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Action Planner for Shared Use Trails

A checklist for people thinking about providing a walking, horse riding and cycling shared use natural surface trail in their community

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Introduction

A recreational natural surface trail means different things to different people. For some it is a weekend leisurely walk, for others a regular fitness track, a horse ride or a mountain bike experience.

A trail will be located in a community (social) and in a catchment (environmental)

Social impact includes the cost of getting to or using the trail, who can share the trail experience with the primary user e.g. family, and the attitude of the user towards other users and the environment surrounds. Social indicators also include the health, physical and mental well being of a community.

Trails also have another recognisable aspect, where a trail user can experience the Australian bush landscape as a living cultural heritage experience.

Every trail is also located within a catchment. A catchment is an area of land that captures rainfall and directs it to a creek, river, dam or gutter which eventually flows out to the ocean or seeps into the sub-surface soil.

Everybody lives, works and undertakes recreation in a catchment, so everyone has a responsibility to look after the environment in which they live.

A well designed and maintained natural surface recreational trail will have quality tread, low incidence of weeds, encourage appreciation (and re-habilitation of) habitats for native birds and animals and protect watercourse integrity.

It is important to understand how trail planning, maintenance and use can be managed to ensure it delivers a good trail (social) experience but that the environment and native habitat is protected. Once issues are identified you can then begin working towards managing activities on the trail to reduce or prevent negative safety, social and environmental issues.

This Action Planner is designed to assist you to recognize any improvements in the management practices that may be required to ensure the natural surface recreational trail provides a quality experience for users and protects the environment of which it is a part.

How to Use this Action Planner

Step One

Work through each section of this tool and for each topic select the statement that best reflects the ***current*** trail situation and/or management practices

- Ideal
- Nearly there
- Just beginning
- Haven't thought about it/didn't know it could be a problem

Step Two

After each topic is completed, collate your answers on the "Summary of Results" checklist

Step Three

The topics that you rated the lowest (i.e. haven't thought about it) *may* need to be your highest priority for planning improvements in the near future.

Step Four

Once you have identified your highest priority areas, the next step is to develop an action plan to better assist in building or maintaining the trail.

Step 4a - choose short term improvements which:

- can be planned and implemented for within one year
- helps your trail comply with (regulatory) requirements and not cause environmental damage
- is financially feasible to implement in the short term
- fits in with staff, volunteer, and organisational times

Step 4b - choose long term actions

- Needs to be planned and conducted over a longer time period (1 – 5 years)
- Needs additional resources currently not available in your budget

- Enhances the overall aesthetics and trail experience

Whole of Trail Management

1. Trail Management Plan

A trail management plan reflects the vision for the trail, addresses the overall goals including promotion, risk assessment, maintenance and the natural resources (soil, water and biodiversity) relating to the region in which the trail is located and the specific requirements related to the use of the trail.

It also looks at the Social requirements – access, user groups, community volunteers and where it is located in relation to the primary users.

Through developing a trail management plan, the areas can be considered in a framework which a number of people can contribute to and use. A Management Plan will also help identify costs involved and resources to help with improvements & education programs.

A well-designed Trail Management Plan has both management and continuous improvements that are built into the ongoing maintenance and annual budgets. The Plan can call for the regular collection of information relating to the overall trail functionality and patterns of use.

Many land managers or community groups are probably already doing quite a number of the things needed to maintain trails in a safe and sustainable manner, but have not formalized these in writing. By doing so, potential problems can often be picked up sooner and acted upon before there is a real issue.

A Trail Management Plan for a nominated natural surface recreational trail is in place

Ideal	A Plan for the Management of natural surface trail recreational trail is in place, actively used and reviewed (annually or seasonally)
Nearly There	A Trail Management Plan exists, but needs updating
Just Beginning	No Trail Management Plan exists, but I do know how to write one
Haven't Thought About it	Nobody has a trail management plan and am not sure where to start

Ideas for changes to management practices:

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2. Patterns of Trail Use

The more users on a natural surface trail, the higher the input (time, money and facilities) that may be required to keep up a good trial experience and protect the land from environmental damage.

Other factors influencing the decisions relating to the natural surface trail include land capabilities (slope, soil type, rainfall) and the core users e.g. horse riders, mountain bikes, dog sleds, walkers.

Social considerations include peak use times (which may relate to work or school schedules) access to public transport and make up of the nearby population base (e.g. mainly young families or blocks of horse agistment) This information will assist in how to best manage the trail to ensure sustainability.

