



Office of
Environment & Heritage
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service



Amendments to Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management

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ISBN 978 1 74359 804 7

OEH 2014/0662

December 2014

BACKGROUND

OEH supports high quality mountain biking experiences provided in an ecologically and socially responsible manner in NSW national parks and reserves.

The OEH *Sustainable Mountain Bike Strategy* (2011) recognises Kosciuszko as one park where 'single-track' experiences exist. The strategy also provides a mechanism for proposing plan of management (PoM) amendments to enable development of new mountain biking opportunities where the experience satisfies certain criteria.

Kosciuszko Thredbo Pty Ltd has been providing mountain bike trails at Thredbo since the early 1990's. Initially these trails were on the resort management trails, but over time they moved off the management trail network to single-tracks. Thredbo resort is recognised as an Australian mountain bike destination providing a range of single-track experiences in the lower parts of the valley for cross-country riding and the chairlift-accessed, signature downhill trail known as Thredbo Downhill. The Thredbo trail network can be viewed at www.thredbo.com.au/activities/summer-activities/biking/.

Kosciuszko Thredbo is proposing to expand the trail network to provide more intermediate trails and to link the village network to the soon to be completed Thredbo Valley shared-use trail linking Thredbo to Bullocks Flat on the Alpine Way.

The 2006 *Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management* recognised mountain biking as a legitimate and growing recreational activity in the park and required the development of a cycling strategy. The OEH *Cycling Policy* (2011) and *Sustainable Mountain Biking Strategy* provide a clear policy direction for assessing new developments across the park estate.

The PoM currently only permits cycling on roads and management trails within the Visitor Services Zones (which includes the alpine resort areas), Major and Minor Road Corridors and Back Country Zone. The PoM is a statutory instrument and all activities within the park must be consistent with the PoM.

OEH recognises the current PoM limits mountain bike opportunities by restricting riders to existing roads and management trails, and is not in step with the merit-based assessment process provided for in the *Sustainable Mountain Bike Strategy*. It also does not reflect that since the late 1990s the majority of the trail network in Thredbo has, in the main, been a single-track network largely off the management trail network.

This amendment to the PoM will allow appropriate consideration of sustainable mountain biking opportunities in Kosciuszko National Park consistent with the OEH *Sustainable Mountain Biking Strategy*, and subject to merit-based statutory environmental assessment through development consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The assessment of applications requiring agency consent will include: formal consideration of potential risks to visitor safety; impacts on threatened species, populations or ecological communities; and impacts on cultural heritage.

The draft amendment was placed on public exhibition between 14 February and 4 April 2014 and was considered by the Southern Ranges Regional Advisory Committee and National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council. This final amendment has taken into consideration recommendations from these groups and comments provided during the public exhibition.

These amendments were adopted by the Minister for the Environment on 14 December 2014 in accordance with Section 73B of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

For further information on these amendments, contact the NPWS Southern Ranges Region, PO Box 2228, Jindabyne NSW 2627 (phone 02 6450 5555).

Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management

AMENDMENT 1

Current wording of Section 8.11.1.3:

8.11.1.3. Permit cycling on all roads and trails within the Visitor Services Zone, Major and Minor Road Corridors and Back Country Zone with the exception of:

- Trails, or sections of trails, that traverse threatened species habitats or contain lengthy sections of wet ground; and
- Trails, or sections of trails, where cycling poses an unacceptable risk to the safety of other users.

Replace with new wording:

8.11.1.3. Permit cycling on all roads, management trails, purpose-built cycling tracks, shared-use tracks and multiple-use trails within the Visitor Services Zone, Major and Minor Road Corridors and Back Country Zone subject to risk and environmental assessments and approval. Development of new cycling tracks will require risk and environmental assessments and approval.

AMENDMENT 2

Current wording of Section 8.11.1.6:

8.11.1.6 Prohibit cycling that does not occur on roads and management trails and prohibit cycling on all designated walking tracks.

Replace with new wording:

8.11.1.6 Prohibit cycling that does not occur on roads, management trails, purpose-built cycling tracks, shared-use tracks or multiple-use trails; and prohibit cycling on all designated walking tracks.

AMENDMENT 3

Current wording of Section 8.11.1.11:

8.11.1.11 Permit downhill mountain bike riding on approved existing management trails only within the alpine resort areas. Monitor the environmental impact of this activity and manage it within the bounds of threshold limits.

