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# Media Release

## Trail bike forest patrols over Easter holiday period

Trail bike riders and four wheel vehicle drivers are being urged to take additional care during the Easter holiday period to avoid accidents and damage to the environment.

DSE North East Trail Bike Project Officer, Felicity Wardlaw, said riders should plan suitable riding locations following the recent bushfires.

“Many of Victoria’s bush-fire affected parks and recreational areas will be open during Easter, however it is important that riders stick to designated roads and tracks for their own safety and to protect the environment.

“We recommend that riders and other forest visitors check the department’s web site for an up-to-date list of forest closures and openings.”

Areas which remain closed include Mount Disappointment State Forest, Mount Robertson State Forest, Bunyip State Forest and Pauls Range State Forest. Limited access is available to the Beechworth, Big River, Black Range, Marysville, Rubicon and Toolangi state forests.

Areas which are closed or have restricted access will be clearly sign posted.

“It’s important that trail bike riders and four wheel vehicle drivers use the forest in a way that is considerate to other visitors and the environment,” Ms Wardlaw said.

“Riding and driving off formed roads in fire affected areas not only poses a serious risk from falling trees and branches, but can prevent the forest from recovering.

“Driving off-road can cause significant environmental damage including erosion and contamination to community water supplies.”

DSE, Parks Victoria and Victoria Police will conduct forest patrols during the Easter holiday period to ensure visitors are complying with forest and road laws.

Ms Wardlaw said patrols would also focus on excessively noisy trail bikes. “Noise is one of the most common causes of complaints we receive in relation to trail bikes.

“The noise testing limit for motorcycles is 94 decibels. DSE will be conducting noise testing on trail bikes and reporting excessively noisy bikes to the EPA”.

For information about trail bike riding in State Forest contact the DSE Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or visit [www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes)