

Forest Riders Survey

Analysis Report

Horse SA Forestry SA



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Executive Summary

The majority, 78% of riders are female and 59% were in the 45 – 65 age group. The age distribution within each gender was similar, although due to the lower number of male respondents some age groups did not have male representatives. The gender and age distribution may not be anomalous, as more information about the age and gender of horse riders would be needed.

Most respondents ride in the forest weekly for between 2 to 3 hours. Recreation was the most common reason for riding, with a greater proportion of males riding in events and fitness being more popular with females. Approximately three quarters of the respondents float their horse to the forest areas.

Approximately one quarter of respondents camp in the forest with a greater proportion of men than women camping. The Codes of Practice and Kidman Trail were well known amongst respondents, whereas the Standards and the Act were not well known. Women tended to be more aware of these activities than men.

Approximately 50% of the respondents did not believe there were adequate maps of the forest areas. This is an issue that needs to be addressed.

The respondents reported that the best feature of the Forest ride was the forest Tracks and Trails. This was an open response question so the analysis will include all who mention tracks, or trails in their answers.

As an indication of the commitment to the forest rides, nearly three quarters of respondents offered some level of improvement. Tracks and trails were again the most popular response, which does not conflict with the previous answer. Improved parking was also a frequent suggestion.

Information is best disseminated in a variety of forms, with radio the most popular and the importance of forest signs and notices was high.

A large number of other comments were included and a summary of which is at the end of this report.

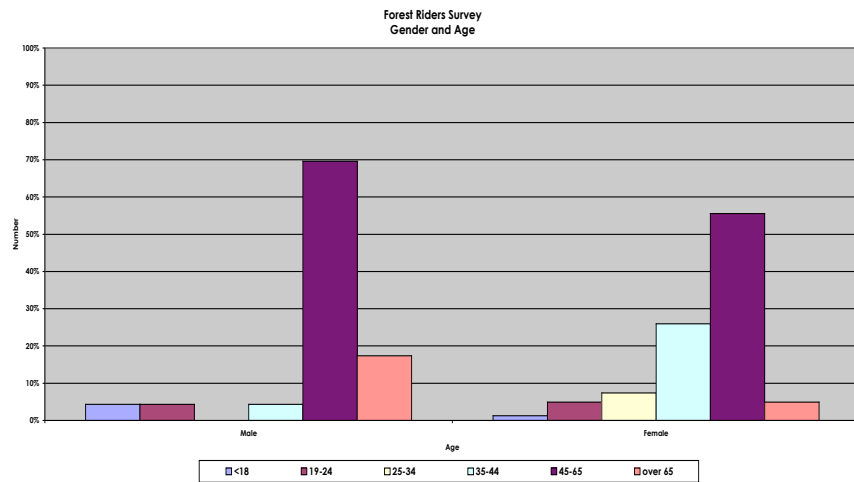
Recommendations

- Maps and access to maps needs to be improved
- Signs and notices must be posted on the access to the forest areas advising riders of the status of the forest rides
- The tracks and trails must be maintained as this is the best feature of the forest
- Parking facilities for floats must be upgraded

Demographics

Q1. Gender

| Gender | Number | Percent |
|--------------|------------|-------------|
| Male | 23 | 22% |
| Female | 81 | 78% |
| Total | 104 | 100% |

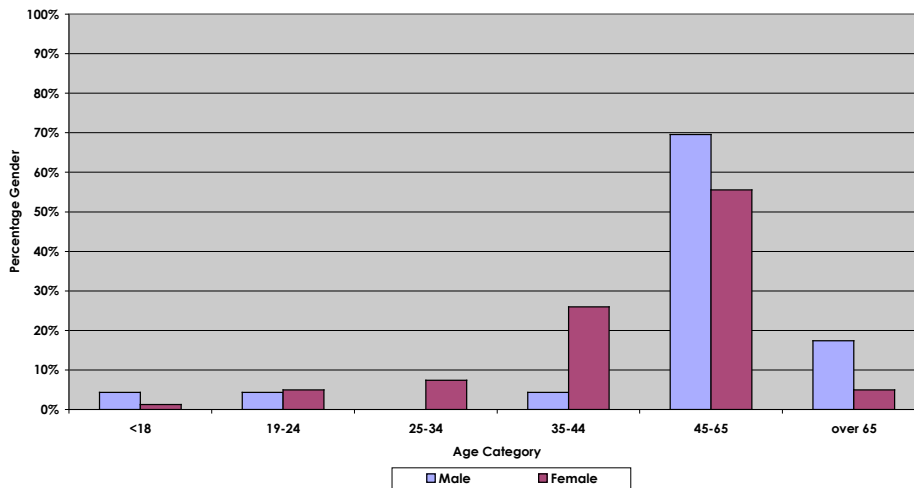


Demographics continued

Q2. Age

| Age Group | Number | Percentage |
|-----------|--------|------------|
| <18 | 2 | 2% |
| 19-24 | 5 | 5% |
| 25-34 | 6 | 6% |
| 35-44 | 22 | 21% |
| 45-65 | 61 | 59% |
| over 65 | 8 | 8% |
| Total | 104 | 100% |

