

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPING MOUNTAIN BIKING IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BOHINJ

## MOŽNOSTI RAZVOJA GORSKEGA KOLESARSTVA V OBČINI BOHINJ

Katarina Polajnar Horvat, Urška Drofenik



URŠKA DROFENIK

The Bohinj municipality has great potential for the development of mountain biking.  
Občina Bohinj ima veliko možnosti za razvoj gorskega kolesarstva.

# Opportunities for developing mountain biking in the Municipality of Bohinj

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**ABSTRACT:** Due to the relatively short travel distances between places, a wide variety of natural and cultural sites in the area, the well-preserved environment, and a large number of forest roads, skid trails, field trails, and hiking trails through the mountains, the Municipality of Bohinj, much of which lies in Slovenia's largest protected area, Triglav National Park, has great potential for the development of mountain biking. In order to outline the guidelines for effective environmental protection and provide a basis for harmonizing the needs of various users, this article evaluates the prudence of and the need for establishing an appropriate mountain biking management system in the Bohinj Valley, one of the most popular tourism areas in Upper Carniola. A tentative system of trails suitable for this leisure activity is proposed based on an overview of the relevant literature, a survey, and cooperation with various individuals involved with mountain biking. It would also make sense to include these trails in the municipal development plan.

**KEYWORDS:** regional geography, Municipality of Bohinj, mountain biking, recreation, regional development, Slovenia

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**ADDRESS:**

**Katarina Polajnar Horvat, Ph.D.**

Anton Melik geographical institute

Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts

Gosposka ulica 13, SI – 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

E-mail: katarina.polajnar@zrc-sazu.si

**Urška Drofenik**

Mokrška ulica 25, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

E-mail: ursa@ursha.si

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Presentation of the issue in the study area

The Municipality of Bohinj has always attracted a large number of visitors. It is one of the most important Slovenian mountain tourism areas, much of which (66%) lies in Slovenia's largest protected area, Triglav National Park (TNP) (Internet 1). Initially, this area was primarily the domain of loggers, ore prospectors, and charcoal burners, and its peaks were first climbed by shepherds and hunters (Glavnik et al. 2011). Later on, Slovenia's alpine areas were discovered by naturalists (primarily for reasons of nature conservation) and others attracted to the mountains due to national-awakening, cultural, or aesthetic impulses (Rejec Brancelj and Smrekar 2000). Today people visit this area for tourism, entertainment, and recreational reasons, as well as for more strenuous mountain hiking and other reasons (Rejec Brancelj and Smrekar 2000; Glavnik et al. 2011). With improved trails and mountain lodges, an increasing number of people started hiking in the mountains. Initially, this activity was limited to Sundays and areas near towns, with train stations serving as starting points. Important changes occurred in parallel with the development of motor traffic. As the number of cars increased and the quality of the road network gradually improved, recreational mobility increased significantly. People began engaging in recreational activities in more remote places. In addition, due to improved living standards, the rapid shift from farming to non-farming activities, the subsequent division of life into work and free time, and gradual urbanization, new types of leisure activities were established (Jeršič 1998; Rejec Brancelj and Smrekar 2000). Traditional sports and recreation activities were joined by new, alternative activities, including mountain biking as an increasingly popular sport (Šolar 1994).

Mountain biking began developing in the 1970s and is a modern form of recreation on natural trails (Internet 2). It is a sustainable sports, recreational, and tourism activity (Obu and Zajc 2012) that has become increasingly popular in recent years in the Bohinj Valley (Občina Bohinj 2014).

Recreation affects both living nature and the landscape, or non-living nature (Komac, Zorn and Erhartič 2011). The impact of mountain biking on the natural environment is comparable to other types of outdoor recreation, such as hiking in the mountains (Wilson and Seney 1994; Bjorkman 1996; Goef



Figure 1: Mountain bikers use trails at random due to the small number of official and legal mountain-bike trails available.

and Adler 2001; White et al. 2006). Properly done, the consequences of biking on well-maintained trails are small; nonetheless the environment in Bohinj is becoming overburdened, especially due to large-scale mountain biking and hiking (Drofenik 2012).

Due to attractive natural settings and the development of bike technology, mountain bikers also use mountain trails (Rovan 2011a), which causes conflicts with hikers, who feel threatened because they are the ones that build, manage, and use the trails (Drofenik 2012). In 2007, the Slovenian Alpine Association founded the Bicycle Touring Committee (Internet 2), which recognizes mountain biking as an equal outdoor activity that should be accepted and systematically regulated.

This activity lacks the necessary systemic regulation, especially from the viewpoint of individual non-harmonized and contradictory laws and regulations. The Nature Conservation Act (Zakon o spremembah ... 2014) generally allows biking on established trails in the natural environment, but only if the owner or manager agrees with this (Internet 3). An established trail is a strip of land that is used for walking or driving and is maintained. However, the Farmland Act (Zakon o kmetijskih zemljiščih 2012) prohibits biking on routes through fields and only allows these routes to be used for farming. In addition, in line with the Forest Act (Zakon o spremembah ... 2013), biking is only possible on marked skid trails and other trails, but only in areas specified in the spatial planning part of regional development plans. In line with the Mountain Trail Act (Zakon o planinskih poteh 2007) and the criteria for the dual use of mountain trails, biking is only allowed on routes through fields and main forest roads provided that it is not prohibited by nature conservation, forestry, or hunting regulations, and on other mountain trails only if they are explicitly intended for dual use. Because the study area is largely located in TNP, restrictions specified in the Triglav National Park Act (Zakon o Triglavskem narodnem parku 2010) also have to be taken into account. This act allows biking on forest, field, mountain, and other trails and forest roads that are not categorized as public roads, but only on those that are specified in the Triglav National Park Management Plan (Načrt upravljanja ... 2012). However, to date this plan has failed to define such trails. Hence in practice outdoor biking within the major part of the study area remains prohibited despite recent legal changes that took a step towards solving this issue. Due to the small number of official mountain bike trails, bike riders use the trails at random and can be found even in the most vulnerable natural areas and in areas that are inappropriate in terms of nature conservation and sustainable development, as well as the safety of all users.

In countries neighboring Slovenia, this activity is regulated by law and in practice. In Italy, driving in the natural environment is permitted everywhere, except in areas where expressly prohibited. There are only a few areas where driving is forbidden, mostly in protected zones. Prohibited areas are clearly marked, surveillance is effective, and the fines are substantial. Wider roads are largely open to everyone, and in some places biking is allowed if escorted by a guide. Off-road biking and biking on extremely steep hiking trails is prohibited (Rovan 2011b).

