

Mountain biking around Nelson Lakes



Teetotal Recreation Area,
Mount Robert Road,
Beebys Knob, Red Hills,
Rotoroa, Glenroy valley,
Matakitaki valley





Kaka track. Photo: Rob Kay



Glenroy valley. Photo: Alan Eskrick

Porika Road MAP 1

9 km (one way)



Approximately 13 km west of St Arnaud is the Howard Valley turn-off on State Highway 63. Follow the gravel road for about 4 km and turn right into Porika Road.

From here the 4WD road passes through stream fords and beech forest before arriving at an excellent viewing point overlooking Lake Rotoroa. The descent to Rotoroa township is steep and rough. Return the way you came.

Braeburn Road MAP 2

10.5 km (one way)



At Gowan Bridge at Lake Rotoroa, turn west into Braeburn Road. The gravel road passes through farmland, stream fords and beech forest before arriving at the Tutaki-Matakitaki valley turn-off.

Either continue for 35 km on the gravel road to the Matakitaki valley (Note: there is no exit along the road), or follow the tar-sealed road for 22 km to Murchison, via Mangles valley.

MTB track grading



Easy

Mostly flat with some gentle climbs on smooth track with easily avoidable obstacles such as rocks and potholes.



Intermediate

Steep slopes and/or avoidable obstacles, possibly on a narrow track and/or with poor traction. There may be exposure at the track's edges.



