

## 8 TRAIL DEVELOPMENT PLAN



Riders testing Mack 10, St Helens, Tasmania



The recommended trail development plans have been determined following careful consideration of the project objectives, trail design principles, specific project design principles, thorough assessment of the trail options and consideration of the comments provided by the Project Reference Group and key stakeholders.

The recommended trail development plans meet the project objectives by:

- Enhancing the Canberra mountain bike offer through the addition of dedicated gravity, enduro and all-mountain trails;
- Recognising Stromlo Forest Park as the primary activity area for mountain biking in Canberra;
- Integrating new trails into an existing activity area (Cotter Recreation Area) that provides a value-add to SFP.

## 8.1 TRAIL NETWORK SUMMARIES

### 8.1.1 Project Area 1

Project Area	Trail No.	Trail Style	Description	Likely Trail Difficulty Rating	Length (m)
1	Trail 1	Adventure	Descending trail from Stromlo Forest Park to Casuarina Sands. Starts at intersection of Deep Creek and Short and Sharp, allowing riders to descend part-way off the summit on existing trails, then turn-off onto this new trail. It is also possible to access without climbing to the summit.	Easy Intermediate	8272
	Trail 2	Adventure	Climbing trail from Casuarina Sands back to Stromlo Forest Park. Follows a similar alignment to Trail 1, touching on it in one location, allowing crossover between the two trails. Connects back into existing SFP trails at junction of Terminal Velocity and Spin Doctor.	Easy Intermediate	9128
Sub-Total for Project Area					17400

	Very Easy	Easy	Easy/ Intermediate	Intermediate	Intermediate / Difficult	Difficult	Extreme
Length	0	0	17400	0	0	0	0
Percentage	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%

### 8.1.2 Project Area 2

Project Area	Trail No.	Trail Style	Description	Likely Trail Difficulty Rating	Length (m)
2	Trail 3	Other	Existing dual-directional shared-use pathways and roads throughout the Cotter precinct.	Very Easy	2687
	Trail 4	Adventure	First stacked loop north of Cotter. Climbs up to a small carpark on Brindabella Rd, before descending back down to Cotter.	Easy Intermediate	5125
	Trail 5	Adventure	Second stacked loop north of Cotter. Climbs all the way up to Hyles Block, where a road crossing will be required to allow riders to cross the road and access the Cotter Pines MTB trails. At this point it turns back towards the south, climbs to the top of Mt McDonald, before commencing the long descent back down to Trail 4.	Intermediate	7871
Sub-Total for Project Area			15683		

	Very Easy	Easy	Easy/ Intermediate	Intermediate	Intermediate / Difficult	Difficult	Extreme
Length	2687	0	5125	7871	0	0	0
Percentage	17%	0%	33%	50%	0%	0%	0%

### 8.1.3 Project Area 3

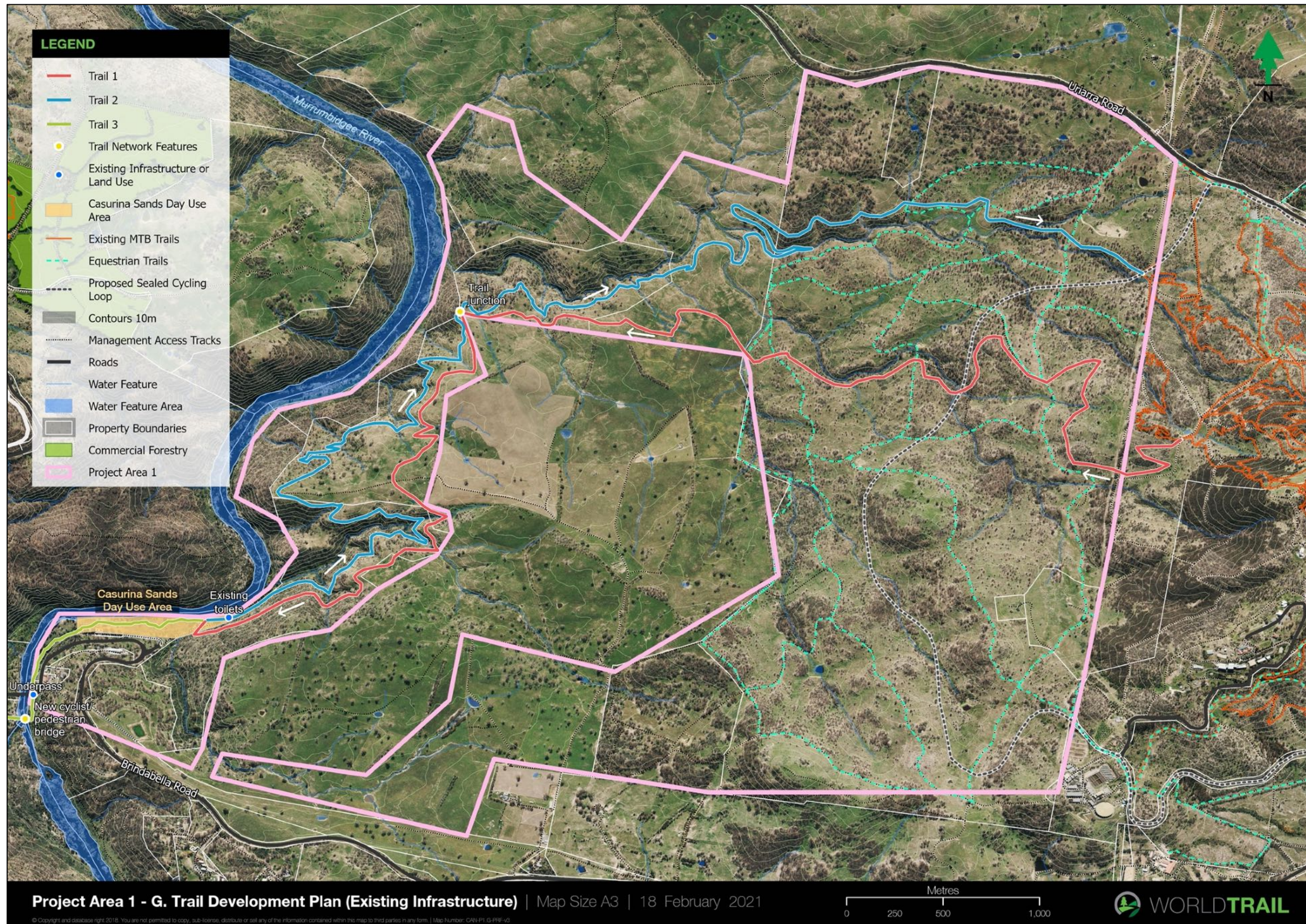
Project Area	Trail No.	Trail Style	Description	Likely Trail Difficulty Rating	Length (m)
3	Trail 6	Adventure	Climbing trail to the summit. Takes in a large rocky bluff looking out to the southwest.	Intermediate	6826
	Trail 7	Adventure	Cross-country loop trail, connecting the trailhead to an outlying cleared site (potential overflow parking) to the east, with gentle gradients.	Easy	2788
	Trail 8	Gravity	Northernmost and longest descending trail, from top to bottom.	Intermediate	8771
	Trail 9	Gravity	Mostly existing DH trail.	Difficult	1599
	Trail 10	Gravity	Top to bottom descent.	Intermediate Difficult	6509
	Trail 11	Gravity	Follows an existing DH trail for approx. 75% of length.	Difficult	2147
	Trail 12	Gravity	Steep challenging trail in upper part of the mountain.	Extreme	4119
	Trail 13	Gravity	Traversing link trail between 11 and 12.	Difficult	1398
	Trail 14	Adventure	Long traversing style descent in lower half of mountain. Starts on Trail 6 (main climbing trail), but also connects to 2-3 potential shuttle drop-off points.	Intermediate	3306
	Trail 15	Gravity	Short steep gravity trail on the lower mountain.	Difficult	1409
	Trail 16	Gravity	Lower mountain gravity trail.	Difficult	1714
	Trail 17	Gravity	Lower mountain gravity trail.	Intermediate Difficult	1606
	Trail 18	Gravity	Lower mountain gravity trail.	Intermediate	1772
<b>Sub-Total for Project Area</b>					<b>43965</b>

