

## Submission form for the Draft Waikato Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

Please read the Guidelines to making your submission, overleaf.

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**B**

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<i>Person authorised to sign on behalf of person or organisation making submission.</i>			

Do you wish to present your submission at a future hearing?	no
How much time would you prefer for presenting your submission?	yes      no
Preferred time for a hearing during Mondays to Fridays :	minutes
<input type="checkbox"/> morning <input type="checkbox"/> afternoon <input type="checkbox"/> evening	

### Overview of submission

This submission is made on behalf of the Hamilton and Waipa Mountain Bike clubs. These two clubs organise a range of activities including competitive and recreational events, skills training and the maintenance and development of mountain biking trails. We have approximately 320 members. Both groups have an active interest in promoting and developing opportunities for mountain biking in the Waikato area.

We have prepared this submission because the conservation estate is an important recreational asset for mountain bikers. Unlike other regions within New Zealand, the Waikato area currently has limited opportunities for mountain biking. The intention of our submission is to ensure that the CMS strategy (1) recognises the importance of DOC land to mountain bikers (2) encourages the future development of trails suitable for mountain biking and (3) protects existing access to areas of particular value to mountain bikers.

This is submitted on behalf of Hamilton Mountain Bike Club and Waipa Mountain Bike Clubs by Brendan Haigh, President of the Waipa Mountain Bike Club, and endorsed by our national mountain biking organisation, Mountain Bike New Zealand.

Specific section of CMS	My comment	I seek the following decisions
1.5.1 Management objectives, pg 34 <i>'To identify and provide for emerging recreation trends and opportunities'</i>	<b>Support</b> We support this management objective as it recognises that non-traditional recreational activities (such as mountain biking) need to be provided for. This is important if DOC is to attract new users (such as youth) into experiencing public conservation lands.	<b>Retain</b> this management objective
1.5.2 Explanatory text, pg 34 <i>'Mountain biking has become an established recreational activity on public conservation lands. Improved track designs, management techniques, user education and signage have reduced early concerns about potential user conflict and impact on values'</i>	<b>Add new text</b> We support this statement but believe it should also recognise that there are few locations in the Waikato Conservancy where mountain biking is provided for. For such a popular activity*, and in a geographic area which contains such a large population, this deficit should be recognised.  *SPARC research from 2001 indicates that 12% of 25 to 34 year olds and 6% of all adults go mountain biking annually.	<b>Reword text</b> 'Mountain biking has become an established recreational activity on public conservation lands, <b>although limited opportunities are currently available for mountain bikers in the Waikato conservancy.</b> Improved track designs, management techniques, user education and signage have reduced early concerns about potential user conflict and impact on values'
1.5.2. Management policies, pg 35 <i>'3. Will permit the use of mountain bikes on appropriate tracks and use a range of strategies to minimise any conflicts and unacceptable adverse effects.'</i>	<b>Add new text.</b> We strongly support this management objective, but would like any planning around the upgrading or development of new tracks to consider the potential for developing the trail into a multi-user track, suitable for both walkers and mountain bikers. This would go some way towards addressing the lack of mountain biking opportunities in our area.	<b>Reword text</b> <i>'3. Will permit the use of mountain bikes on appropriate tracks and use a range of strategies to minimise any conflicts and unacceptable adverse effects. Will investigate developing multi-user trails, suitable for both walkers and mountain bikers, whenever tracks are considered for upgrading or development'</i>
2.5.1.1 Management policies, pg 80 <i>'4. Will maintain and develop a range of recreational opportunities, and will investigate a coastal track,</i>	<b>Add new text.</b> We support the investigation into a new coastal track and believe this trail could be constructed for use by both walkers and mountain bikers. Some sections may not be suitable for mountain biking, such as Te Toto Gorge itself, but dual use	<b>Reword text</b> <i>'4. Will maintain and develop a range of recreational opportunities, and will investigate a multi user coastal track, consistent with conservation values.'</i>