In Germany, bikers cannot ride on the most popular trails and on specific trails within protected areas, and in some federal states biking is not allowed on trails that are less than two meters wide. Biking on private trails is allowed if they are wide enough and maintained. Riding bikes on inappropriate trails and off-road is forbidden and fined. The authorities can restrict or prohibit biking on natural trails in a specific area that are otherwise appropriate if this is incompatible with the interests of another type of recreation or if threatens the natural balance. If an area has an above-average number of mountain bikers, this can be solved through guided tours (Drofenik 2012).

In Austria, mountain biking is prohibited on all mountain trails, except on those specified and marked separately. The law only allows biking on forest trails and through the forest with the permission of the owner of the forest and trails. The Hunting Act prohibits access to and riding in areas with protected animal species. In agreement with the forest owners, a third of all hiking trails in Tyrol were made available for biking and marked in a uniform way (Drofenik 2012). Surveillance over the activity is effective and fines are heavy. Trails that are overburdened by hikers or mountain bikers may be temporarily closed (Rovan 2008).

## 1.2 Research design and methods

In order to protect the environment and effectively harmonize the needs of various users, the need to establish a mountain biking management system in the Municipality of Bohinj was evaluated. The mountain biking infrastructure is limited there because biking in the natural environment is prohibited in most of the municipality. Despite this, bike riders continue to use this area. An online survey (Anketa ... 2012) was

conducted with 504 active mountain bikers to collect as much information as possible about where and when they bike, which trails they usually use, what they experience on these trails, and what their habits and preferences are regarding mountain biking.

The most popular areas were established based on a literature overview, research, and interviews. The issues associated with these areas are presented below. It is presumed that mountain bikers in the Bohinj area use trails that are vulnerable from the environmental protection viewpoint and that they often find themselves in conflict with other users. Based on the methodology developed specifically for this study and used for evaluating selected very frequently used trails, it explored which area with mountain bike trails that mountain bikers find attractive is also suitable from the environmental protection perspective and appropriately located from the viewpoint of other users.

A quantitative assessment of areas' suitability for developing mountain bike trails was produced by analyzing the areas' vulnerability, frequency of use, and appeal. Vulnerability was determined based on the degree of environment protection within the municipality. The criteria used include the trails' location within or outside TNP and location within individual TNP Protection Zones (Javni zavod ... 2013). Frequency of use was determined based on the survey (Anketa ... 2012), in which respondents listed the trails they most often use. Based on these data, the frequency of use on the trails was established.

The appeal of individual trail areas was determined based on four criteria that were specified using the respondents' replies regarding their mountain biking preferences. These criteria included the following:

- Distance from motorized traffic;
- Circular routes and opportunity to cross over into the neighboring valley;
- Scenic views;
- Natural assets along the trails.

The maximum score was 100. A higher score shows that the area is more suitable for the type of leisure activity.

Table 1: Quantitative assessment of the area's suitability for mountain biking

Suitability assessment criteria	Score
1 Vulnerability in terms of environmental protection	
1.1 Trails located within TNP Protection Zone 1	0
1.2 Trails located within TNP Protection Zone 2	10
1.3 Trails located within TNP Protection Zone 3	20
1.4 Trails located outside TNP	40
2 Frequency of use	
2.1 Trails used very heavily	0
2.2 Trails used moderately heavily	10
2.3 Trails used less heavily	20
2.4 Trails not heavily used	30
3 Appeal to mountain bikers	
3.1 High appeal	30
3.2 Medium appeal	20
3.3 Low appeal	10
3.4 No appeal	0

## 2 Characteristics of mountain biking in the Municipality of Bohinj

Mountain bikers use a relatively narrow range of trails, which is surprising considering the large number of forest and field trails, skid trails, and bridle paths crisscrossing the area. The trails were grouped into the following areas: Vogar Pastures, Mount Vogel, Mount Komna, Mount Uskovnica, and Eastern Lower Bohinj Mountains.

The needs and preferences of active mountain bikers were examined in order to prepare guidelines for setting up an effective mountain biking management system in the Municipality of Bohinj. Respondents

