

## Impact Assessment Summary

### 1. Name of policy, function or service.

Insert the name of the policy, process or service. Include information about whether this is a Partial or a Full Impact Assessment.

The Strategic Plan for the National Forest Estate 2009 to 2013 has been subject to a partial equality impact assessment.

### 2. Purpose and aims of the policy, function or service.

3. Insert a brief outline of the purpose of the policy, process or service and provide outline details of main aim(s).

The purpose of the strategic plan for the national forest estate 2009-2013 is to provide a strategic framework within which forests districts can plan and deliver their activities. Its primary function is to facilitate delivery of the Scottish Forestry Strategy on the national forest estate, emphasising and prioritising those aspects of delivery that are most appropriately delivered by the state.

### 4. Who will benefit mainly from this policy, function or service?

Outline briefly who the policy, process or service is aimed at, for example, customers, and staff and identify any specific groups where appropriate.

All people in Scotland will benefit from this national scale strategic plan. The main beneficiaries will be members of the public who visit or access the national forest estate for recreation, health and tourism.

### 5. Information and Data (evidence) used.

Include information of evidence collected to undertake the impact assessment. This can be a summary of information or a comprehensive list. Include information on any consultations undertaken and the associated findings.

The main information was gained from the forest visitor survey which is carried out annually. The latest figures are from 2007.

Gender: male

National average: 48%

FC Scotland visitors: 54%

Gender: female

National average: 46%

FC Scotland visitors: 52%

Disability

National average: 34%

FC Scotland visitors: 5%

## Ethnicity

National average: 2%

FC Scotland visitors: 1%

## Under 25 years old

National average: 29%

FC Scotland visitors: 22%

## Over 45 years old

National average: 55%

FC Scotland visitors: 43%

An extensive consultation was undertaken reaching out to wide range of community groups and specialist representative groups. The consultation responses did not identify any major areas of concern in regard to equality and diversity. It was noted however that recreation facilities and opportunities for sport should be accessible and promoted to all.

## **6. Summary of Impact.**

Provide a summary of the impact both negative and positive and outline of any remedial action or justifications for impact.

Provide information about any modifications made to the policy, process or service as a result of the assessment and/or consultation, or alternative or additional measures.

The strategic plan will have a positive impact on all strands of society and this will be measurable for the strands of diversity which are monitored.

This data suggests that in regard to attracting visitors to the national forest estate, additional effort should be prioritised towards disabled people and ethnic minorities (where 50% of the potential population are not visiting forests. In regard to the other strands of diversity, the visitor numbers indicate a representative proportion of each group in accessing the national forest estate.

To address the specific groups requiring some further effort (disabled people and ethnic minorities) specific actions have been identified in the strategic plan. These are:

Action 4.04: Pilot the renewed forest design plan process through engaging significant minority groups in two forest design plans in Scottish Lowlands Forest District.

Action 4.07: Forestry Commission Scotland, encompassing Forest Enterprise Scotland, will prepare a Gaelic Language Plan in conjunction with Bord na Gaidhlig.

Action 4.18: Translations of leaflets, documents and signs will be proportionate to local needs and planned through consultation with local minority ethnic community representatives.

Action 5.01: Target management activity where there is greatest need and best value for money in terms of delivery of national priorities including fulfilling our diversity and equality

aims.

Action 5.07: Using the Countryside For All Good Practice Guide, address the Disability Discrimination Act in a prioritised approach in the national forest estate.

Action 5.09: As part of the Woodlands In and Around Towns, programme, target key groups in the Forestry Commission Scotland diversity and equality strategy, and local communities where scope exists for accessing woodlands via public transport.

Action 5.10: Improve communications and outreach through developing and publishing an interpretive strategy and a marketing plan for the national forest estate.

Action 5.15: Improve communication of healthy activities on the national forest estate, through improved and targeted communication, marketing and interpretation, with a special emphasis on people who currently do not make use of the resource.

We will actively promote use of the national forest estate by the full diversity of Scotland's society. The Strategic Plan has its foundations in several areas of policy and guidance developed by Forestry Commission and where there is an impact on people the impact of those policies on equality will be accounted for. As more detailed plans and actions are developed resulting from the strategic planning process, particularly in districts, the Equality Impact Assessment process will continue to identify specific areas where Forest Enterprise Scotland can ensure it acts in a fair and responsible manner. Forest Enterprise Scotland will adhere to the Forestry Commission Diversity Strategy, once developed.

#### **7. Monitoring or Evaluation.**

Provide a brief summary of how the policy, function or service will be monitored and evaluated in terms of equality.

An annual monitoring programme reporting on a set of key indicators described within the document has been agreed.

#### **8. Further Information.**

Insert contact details of the individual who can supply additional information and a copy of the completed Equality Impact Assessment.

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