- **The planning & management considerations has been determined by the natural resource capabilities and the needs of the key identified trail users**

Ideal	The planning & management considerations has been determined by the natural resource capabilities and the needs of the key identified trail users
Nearly There	Some consideration was given to land capability when determining the Needs of the key identified users
Just Beginning	I am finding what aspects of the land capability are, to help determine Planning and management aspects related to the needs of users
Haven't Thought About it	No consideration has been given to the land capability when planning the Natural surface trail nor the specific requirements of user groups.

Ideas for changes to management practices:

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3. Development and related approvals

In Council areas, or on State or Federal Government managed land you will need approvals to establish a trail. Aspects of maintaining a trail (including extending, closing or re-routing) may also require approvals. Approvals are required for a whole range of activities, including vegetation removal or trimming, installing a ford or installation of signage. Your land manager will be able to advise what approvals are needed.

- **Approvals and permits are in place for planning and maintaining trails**

Ideal	Approvals and permits are in place for trail building or maintenance
Nearly There	I am applying for relevant approvals and permits
Just Beginning	I am investigating the relevant approvals or permits may be required but Are not currently in place
Haven't Thought About it	I don't know what approvals or permits are required

List approvals that may be required:

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4. Siting of Trails and Trailheads

Riding on trails on a horse, bike or walking, may be your favourite pastime and your passion. It may not, however, be what your neighbour enjoys.

There are many factors to consider when choosing a site for new trails, or upgrading and managing existing ones. This includes ways to manage noise (which may be loading horses on/off floats or bikes off trailers or congestion from vehicle movements if near residential areas), dust, mud, storm water runoff, access for fire/emergency/maintenance vehicles and water conservation. High impact areas related to trails include trailheads (including car/float/trailer parking areas) horse yards and campsites.

- **Trails are sited and managed with consideration given to convenience (access) and potential environmental impacts, through open communication with all stakeholders.**

Ideal	Trails and trailheads are sited and managed with consideration given to convenience and potential environmental impacts, and through open communication with all stakeholders
Nearly There	Trails and trailheads are not ideally sited but managed with consideration given to Access and potential environmental impact and stakeholders have been consulted
Just Beginning	Some consideration is given to access, potential environmental impacts and Stakeholders when siting trails and trailheads
Haven't Thought About it	I haven't thought about access, potential environmental impacts or stakeholders when siting or managing trails.

Record ideas related to trailhead or trail site:

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5. Habitat for Native Plants & Animals
(Can be included in the Trail Management Plan)

A holistic view to planning and preserving habitat for native animals, birds and fish should be incorporated into the Trail Management Plan.

This includes the protection of any present remnant vegetation (forest, woodlands, grasslands and watercourses) feral animal control and careful use of pesticides and chemicals

Other factors to consider are planting local native species (with the right plants in the right location), to help buffer and augment existing native vegetation areas, leaving fallen hallow logs, incorporation of plantings along the trail to facilitate wildlife trails, providing and keeping to marked trails or corridors through all kinds of landscapes.

- **Existing habitats are protected and enhanced for native plants and animals**

Ideal	Existing habitats are protected and enhanced for native plants and animals with good trail design and management principles.
Nearly There	Existing habitats are known and trail access may be restricted or managed at certain times.
Just Beginning	I can recognize the native vegetation and habitats along the trail corridor, but the trail design does not facilitate maximum protection
Haven't Thought About it	I haven't even thought about native vegetation or habitats for native plants and animals

Ideas for changes to management practices:

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6. Planning for & Management of Volunteers & Contract Labour
(Can be included in the Trail Management Plan)

Trail planners & managers should be aware of the relevant legislation, guidelines and documentation related to the engagement of contractors and volunteers to work on trail related projects.

Considerations include Responsible Officer Training, OHSW, public liability, selection of contractors suitable for a task, record keeping and volunteer training.

- **Volunteers & Contractors are planned for, costed, documented and allocated to tasks according to training, skills and capabilities.**

Ideal	Volunteers & Contractors are planned for, costed, documented and allocated to tasks according to training, skills and capabilities.
Nearly There	Volunteers & Contractors are sometimes planned for, costed, documented and allocated to tasks according to training, skills and capabilities
Just Beginning	Care is taken when engaging volunteers & contractors are sometimes planned for, but not always costed, documented and allocated to tasks according to training, skills and capabilities
Haven't Thought About it	I generally don't do much paperwork or rarely train volunteers. Getting a Contractor of any kind anywhere is just luck.