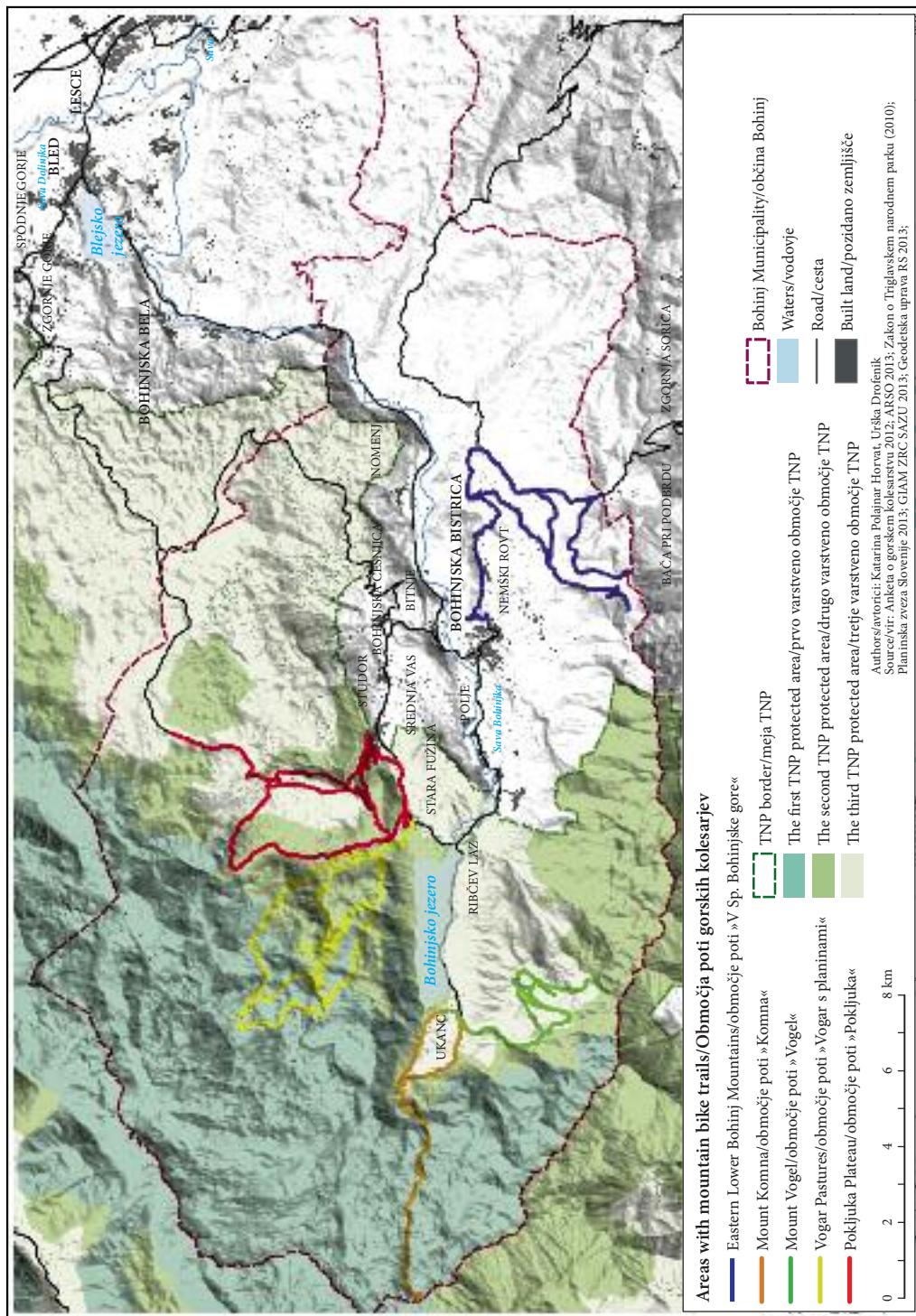


Figure 2: Map of areas with mountain bike trails.

selected answers divided into five levels (a Likert scale). Four criteria were specified based on the results and used as a basis for defining areas suitable for further development of mountain biking.

The flows of mountain bikers within the municipality are directed towards TNP, where they use the marked or unmarked upland trails that include forest trails, bridle trails, or hiking trails (Anketa ... 2012). In terms of the diversity and uniqueness of natural assets, the selected trail areas are among the most important in the municipality. The trails have scenic views, are away from motorized traffic, and offer circular routes. The Mount Komna and Eastern Lower Bohinj Mountains areas are especially appealing because they can be used to cross over to the neighboring valley. However, only the Mount Vogel area is partially set up for mountain bikers.

The trail areas pose a spatial problem primarily in terms of legislation. Most of the trails are not open to bike riders and so riders commit an offence simply by appearing on them. Only part of the Mount Vogel area is set up for mountain bikers and, even so, it can only be climbed using a cable-car lift, which is not very appealing to mountain bikers.

The Vogar Pastures and Mount Komna mountain biking areas are located in TNP Protection Zones 1 and 2, which poses a potential threat from the viewpoint of protecting natural assets. The Mount Vogel and Pokljuka Plateau areas, which are located in Protection Zones 2 and 3, are less problematic in this regard. The least problematic is the Eastern Lower Bohinj Mountains area, which lies outside the park.

Areas located at the heart of TNP and in areas of exceptional natural assets and popular hiking trails are the least suitable for focused development of mountain bike trails, both in terms of environmental protection and opposition from other users. The Vogar Pastures and Mount Komna areas are the least suitable;

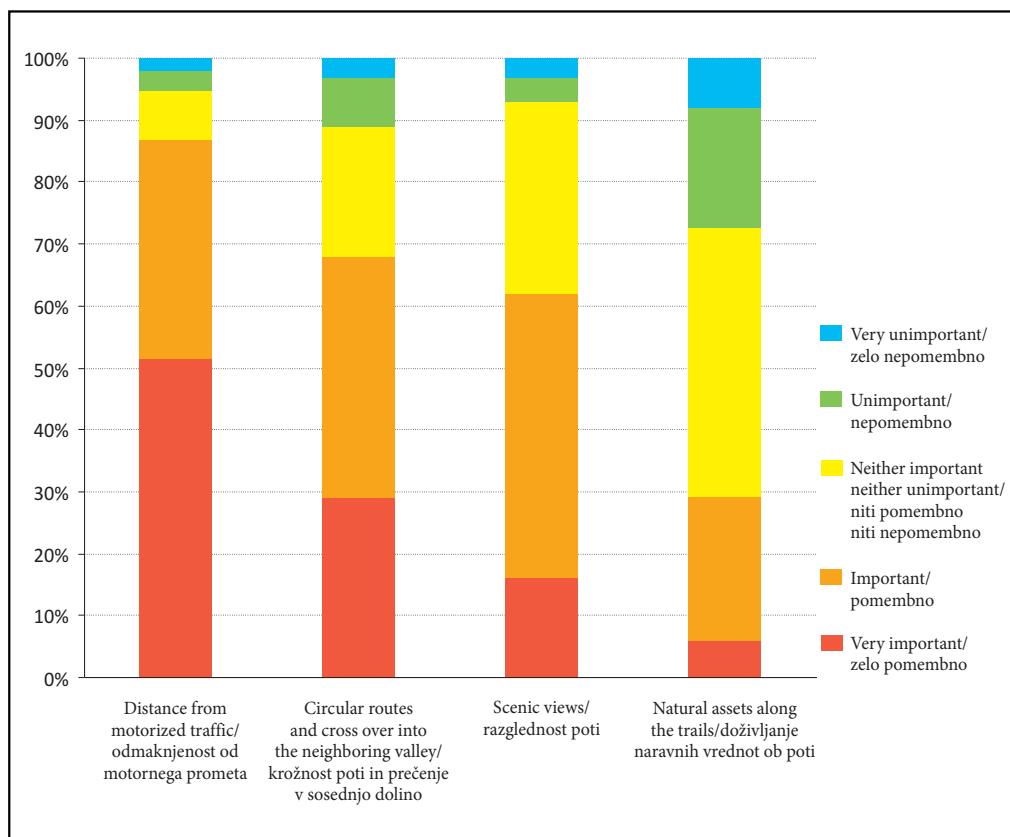


Figure 3: Needs and preferences of active mountain bikers (Anketa o gorskem kolesarstvu 2012).

their potentials for developing mountain bike trails using the assessment methodology described above had a score of 30. They were followed by the Pokljuka Plateau with a score of 40, and Mount Vogel with a score of 50. The most suitable are the Eastern Lower Bohinj Mountains, which are appealing to mountain bikers, are located in an environmentally least vulnerable area, and are also not especially popular among other users. Its final score was 90.