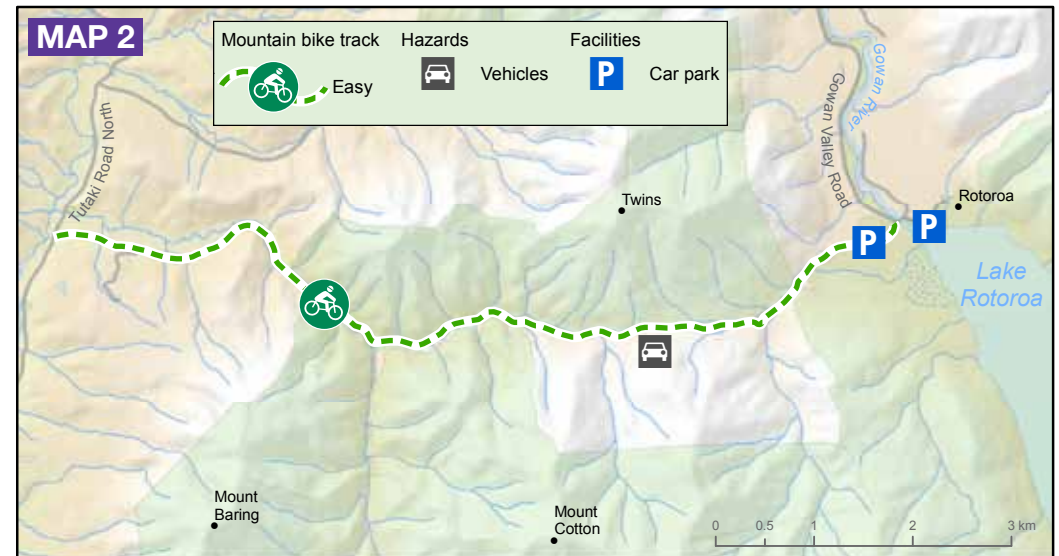
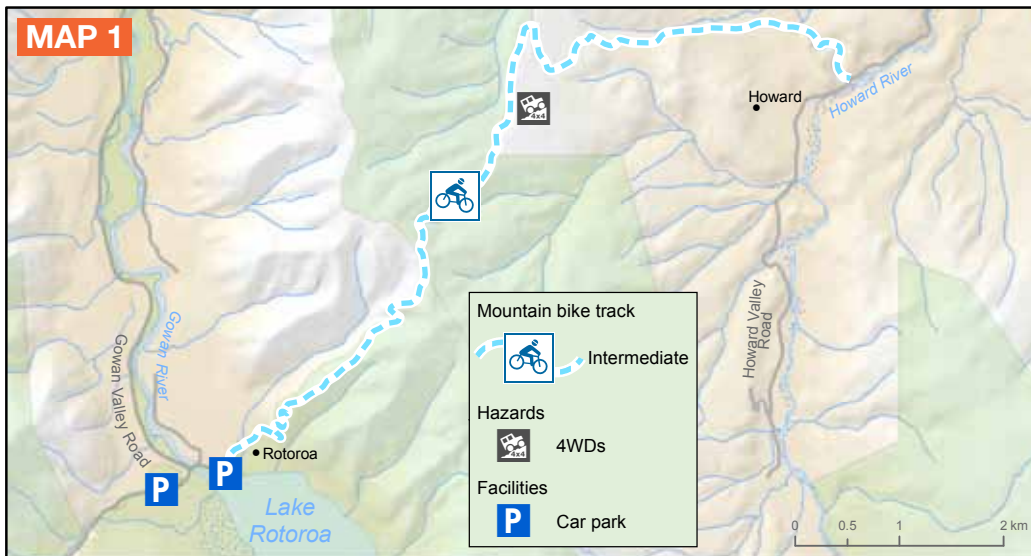
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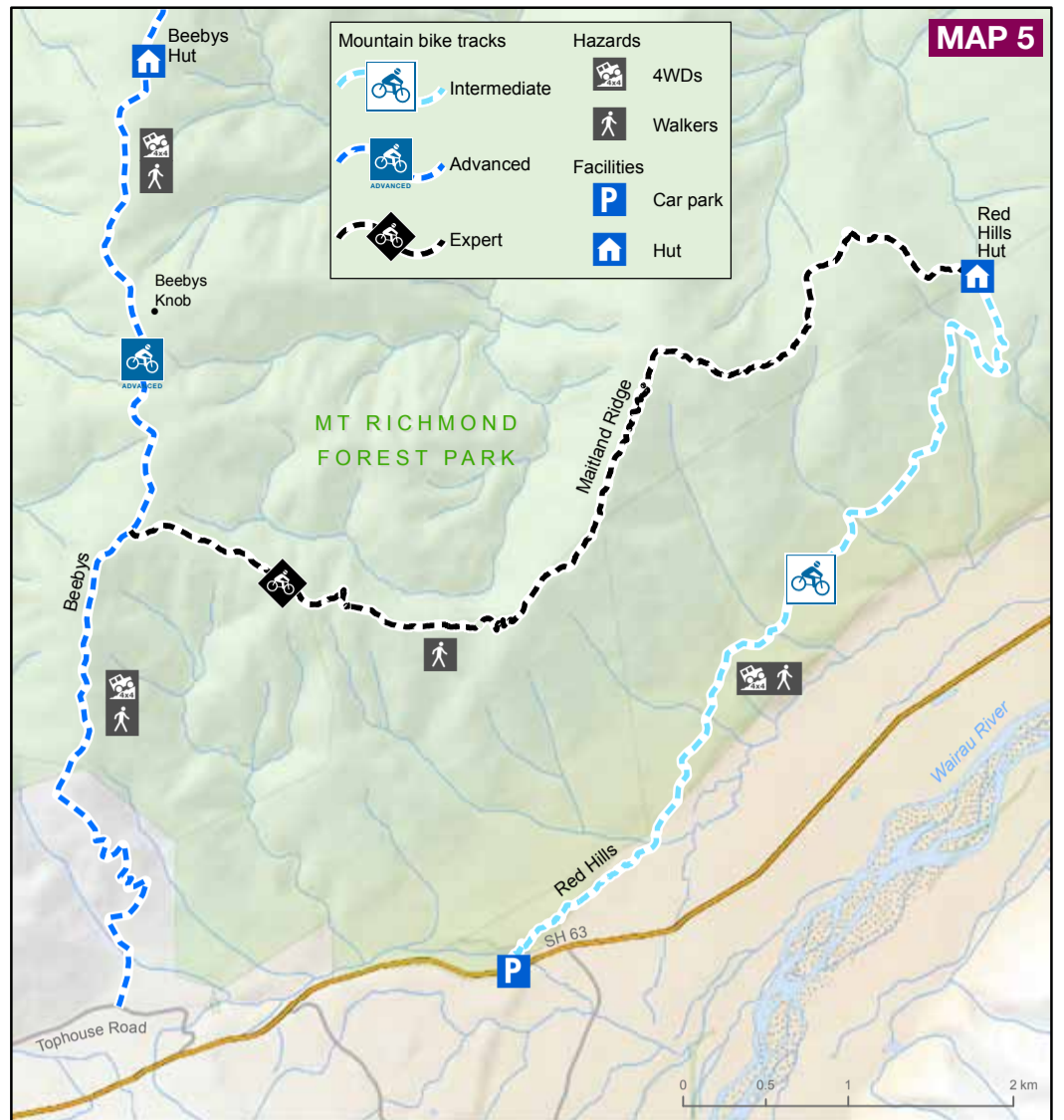
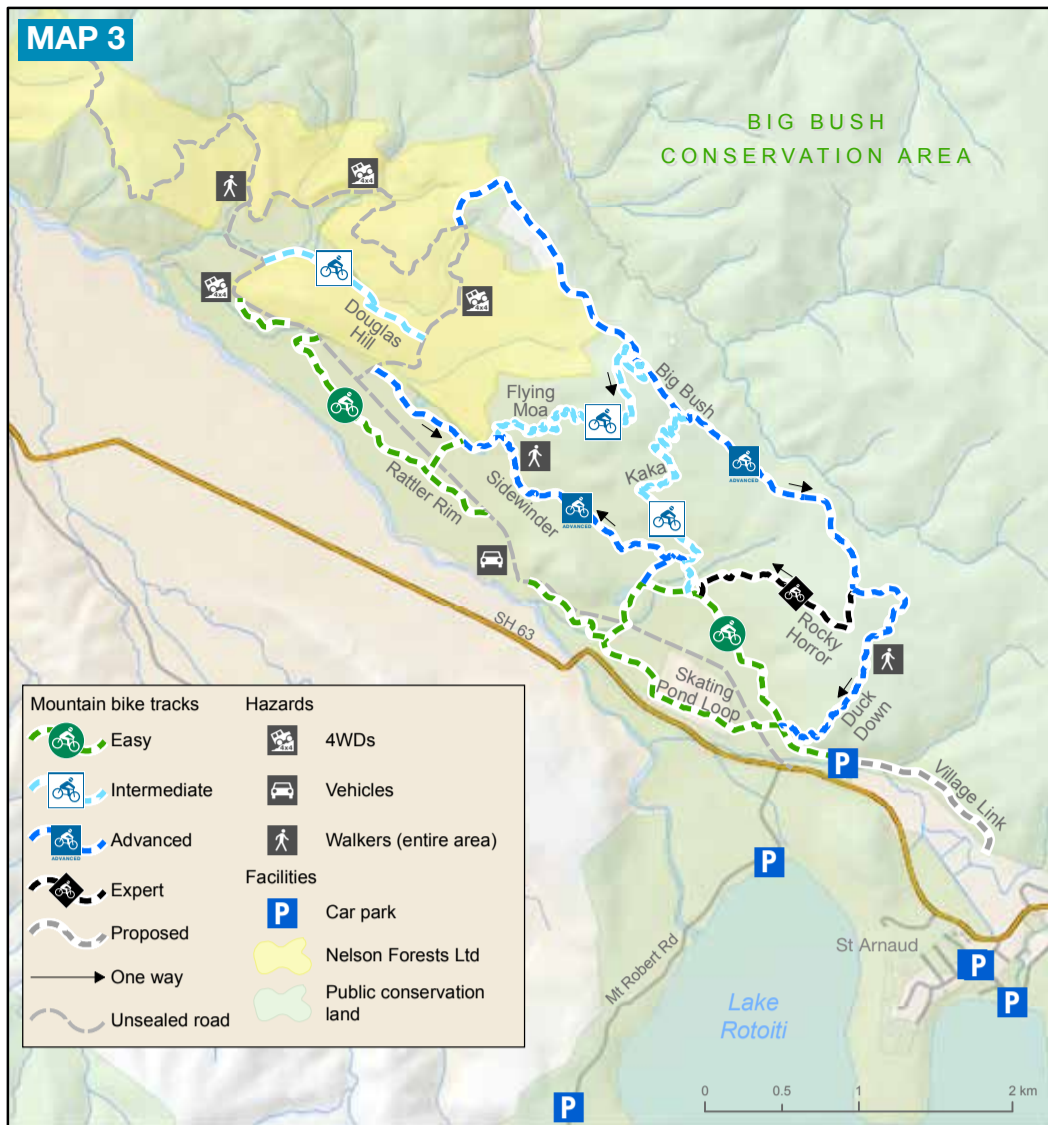
A mixture of long steep climbs, narrow track, poor traction, and difficult obstacles to avoid or jump over. Generally exposed at the track's outside edge. Most riders will find some sections easier to walk.



