

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

February 17, 1994

STAFF DIRECTIVE 94-4

TO: Administrative Staff
 Section Chiefs
 District Superintendents
 Park Superintendents
 State Trails Program Staff

FROM: Philip K. McKnelly

SUBJECT: Policy for: Mountain Bicycle Use of Existing Multi-Use Trails

This staff directive is issued to manage the addition of mountain bicycle trail use to existing multi-use trails and creates minimum standards for multi-use trails designated for mountain bicycle use. This staff directive is to provide guidance to the park superintendents who are considering designating mountain bicycle use of existing multi-use trails and is effective immediately.

STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATENESS

The Division of Parks and Recreation has concluded that mountain bicycle use of existing multi-use trails in an appropriate activity that should be planned for and permitted within appropriate state parks.

AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED AND APPROVAL PROCEDURES

1. The superintendents of William B. Umstead State Park and South Mountains State Park are authorized to continue permitting mountain bicycle use on the multi-use trails opened for mountain bicycle use during the two-year study period.
2. All other state park superintendents shall consider the appropriateness of permitting mountain bicycle use on existing multi-use trails.
3. Any decision on the part of the individual park superintendent to permit mountain bicycle use of existing multi-use trails must be in compliance with the findings listed in the approved general management plan for the park.
4. Should there not be any approved general management plan for the park, any new trail proposal, reconstruction proposal or designation proposal must be approved by the Park Advisory Committee prior to a proposal being submitted through the chain of command.

5. All state park superintendents shall request the addition of and the designation of mountain bicycle use by completing the "North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation New Trail Construction, Trail Renovation and Trail Use Designation Form" in compliance with Staff Directive 93-2.
6. The director shall designate mountain bicycle use on existing multi-use trails by signing the "North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation New Trail Construction, Trail Renovation and Trail Use Designation Form" in compliance with Staff Directive 93-2.
7. The park superintendent is authorized to open the trail to mountain bicycle use when the director's signature is received on the "North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation New Trail Construction, Trail Renovation and Trail Use Designation Form."

CRITERIA FOR THE MOUNTAIN BICYCLE TRAIL USE – (These criteria are to be used until the Trails Guideline is revised.)

1. The trail shall have a minimum length of 10 miles.
2. The trail shall have a minimum width of 8 feet.
3. The minimum standard for the trail surface shall be compacted soil.
4. The average slope of the trail should be 10 percent with 25 percent being the maximum slope on any section of trail.
5. The trail surface shall be well drained with no visible sign of compaction or erosion prior to the addition of mountain bicycle use to the multi-use trail.
6. Access to the multi-use trails from hiking/bicycling parking areas or equestrian/bicycle parking areas shall be provided within the state park unit and the access trails shall be signed in compliance with the Trails Sign System Guidelines issued in draft by the director.
7. The trail shall be well blazed and signed in compliance with the Trails Sign System Guidelines to encourage riders to stay on the designated trails.