Table 2: Scoring and evaluating areas' suitability for developing mountain bike trails

Area	Vulnerability (40 points)	Frequency of use (30 points)	Appeal (30 points)	Total score (maximum 100 points)
Vogar Pastures	0	0	30	30
Mount Vogel	10	10	30	50
Mount Komna	0	0	30	30
Pokljuka Plateau	10	0	30	40
Eastern Lower Bohinj Mountains	40	20	30	90



Figure 4: The Vogar Pastures area is especially popular in the summer, when various users visit in large numbers.

### 3 Conclusion

The hypothesis that cycling infrastructure is limited in the Municipality of Bohinj was partially confirmed. Biking is especially prohibited on hiking trails and many other trails, but bike riders use these areas nonetheless. A list of trail areas that mountain bikers use most often was produced, based on which the second part of the hypothesis was confirmed: mountain bikers use the natural environment despite the prohibition.

The most popular trails in the municipality are concentrated within TNP and are also among the most frequently used in terms of other types of recreation. Conflicts with other users are common and were already experienced by a quarter of respondents. Hence the hypothesis is confirmed that in the Bohinj area mountain bikers often find themselves in conflict with other users. At the same time, it is confirmed that social conflicts occur due to intolerance of not only mountain bikers, but also other users. It should be added that this intolerance is often blown out of proportion.

It would make sense to redirect mountain bikers to the trails in the Eastern Lower Bohinj Mountains, which are unproblematic both in terms of nature protection and other users. The proposed trails largely lie outside TNP and mainly include upland uncategorized gravel roads, forest roads, field trails, and skid

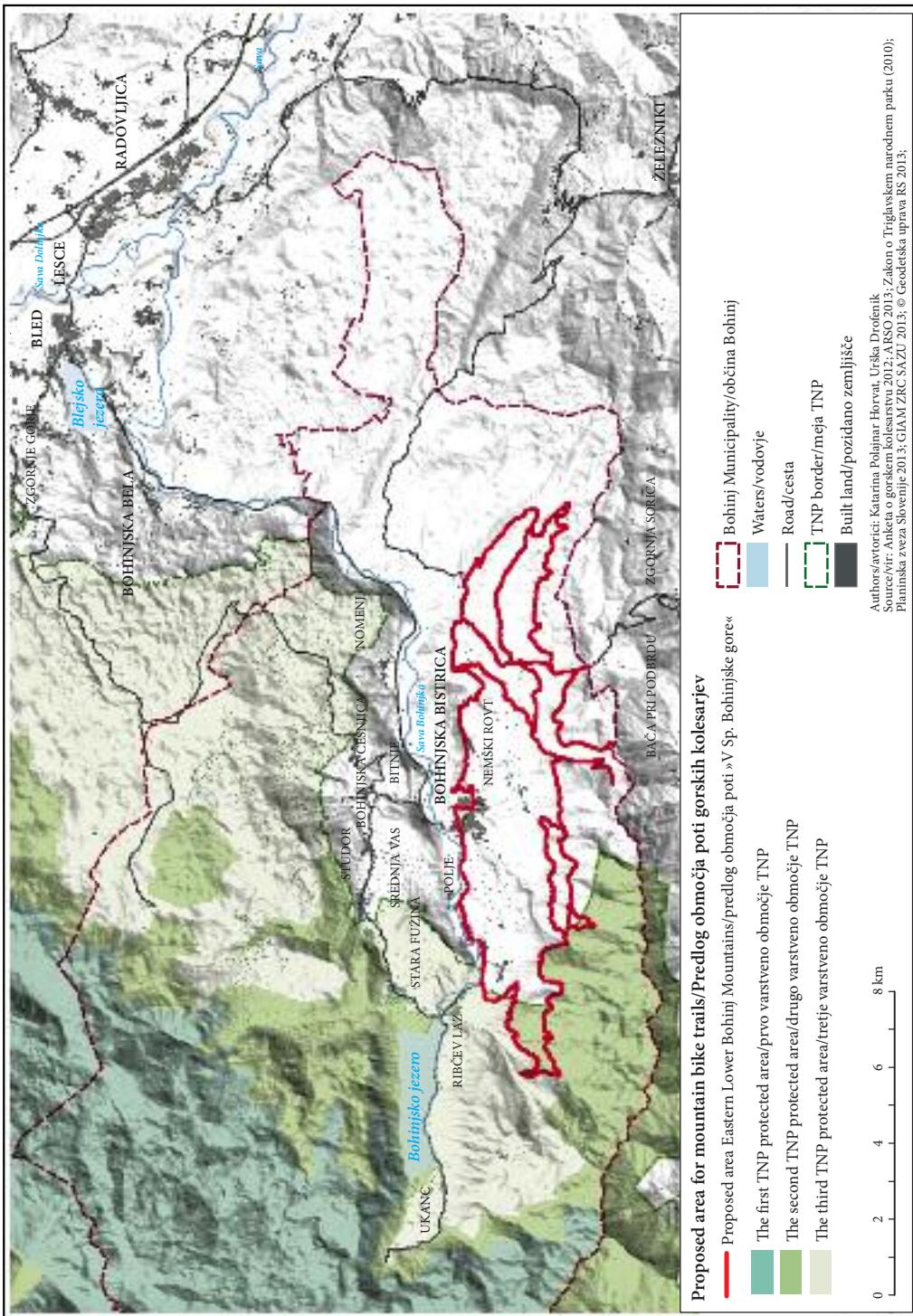


Figure 5: Proposed area for mountain bike trails.



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Figure 6: More demanding riders should be directed to mountain bike parks.

trails. They are away from motorized traffic, and run across dynamic but not overly steep terrain, which allows suitable climbs and descents. They are practically empty in terms of recreation because the long distances make them unattractive to hikers. In fact, they can be most easily traveled by mountain bike. The trails are circular, very scenic, and can be used to cross over to the neighboring areas, such as the Bača Gorge and the Sorica Mountain Pasture. Great potential also lies in including local mountain bike guides that could offer guided bike tours along these lesser-known trails and raise their profile.

Considering that there are only a few bike parks in the Bohinj area, more demanding mountain bikers should be directed towards the planned 2864 Ski Resort above Bohinjska Bistrica. The construction of this ski resort is one of the solutions to the issues discussed because it is planned on the already environmentally degraded site of the currently closed Kobla ski run. In addition, directing mountain bikers to this already built-up landscape would relieve the environmentally vulnerable and socially problematic areas around Lake Bohinj. Ultimately, this would be an important leisure activity in the municipality and diversify the range of tourism activities, which may contribute significantly to developing the countryside (Šmid Hribar and Ledinek Lozej 2013). In addition to organic farming, tourism also offers new development opportunities for rural areas (Straus et al. 2011).