	Very Easy	Easy	Easy/ Intermediate	Intermediate	Intermediate / Difficult	Difficult	Extreme
<b>Length</b>	0	2788	0	20676	8115	8267	4119
<b>Percentage</b>	0%	6%	0%	47%	18%	19%	9%

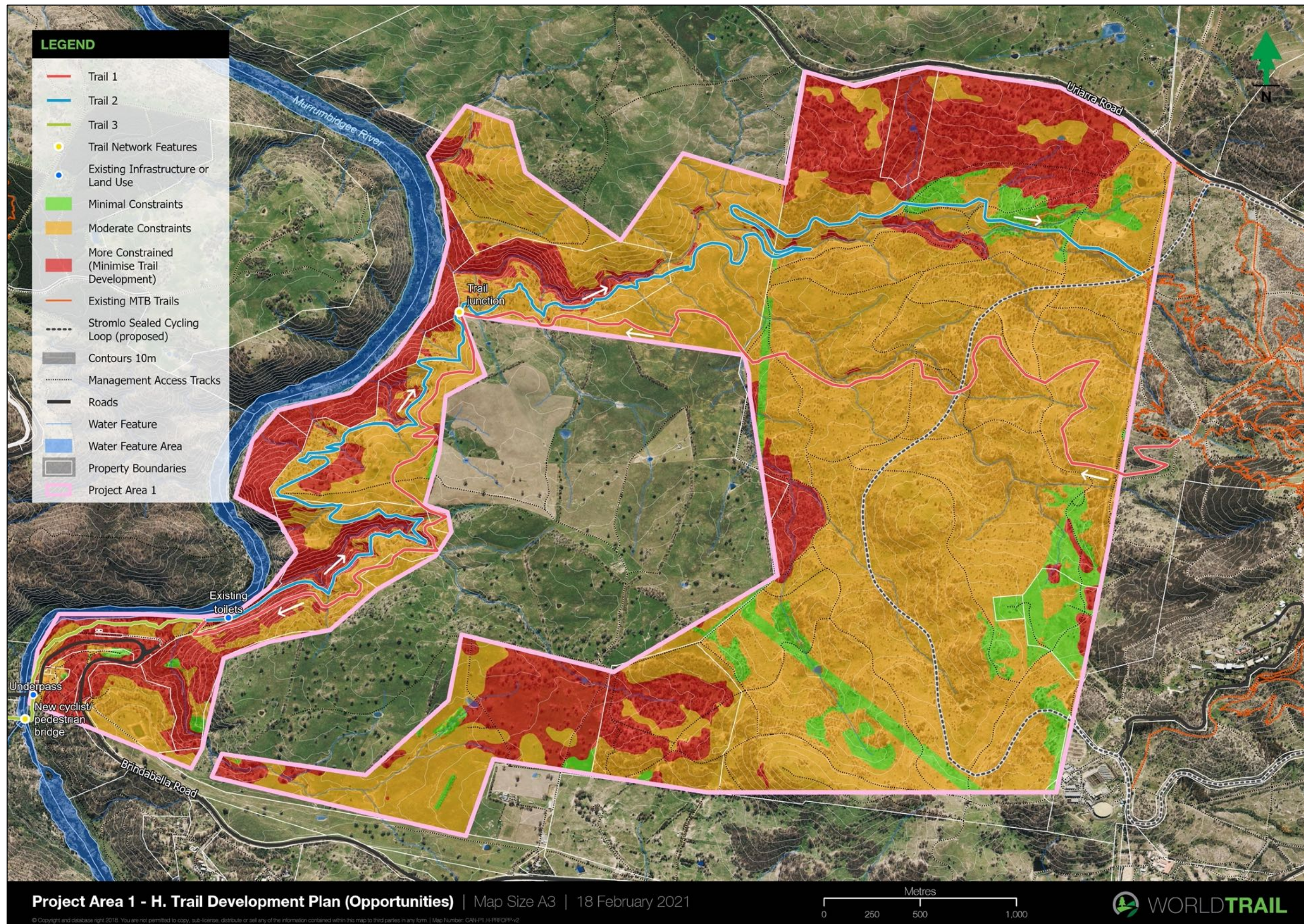


## 8.2 TRAIL DEVELOPMENT PLANS

### 8.2.1 Project Area 1

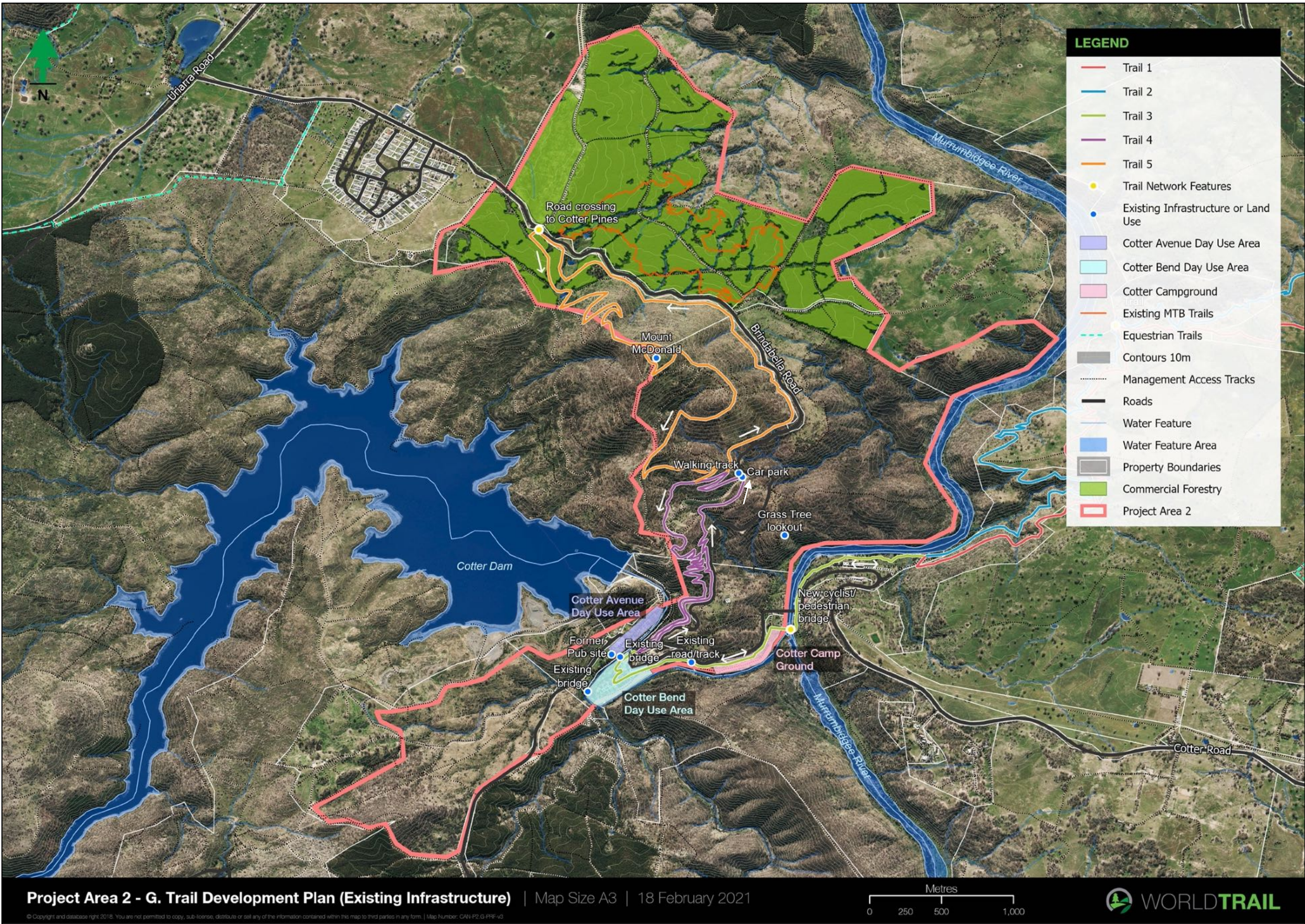




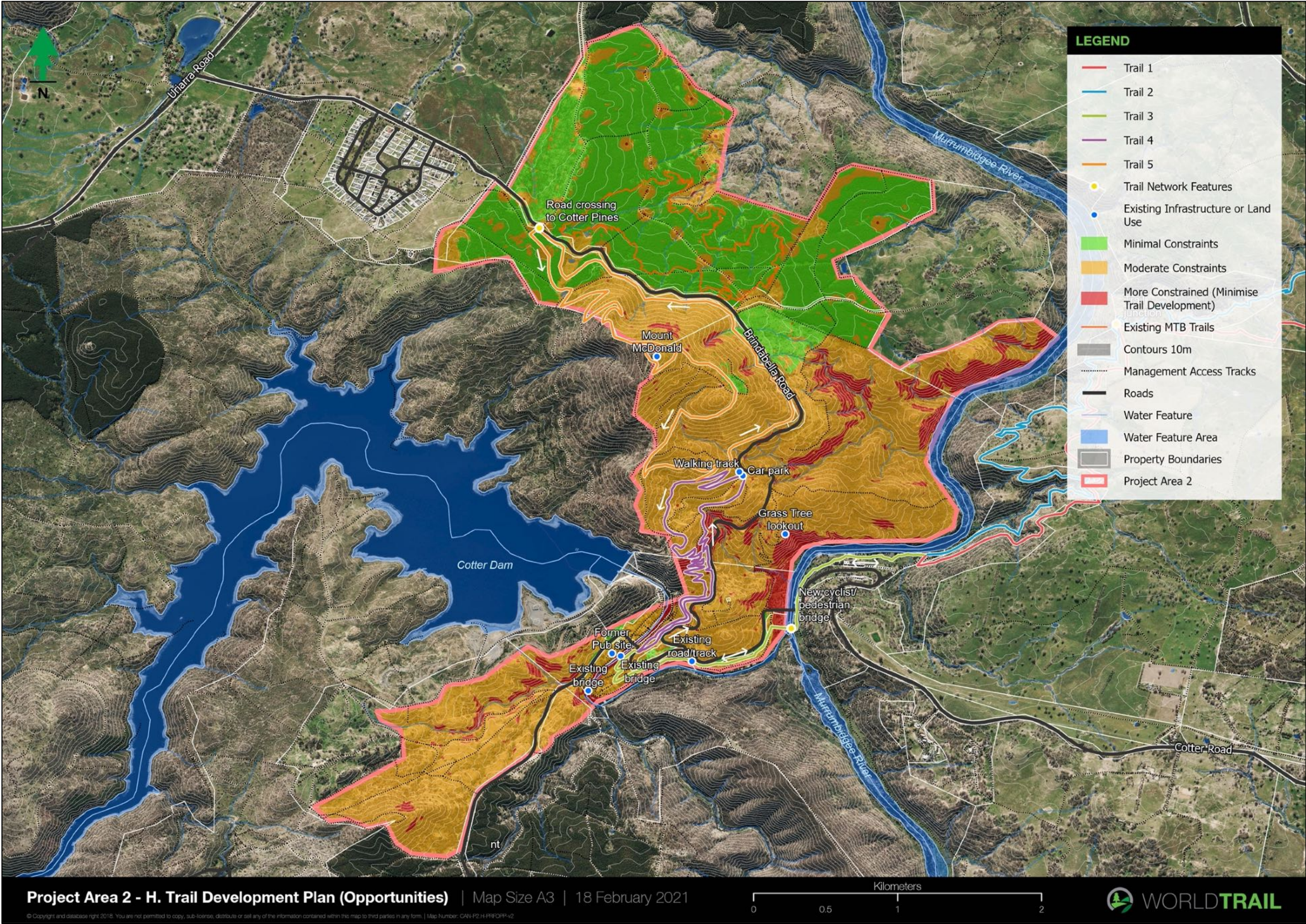




8.2.2 Project Area 2

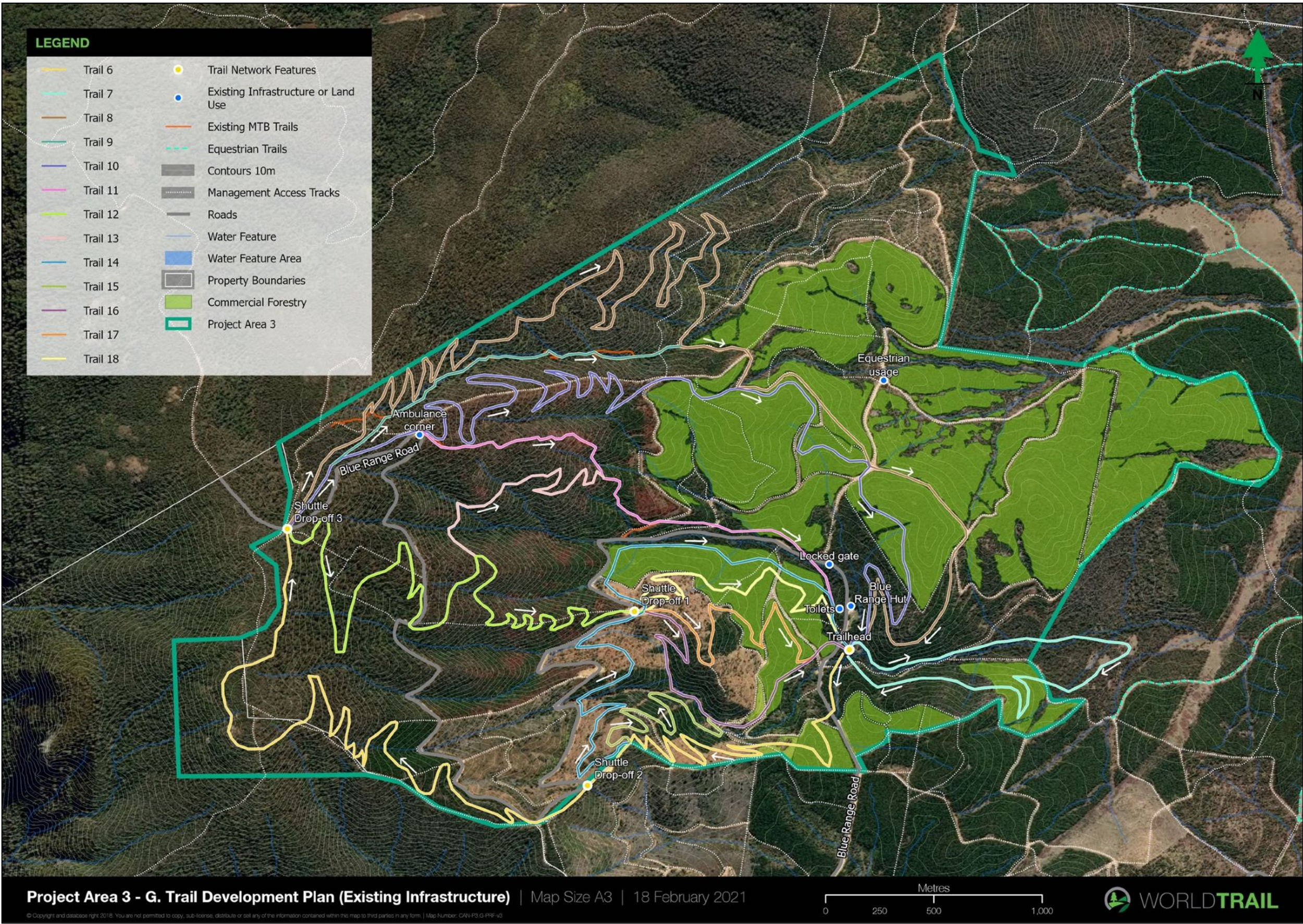




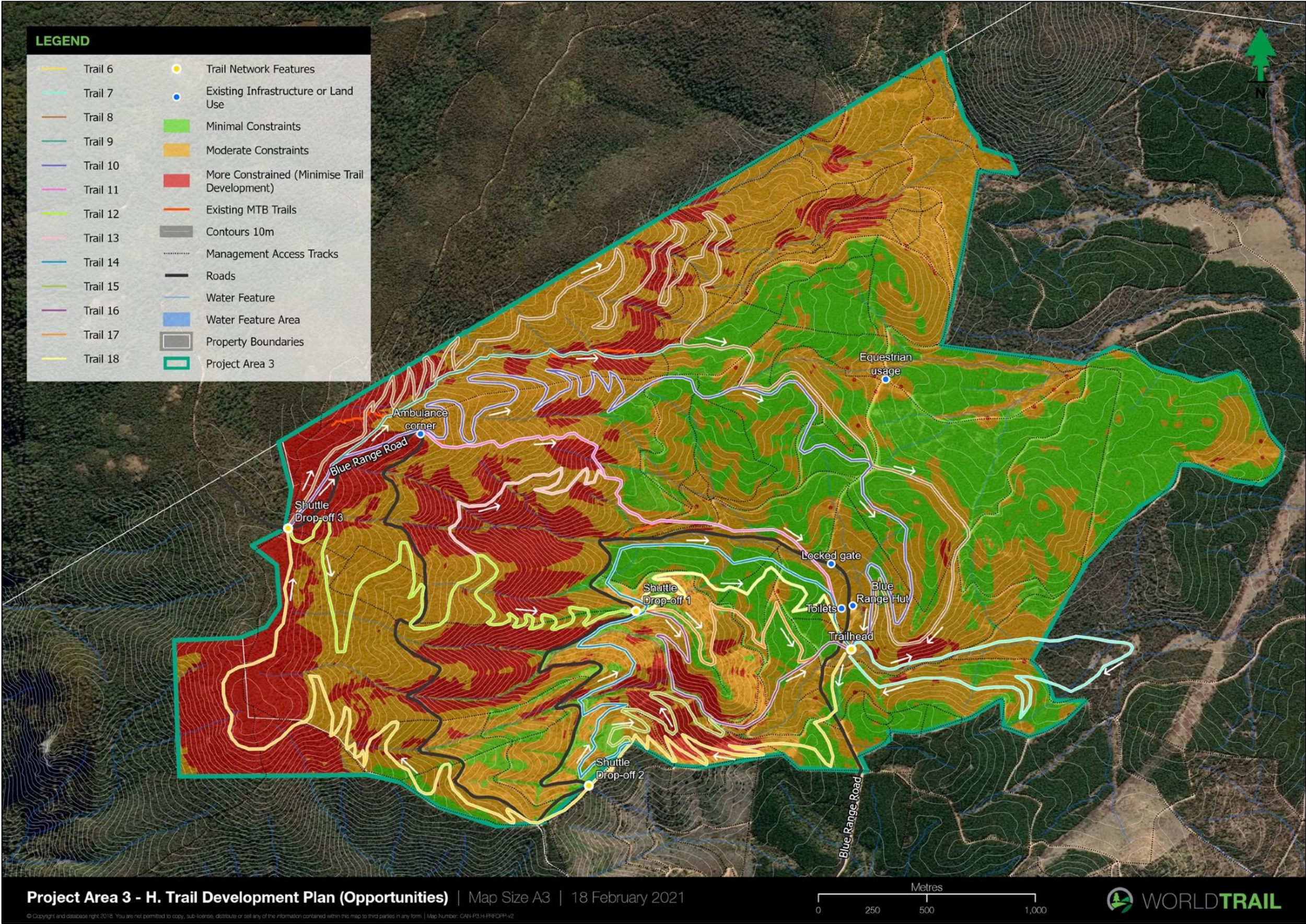




8.2.3 Project Area 3




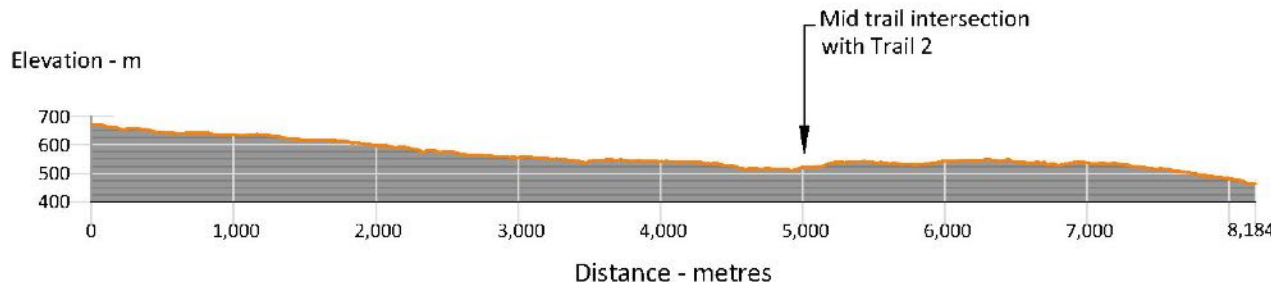





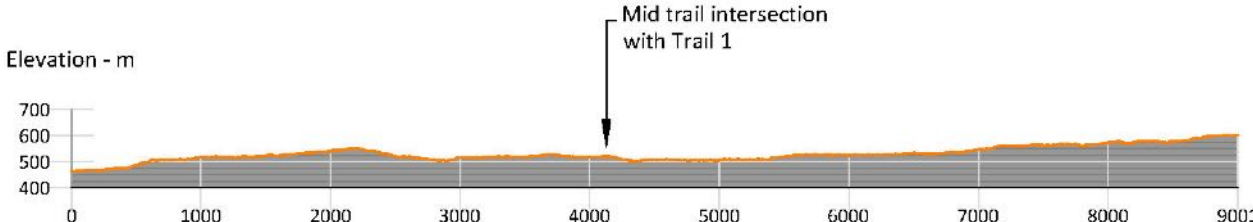


