
From: Thompson, Jeremy [mailto:jeremy.thompson@forestry.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 19 April 2007 19:00
To: niall
Subject: RE: Trail lengths and grading issues

Thanks Niall,

Very helpful.

jeremy

From: niall [mailto:niallt@[REDACTED]]
Sent: 18 April 2007 23:02
To: jeremy.thompson@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
Cc: [REDACTED] group@carronvalley.org.uk; Paul Masson
Subject: Trail lengths and grading issues

Jeremy

I've just looked at this issue for a briefing doc Jamie hopes to put out to help clarify matters and agree a route forward

All that matters here are build lengths and trail grades. Roads are roads and our trails aren't prescriptive i.e the Rider does not have 'to do' all of the Green Blue or Red. He can do part of the Green or Blue outbound, nip up to part of the Red climb, drop down and do part of the Blue descent then the Green, Red or Blue final sections. He could do all of the Blue ascent then part Red ascent then Red descent then Red climb then Red or Blue final descent. There are numerous permutations.....

So, ***the approved PP has the following build lengths:***

6250 - Orange
5250 - Green (but this include Orange "out" portion)
9620 - Blue
11550 - Red

32670 - Total **(however 18.36% of this is already built - and most of this is Blue)**
26420 - ex Orange

On the original spreadsheet some of the Green includes Orange, the Orange itself includes a fair amount of road and some of the Red includes Blue. To use another example, the Red climb will only become Red grade where it leaves the Blue at the quarry. All trails include road sections however, all the build trails effectively start at the dam. The build trail lengths as a comparative percentage of the overall build length are as follows:

Green mtb build length as a % of the overall mtb build length use this to get out)	19.87% (includes 1050 Orange as it must
Blue mtb build length as a % of the overall mtb build length	36.41%

Red mtb build length as a % of the overall mtb build length 43.72%

Total mtb build length 100.00%

So, the split is 56.28% Green and Blue versus 43.72% Red. If you then include the build Orange the proportion rises to circa 65/35. Furthermore, you could legitimately argue the % are even higher because there is a 1250km skills loop in the PP which I've not included and the full Orange needs lots of road in the middle to function as a route plus any Orange length is effectively doubled because it is an out and back.

Some of the build figures will undoubtedly look out of context when taken in isolation so depending on what you have actually floated thus far (to "your people") and if these figures are being added to the notional 10k Red already on the ground (roughly 4k of roads plus 1.3km Funpark with the rest basically Blue etc) then it is perhaps no surprise they have been jumping to completely the wrong conclusions? If the whole picture is presented and explained then it is quite obvious we have the most balanced mix of trails of any of the mtb centres.

If percentages are so important to your colleagues then CV must surely sit well within the ratios they wish to see. To artificially push the balance at CV even further towards the Green and Blue grade in an effort to crudely redress the deficiency of Green and Blue trails at other centres is surely to miss the point entirely? We need trail centres with a balanced range of trails near where people live and skewing the grading at one centre to redress the shortcomings of another will not solve the problem.

Been a long day - hope this helps

Niall

p.s: % are higher - just noticed I've deducted 1750 of Orange by mistake

Niall Thomson

Director

██████████ Systems Ltd

Tel ██████████

Fax ██████████

Mob ██████████

Web www.██████████

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