A transparent management system based on long-term sustainable development (Komac and Zorn 2009; Šmid Hribar and Lisec 2011) and a participatory approach (Breg Valjavec and Polajnar Horvat 2011) should be put in place in the area studied. It is crucial to bring together the representatives of the protected area, the municipality, landowners, foresters, hunters, hiking trail managers, and mountain bike enthusiasts. Outdoor mountain-biking rules should be introduced along with more rigid surveillance to prevent inappropriate biking on trails, environmental degradation, and threats to other users. Other users should be educated and taught about nature protection and mountain biking in general (Polajnar 2008; Smrekar 2011) to raise awareness about the environment, spatial issues, related values, and conservation (Breg et al. 2007; Fridl et al. 2009), and to reorient environmentally friendly behavior in the direction of sustainability (Polajnar Horvat 2012). The findings of a study on TNP visitors' environmentally friendly behavior (Stubelj Ars 2013) show that education is a major factor influencing sustainable environmentally friendly behavior, which is the only acceptable behavior in a vulnerable environment like TNP. Based on its favorable location at the heart of the Alps on the edge of Slovenia's largest protected area, Triglav National Park, and close to infrastructure and traffic connections, Bohinjska Bistrica can become a starting point for mountain biking and a versatile sports center in the Bohinj Valley.

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## Možnosti razvoja gorskega kolesarstva v občini Bohinj

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**IZVLEČEK:** Občina Bohinj, katere obsežen del ozemlja leži v našem največjem zavarovanem območju, Triglavskem narodnem parku, ima zaradi relativno majhnih potovalnih razdalj med naselji, številnih naravnih in kulturnih znamenitosti, dobro ohranjenega okolja ter velikega števila gozdnih cest, vlak, poljskih in planinskih poti veliko možnosti za razvoj gorskega kolesarstva. Da bi nakazali smernice za učinkovito varovanje okolja in omogočili usklajevanje potreb različnih uporabnikov prostora, smo ovrednotili smiselnost in potrebo po vzpostaviti ustreznega režima upravljanja na področju gorskega kolesarstva v Bohinju, enem izmed turistično najbolj obiskanih območij Gorenjske. S pomočjo obstoječe literature, anketne raziskave ter s so-delovanjem z različnimi predstavniki stroke smo izdelali okviren predlog poti, ki bi bile primerne za tovrstno obliko preživljavanja prostega časa in bi jih bilo smiselno vključiti v razvojni načrt občine.

**KLJUČNE BESEDE:** regionalna geografija, občina Bohinj, gorsko kolesarstvo, rekreacija, regionalni razvoj, Slovenija

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NASLOV:

**dr. Katarina Polajnar Horvat**

Geografski inštitut Antona Melika

Znanstvenoraziskovalni center Slovenske akademije znanosti in umetnosti

Gosposka ulica 13, SI – 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenija

E-pošta: [katarina.polajnar@zrc-sazu.si](mailto:katarina.polajnar@zrc-sazu.si)

**Urška Drofenik**

Mokrška ulica 25, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenija

E-pošta: [ursa@ursha.si](mailto:ursa@ursha.si)

# 1 Uvod

## 1.1 Predstavitev problematike obravnavanega območja

Občina Bohinj že od nekdaj privabljajo številne obiskovalce. Spada med najpomembnejša gorska turistična območja v Sloveniji, katere obsežen delež ozemlja, 66 %, leži v našem najbolj zavarovanem območju, Triglavskem narodnem parku (v nadaljevanju TNP) (internet 1). Sprva so na to območje prihajali drvarji, iskalci rud in oglarji, na vrhove pa so prvi plezali pastirji in lovci (Glavnik s sod. 2011). Kasneje so naš alpski svet začeli načrtno odkrivati naravoslovci, predvsem zaradi naravovarstvenih, in drugi gorniki, bodisi zaradi narodno buditeljskih, kulturnih ali estetskih vzgibov (Rejec Brancelj in Smrekar 2000). Danes pa obiskovalci na to območje prihajajo iz turističnih, razvedrihlnih in rekreativnih, pa tudi zaradi resnejših alpinističnih in drugih vzgibov (Rejec Brancelj in Smrekar 2000, Glavnik s sod. 2011). Z nadelavo poti ter planinskih koč je obiskovanje gora postalno vse bolj množično. Sprva je bilo omejeno na nedeljski prosti čas in zgolj na širšo okolico mest, pri čemer so bila izhodišča poti vezana predvsem na železniške postaje. Do pomembnih sprememb v rekreativskem ravnjanju pa je prišlo vzporedno z razvojem motorizacije, ob koncu šestdesetih let. Z razvojem osebne motorizacije in postopnim izboljševanjem kakovosti cestnega omrežja se je prostorska mobilnost v prostem času močno povečala. Ljudje so se začeli rekreirati v bolj oddaljenih predelih. Poleg tega so se zaradi višjega osebnega standarda, naglega poklicnega preslojevanja ljudi iz kmetijstva v nekmetijske dejavnosti in s tem pogojene delitve dnevnega ritma na delovni in preostali čas ter postopne urbanizacije uveljavile nove oblike preživljavanja prostega časa (Jeršič 1998, Rejec Brancelj in Smrekar 2000). Klasičnim športnorekreacijskim dejavnostim so se pridružile nove, alternativne oblike, med njimi tudi vedno bolj priljubljeno gorsko kolesarstvo (Šolar 1994).

Gorsko kolesarstvo, ki se je začelo razvijati v sedemdesetih letih prejšnjega stoletja, je sodobna prostočasna oblika rekreacije, ki poteka po naravnih poteh (internet 2). Je ena od trajnostnih oblik športne, rekreativske in turistične dejavnosti (Obu in Zajc 2012), ki je v zadnjih letih v Bohinju vse bolj priljubljena (Občina Bohinj 2014).

Rekreacija vpliva na živo naravo pa tudi na površje oziroma neživo okolje (Komac, Zorn in Erhartič 2011). Vpliv gorskega kolesarstva na okolje je primerljiv z ostalimi načini rekreacije v naravi, na primer s hojo v hribi (Wilson in Seney 1994, Bjorkman 1996; Goeft in Adler 2001; White s sod. 2006). Posledice kolesarjenja so na dobro vzdrževanih poteh ob primerni uporabi majhne, kljub vsemu pa v Bohinju prihaja do prekomernega obremenjevanja okolja, predvsem zaradi množičnosti pojava rekreativskih dejavnosti, gorskega kolesarstva in planinstva (Drofenik 2012).