Ideas for volunteer management practices:

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7. Use of Tools, Equipment & Chemicals
(Can be included in the Trail Management Plan)

When tools, equipment or chemicals are used, careful attention should be paid to how sites will be accessed, trail tread preparation and disposal of waste dirt and materials to ensure that the integrity of the surrounding environment is preserved and that trail users remain safe. This may mean that access to some areas during wet seasons or peak visitor times restricts work.

When using chemicals, emergency response procedures and equipment (e.g. spill kit) are available. Trail builders or maintenance workers are trained in procedures to minimize secondary damage when working, even considering hand tools over mechanized. Tools & equipment are suitable for the task, well serviced and action taken to prevent fire, fuel spillage or other potential accidents.

- **Tools, equipment and chemicals are taken into, used and removed from the trail work area according to best practice operating /use instructions**

Ideal	Tools, equipment and chemicals are taken into, used and removed from the trail work area according to best practice operating /use instructions
Nearly There	Care it taken when tools, equipment and chemicals are taken into, used and removed from the trail work area according to best practice operating /use instructions
Just Beginning	Best practice operating /use methods are not always practiced.
Haven't Thought About it	I generally don't consider what it takes to use tools, equipment or chemicals in A trail related situation, including access & egress, transportability and environmental Protection.

Ideas for changes to management practices:

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8. Managing Animal and Plant Diseases
(Can be included in the Trail Management Plan)

Weeds need to be controlled along a trail corridor as they compete with native vegetation and also agricultural production plants and grasses. One common aspect often overlooked in weed control is how weeds are imported and exported from a site. This can be through birds, foxes or brought in on clothing, tyres, hooves or feed. By promoting good quality native vegetation (through re-vegetation & management of existing vegetation) weeds will find it difficult to compete and will not flourish. Good trail design will encourage users to stay to the centre of the trail tread and refrain from disturbing soil on the trail edges (berm) It is good practice to clean soil & seeds off of boots, tyres (cars/bikes) and hooves prior to entering & leaving a trail. This will manage such diseases as Phytophora & Broomrape and some animal diseases.

Similarly, animal diseases which can affect both farming and native animals can be spread by careless management of our own pets and horses. Horses should not "touch noses" with other horses or stock over fences, or share drinking troughs where possible. Unhealthy horses should not be out on the trail. Messages such as the fact that lambs must not be picked up (as mothers will abandon them to die afterwards) or dogs be permitted to run amok through bush or farmland need to be incorporated into trail education messages. In addition, trails are considered a "road" in a Biosecurity threat (plant or animal disease) and may be closed.

- **Management practices are promoted & implemented minimise plant and animal diseases occurring along a trail route.**

Ideal	Management practices are promoted & implemented minimise plant and animal diseases occurring along a trail route.
Nearly There	Management practices are mostly promoted & mostly implemented to minimise plant and animal diseases occurring along a trail route.
Just Beginning	I am aware something needs to be done, but no program is in place
Haven't Thought About it	I don't know anything about how to best manage the key plant and animal diseases found in our district

Ideas for mitigating plant and animal diseases:

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9. Managing Pest Animals & Pest Plants
(Can be included in the Trail Management Plan)

The harmful effects of wild introduced animals such as rabbits, foxes, feral goats, cats and wild dogs cost many millions of dollars each year. These species cause immeasurable harm to the natural environment as well as to primary producers.

Pest plants also have a negative impact on the natural Australian bush. Pest plants can be brought to a trail on boots, clothes, bike and car treads, or in horse feed. Trail user education and a good maintenance program will go a long way to minimizing impacts of introduced plants and animals with community programs even working to enhance degraded areas.

It is important that trail managers identify pest animals & plants in the trail corridor and work to include reduction techniques or elimination programs from the trail corridor in the management plan.

- **Pest Plants and Pest Animals are identified and pest specific control programs for trail corridors considered**

Ideal	Pest animals are identified and controlled
Nearly There	Pest animals are identified and are in management numbers
Just Beginning	Some effort is being made to control pest animals, but numbers are still high
Haven't Thought About it	No effort has been made to identify or control pest animals

Ideas for management practices:

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10. Trail User Education
(Can be included in the Trail Management Plan)

Trail user education programs are essential to ensure a good trail experience for users and protect the environment in which the trail is embedded. Education also improves the general safety of all users.

