

13 CENTRAL AND SHARLANDS ROAD LOOP

GRADE: Moderate – climbs to 550m. **DISTANCE/TIME:** 23km round trip (1.5 - 2 hours)

START LOCATION: 5km up the Maitai Valley Road at Sharlands Creek Bridge turn left into gravel car park area.

SUGGESTIONS: A permit is needed to ride in Hira Forest. These can be obtained from Action Forest Management in Richmond (544 8541), or by joining the Nelson Mountain Bike Club. Any forest rides may be closed due to operations or fire risk. Please obey the signage at gates or public notices in the paper. Stay well away from all forest operations. Remember that there are other users in the forest including vehicles and motorbikes so keep left and ride accordingly. The more adventurous can look out for mountain bike club signs to the more technical Tucker's Trails which are off Sharlands road (about 45 minutes ride up to top Bob's Fern)

POINTS OF INTEREST: Tuckers Trails start off Bobs Fern loop Road. The main bit exits onto Sharlands Road at the 5km mark. Very good rides and well worth anyone having a go at. Some very young children ride them and keep going back for more. The secondary schools race has been on there 3 years - the kids love it.

ROUTE DIRECTIONS

You can do this loop in either direction – both are wide gravel and gently climbing for the first half of the ride.

Our ride is up Sharlands Road and down Central Road.

From the carpark, peddle through the first gate and veer left at the first intersection and cross the concrete ford onto Sharlands Road. (On your left you will see a signboard for the Nelson Mountain Bike Club selection of trails in Hira Forest.) Just follow Sharlands Road all the way to the top at its junction with Thomas Road (about 9km up). At the first two intersections keep right, at all others continue straight ahead.

Continue to climb until 200 meters past Thomas Road intersection and you will reach the high point at the top of Sharlands Hill. A fast descent takes you to the Lud Saddle where another short climb takes you to the Dip Road Junction.

Turn right. You are still on a wide forest access road. The next intersection is Packers saddle. (Sharlands Road ends and becomes Central road at this point.) Turn right and after a climb of a kilometer of Eucalyptus trees, enjoy the 9km ride down hill on Central Road. At the intersection at the bottom of the hill turn left to reach the car park. (Turning right will take you to the Packers Creek Rifle range) Beware of other forest users at all times.

LEGEND - MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDES					
	START		PICNIC AREA		INFORMATION PANEL
	PLAYGROUND		WATER		VIEWPOINT
	LINK		SWIMMING		GATE
	TOILETS		CYCLEWAY		VIEWPOINT

