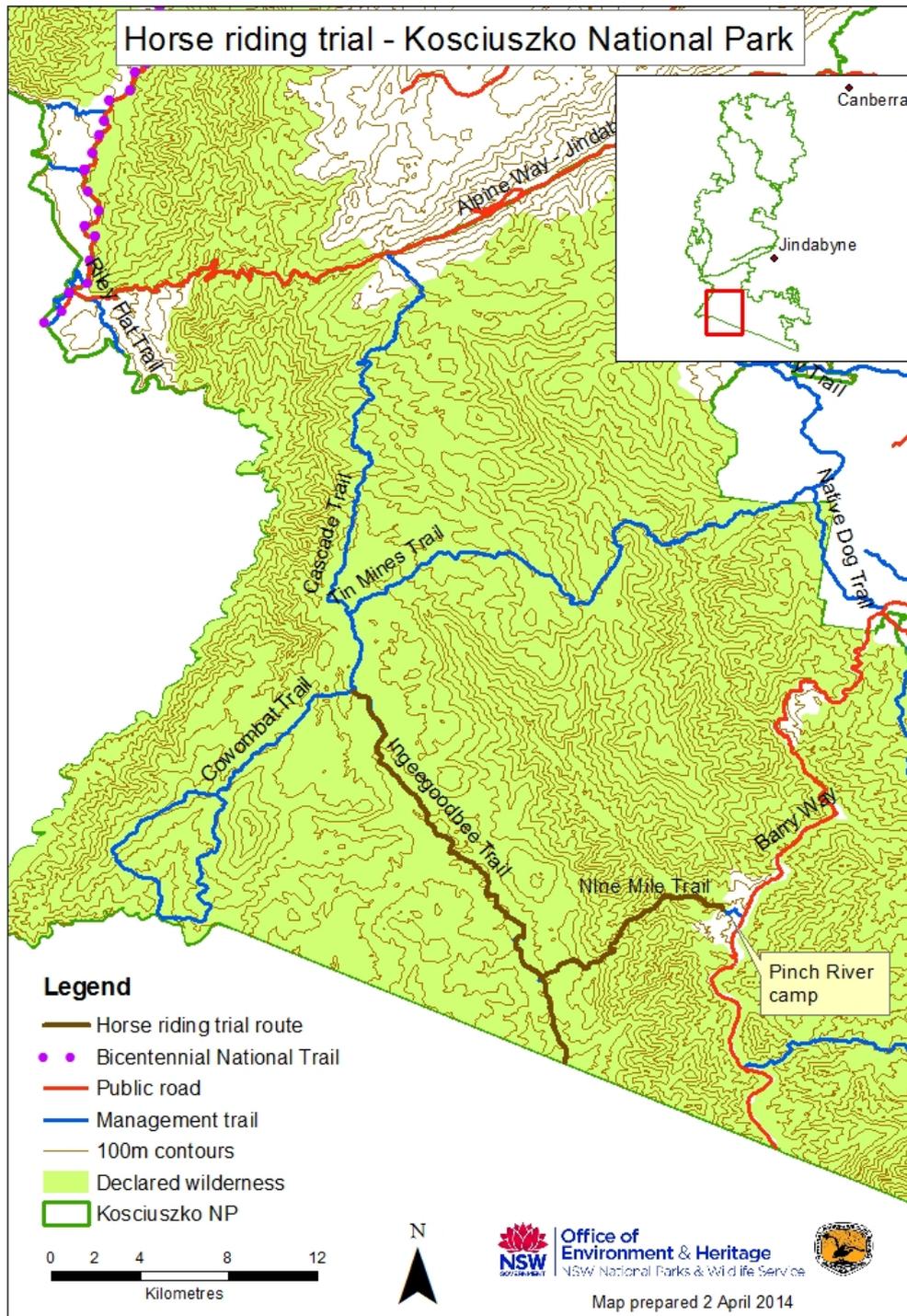
The Barry Way is a narrow unsealed road, with steep drop-offs. A 4WD vehicle is strongly recommended if towing a horse float to the start of the Nine Mile Trail.

The trails in Kosciuszko National Park are remote, rugged and challenging (around 32 km long). They are suitable for **experienced riders only** and horses should be above-average fitness. Riders need to be prepared for remote and difficult riding in highly changeable weather, including extreme cold.

The trails are closed to public access in winter from the June long weekend to the October long weekend each year.

When does the pilot start and finish?

The pilot starts in Kosciuszko National Park on 12 April 2014 and concludes in April 2016. Each pilot will then be evaluated, including assessment of monitoring data.



Do I need to book or get permission to ride?

No. Access is available on the identified trails and tracks without needing to make a booking or get approval. Group size limits of eight horses apply.

What should I do if planning to ride in these locations?

The trial is in remote locations where mobile phone reception is highly variable and often not available. They also include some rugged and challenging sections. When planning a ride, normal precautions should be taken:

- check the [national parks](#) website for any warnings or localised closures that may be in place at that time
- check and plan for a range of weather conditions
- take appropriate quantities of food and water and first aid equipment
- do not ride alone and ensure you inform others about your departure and return times.

The [Code of practice for horse riding in parks](#), available on the OEH website, provides more information on safe riding techniques.

Plan of management

The plan of management for Kosciuszko National Park has been [amended](#) to support the wilderness pilot.

Assessment and safeguards

A [precautionary review of environmental factors](#) (REF) to assess impacts of the trials has been prepared. A range of environmental safeguards have been applied to reduce the risk of adverse impact including:

- use of management trails already used for park management purposes
- no new construction of trails or supporting infrastructure with maintenance limited to essential actions needed to ensure safe access
- group size limits of eight horses
- informal camping only in designated locations at least 500 metres from historic huts and no more than 100 metres from a trail
- application of a monitoring framework, including 16 monitoring sites.

Monitoring

Evaluation of the pilots will involve ongoing monitoring of both environmental issues, as well as feedback from park visitors. The monitoring framework will focus on track and soil condition, weeds, visitor experiences, and frequency and intensity of trail use (through remote-sensing cameras). Information from monitoring will be published regularly.

Responsible riding practice

The [Code of practice for horse riding in parks](#) was developed by NPWS in consultation with horse riders. It provides guidance on safe practices to avoid environmental damage, camping and driving with horses, group events and where to obtain more information.

More information

More information about the wilderness pilots is available on the [wilderness horse riding trial](#) webpage.

The National Parks and Wildlife Office at Jindabyne can also provide information about the particular trails involved in the trial and visiting Kosciuszko National Park generally:

Address: Snowy Region Visitor Centre, Kosciuszko Road, Jindabyne

Phone: (02) 6450 5600

Web: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkHome.aspx?id=N0018

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