## 8.3 TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

### 8.3.1 Project Area 1


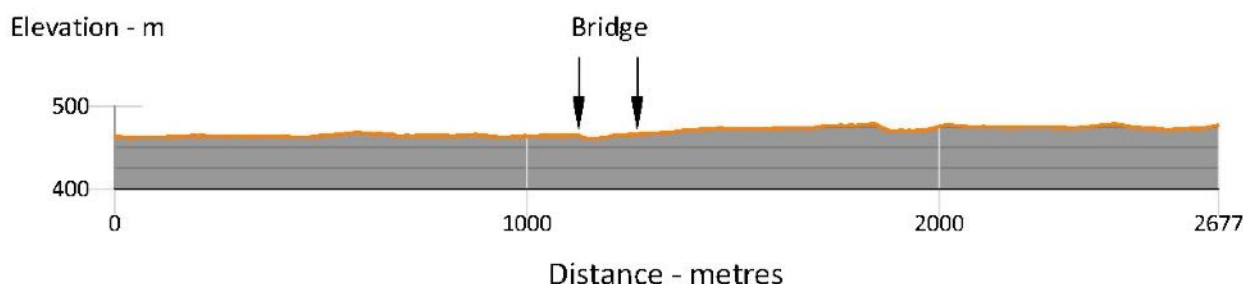
Trail 1			
Trail Type	Adventure	Difficulty	 Easy / Intermediate
Length	8,184 m	Vertical	193 m
Start Elevation	675 m	Finish Elevation	482 m
Description			
<p>Trail 1 is an adventure trail suitable for beginner through to experienced riders. The trail starts at the intersection with a number of existing MTB trails in SFP including Brindabella, Deep Creek and Short &amp; Sharp. Riders can commence the long descent from the Stromlo summit by first riding down a combination of existing trails to then connect with Trail 1 for the approximately eight kilometre ride to Casuarina Sands.</p> <p>A mid trail intersection with Trail 2 approximately five kilometres from the start, provides an opportunity for a shorter loop.</p>			
Benefits		Potential issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can be accessed from either the summit of Stromlo or via one of the other cross-country trails;</li><li>• Shorter riding loop available;</li><li>• Suitable for all abilities of riders.</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Passes through some relatively remote country.</li></ul>	
Elevation Profile			
 <p>Horizontal / vertical scale – 1:2</p>			