Gorski kolesarji zaradi privlačnega naravnega okolja in razvoja kolesarske tehnologije uporabljajo tudi planinske poti (Rovan 2011a), kar povzroča nesporazume s planinci, ki se kot graditelji, upravljavci in uporabniki planinskih poti počutijo ogrožene (Drofenik 2012). Planinska zveza Slovenije je leta 2007 ustanovila Komisijo za turno kolesarstvo (internet 2) in gorsko kolesarstvo prepoznala kot enakovredno dejavnost v prostoru, ki jo je treba sprejeti in sistematično urediti.

Slika 1: Zaradi majhnega števila uradnih in zakonitih gorsko kolesarskih poti kolesarji uporabljajo poti stihiski.

Glej angleški del prispevka.

To dejavnost pesti pomanjkljiva sistemska ureditev, predvsem z vidika neusklenjenosti in kontradiktornosti posameznih zakonskih in podzakonskih aktov. Zakon o spremembah in dopolnitvah Zakona o ohranjanju narave (2014) sicer vožnjo s kolesom v naravnem okolju dovoljuje po utrjenih poteh, vendar le če temu ne nasprotuje lastnik ali upravljavec poti (internet 3). Utrjena pot pa je tisti pas zemljišča, ki se uporablja za hojo ali vožnjo in je za ta namen tudi utrjen. Vendar pa je vožnja s kolesom po poljskih poteh, po Zakonu o kmetijskih zemljiščih (2012) prepovedana, saj ta dovoljuje uporabo poljskih poti samo v kmetijske namene. Poleg tega je v skladu z Zakonom o spremembah in dopolnitvah Zakona o gozdovih (2014) vožnja s kolesom možna le na označenih gozdnih vlakah in drugih označenih poteh in sicer le na območjih določenih v prostorskem delu območnih načrtov. V Zakonu o planinskih poteh (2007) in merilih za dvonamensko rabo planinskih poti pa je vožnja s kolesom možna le po poljskih poteh in gozdnih prometnicah, če le ta ni prepovedana s predpisi ohranjanja narave, gozdarstva ali lovstva ter na ostalih planinskih poteh le, če so te izrecno namenjene dvonamenski rabi. Glede na to, da preučevano območje v precejšnji meri leži v Triglavskem narodnem parku pa je treba upoštevati tudi omejitve v skladu z Zakonom

o Triglavskem narodnem parku (2010). Ta sicer dovoljuje vožnjo s kolesom na gozdnih in kmetijskih cestah, planinskih in drugih poteh ter nekategoriziranih gozdnih prometnicah, vendar le tistih, ki so določene v Načrtu upravljanja Triglavskega narodnega parka. Vendar pa Načrt upravljanja Triglavskega narodnega parka (Javni zavod ... 2013) do danes takšnih poti še ni opredelil. V praksi je torej znatno večine preučevanega območja vožnja s kolesom v naravnem okolju kljub nedavnim zakonskim spremembam, ki sicer predstavljajo korak bližje k ureditvi problematike, še vedno prepovedana. Zaradi majhnega števila uradnih gorsko kolesarskih poti tako kolesarji uporabljajo poti stihiski in jih srečamo tudi na najbolj ranljivih območjih narave ter na območjih, ki so neprimerna tako z vidika ohranjanja narave in trajnostnega razvoja, kot z vidika varnosti vseh uporabnikov.

V sosednjih državah je dejavnost urejena normativno in v praksi. V Italiji je kolesarjenje v naravnem okolju dovoljeno povsod, kjer ni izrecno prepovedano. Malo je območij s prepovedjo vožnje, največ v zavarovanih območjih. Prepovedi so jasno označene, nadzor je učinkovit in kazni visoke. Širše poti so v večji meri odprte za vse, ponekod je kolesarjenje dovoljeno v spremstvu vodnika. Vožnja zunaj utrjenih poti in po zelo strmih pohodniških poteh je prepovedana (Rovan 2011b).

V Nemčiji so za kolesarje zaprte najbolj obiskane poti in nekatere poti v zavarovanih območjih, v določenih delih zveznih držav pa velja prepoved kolesarjenja po poteh, oziroma od dveh metrov. Vožnja s kolesi po zasebnih poteh je dovoljena, če so dovolj široke in utrjene. Vožnja po neustreznih poteh in brezpotnih je prepovedana in se kaznuje z denarno kaznijo. Če je kolesarjenje na sicer primernih poteh v naravi na nekem območju nezdružljivo z interesu druge vrste rekreacije ali če ogroža naravno ravnovesje, ga odgovorni lahko omejijo ali prepovejo. Če je promet z gorskimi kolesi nadpovprečen, se ta lahko rešuje z vodenjem (Drofenik 2012).

V Avstriji je gorsko kolesarstvo prepovedano po vseh planinskih poteh, razen po posebej dovoljenih in označenih. Po gozdnih cestah in gozdu je z zakonom dovoljena le vožnja z dovoljenjem lastnikov gozdov in cest. Z lovskim zakonom so prepovedali dostop in vožnjo na območja, kjer so zaščitene divje živali. Po dogovoru z lastniki gozdov so na Tirolskem za kolesarjenje odprli kar tretjino planinskih poti in jih enotno označili (Drofenik 2012). Nadzor nad izvajanjem dejavnosti je učinkovit, kazni za prekrške pa visoke. Preobremenjene poti, bodisi pohodniško ali gorsko kolesarsko lahko za določen čas zaprejo (Rovan 2008).

## 1.2 Zasnova raziskave in metode dela

Za učinkovito varovanje okolja in usklajevanje potreb različnih uporabnikov prostora smo ovrednotili potrebo po vzpostaviti režima upravljanja gorskega kolesarstva v občini Bohinj, kjer je gorsko kolesarska infrastruktura omejena, saj je v velikem delu občine prepovedana vožnja s kolesi v naravnem okolju. Kolesarji kljub temu zahajajo na ta območja. S pomočjo spletnne ankete (Anketa ... 2012) smo med 504 aktivnimi gorskimi kolesarji poskušali pridobiti čim več informacij o tem, kje se vozijo in kdaj, katere poti najpogosteje uporabljajo, kaj na njih doživljajo ter kakšne so njihove navade in želje pri izvajjanju dejavnosti.

