Nationwide CMS partial reviews for biking

Project update 1, 14 September 2022

What is being proposed and why?

We are proposing to undertake concurrent partial reviews of all conservation management strategies (CMS) to streamline processes for considering biking opportunities on public conservation lands and waters (pcl&w).

We recognise public interest in biking is high and are proposing the reviews to enable us to consider requests to develop new bike tracks on pcl&w or to allow biking on existing tracks without needing to review or amend the CMS each time.

Initiating the review

Undertaking concurrent partial reviews of all CMS is complex and has never been undertaken before. We are currently undertaking preparatory and planning work to ensure a legally robust review process is followed. This requires us to consult with consultation boards and tangata whenua before any reviews are initiated.

We held an initial discussion with conservation board chairs in early September and we will follow this up with consultation with individual conservation boards over the next few months. Engagement with tangata whenua is also planned to ensure we meet the requirements of the Treaty settlements.

Engagement

In late 2021 we undertook initial consultation with representatives of biking and other interest groups, such as Federated Mountain Clubs and Forest and Bird to test the proposed approach and received conditional support.

We received several suggestions for the proposed CMS provisions. These have been recorded and will be considered when we start developing policy provisions. Further engagement with biking and other interest groups will be an integral part of developing the draft provisions but will not occur until our review process has been established.

Any proposals for changes to CMS will be publicly notified to ensure the public can have their say.

Process and timelines

We understand there is concern at the time it is taking for us to outline the process and timelines for the review.

As this is the first time a national CMS review process has been undertaken, we are needing to develop and adjust our process as we go.

Once we have concluded our initial consultation with conservation boards and tangata whenua we will be able to determine the process we use. Timeframes will be determined by the process.

Where can I find out more?

More information can be found on the project by:

- Visiting the DOC website
- Emailing NationalReviewBikingCMS@doc.govt.nz

