

Trail Bike Project

Newsletter

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Statewide Information



Ride for Tomorrow

Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) Trail Bike Project staff took the Ride for Tomorrow message to three major motorcycle events in late 2008. Participants in the Stockman's Rally at Big River and the Blue Light Ride near Noojee had their bikes tested for noise compliance, learned more about sustainable riding, and then were joined by DSE staff who rode the event course with them.

Trail Bike Project Officers distributed thousands of Ride for Tomorrow brochures to visitors at the four day Australian Motorcycle Expo in Melbourne. Working jointly with the Victorian Motorcycle Advisory Council (VMAC), project team members spoke to many hundreds of riders about responsible trail bike riding and what riders can do to promote sustainable riding.

For more Ride for Tomorrow information go to www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes.

Trail Bike Rider Research

DSE contracted the research company Instinct and Reason in late November 2008 to improve government's understanding of what riders want out of their recreation as well as their views on other issues such as conflict with other forest users and residents over noise, environmental impacts of forest use and current legal requirements (such as the need to licensed and registered). The rider research involves:

- one on one in-depth interviews with 20 riders (mixture of age groups, gender, frequency of

use and location - rural and metro based riders) - completed in December

- 12 Focus Group discussions with small groups of riders (mixture of age groups, gender and home) - to be completed in late January
- On-line survey of 500 riders - to be completed in February/March

In addition to talking to riders, the researchers will also be talking to trail bike retailers to better understand their perceptions of what information riders want as well as their understanding of what types of motor bikes can be legally registered, and what types of mufflers meet legal noise emission requirements.

The researchers will also talk to rural residents who live adjacent to popular forest riding areas, to better understand the issues they may have with trail bike use in their area.

Trail Bike Operations

Visitors to State forests across Victoria are increasingly likely to meet DSE forest officers conducting patrols on trail bikes. Fifteen DSE staff with motorcycle riding experience have undertaken additional training to become qualified to ride the Yamaha, Kawasaki and Honda trail bikes.



"People may be a bit surprised at first to see Forest Officers on trail bikes but it makes a lot of sense. Staff can travel around the forest very easily, and get to meet lots of visitors; it certainly helps our information and education work to be more effective", said Roger Pitt, Trail Bike Project Manager

North East Regional Information

Reform Hill State Forest

The trail bike project has been busy rehabilitating and installing fences in Reform Hill State Forest, near Beechworth, to help protect the local environmental.

Reform Hill is one of only three sites that is habitat to the Vulnerable 'Stony Bush Pea. So it is crucial that the area is protected from further damage.

Local DSE staff are constantly repairing damage to fences and rehabilitating illegal tracks. It's this type of damage that is placing the plant species at risk of becoming endangered.

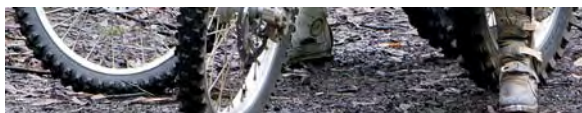
DSE will be increasing compliance in the area. Trail bike riders need to stay on formed roads as it is illegal to ride off road.

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| Threatened Flora Revegetation Zone | |
|  | Reform Hill is one of only three sites that supports Stony Bush-pea (<i>Pultanaea lapidosa</i>) which is classified as 'vulnerable' in Victoria. |
| Trail Bike Riders - Please stay on formed tracks. | |
|  | |

Mount Disappointment State Forest

The Mount Disappointment Community Reference Group met in November last year to discuss proposed actions to be implemented in Mount Disappointment to improve the management of trail bikes. The

- Trail Bike Visitors Area (TBVA) will be constructed on Leviathan track. The facility will provide riders with information, maps, toilets, shelter and parking. A Draft Design for this will be available on our website in the coming weeks.
- A Map of the State Forest is currently being developed to better inform riders of the public road network, the location of reduce noise zones and other important aspects e.g water catchments areas.



- Signage will be installed throughout the state forest to inform riders they are entering a reduce noise area.
- Compliance - on-going compliance with DSE and Victoria Police will occur throughout the forest. Off-road riding and noisy bikes will be targeted as well as unregistered and unlicensed riders.
- Rehabilitation and closure of certain un-used roads and single-lane track will be undertaken in priority areas. Refer to information below.

Rehabilitation and Track Closure Guidelines

Road and Single-lane tracks rehabilitation plans are under development for the North East. The plans include the area and location of proposed track closures and rehabilitation and the process of consultation and opportunities for community input. The North east plan is expected to be made available by mid February 2009. Current rehabilitation plans for other regions can be viewed at : www.dse.vic.gov.au/forests

Who is the Trail Bike Team?

Introducing the Trail Bike Project Team...here we are in action on the new DSE Forest Patrol trail bikes.



Back L-R: Simon White (South West Trail Bike Project Officer TBPO), Richard Wadsworth (Statewide Recreation and Tourism Co-Ordinator, Felicity Wardlaw (North East TBPO), Roger Pitt (Project Manager), Joy Harte (Gippsland TBPO). **Front:** Adrian Parker (North West TBPO)

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