Education includes signage, brochures, a Code of Practice, inserts into club newsletters, workshops and media articles. Trail "advocates" who regularly use a trail and speak to users also has a good record of being effective.

- **A trail user education program is linked to the trail network**

Ideal A trial user education program is linked to the trail network

Nearly There A trail user education program used to exist, but needs "re-inventing"

Just Beginning Have thought about it. A trail user education program was basic at best but is now out of date. I am investigating options for re-starting the program

Haven't Thought About it No trail user education program exists

Ideas for changes to management practices:

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10. Road Safety
(Can be included in the Trail Management Plan)

Many trails are marked along roads. Selecting a route which will give trail users a quality experience often consists of linking unmade road reserves and parks along carriageways utilized by cars. Trail planners can utilize traffic counts and traffic engineering advice to assist with decision making. Crossing roads has a different set of criteria, including good sight lines. All roads will have some sort of management plan which also must be referred to.

Road Safety education for road users needs to form part of the trail user education program.

- **Trails alongside or crossing over roads consider safety aspects, road managers consulted & trail user education includes road safety**

Ideal — Trails alongside or crossing over roads consider safety aspects, road managers consulted & trail user education includes road safety

Nearly There — Trails alongside or crossing over roads appear to consider safety aspects & but trail user education currently does not always include road safety

Just Beginning — Trails alongside or crossing over roads have apparent safety aspects to consider which are being investigated & trail user education does not include road safety

Haven't Thought About it — The trail along the roadside needs investigating. A trail user education program does not exist.

Ideas in relation to road safety:

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Trail Tread Management

1. Trail Tread
(Can be included in the Trail Management Plan)

One of the best ways to ensure a trail tread won't erode or become wet is to ensure that a good trail tread is developed.

A sustainable trail tread prevents erosion and acts to manage water run off assisted by well designed discreet drains where needed. Adjacent groundcover acts as a filter strip for any nutrients overloads. Trail tread is also important where wind is a factor. Care needs to be taken to best match the trail tread pH (a measure of acidity) to that of the surrounding soil. A sound trail tread also provides safety for the trail user and a better overall trail experience.

- **Trail tread exists all year around with stabilizing ground cover either side and appropriate drainage**

Ideal	Trail tread exists all year around with stabilizing ground cover either side and appropriate drainage. Trail tread pH will not have a negative impact on surrounding native vegetation.
Nearly There	Trail surface is good most of the year, as is the drainage and groundcover
Just Beginning	Trail tread surface, drainage and adjacent groundcover can only be ranked as 50% effective along the route, all year.
Haven't Thought About it	Trail tread is poor, there is little or no drainage and there is bare ground either side.

Ideas for trail tread management:

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2. Seasonal Wet Areas, Wet Seeps & Drainage Lines
(Can be included in the Trail Management Plan)

To preserve the trail tread quality, prevent development of erosion areas and maintain water quality it is to plan to incorporate specialist trail design techniques (e.g. board walks) or to restrict trail use when seasonal wet areas, wet seeps and drainage lines are soft due to being wet.

Skid marks, pot holes and bare ground caused by trail use are evidence that the trail tread or design (e.g. elevation) is not suitable.

Another indicator is "pugging" which is when feet, tyres or hooves sink deep into the tread surface or soil and leave holes, which damages vegetation roots, compacts the soil, pools water and greatly slows down the ability of the area to recover – therefore compromising the integrity of the surrounding environment.

- **Specialist trail design features or trail restrictions are applied in seasonal wet (waterlogged) areas, wet seeps (boggy areas) and drainage lines while the soil is wet and soft. The trail avoids wet areas where no sound solution can be found.**

Ideal	Specialist trail design features or trail restrictions are applied in seasonal wet (waterlogged) areas, wet seeps (boggy areas) and drainage lines while the soil is wet and soft. The trail avoids wet areas where no sound solution can be found.
Nearly There	Trail users have access to the trail, but management procedures are in place To minimize impact
Just Beginning	Seasonal wet areas, wet seeps and drainage lines are identified, but trail users Are not restricted or managed early enough or for long enough.
Haven't Thought About it	Trail users have access to seasonal wet areas, wet seeps and drainage lines at all Times

List the indicators for wet areas and list ideas for wet area trail design & management practices:

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3. Steep Slopes
(Can be included in the Trail Management Plan)

Many trails are located on steep land, as these provide panoramic views. The downside can be poor soil stability and slower recovery phases due to increased exposure to the weather.