<p><i>consistent with conservation values.'</i></p>	<p>sections could alternate with road and walking sections to create a link between the Te Toto Gorge coast and Raglan. Such a walk could link into the mountain biking area under investigation in the Wainui Reserve area by the Waikato District Council.</p>	
<p>2.5.1.2 Pirongia. Explanatory text in Recreation section, pg 82.</p>	<p><b>Add new text.</b> Pirongia Forest Park is the largest area of conservation lands within 30 minutes drive of the populations of Hamilton and Te Awamutu, but mountain biking opportunities are limited to a short section of flat trail beside the Kaniwhaniwha stream. There is potential to develop new tracks suitable for use by both walkers and mountain bikers on the lower slopes of the mountain, perhaps utilising old benched logging trails. Any such trails could link into the new mountain biking area proposed for development on neighbouring Waipa District council land in the Sainsbury Rd area. DOC reserves at Mt Kakepuku and the Karamu area would also be excellent site for new developments, as they too could link into the existing trails. We would like this included in the explanatory text.</p>	<p><b>Insert text</b> <i>There is the potential to develop multi user tracks suitable for both mountain biking and walking on the lower slopes of the Pirongia and neighbouring Mt Kakepuku and Karamu area reserves. These could link into existing or proposed mountain bike trails on adjacent District Council land.</i></p>
<p>2.6 Pureora explanatory text, Recreation, pg 92.</p>	<p><b>Add new text</b> Pureora is a highly valued destination for mountain bikers from around the North Island. Pureora contains an extensive network of old logging trails which allow mountain bikers to explore an indigenous forest, without being confined to a limited number of designated trails. The large scale of the park also offers the potential for multi day mountain biking trips (traversing the park) to be undertaken by both recreational riders and commercial groups, which could be promoted in a similar manner to the 'Great walks'. These could be developed in conjunction with shorter rides to offer a range of riding experiences. These characteristics are unique to Pureora forest and make it an outstanding resource for mountain bikers, particularly those seeking an adventure. We already have some concerns that access is already becoming restricted, for example the Waihaha track is now no longer permitted for mountain biking, a change which we object to. We would like the explanatory text expanded to recognise the importance of</p>	<p><b>Insert text</b> <i>Pureora is a highly valued destination for adventure seeking mountain bikers as it offers an extensive network of trails to explore and the potential to experience both short and multi-day mountain biking journeys in an indigenous forest.</i></p>

	<p>this area to mountain bikers. We also urge that the proposed mountain bike trail development project outlined in the 'Mountain biking in Pureora Forest' report (authored by Jason Barclay) be undertaken.</p>	
<p>2.6 Pureora Management policy, pg 93</p>	<p><b>Add new text</b>  For the reasons outlined above we believe a new management policy should be included for Pureora. This will ensure mountain biking access is protected. This is an ideal opportunity for DOC to work in a collaborative manner with user groups such as the mountain biking clubs and Mountain Bike New Zealand to ensure this valuable recreational asset is maintained and developed in the best manner possible.</p>	<p><b>Insert</b> new policy  <i><b>Mountain biking access will be protected and the trail network maintained and developed in consultation with user groups</b></i></p>
<p>2.6 Pureora Management policy 5, pg 94</p>	<p><b>Support</b>  We strongly support the development of the proposed Ongarue historic tramway walk/bike trail. This would be an superb recreational asset and a valuable tourism asset for the community.</p>	<p><b>Retain</b> this management policy</p>
<p>3.3 Milestones, 1.5.1 and 1.5.2, pg 103</p>	<p><b>Support</b>  We strongly support the inclusion of milestones which will ensure that a conservation wide recreation strategy will be prepared and implemented (1.5.1) and management plan for mountain biking in the Coromandel and Pureora be developed (1.5.2). Mountain bike clubs and Mountain Bike New Zealand, should be included in the consultation process. Expertise in track design, planning, construction standards and signage can be provided by these organisations.</p>	<p><b>Retain</b> these milestones</p>