



Equality Impact Assessment for a Forest Recreation Strategy – Consultation Paper



Easyread Version, January 2009

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Phone – 028 9052 4821 and talk to Joan Moulden

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About us

Forest Service is part of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The Departments vision is a thriving and sustainable rural community and environment.

What Forest Service does

We manage forest land

- To produce timber and other wood products
- To protect wildlife and habitats
- To accommodate visitors

About the Recreation Strategy

- We want more people to visit our forests
- We will look for opportunities to work with others to make forests more attractive to visitors
- We will seek and listen to views of people who are interested in visiting forests

What is an Equality Impact Assessment?

- This is a way of making sure that different groups of people are all treated fairly
- Treating people fairly is called equality
- We want to make sure that the Recreation Strategy treats different groups of people fairly
- We will ask people like you for their opinion

Who visits forests?

- In a recent Northern Ireland survey, well over half of people interviewed said they had visited forests in the last few years
- People can use forests in all sorts of ways, for instance as nice places to visit, for physical activities, to see wildlife or for learning about nature and the environment.
- Different people visit forests according to their lifestyle and preferences

Some groups of people visit our forests less than others

Our assessment has shown that four groups of people visit less than others. The groups are;

- People from different cultures
- People over 65 years of age
- People with a disability
- People with dependants

Here is what some groups of people have told us about visiting forests

- They would like to know where there are car parks, toilets and other facilities
- They think that improving signs on trails is a good idea
- They recognise the benefits to health and wellbeing that forest recreation can have
- They want to give us their views about forest recreation

We want to know what you think

- What information about the facilities available at a forest would most encourage you to visit forests for recreation?
- What are the best ways of making information about forest recreation available to you?
- We would like to hear what you think by 9 March 2009

How to contact us

- Contact us to find out more about this Equality Impact Assessment
- Contact us to tell us what you think

Phone

028 9052 4821 and talk to our customer services manager

Post

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