With increased steepness, it will be difficult for mechanised equipment for building or maintenance to gain access.

Trails planned for steep slopes should be designed along the contour line (not "fall line" i.e. s) and make use of switchbacks where possible. Full bench cut trails are the most common trail design feature likely to be selected for steep slopes.

Considerations relating to the key user groups will need to also be incorporated e.g. official "resting" spots for both walkers and horses.

- **Additional planning & management techniques are adopted for trails on steep slopes**

Ideal	Where steep slopes can't be avoided additional planning & management techniques are adopted for trails
Nearly There	Design improvements are made to improve trail stability & sustainability
Just Beginning	The trail design and location is poor, but plans are being implemented to manage further degregration
Haven't Thought About it	Trail design and location is very poor and trail use is not restricted on steep slopes

Ideas for steep area trail design & management practices:

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3. Trail Plaiting, Route Deviation & Closures
(Can be included in the Trail Management Plan)

Trail plating occurs where trail users leave the original route and create a secondary track before returning back to the original route. This often occurs as users move around pot holes, a fallen tree or a section of collapsed trail or if the trail location permits users to take short cuts. Trail users will also cut corners or deviate if the trail is poorly designed in the terms of scenic interest or is too difficult. The visual effect is similar to that of plaited hair or twisted wire.

Route deviation can occur when a gate is suddenly locked resulting in users squash down a nearby fence or a bridge is washed away, or there is a wet boggy area which trail users try to avoid.

Trail derogation of this type can be minimised by a well designed trail, regular inspections of trails, encouraging users to report problems or encouraging land managers to report to the trail managers. Unfortunately considerable damage can be done in a few short hours, especially when the ground is wet.

In some cases trails will need to be closed and rehabilitated in consultation with land managers and user groups.

- **No plaiting or route deviation is evident**

Ideal	No plaiting or route deviation is evident
Nearly There	Plating or route deviation occasionally occurs but is immediately managed
Just Beginning	There is some evidence of plaiting and I am trying to work out what to do
Haven't Thought About it	Plaiting and route deviation is evident and is not managed

Ideas for trail design and management:

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4. Shade, Shelter & Water
(Can be included in the Trail Management Plan)

Consideration will need to be given to the provision of resting points, shade, shelter and water. Any trail to be used by horses will need to have watering points provided.

Shade and shelter can be natural or artificial and promotion of resting points at suitable, less environmentally sensitive locations is one way to assist in managing the environment.

In addition, consideration needs to be given to artificial shade, shelter and watering points, which if not designed and managed properly, can lead to erosion with runoff carrying soil to nearby waterways. It is important to manage shade, shelter and watering points to prevent dust, mud and storm water damage.

- **Shade, shelter and watering points are managed to prevent dust, mud and erosion**

Ideal	Resting points, shade, shelter and watering points are managed to prevent dust, mud and erosion
Nearly There	Resting points, shade, shelter and watering points have some dust, mud and erosion around them but the areas are being managed
Just Beginning	Resting points, shade, shelter and watering points have dust, mud and erosion around them, and I am investigating what management options are suitable
Haven't Thought About it	Resting points, shade, shelter and watering points are surrounded by dust or mud

Ideas for resting points, shade, shelter and water:

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5. Watercourses
(Can be included in the Trail Management Plan)

Trails are often located along rivers, creeks and around dams or lakes (all called watercourses) as this is one of the great trail experiences.

Trail users walking or riding through watercourses may cause streambed damage, especially if horses are allowed to paw or vehicles lose traction. Stream banks also need to be preserved from users scrambling up the sides, compaction & bare areas caused from picnicking too close and poor camping or hygiene practices. Trail user education also needs to include removal of rubbish and use of detergents and shampoos.

Well designed trails keep users on route, campers in designated sites and provide opportunity for riparian zone rehabilitation projects which is a great way to engage users in watercourse management.

- **Trails near watercourses are designed to minimize direct watercourse access**

Ideal	**Trails near watercourses are designed to minimize direct watercourse access**
Nearly There	**Trails near watercourses have some design modifications required to minimize direct watercourse access**
Just Beginning	**Trails near watercourses have frequent direct watercourse access, but we are looking into ways to minimize this**
Haven't Thought About it	**Trails frequently cross or travel through watercourses with no consideration given to trail design.**

Ideas for trail location and trail user education:

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6 Campsite Areas (including overnight horse yards)

Intensive use or high impact areas related to a trail include campsites, narrow "constraint" points e.g. horse step-overs, shelters, car & float parking areas, picnic and toilet facilities.