Replace with new wording:

8.11.1.11 Monitor the environmental impact of mountain biking and manage it within the bounds of threshold limits.

AMENDMENT 4

Current wording of Schedule 4 Table S4.1:

Zone	Wilderness	Back Country	Minor Road Corridors	Major Road Corridors	Visitor Services
Cycling	designated management trails only ⁴	management trails only	roads and management trails only	roads and management trails only	roads and management trails only

Replace with new wording:

Zone	Wilderness	Back Country	Minor Road Corridors	Major Road Corridors	Visitor Services
Cycling	designated management trails only ⁴	management trails, purpose-built cycling tracks, shared-use tracks and multiple-use trails only, subsequent to, and consistent with the KNP Cycling Strategy	roads, management trails, purpose-built cycling tracks, shared-use tracks and multiple-use trails only	roads, management trails, purpose-built cycling tracks, shared-use tracks and multiple-use trails only	roads, management trails, purpose-built cycling tracks, shared-use tracks and multiple-use trails only

AMENDMENT 5

Current wording of Schedule 4 Table S4.2:

Zone	Wilderness	Back Country	Minor Road Corridors	Major Road Corridors	Visitor Services
Cycling	group activities with consent on designated management trails only ⁴	with consent on management trails only	with consent on roads and management trails only	with consent on roads and management trails only	with consent on roads and management trails only

Replace with new wording:

Zone	Wilderness	Back Country	Minor Road Corridors	Major Road Corridors	Visitor Services
Cycling	group activities with consent on designated management trails only ⁴	with consent on management trails, purpose-built cycling tracks, shared-use tracks and multiple-use trails only, subsequent to, and consistent with the KNP Cycling Strategy	with consent on roads, management trails, purpose-built cycling tracks, shared-use tracks and multiple-use trails only	with consent on roads, management trails, purpose-built cycling tracks, shared-use tracks and multiple use trails only	with consent on roads, management trails, purpose-built cycling tracks, shared-use tracks and multiple use trails only

AMENDMENT 6

Current wording of Section 8.11.1.12:

Prepare a cycling strategy for the park and surrounding areas that identifies appropriate trail networks, and their management and promotional requirements.

Replace with the wording:

Prepare a cycling strategy for the park and surrounding areas that is made available for public comment before finalisation and that identifies:

- appropriate cycling networks and strategically identifies appropriate areas for and constraints on the development of purpose-built cycling tracks in the park, particularly in the Back Country Zone
- management and promotional requirements for the cycling network.

AMENDMENT 7

Current wording of Table 1 Summary of Zoning Scheme

	Wilderness	Back Country
Recreational Facilities		New facilities restricted to toilets and interpretive and directional signs.

Replace with the wording:

	Wilderness	Back Country
Recreational Facilities		New facilities restricted to toilets, interpretive and directional signs and purpose-built cycling tracks.

AMENDMENT 8

Add the following new definitions to Appendix 1 Glossary:

Shared-use track: a track that is available for cyclists and walkers.

Multi-purpose trail: a trail that is available for horse riders, cyclists and walkers; and park management, emergency and other authorised uses. Currently the only multi-purpose trail in the park is the Bicentennial National Trail which follows management trails and short sections of public road.

AMENDMENT 9

Ensure the terms 'shared-use track' and 'multi-purpose trail' are used correctly and consistently in the PoM.

Current wording of Section 8.6 Walking (p. 118):

Three long-distance walking or multi-purpose tracks cross the park - the Australian Alps Walking Track, Hume and Hovell Track and the Bicentennial National Trail. All three of these tracks primarily consist of a series of linked management trails.

Replace with new wording:

Two long-distance walking tracks (Australian Alps Walking Track and Hume and Hovell Track) and one multi-purpose trail (the Bicentennial National Trail) cross the park. All three consist primarily of a series of linked management trails.

Current wording of Section 8.11.1.7:

Close some roads and trails to cyclists on a seasonal basis, as necessary.

Replace with new wording:

Close some roads, trails, cycling tracks and shared-use tracks to cyclists on a seasonal basis, as necessary.

Current wording of Section 8.11.1.8:

Roads and trails may be temporarily closed to cyclists due to extreme weather conditions, fire events and other natural hazards.

Replace with new wording:

Roads, trails, cycling tracks and shared-use tracks may be temporarily closed to cyclists due to extreme weather conditions, fire events and other natural hazards.

Current wording of Schedule 5, Table S5.2, Legend point 2:

2. Multiple use trail

Replace with new wording:

2. Multi-purpose trail

Current wording of Schedule 6, Table S6.4, Legend point 2:

2. With the exception of the three long-distance walking or multi-purpose tracks that cross the park - the Australian Alps Walking Track, Hume and Hovell Track and the Bicentennial National Trail.

Replace with new wording:

2. With the exception of the two long-distance walking tracks (Australian Alps Walking Track and Hume and Hovell Track) and the multi-purpose trail (Bicentennial National Trail) that cross the park.

AMENDMENT 10

Current wording of Section 8.2 Visitor facilities (p. 106):

The types of visitor facilities provided in the park include roads and car parks, picnic tables, seats, shelters, toilets, fireplaces, walking tracks, ski trails, viewing platforms, signs and huts.

Replace with new wording:

The types of visitor facilities provided in the park include roads and car parks, picnic tables, seats, shelters, toilets, fireplaces, walking and cycling tracks, ski trails, viewing platforms, signs and huts.