

Mountain biking in New Zealand's planted forests

Scion is investigating forest management implications from the presence of mountain biking activities in commercial plantation forests.

Forest managers are invited to participate and contribute their company policies, along with their own experience and perspectives with respect to the topic.

A large number of commercial planted exotic forests in New Zealand accommodate mountain biking (MB) activities on their lands.

Over the past 2 decades, an increasing number of our larger forests have allowed bike access, and in some cases, smaller forests have seen up to ten-fold increase in bike usage within a year where dedicated bike parks have been established.

The study seeks to clarify:

- the forest management policies and practices of commercial plantation forest managers regarding the access of the forest for mountain biking activities.
- risks and benefits from the presence of mountain biking activities within commercial forest estates.

We would like to know your views based on your experiences, and what you have recently noticed within your own forests.

Results of this survey will be summarised in a way that will provide anonymity to your identity and company affiliation you represent.

If you would like to know more about this study, please contact:

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1. Please list your forest estates (>1500ha) that have access for recreational mountain biking:

Forest Estate Name	Access conditions	Paid permit required for access?	Does this forest have a visitor counter (eg. TRAFx)?	Estimated number of mountain biking visits per annum
	<input type="checkbox"/> No conditions/ freely accessible <input type="checkbox"/> Sign-in form at HQ <input type="checkbox"/> Permit from forest company <input type="checkbox"/> Access via bike club membership tag <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> No conditions/ freely accessible <input type="checkbox"/> Sign-in form at HQ <input type="checkbox"/> Permit from forest company <input type="checkbox"/> Access via bike club membership tag <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> No conditions/ freely accessible <input type="checkbox"/> Sign-in form at HQ <input type="checkbox"/> Permit from forest company <input type="checkbox"/> Access via bike club membership tag <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> No conditions/ freely accessible <input type="checkbox"/> Sign-in form at HQ <input type="checkbox"/> Permit from forest company <input type="checkbox"/> Access via bike club membership tag <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> No conditions/ freely accessible <input type="checkbox"/> Sign-in form at HQ <input type="checkbox"/> Permit from forest company <input type="checkbox"/> Access via bike club membership tag <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____

2. Please list any other commercial forested areas you own or manage that provide access for mountain biking not outlined above: _____

3. In the past 5 years, did you create new mountain biking trails and/or expand existing ones in your forests with mountain biking access?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If Yes, please list up to three (3) main reasons for expansion?

4. In the past 5 years has access for mountain biking been withdrawn from any of your forests?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If Yes, please list up to three (3) main reasons that mountain biking is no longer occurring in these forests:

Forest management policies

5. What is your company policy around recreational mountain biking within your estate?

Please send copies of any policies or permit forms you have, if these are an easier way for you to provide the relevant information to this question.

Engagement and partnerships

6. Does your company have engagement or partnership with any of the following organisations, to run events involving mountain biking in your forests? (Please tick all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> local mountain biking clubs | <input type="checkbox"/> Māori landowner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district council | <input type="checkbox"/> business owners |
| <input type="checkbox"/> regional council | <input type="checkbox"/> other, specify _____ |
-

7. Does your company have formal agreements with any of the following for mountain bike trail building and maintenance? (Please tick all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> local mountain biking clubs | <input type="checkbox"/> Māori landowner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district council | <input type="checkbox"/> business owners |
| <input type="checkbox"/> regional council | <input type="checkbox"/> other, specify _____ |
-

8. How have these engagements and formal partnerships impacted your forest management practices?

Management implications

9. What are some of the main benefits to providing mountain biking within your forests?

10. Please comment on how you are making the most of these benefits

11. What are the main risks to providing mountain biking within your forests?

12. Please comment on how you are mitigating for these risks:

Impacts from mountain biking activity

13. Over the past 10 years, has mountain biking activity in your forests increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

<input type="checkbox"/> Substantially decreased <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat decreased <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly decreased	<input type="checkbox"/> Stayed about the same	<input type="checkbox"/> Slightly increased <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat increased <input type="checkbox"/> Substantially increased
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14. Comparing 2019 (before Covid-19) and now (2021) (after Covid-19), what has been the trend in mountain biking visits in your forests?

<input type="checkbox"/> Substantially decreased <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat decreased <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly decreased	<input type="checkbox"/> Stayed about the same	<input type="checkbox"/> Slightly increased <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat increased <input type="checkbox"/> Substantially increased
--	--	--

15. Over the next 10 years, what trend do you foresee in terms of mountain biking visits in your forests?

<input type="checkbox"/> Substantially decreased <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat decreased <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly decreased	<input type="checkbox"/> Stayed about the same	<input type="checkbox"/> Slightly increased <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat increased <input type="checkbox"/> Substantially increased
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Please provide up to three reasons why you think the above trend would occur?

