

Considering new bike track proposals on PCL (other than national parks)

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is responsible for managing recreational opportunities on public conservation land (PCL), including biking, in accordance with the Conservation General Policy 2005 (CGP) and Conservation Management Strategies (CMS). The CGP requires a CMS to identify where biking opportunities are allowed and where new bike tracks may be constructed.

Summary Statement

DOC considers the CGP requirement for a CMS to identify where new unpowered bike tracks may be allowed can be achieved through means other than listing specific locations – such as through criteria, zones, or other mechanisms. This approach to CGP requirement means DOC can consider new proposals for bike tracks in locations not already listed in **11 out of the 16 CMS regions** (set out below).

Any new bike track proposal in these regions will still be subject to an assessment of effects, Treaty partner engagement, legislative requirements, the CGP, and any other CMS policies that may be relevant, as with any other type of track or recreational activity.

Legal / Statutory Basis

Policies 9.1 and 9.5(b) of the CGP state:

- Policy 9.1 – CMS should identify what recreational opportunities are suitable in different places.
- Policy 9.5(b) – CMS will identify where unpowered mountain bikes may be allowed.

DOC has previously interpreted “identify” to mean DOC is required to list all locations where biking is suitable in a CMS. Upon review of this position, DOC considers new bike tracks may be identified in other ways while achieving the intent of the policy.

National parks are subject to the General Policy for National Parks 2005, National Park Management Plans, and bylaws that manage where vehicles are allowed. This position statement does not apply to bike tracks in national parks.

For the avoidance of doubt, this position statement applies to bike tracks. Tracks for other vehicles will be considered separately.

Relation to DOC Outcomes

DOC’s work is guided by our strategy, which outlines [our purpose and outcomes](#).

This position is aligned with the DOC outcomes of improving performance of the conservation regulatory system and providing sustainable experiences for visitors.

Relevant Regulatory Processes

This position statement relates to how DOC interprets and applies the CGP in concessions decision making. The position statement applies to the following CMS regions:

Conservation Management Strategy			
Northland	Tongariro-Taupo	Nelson Marlborough	Hawke’s Bay
Bay of Plenty	Wanganui	West Coast Te Tai o Poutini	Chatham Islands
East Coast	Wellington	Auckland	

In these CMS regions, DOC will consider new unpowered bike track proposals in locations not listed in the CMS. The remaining five CMS are not covered by this Position Statement as their policies require a different approach to the consideration of new bike tracks on PCL.

Review

This position statement will be reviewed if amendments are made to the CGP or CMS.