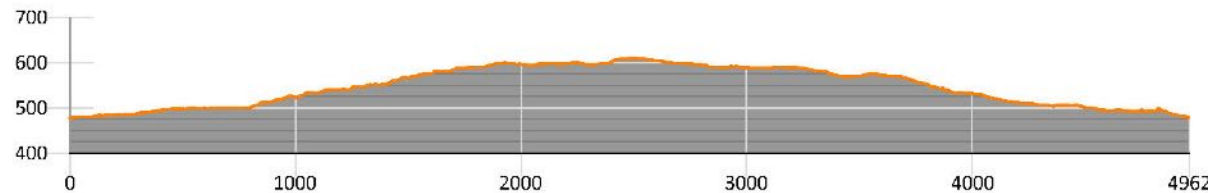
Trail 2			
Trail Type	Adventure / shared use	Difficulty	 Easy / Intermediate
Length	9,001	Vertical	138 m
Start Elevation	475 m	Finish Elevation	613 m
Description			
Trail 2 is a climbing, shared use trail commencing at Casuarina Sands and winding up through Stony Creek to finish in the existing SFP MTB trail network, intersecting with the fire road in the vicinity of Spin Doctor. The mid trail intersection, approximately 4.2 kilometres up from Casuarina Sands provides riders with two shorter loop trail options.			
Benefits		Potential issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gentle and mostly consistent climb accessible to most riders;</li><li>• Passes through high quality natural environment providing a quality, immersive riding experience;</li><li>• Option for shorter riding loop available.</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High value environment requiring thorough detailed assessment to determine a suitable alignment;</li><li>• Some steep sections may require careful route planning to ensure appropriate exposure;</li><li>• Relative high planning and construction cost associated with the above issues.</li></ul>	
Trail Profile			
<div><div>Elevation - m</div><div><div>Mid trail intersection with Trail 1</div></div><div>Distance - metres</div></div>			
Horizontal / vertical scale – 1:2			




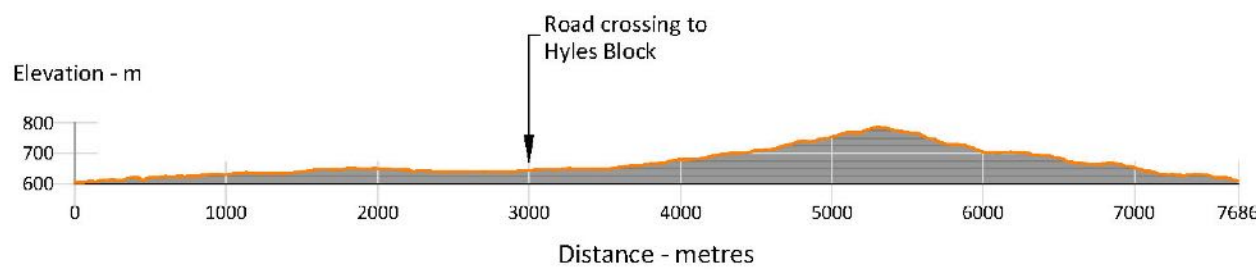
### 8.3.2 Project Area 2

Trail 3			
Trail Type	Shared use, dual direction	Difficulty	 Very Easy
Length	2,677 m	Vertical	18 m
Start Elevation	486 m	Finish Elevation	468 m
Description			
<p>Trail 3 is a shared use, dual direction trail utilising existing paths and tracks through the Cotter Recreation area. The trail runs between Casuarina Sands and Cotter Bend, passing over the Murrumbidgee River and through the Cotter campground.</p> <p>As the Cotter Recreation Area is already well used by Canberrans and visitors for passive recreation, the integration of mountain biking may require the upgrading of the existing pathway and trail network with an emphasis on shared use and safety for all users.</p> <p>Importantly, a new dedicated pedestrian and cyclist bridge over the Murrumbidgee River is recommended to provide consistent separation from vehicles and an enjoyable experience for users.</p>			
Benefits		Potential issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provides safe, uninterrupted passage through the Cotter Recreation Area;</li><li>• Connects Trail 1 to the Mount McDonald trails (i.e. Trails 4 and 5);</li><li>• Links to a number of areas with parking and facilities.</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Existing river crossing is not suitable for a quality riding experience and is not viable for increased rider numbers associated with the proposed trail development.</li><li>• Conflict with existing recreation including camping and picnicking along the river bank.</li></ul>	
Trail Profile			
 <p>Horizontal / vertical scale – 1:2</p>			




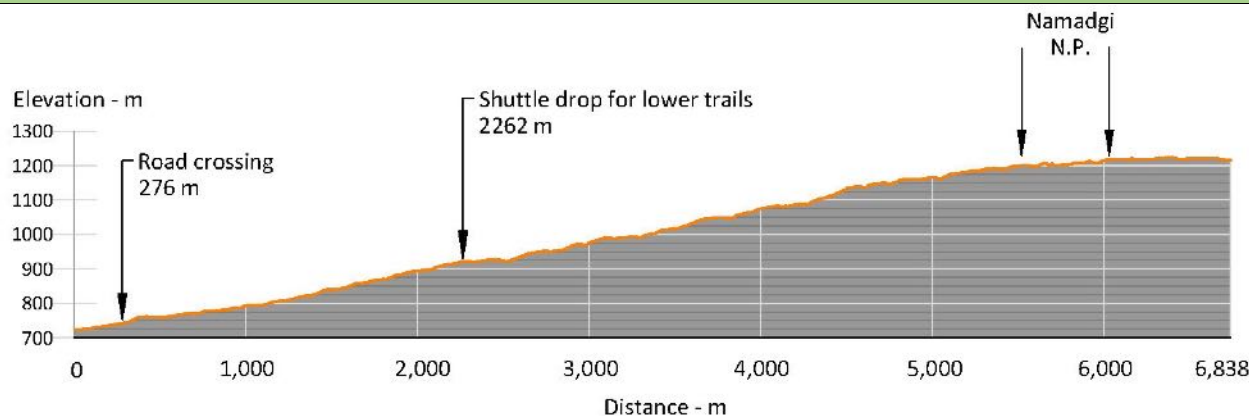
Trail 4			
Trail Type	Adventure / cross-country	Difficulty	 Easy \ Intermediate
Length	4,962 m	Vertical	136 m
Start Elevation	487 m	Finish Elevation	487 m
Description			
<p>Trail 4 is a short adventure loop starting and finishing at the Cotter Bend car park. The trail climbs up to the Cotter Dam lookout car park and continues further uphill a short distance before commencing the descent back to Cotter Bend.</p> <p>The trail takes riders past the Cotter Dam lookout with exceptional views over the dam from the upper section of trail which then descends for the return back to the Cotter Bend car park area.</p>			
Benefits		Potential issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Short loop providing great views over Cotter Dam;</li><li>• Easily accessible from Cotter Bend carpark.</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Steep terrain will require thorough detailed site assessment to determine a sustainable alignment.</li></ul>	
Trail Profile			
<div><div>Elevation - m</div><div></div><div>Distance - metres</div></div> <div>Horizontal / vertical scale – 1:2</div>			




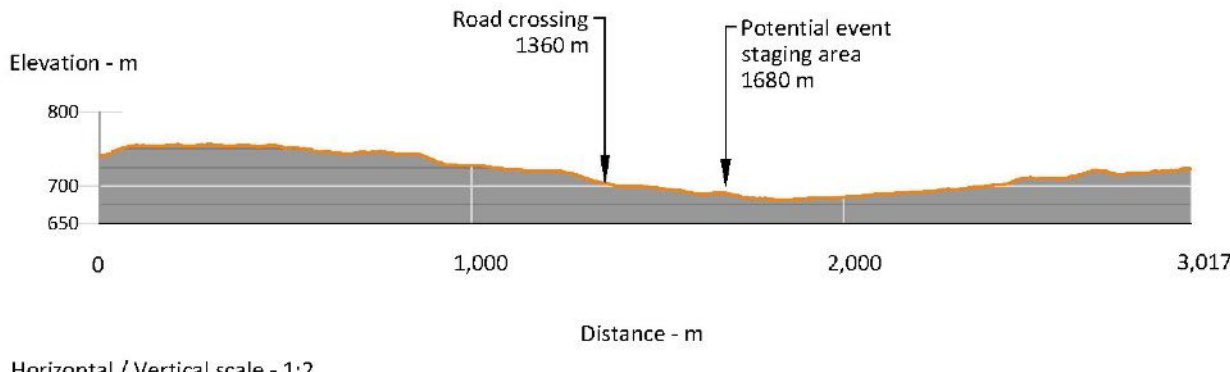
Trail 5			
Trail Type	Adventure / cross-country	Difficulty	 Intermediate
Length	7,686 m	Vertical	168 m
Start Elevation	609 m	Finish Elevation	609 m
Description			
Trail 5 continues on from the Trail 4 climb, skirting Mount McDonald and continuing along above the Brindabella Road to the road crossing providing access to the Hyles Block trails. From this point Trail 5 commences the return continuing upward to the summit of Mount McDonald, and then descending back to meet Trail 4 just above the Cotter Dam lookout carpark.			
Benefits		Potential issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Extended loop from Cotter Bend up and around Mount McDonald;</li><li>• Great Views from Mount McDonald;</li><li>• Can be started from either end.</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Road crossing to Hyles Block will require careful design.</li></ul>	
Trail Profile			
 <p>Horizontal / vertical scale – 1:2</p>			