Na podlagi literature, raziskave ter intervjujev smo izločili najbolj priljubljena območja. V članku predstavljamo njihovo problematiko. Predpostavljamo, da gorski kolesarji na območju Bohinja uporabljajo poti, ki so z vidika varovanja okolja ranljive, pri izvajjanju svoje dejavnosti pa se pogosto znajdejo v konfliktu s souporabniki prostora. Na podlagi lastne metodologije vrednotenja izbranih obstoječih najpogosteje uporabljenih poti smo ugotavljali, katero območje gorsko kolesarskih poti, ki je atraktivno za gorske kolesarje, je hkrati primerno tudi z vidika varovanja okolja ter ustrezno umeščeno v prostor z vidika ostalih uporabnikov.

Kvantitativno oceno primernosti območij za razvoj gorskого kolesarskih poti smo izdelali z analizo ranljivosti, obremenjenosti in privlačnosti območja. Ranljivost smo določili na podlagi stopnje varovanja okolja znotraj občine. Kot kriterij smo upoštevali lego območij poti znotraj oziroma zunaj TNP ter lego znotraj posameznih varstvenih pasov TNP (Javni zavod ... 2013). Obremenjenost območij poti smo ugotavljali na podlagi ankete (Anketa ... 2012), kjer so anketiranci navajali poti, ki jih najpogosteje uporabljajo. S temi podatki smo ovrednotili obremenjenost poti.

Privlačnost posameznega območja poti smo opredeljevali na podlagi štirih kriterijev, ki smo jih pridobili s pomočjo anketnih odgovorov na vprašanja o željah kolesarjev pri izvajjanju svoje dejavnosti.

Kriteriji so:

- odmaknjenost od motornega prometa,
- krožnost voženj in možnost prečenja v sosednjo dolino,

- razglednost poti,
- doživljjanje naravnih vrednot ob poti.

Največje možno število doseženih točk je 100. Višje število točk kaže na večjo primernost za tovrstno obliko preživljjanja prostega časa.

Preglednica 1: Kvantitativna ocena primernosti območij za gorsko kolesarstvo

kriteriji ocene primernosti območij	število točk
1 ranljivost z vidika varovanja okolja	
1.1 lega poti znotraj 1. varstvenega pasu TNP	0
1.2 lega poti znotraj 2. varstvenega pasu TNP	10
1.3 lega poti znotraj 3. varstvenega pasu TNP	20
1.4 lega zunaj TNP	40
2 obremenjenost območij poti	
2.1 zelo obremenjeno območje poti	0
2.2 srednje obremenjeno območje poti	10
2.3 manj obremenjeno območje poti	20
2.4 neobremenjeno območje poti	30
3 privlačnost območij poti za gorske kolesarje	
3.1 zelo privlačno območje poti	30
3.2 srednje privlačno območje poti	20
3.3 manj privlačno območje poti	10
3.4 neprivlačno območje poti	0

## 2 Značilnosti gorskega kolesarstva v občini Bohinj

Gorski kolesarji pri svoji dejavnosti uporabljajo relativno ozek nabor poti, kar je presenetljivo glede na veliko število gozdnih cest, poljskih poti, grajenih gozdnih vlak in mulatjer, ki prepletajo to območje. Poti smo strnili v zaokrožena območja: »Vogar s planinami«, »Vogel«, »Komna«, »Uskovnica« in »Vzhodne Spodnje Bohinjske gore«.

Slika 2: Zemljovid območij poti gorskih kolesarjev.

Glej angleški del prispevka.

Za pripravo smernic za vzpostavitev učinkovitega režima gorskega kolesarstva v občini Bohinj, so nas zanimale potrebe in želje aktivnih gorskih kolesarjev. Anketiranci so izbirali med odgovori, ki smo jih razdelili v pet razredov (Likartova lestvica). Iz rezultatov smo izluščili štiri kriterije, ki so bili temelj za določitev primernih območij za nadaljnji razvoj gorskega kolesarstva.

Slika 3: Potrebe in želje aktivnih gorskih kolesarjev pri opravljanju prostočasne dejavnosti (Anketa o gorskem kolesarstvu 2012).

Glej angleški del prispevka.

Tokovi gorskih kolesarjev so znotraj občine usmerjeni v TNP, kjer se uporabljajo že obstoječe markirane ali nemarkirane poti sredogorja in so speljane bodisi po gozdnih poteh, mulatjerah bodisi po planinskih poteh (Anketa ... 2012). Izbrana območja poti so z vidika pestrosti in izjemnosti naravnih vrednot med najpomembnejšimi v občini. Poti so razgledne, odmaknjene od motornega prometa ter nudijo možnosti krožnih voženj. Posebej privlačno je območje poti »Komna« in »Vzhodne Spodnje Bohinjske gore« zaradi možnosti prečenja v sosednjo dolino. Toda le območje poti »Vogel« je delno urejeno za gorske kolesarje.

Območja poti so problem v prostoru predvsem z vidika zakonodaje. Poti povečini niso odprte za kolesarje, zato so kolesarji v prekršku že, ko se tam pojavijo. Za gorske kolesarje je urejen le del območja poti »Vogel«, vendar je njegova slabost ta, da je vzpenjanje možno le z vzpenjačo, kar z vidika gorskega kolesarstva ni tako atraktivno.

Slika 4: Območje poti »Vogar s planinami« je predvsem v poletnem času množično obiskano s strani različnih uporabnikov prostora. Glej angleški del prispevka.

Gorsko kolesarska območja »Vogar s planinami« in »Komna« ležita v prvem in drugem varstvenem območju TNP, kar z vidika ohranjanja naravnih vrednot predstavlja potencialno ogroženost. Z vidika lege znotraj najbolj varovanih delov narave v narodnem parku sta manj problematični območji »Vogel« in »Pokljuka«, ki ležita v drugem in tretjem varstvenem območju. Najmanj problematično je območje »Vzhodnih Spodnjih Bohinjskih gora«, ki leži zunaj narodnega parka.