Expert

Technically challenging. Giant climbs, narrow track and numerous hazards including dangerous drop-offs, sharp corners and difficult obstacles. Expect walking and possibly bike carrying.





Teetotal trails & Mt Robert Road MAP 3

The turnoff for the Teetotal Recreation Area's mountain bike trails is about 1.5 km west of St Arnaud on State Highway 63. Follow the short road to the start of the trails, which range from easy to expert. Leave gates as you find them.

The Teetotal mountain bike tracks cross both public conservation land and Nelson Forests Ltd leasehold land and are all multi-use. All visitors must be aware that other people, including hunters, could be in the area. Please report any damage to trails or signs to the Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre.

Public access for mountain biking or walking over the forest land has been granted by Nelson Forests Ltd. All persons entering the forestry area do so at their own risk. Nelson Forests Ltd takes no responsibility for any damage or loss they may suffer in doing so. All riders and walkers must stay on formed trails. Please observe the restrictions imposed. Riders must not exceed 40 km/h. To contact Nelson Forests Ltd call 0800 436 879.



Teetotal Road EASY

5.9 km (one way)

Turn off State Highway 63 at the Teetotal Recreation Area and ride on unsealed road along Teetotal Flats. You can access the Teetotal mountain bike trails from this road.

Skating Pond Loop EASY

4.7 km (circuit)

From the skating pond follow the duck pond stream for 500 m before climbing up to Teetotal Flats. The track then meanders through open grassland and matagouri and kānuka scrub. On arriving at the Teetotal Road the track continues about 100 m to the left on the opposite side of the road before then returning to the pond.

Douglas Hill Track INTERMEDIATE

1.3 km (one way)

The track begins towards the western end of Teetotal Road on the first forestry road on the right. After a short climb of around 200 m it turns sharply left onto a purpose-built mountain bike track. The track includes exciting dips and banked turns before dropping out onto an old forestry road and eventually back to Teetotal Road.

Sidewinder Track ADVANCED

3.2 km (one way)

Starting at the furthest extent of Skating Pond loop the track soon enters mature beech forest. This technical track travels over largely unmodified beech forest floor, with slippery sections, exposed roots and stream crossings. After 1 km the track opens out into grassy flats before returning to beech forest. After 2.5 km the tracks descends down to Teetotal Flats and meanders to meet Teetotal Road.



Sidewinder track. Photo: Alan Eskrick

Kaka Track INTERMEDIATE

2.7 km (one way)

Duck Down Track ADVANCED

2.5 km (one way)

Rocky Horror Track EXPERT

1.5 km (one way)

Linked to Skating Pond Loop at two points, the Kaka Track travels through the mature beech forest of the Big Bush conservation area, climbing steadily to the ridgeline. From here you can turn left and follow the Big Bush Track for 3 km before descending steeply to the forestry roads and eventually Teetotal Road. Alternatively, you can turn right and follow the ridgeline until you get to a junction - from here you can either descend via the technically advanced Duck Down Track or expert riders can use the Rocky Horror Track.

Rattler Rim EASY

4.2 km (one way)

The track roughly follows the top of the escarpment above the Buller River flats and is mostly level. It twists and turns through open clearings and manuka scrub and allows riders to access the west end of Big Bush and Douglas Hill without riding on Teetotal Road.

Flying Moa INTERMEDIATE

2.6 km (one way)

The track starts 485 m west of the top of Kaka Track off the Big Bush track. It descends 260 m through mature beech forest, twisting and turning amongst the trees to provide a challenging intermediate ride. It is not designed to be a fast flowing track, it is rather a technical track to test the skills of the intermediate rider. At the bottom it connects with the west end of Sidewinder Track. You can make a loop by riding back along Rattler Rim Track.

Mt Robert Road, Nelson Lakes National Park INTERMEDIATE

8 km (return)

Turn off State Highway 63 about 2 km west of St Arnaud. Follow the Mount Robert Road past the West Bay campground, over the Buller Bridge onto an unsealed road that leads up to Mount Robert car park where there are good views of the lake and surrounding district. Return the same way. Watch out for vehicles on the narrow road section after the Buller Bridge.

Note: Bikes are not allowed off the formed roads in Nelson Lakes National Park.

Matakitaki valley MAP 4 ADVANCED

15 km (one way)

The Mangles-Tutaki Road turn-off on State Highway 6 is about 8 km north of Murchison. Continue to the South Tutaki Road turn-off, then on to Mount Ella Station and follow signs to the car park. Start on the 4WD road that follows the Matakitaki River's true right (the right as you look downstream). It passes through privately owned farmland, open grassland and beech forest with a number of side streams to cross before arriving at historic Downie Hut (4 bunks).

Note: Mountain biking is not permitted beyond Downie Hut.

Beebys-Red Hills Circuit MAP 5 EXPERT

23.5 km (circuit)

Turn off State Highway 63 onto the southern end of Tophouse Road, about 8 km from St Arnaud. Follow the road to the DOC sign beside the locked gate indicating the start of Beebys Knob track.