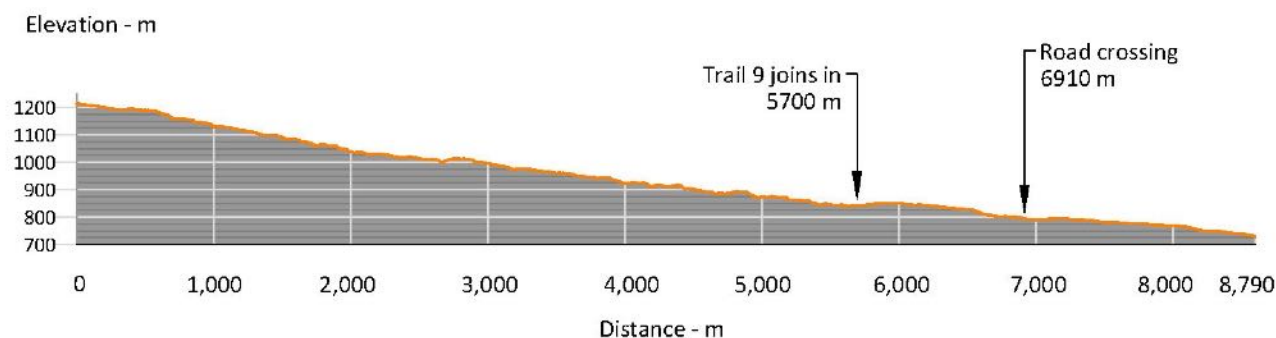
### 8.3.3 Project Area 3

Trail 6			
Trail Type	Adventure - climbing	Difficulty	 Intermediate
Length	6,838 metres	Vertical	525 m
Start Elevation	737 m	Finish Elevation	1234 m
Description			
Trail 6 is a climbing trail that ascends to the start of the upper, longer gravity trails and also provides rider access to the lower, shorter gravity trails. Trail 6 travels into the Namadgi National Park immersing riders in a unique landscape of exposed high altitude boulders and rock faces amongst alpine vegetation. This section of trail will be shared with walkers.			
Benefits		Potential issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Suitable for e-Bikes;</li><li>• Short / medium range climbing option available;</li><li>• Passes through scenic location in Namadgi National Park;</li><li>• Options for pick up at one of the Blue Range Road shuttle points.</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Upper elevations have high environmental value.</li></ul>	
Trail Profile			
 <p>Horizontal / Vertical scale - 1:2</p>			


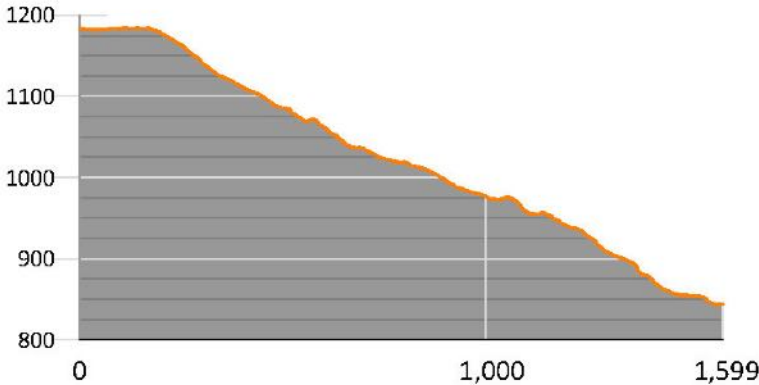


Trail 7			
Trail Type	Cross-country	Difficulty	 Easy
Length	3,017 metres	Vertical	81 m
Start Elevation	690 m	Finish Elevation	690 m
Description			
<p>Trail 7 is a short cross-country loop that connects to a generous open space to the east of Blue Range Hut, that may be suitable as an event staging area and large camping area.</p> <p>Trail 7 provides an alternative experience for riders from that provided by the Blue Range gravity trails.</p>			
Benefits		Potential issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Short cross country loop suitable for most levels of rider ability;</li><li>• Connects to potential large open space that is suitable for events staging or extend camping.</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Integration with other users, e.g., equestrian riders.</li></ul>	
Trail Profile			
 <p>Horizontal / Vertical scale - 1:2</p>			


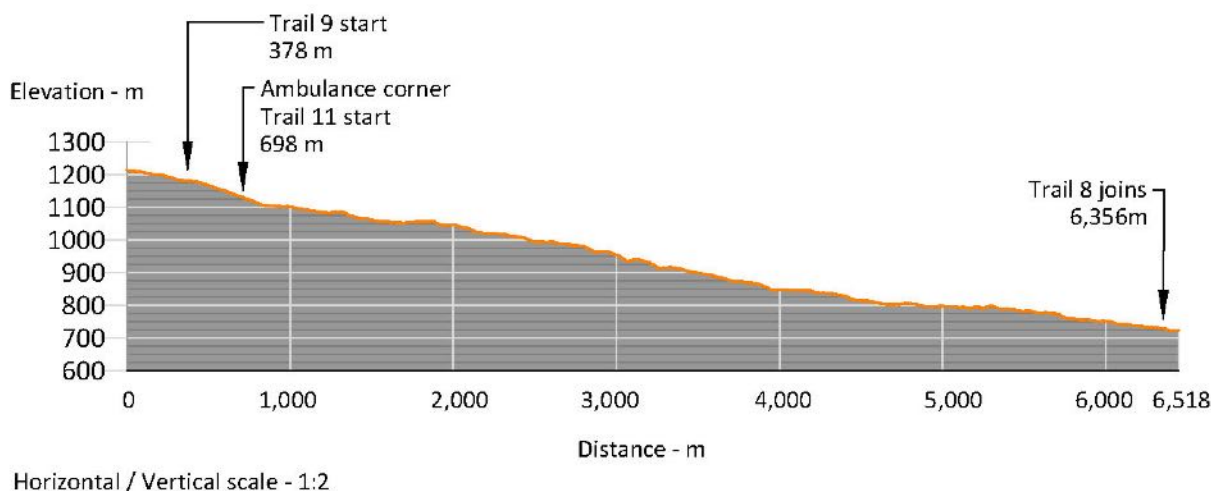


Trail 8			
Trail Type	Gravity	Difficulty	 Intermediate
Length	8,790 m	Vertical	467 m
Start Elevation	1,222 m	Finish Elevation	755 m
Description			
Trail 8 is the longest descending trail and is the northernmost of the Blue Range trails. This will be a fast flowing downhill experience suitable for intermediate riders.			
Benefits		Potential issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Top to bottom Blue Range trail;</li><li>• Long riding experience.</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One road crossing;</li><li>• Some sections are remote.</li></ul>	
Trail Profile			
 <p>Elevation - m</p> <p>Distance - m</p> <p>Horizontal / Vertical scale - 1:2</p>			