Preglednica 2: Točkovanje in vrednotenje primernosti območij za razvoj gorsko kolesarskih poti

območje	ranljivost (40 točk)	obremenjenost (30 točk)	pričlačnost (30 točk)	skupaj točk (možnih je največ 100 točk)
»Vogar s planinami«	0	0	30	30
»Vogel«	10	10	30	50
»Komna«	0	0	30	30
»Pokljuka«	10	0	30	40
»Vzhodne Spodnje Bohinjske gore«	40	20	30	90

Za usmerjen razvoj gorsko kolesarskih poti so tako z vidika okoljevarstva kot tudi z vidika nasprotovanj v prostoru za kolesarstvo najmanj primerena območja, ki ležijo znotraj osrčja TNP, na območjih izjemnih naravnih vrednot in priljubljenih planinskih poti. Najmanj primerni sta območji »Vogar s planinami« in »Komna«, kjer smo z metodologijo vrednotenja možnosti za razvoj gorsko kolesarskih poti ocenili s 30 točkami, sledita območji »Pokljuka«, s 40 točkami in »Vogel« s 50 točkami. Najbolj primerno pa je območje »Vzhodne Spodnje Bohinjske gore«, ki je privlačno za gorske kolesarje, leži na okoljsko najmanj ranljivem območju, prav tako pa ni posebej priljubljeno s strani ostalih uporabnikov prostora. Doseglo je 90 točk.

### 3 Sklep

Delno lahko potrdimo hipotezo, da je na območju občine Bohinj kolesarska infrastruktura omejena. Posebej na planinskih poteh pa tudi na številnih drugih je prepovedana vožnja s kolesi, vendar kljub temu kolesarji na ta območja zahajajo. Izdelali smo seznam območij poti, ki jih gorski kolesarji najpogosteje uporabljajo, s čimer lahko potrdimo drugi del hipoteze, ki pravi, da kolesarji kljub prepovedi vožnje vseeno zahajajo v naravno okolje.

Najbolj priljubljene poti v občini so skoncentrirane znotraj TNP in so hkrati ene izmed najbolj množično obiskanih poti tudi z vidika ostalih vrst rekreacije. Pogosti so konflikti z ostalimi uporabniki prostora. Negativno izkušnjo je že imela četrtina vprašanih. Tako lahko potrdimo hipotezo, da gorski kolesarji na območju Bohinja uporabljajo poti, ki so z vidika varovanja okolja ranljive in se pri izvajanju svoje dejavnosti nemalokrat znajdejo v konfliktu z ostalimi uporabniki prostora. Hkrati pa lahko potrdimo tudi dejstvo, da do družbenih nasprotovanj prihaja zaradi nestrpnosti ostalih udeležencev, ne le kolesarjev. Ta je pogosto potencirana prek meja dejanskih razsežnosti.

Gorsko kolesarjenje bi bilo smiselnou preusmeriti na območje Vzhodnih Spodnjih Bohinjskih gora, na že obstoječe poti, ki so nesporne tako z vidika naravovarstva kot souporabe z drugimi. Predlagane poti, katerih obsežen del površja leži zunaj TNP, po večini potekajo po nekategoriziranih makadamskih cestah, gozdnih cestah, poljskih poteh in grajenih gozdnih vlakah sredogorja. So odmaknjene od motornega prometa, kjer je površje razgibano in hkrati ne prestrmo, s čimer omogočajo primerne vzpone in spuste. Z vidika rekreacije so neobljudene, saj za pohodnike zaradi dolgih razdalj niso atraktivne. Najlažje jih je opraviti prav z gorskim kolesom. Poti so krožne in hkrati razgledne, z možnostjo prečenja na sosednja območja, v Baško grapo in na Soriško planino. Kot priložnost naj izpostavimo tudi navezavo na lokalne kolesarske vodnike, ki bi z vodenjem po teh manj obljudenih poteh dosegli njihovo prepoznavnost.

Slika 5: Predlog območja poti gorskih kolesarjev.

Glej angleški del prispevka.

Glede na to, da je na območju Bohinja ponudba gorsko kolesarskih parkov skromna, predlagamo usmritev zahtevnejših gorskih kolesarjev na načrtovano smučišče »Smučišče 2864« nad Bohinjsko Bistroico. Izgradnja smučišča predstavlja rešitev preučevane problematike, saj se načrtuje na že okoljsko degradiranem območju obstoječega nedelujočega smučišča Kobla. Poleg tega bi z usmerjanjem tokov gorskih kolesarjev na že grajeno pokrajino razbremenili okoljsko ranljiva in družbeno problematična območja v neposredni bližini Bohinjskega jezera. Nenazadnje pa bi s tem pridobili pomembno prispevati pri razvoju podeželskih območij (Šmid Hribar in Ledinek Lozej 2013). Turistična dejavnost namreč poleg ekološkega kmetovanja v podeželskih območjih omogoča razvojne možnosti (Štraus, Bavec in Bavec 2011).

Slika 6: Zahtevnejše gorske kolesarje je smotrno usmerjati v kolesarske parke.

Glej angleški del prispevka.

Na obravnavanem območju bi morali vzpostaviti transparentno upravljanje, ki naj temelji na dolgoročnem trajnostnem razvoju (Šmid Hribar in Lisec 2011) in participativnem pristopu (Breg Valjavec in Polajnar Horvat 2011). Nujno bi bilo soočenje predstavnikov zavarovanega območja, občine, lastnikov zemljišč, gozdarjev, lovcev, upravljalcev planinskih poti in gorsko kolesarske stroke. Uvesti bi morali pravila gorskega kolesarstva v naravi in poostri ti nadzor, s čimer bi preprečili neprimerno vožnjo na poteh, degradacijo okolja ter ogrožanje ostalih uporabnikov. Slednje bi morali načrtno izobraževati in ozaveščati tako na področju varstva okolja, kot tudi na področju izvajanja dejavnosti (Polajnar 2008; Smrekar 2011), saj se na ta način dviguje zavest o okolju, prostoru, njunih vrednotah in varovanju (Breg Valjavec, Kladnik in Smrekar 2007; Fridl, Urbanc in Pipan 2009) ter spreminja okoljsko vedenje v smeri trajnostnosti (Polajnar Horvat 2012). Rezultati raziskave o okoljskem vedenju obiskovalcev TNP (Stubelj Ars 2013) kažejo, da je stopnja izobrazbe zelo pomembna pri trajnostnem okoljskem vedenju, ki je edino sprejemljivo vedenje v tako ranljivem okolju kot je TNP. Bohinjska Bistrica, ki z ugodno lego v osrčju alpskega sveta, na robu našega največjega zavarovanega območja Triglavskega narodnega parka, v bližini infrastrukturnih zmogljivosti ter prometnih povezav lahko postane izhodišče za gorsko kolesarstvo in s tem vsestransko športno središče Bohinja.

## 4 Literatura

Glej angleški del prispevka.