16. Over the past 10 years, what changes to forest management practices have you had to make as a result of accommodating mountain biking activity?

17. Are there any examples you would like to share of significant impacts (positive or negative) due to the presence of mountain biking in your forests?

18. Do you personally mountain bike within commercial planted forests?

☐ **Yes**

☐ **No**

If Yes, how long have you been mountain biking in commercial forests?

_____ **yrs**

19. Please leave your contact name and details if you would you be willing to discuss this topic further with us as our study progresses:

Name: _____

Company: _____

Ph: _____

Email: _____

Please feel free to write any additional comments

Thank you for participating in our research study, your contribution is much appreciated.

Supplementary information S1

Supplementary Table S2

Production Plantation Forest (<1500ha)	Access										Permit										Access Fee									
	1991	1993	1999	2002	2008	2011	2013	2014	2022	1991	1993	1999	2002	2008	2011	2013	2014	2022	1991	1993	1999	2002	2008	2011	2013	2014	2022			
Aokautere Forest	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X								X											
Arapuke	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																				
Battle Hill Farm Forest Park		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																					
Ben Lomond Forest						X	X	X	X	X														X						
Bethune's Gully/Forrester Park						X	X	X	X	X																				
Blue Spur Forest									X	X																				
Bottle Lake Forest			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																				
Busing Forest									X	X																				
Cable Bay Adventure Park									X																					
Carterton Mountain Bike Park									X																					
Centennial Park									X	X																				
Chanays Forest						X			X	X																				
Christchurch Adventure Park									X	X																				
Colson Road			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																				
Fourforty									X																					
Gum Tree									X																					
Haven						X	X	X	X	X													X	X	X	X	X			
Hotototiri, Coromandel Forest Park									X																					
Hylton Park			X	X		X			X																					
K Road Forest					X	X			X																					
Kaiteriti						X			X	X																				
Kaitoke							X	X	X																					
Kauni Coast									X																					
Kingsland/Silvan Forest					X	X		X	X																					
Kohitere Forest	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X																
Lismore Forest		X							X					X					X											
Living Springs						X	X	X	X					X	X	X														
Mangamahoe Forest						X	X	X	X	X																				
Mangarehu Forest									X																					
Maraetai						X			X									X												
Matipo Park									X																					
McLeans Island Forest					X	X	X	X	X																					
Mt Hutt						X	X		X	X																				
Mt Thompson						X	X		X																					
Onepu									X																					
Onerahi Forest		X	X	X	X				X																					
Oropi Grove			X	X	X	X			X														X							
Orton Bradley Farm Park									X																					
Pakuratahi Forest /Tunnel Gully									X	X																				
Parahaki	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X																	
Parihaka									X	X																				
Pegasus Bay			X	X	X	X	X	X	X																					
Pentland Hills						X	X		X						X	X									X					
Pirongia Forest						X			X																					
Pukekohe Forest					X				X					X									X							
Rabbit Island					X	X	X	X	X																					
Raincliff Forest							X		X								X													
Rangitahi Trail Park							X	X	X																					
Ranui Farm Park									X																					
Raumai Forest							X	X	X								X	X							X					
Rawhiti				X					X					X									X							
Redwoods/Waikari Creek							X	X	X																					
Renwick/Condors Bend									X																					
Richmond Hills/Barnicoat						X			X																					
Rivenrock									X																					
Sandy Point						X			X																					
Signal Hill						X			X																					
Slater Road						X	X	X	X						X	X	X	X												
Spicer Forest							X	X	X																					
Stantoft Forest							X	X	X																					
Sticky Forest					X	X			X	X																				
Summerhill Farm									X	X																				
Taringatua Forest			X	X					X																					
Taylor Pass Forest							X	X	X	X	X																			
Te Miro					X	X	X	X	X	X																				
TECT Park						X	X	X	X																					
Tekapo Reserve					X	X	X	X	X																					
The Gorge									X																					
Totara Park	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																					
Tuamarna					X	X	X		X					X	X	X	X													
Wairakei Forest (Craters of the Moon)	X	X	X	X	X	X			X																					
Waikakaho Forest							X	X	X																					
Waikeru Forest (Millmore)	X	X			X	X	X		X																					
Waikune Forest (Uenuku Pines)			X	X					X																					
Wairoa									X																					
Waiwhero Forest							X		X									X												
Wakatu Forest					X	X			X																					
Whangamata Forest/Whangapoua					X	X			X	X								X	X											
Whanui Forest			X	X	X				X														X	X	X	X	X			
Whare Flat	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X																					
Whataupoko									X																					
Whitehills Forest							X		X																					
Whitianga						X			X																					
Wither Hills									X																					
Worsley Forest	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																					
TOTAL	9	15	18	21	35	37	33	44	75	6	15	14	5	17	5	5	3	18	3	0	0	1	4	4	6	3	13			

Supplementary Table S3