Trail 9			
Trail Type	Gravity	Difficulty	 Difficult
Length	1,599 m	Vertical	327 m
Start Elevation	1,203 m	Finish Elevation	876 m
Description			
Trail 9 follows an existing old downhill trail used for the 1998 Australian National Downhill Championships. This is a steep, fast flowing trail that travels down a steep gully. Trail 9 is accessed via a short ride down Trail 10 which also provides the connection back to the Blue Range trailhead area.			
Benefits		Potential issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Steep challenging descent suitable for expert riders;</li><li>• Close proximity to Trails 8 and 10 for alternative or emergency access if required;</li><li>• Large proportion follows an existing old downhill trail.</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trail in steep terrain may present some maintenance issues;</li><li>• Old trail may require some modifications to be made sustainable/suitable for use.</li></ul>	
Trail Profile			
<div><div>Elevation - m</div><div><div>Horizontal / Vertical scale - 1:2</div></div></div>			


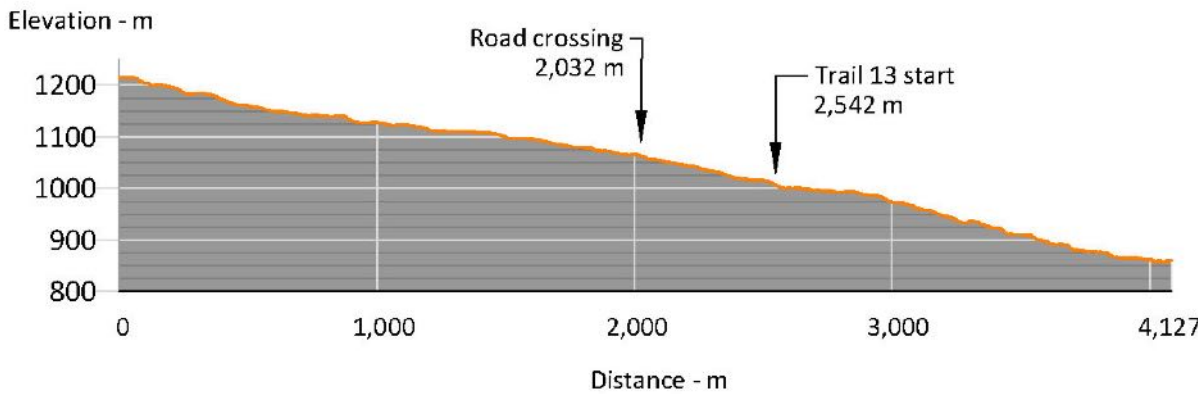


Trail 10			
Trail Type	Gravity	Difficulty	 Intermediate\Difficult
Length	6,518 m	Vertical	481 m
Start Elevation	1,227 m	Finish Elevation	746 m
Description			
Trail 10 is a highlight Blue Range trail that switchbacks down a major ridgeline before flowing through pine forest for the second half. This will be a fast flowing trail suitable for those wanting to take their riding to the next level as well as being engaging for the experienced rider.			
Benefits		Potential issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Top to bottom Blue Range trail;</li><li>• Progression opportunity for intermediate to difficult.</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Multiple crossings of management vehicle tracks.</li></ul>	
Trail Profile			
 <p>Horizontal / Vertical scale - 1:2</p>			


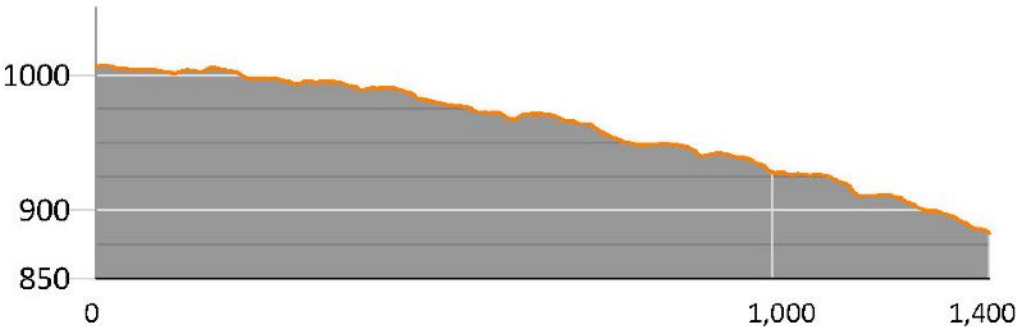


Trail 11			
Trail Type	Gravity	Difficulty	 Difficult
Length	2,148 m	Vertical	372 m
Start Elevation	1,136 m	Finish Elevation	764 m
Description			
Trail 11 is a fast downhill ride suitable for experienced riders or intermediate riders looking for a challenge. A large proportion of the trail follows an existing old downhill trail.			
Benefits		Potential issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Large proportion follows an existing old downhill trail;</li><li>• Lower portion located in pine forests, has lesser environmental values.</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Old trail may require some modifications to be made sustainable/suitable for use.</li></ul>	
Trail Profile			
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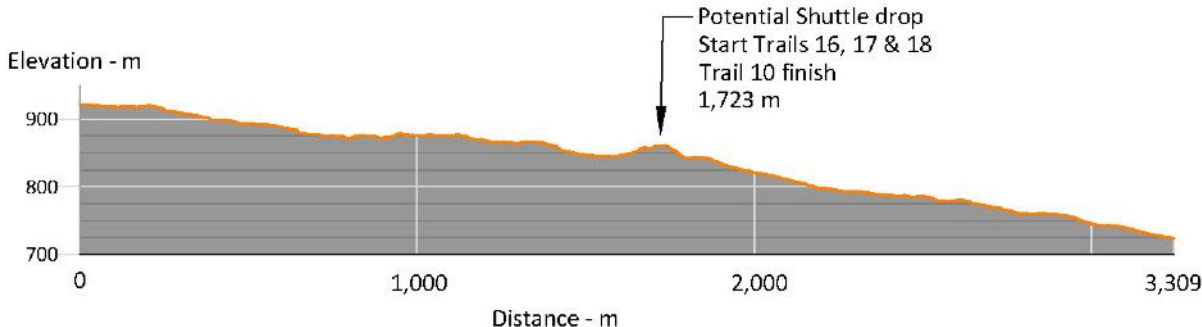


Trail 12			
Trail Type	Gravity	Difficulty	 Extreme
Length	4,127 m	Vertical	364 m
Start Elevation	1,227 m	Finish Elevation	863 m
Description			
Trail 12 is the only trail proposed to be rated 'Extreme'. It is aligned through some very steep terrain, which will need to be carefully ground-truthed. Some sections may require hand construction.			
Benefits		Potential issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provides opportunity for the most capable and skilled riders;</li><li>• Starts at the highest shuttle drop-off point.</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crosses Blue Range Rd twice;</li><li>• Steep terrain;</li><li>• Some hand construction may be required.</li></ul>	
Trail Profile			
 <p>Horizontal / Vertical scale - 1:2</p>			


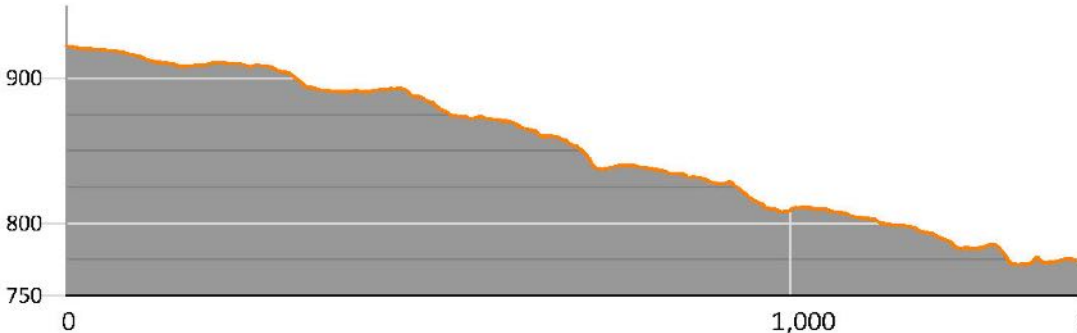


Trail 13			
Trail Type	Gravity	Difficulty	 Difficult
Length	1,400 m	Vertical	123 m
Start Elevation	1,028 m	Finish Elevation	905 m
Description			
Trail 13 is a difficult rated mid-mountain trail connection between Trail 12 and 11, providing riders with an alternative choice for finishing the bottom descent.			
Benefits		Potential issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Alternative trail finish to lower Trail 12.</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Steep terrain;</li><li>Some hand construction may be required.</li></ul>	
Trail Profile			
<div><div>Elevation - m</div><div><div>Distance - m</div></div><div>Horizontal / Vertical scale - 1:2</div></div>			