Intensive use areas related to trails, such as campsites, need to be well designed and have safe access. This includes surfacing or designating a naturally hardened surface which will minimize dust, mud and water naturally flows away and be located away from very environmentally sensitive areas.

Regular maintenance, including checking signage, collection of rubbish, cleaning toilets and filling in holes to prevent water pooling will assist in minimising erosion and prevent negative impact on water quality.

- **Intensive use areas are managed to prevent dust, mud, erosion, native plant and animal impacts and build up of rubbish or manure**

Ideal	**Intensive use areas are managed to prevent mud, dust, erosion, native plant and animal impacts and build up of rubbish or manure**
Nearly There	**Intensive use areas occasionally create mud, dust, erosion, native plant and animal impacts and build up of rubbish or manure, the areas are being upgraded**
Just Beginning	**Intensive use areas do have mud, dust, erosion, native plant and animal impacts and build up of rubbish or manure, but I am investigating options for management**
Haven't Thought About it	**Intensive use areas have mud, dust, erosion and build up of rubbish or manure and may show other impacts.**

Ideas for campsite design, management and trail user education:

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Action Planner for Shared Use Trails
Summary of Results

	Ideal	Nearly There	Just Beginning	Haven't though about it	Not applicable
1. Trail Management Plan					
2. Patterns of Use					
3. Development & Related Approvals					
4. Siting of Trails & Trailheads					
5. Habitat for Native Plants & Animals					
6. Planning for Contractors & Volunteers					
7. Use of Equipment, Tools & Chemicals					
8. Managing Animal & Plant Diseases					
9. Managing Pest Animals & Plants					
10 Trail User Education					
11 Road Safety					
Trails & Trail Heads					
1. Trail Tread					
2. Seasonal Wet Areas, Seeps, Drainage lines					
3. Steep Slopes					
4. Shade, Shelter, Water					
5. Watercourses					
6. Campsite Areas					

1. **In the table above, record the rating you selected for each topic**

2. **The topics which rated the lowest for are ones which potentially should receive early attention/ be given a high priority**

3. **Using the next template, choose at least one short-term and one long-term action to get started on**

4. **Set a date to review the action (s)**

Trail Planning Template

Now that you have identified the high priority areas for actions, the next step is to develop an Action Plan to assist you to implement trail planning or improvements. The following steps will assist you in developing your Action Plan.

1. Objective

Objectives are broad goals for planning or management of the trail. Start by setting an objective for each priority area.
(Example: If your priority area is to improve the trail running alongside the watercourse, your objective may be to "assess the trail running alongside amble creek to look for ways to reduce environmental impact")

2. Actions
Actions are what you plan to do to meet your objective (goal) It is important to be realistic when setting your actions. Use the SMART principle when developing your actions.

S- Specific
M- Measurable
A – Achievable
R – Realistic
T – Time bound/Time framed.

Set a date for completing each action/target and designate someone to be responsible for completing each task. By doing this you are ensuring that the job gets done. (Trails have a good history of "burning out" people, so learn to delegate tasks early in the project)

Example – If your objective is to "assess the trail running alongside amble creek to look for ways to reduce environmental impact" your actions may include

1. Map the trail in relation to the creek
2. record the condition of the trail and any related aspects e.g. bridges, fords, stream bank condition including photos
3. Take notes or observe how people use the trail (i.e. where/why are they leaving the trail and accessing the creek?)
4. Discuss findings with the land manager and catchment authority
5. Agree on management improvement techniques, which may include re-aligning the trail, re-vegetation project to reduce natural tendency to randomly access stream banks, signage and creation of a designated picnic area with nice views away from the watercourse.

3. Monitoring and Recording

Monitoring the success of your action will provide you with some baseline data and a track record of how well things have worked.

- When planning a monitoring program, think about
- What are you going to monitor e.g. water quality, user patterns, tread wear, economic spending
- What tools or equipment you will need to monitor
- How will monitoring take place
- When will monitoring take place
- Who is responsible for monitoring
- What records will need to be kept

Action Planning Template

Title: *(E.g. Amble Creek Trail)*	
Actions:	
Actions:	
When to do it **(Short -term task)**	Action Due date Who is responsible? Is the job completed? Comments
When to do it **(Long-term task)**	Action Due date Who is responsible? Is the job completed? Comments
Monitoring & Recording Notes	