Grind your way up the 4WD road on your bike to 1,300 m above sea level (a.s.l.) - be ready to push as some sections are pretty steep. Here the road emerges from the bush on to open tussock. From here you can either continue straight up the 4WD road to Beebys Hut (6 bunks) with an option of going another 5 km beyond the hut before returning the way you came; or go to Red Hills Hut (6 bunks) following the Maitland Ridge mountain bike track, which starts in the last patch of bush on your right that's close to the road. The Maitland Ridge Track is an expert level, technical single track, narrow with some steep descents. Allow 4-6 hr for the loop.

The Maitland Ridge Track offers a series of descents and climbs passing through beech forest and clearings with views of the Rainbow and Wairau Valleys.

A graded climb brings you to a rocky knoll and joins the 4WD track that leads down to Red Hills Hut at 917 m a.s.l. From the hut follow the road down to the locked gate beside the grassy flats at the bottom then follow the orange triangle markers south-west to the Six Mile car park. Ride back up the road to the Tophouse Road to return to the start.

Note: There is no reliable water supply on this ride so take plenty. This is high, remote country so carry warm clothing and spare parts.



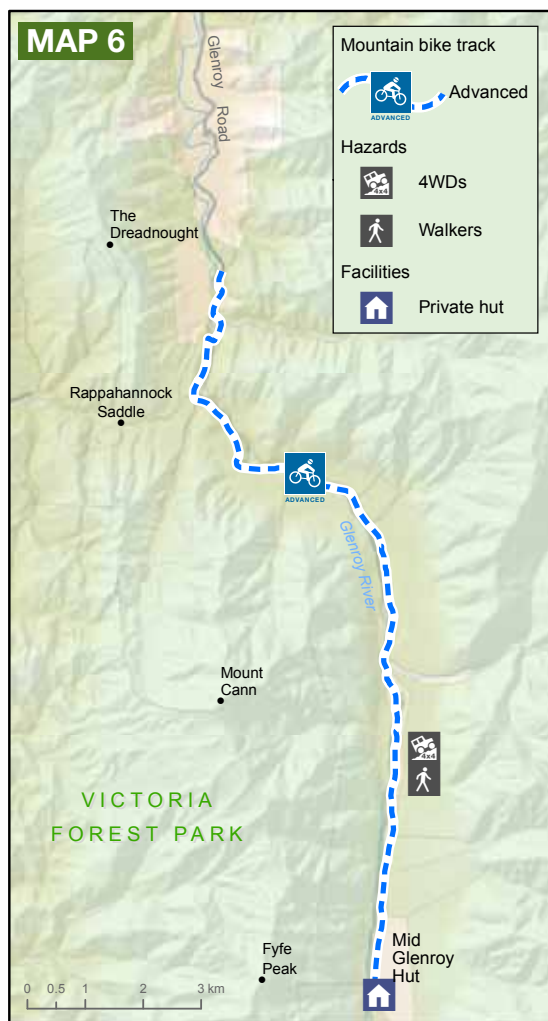
Glenroy Valley **MAP 6**

14 km (one way)



From Murchison, head south up the Matakaitaki valley to the Glenroy Valley Road turn-off. A 4WD road starts here and passes through privately owned farmland, open grassland and beech forest before arriving at the private Mid Glenroy Hut. The route continues beyond the hut for another 8 km.

Note: The gate at the start of the 4WD road on private land is often locked so you are advised to contact the landowner, G Thurlow (03) 523 9436, before starting your ride. The track is unformed with numerous river crossings and should not be attempted after heavy rain.



Respect others

- Stay in control.
- Give way to walkers.
- Signal your approach and pass with care.
- Ride shared-use tracks in small groups.

Respect the rules

- Ride only where permitted.
- Obtain permission from private land owners.
- Leave gates as you find them.
- Be prepared - take food, water, tools, First Aid and warm clothes.

Respect the track

- Don't skid, cut corners or make new lines.
- Avoid riding in the mud and rain.
- Take rubbish home.
- Clean your bike to prevent spreading weeds.



leave no trace
NEW ZEALAND

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable ground
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimise the effects of fire
- Respect wildlife and farm animals
- Be considerate of others

MTB Trails Trust volunteers have helped build the track network and assist the Department of Conservation with track maintenance. To become a Friend of the Trust and assist with this work see www.mtbtrailstrust.org.nz.



Further information

www.doc.govt.nz

Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre

Phone: (03) 521 1806

Email: nelsonlakesvc@doc.govt.nz

Nelson Visitor Centre

Phone: (03) 546 9339

Email: nelsonvc@doc.govt.nz

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or conservation emergencies
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BETWEEN WATERWAYS

Cover image:
View back
towards Beebys.
Photo: Alan
Eskrick