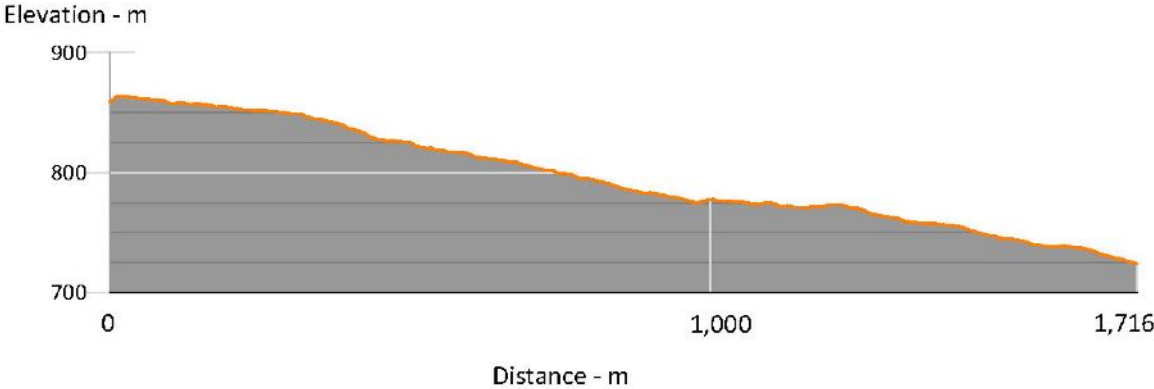


Trail 14			
Trail Type	Adventure	Difficulty	 Intermediate
Length	3,309 m	Vertical	177 m
Start Elevation	921 m	Finish Elevation	744 m
Description			
Trail 14 is an intermediate adventure trail that can be accessed via a riding up Trail 6 or via Shuttle Point 2. Riders can choose to stay on this trail or ride down any of trails 16, 17 or 18, for a similar length return to the main trailhead area.			
Benefits		Potential issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Located in current and rehabilitated forestry area;</li><li>• Provides access to Trails 16, 17 and 18;</li><li>• Accessible via Trail 6 for a short cross-country / adventure loop;</li><li>• Short trail can be repeated quickly.</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partly located in current forestry area.</li></ul>	
Trail Profile			
 <p>Horizontal / Vertical scale - 1:2</p>			


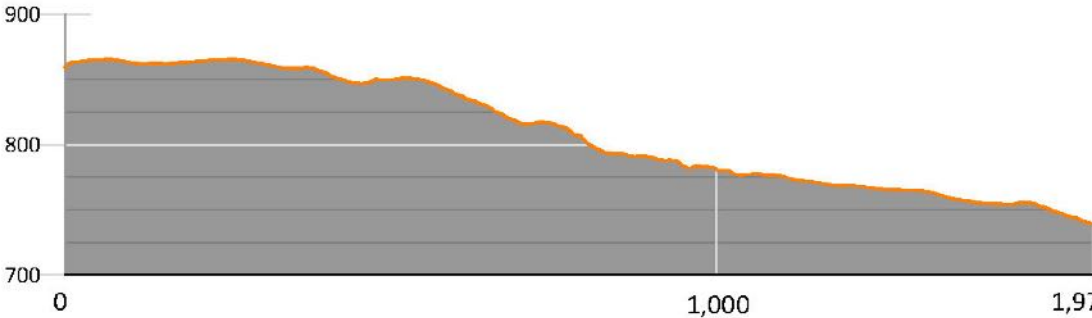



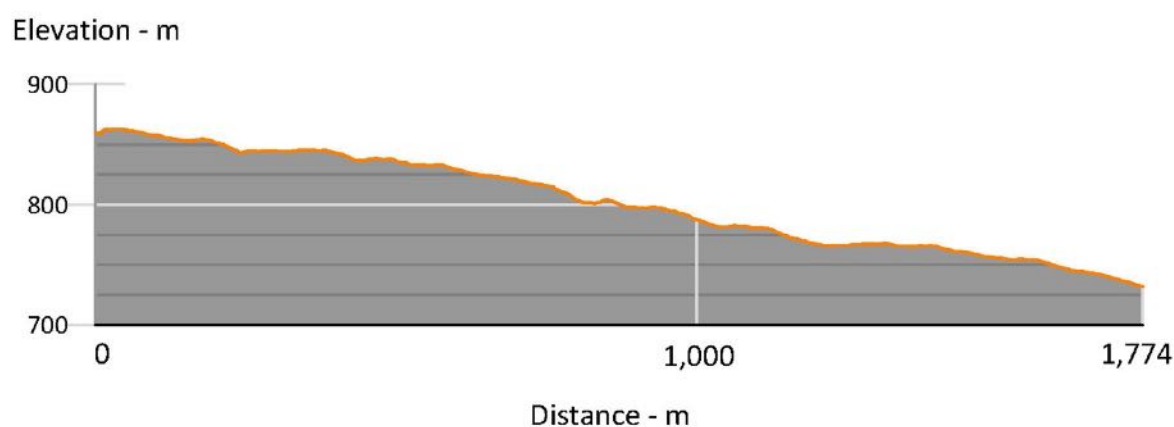
Trail 15			
Trail Type	Gravity	Difficulty	 Difficult
Length	1,411 m	Vertical	115 m
Start Elevation	919 m	Finish Elevation	804 m
Description			
Trail 15 is a short flowing gravity trail suitable for more experienced riders which connects with Trail 16 for the final return descent back to the main trailhead area.			
Benefits		Potential issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Located in rehabilitated forestry area;</li><li>• Short difficult alignment providing progression opportunity;</li><li>• Can be easily accessed by both shuttle or a short uphill climb.</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Steep terrain;</li><li>• Some hand construction may be required.</li></ul>	
Trail Profile			
<div><div>Elevation - m</div><div><div>Distance - m</div></div><div>Horizontal / Vertical scale - 1:2</div></div>			



Trail 16			
Trail Type	Gravity	Difficulty	 Difficult
Length	1,716 m	Vertical	123 m
Start Elevation	862 m	Finish Elevation	739 m
Description			
Trail 16 is a short, fast, flowing descent suitable for the more experienced riders or a worthy challenge for the eager intermediate enthusiast.			
Benefits		Potential issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Located in current and rehabilitated forestry area;</li><li>• Progression for intermediate riders;</li><li>• Short trail can be repeated quickly.</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partly located in current forestry area.</li></ul>	
Trail Profile			
 <p>Horizontal / Vertical scale - 1:2</p>			



Trail 17			
Trail Type	Gravity	Difficulty	 Intermediate\Difficult
Length	1,972 m	Vertical	98 m
Start Elevation	863 m	Finish Elevation	765 m
Description			
Trail 17 is a short, fast flowing descent suitable for intermediate riders looking for a challenge. This trail connects with the finish of Trail 10 and connects with Trail 16 for access back to the main trailhead area			
Benefits		Potential issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Located in current and rehabilitated forestry area;</li><li>• Progression for intermediate riders;</li><li>• Short trail can be repeated quickly.</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partly located in current forestry area.</li></ul>	
Trail Profile			
<div><div><div>Elevation - m</div><div><div><div>900</div><div>800</div><div>700</div></div><div><div>0</div><div>1,000</div><div>1,972</div></div></div><div>Distance - m</div><div>Horizontal / Vertical scale - 1:2</div></div></div>			

Trail 18			
Trail Type	Gravity	Difficulty	 Intermediate
Length	1,774 m	Vertical	113 m
Start Elevation	862 m	Finish Elevation	749 m
Description			
Trail 18 is a short intermediate trail that can be accessed via the first shuttle drop off point. This trail also connects with Trail 10 and 14.			
Benefits		Potential issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Located in current and rehabilitated forestry area;</li><li>• Progression for intermediate riders;</li><li>• Short trail can be repeated quickly.</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partly located in current forestry area.</li></ul>	
Trail Profile			
 <p>Horizontal / Vertical scale - 1:2</p>			