Forest Riders Survey
Age Distribution

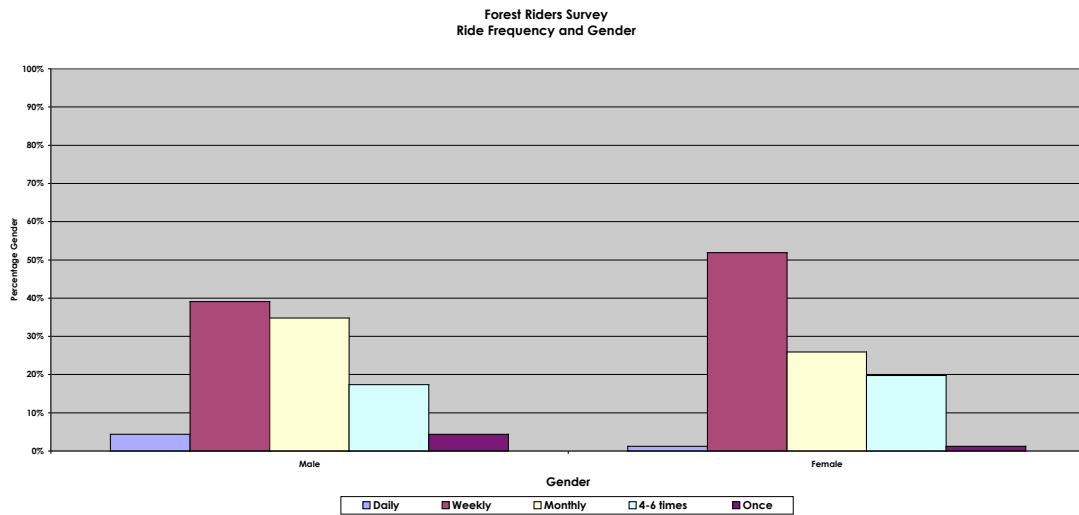


The majority, 78%, of the respondents were female and the age distribution within each gender was similar. All of the 25 – 34 year respondents were female; a majority of the 35 – 44 year and 19 – 24 were female and a majority of the other age groups were male.

Forest Usage

Q3. I ride in the forest

Daily, weekly, monthly, 4-6 times per year, once a year



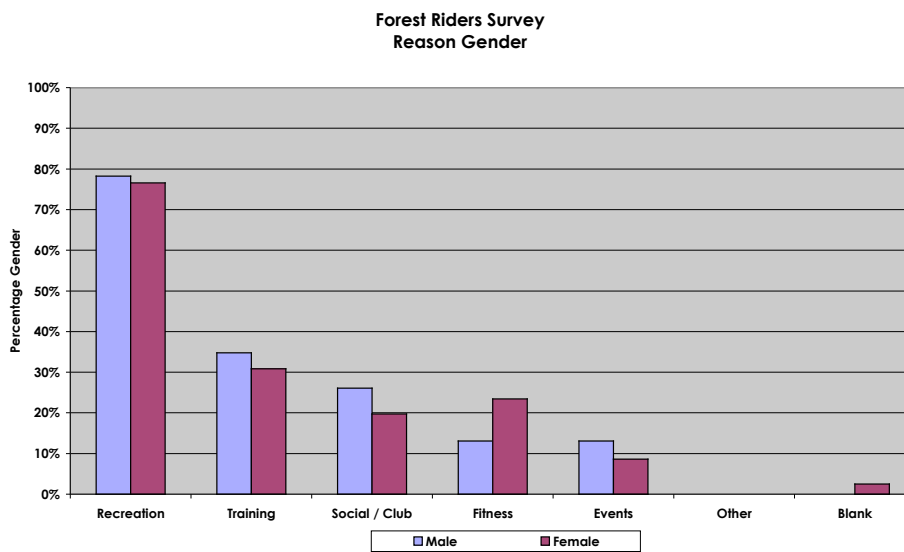
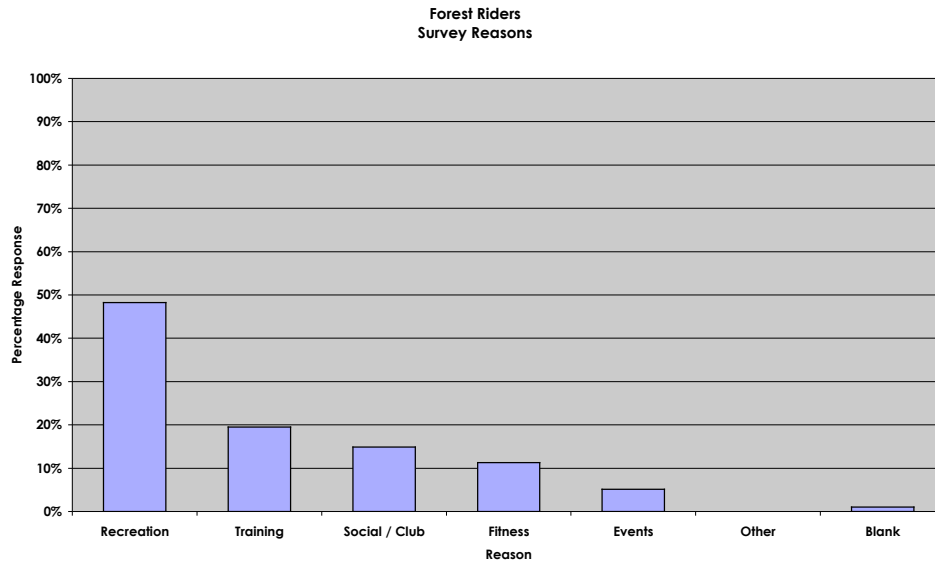
Most respondents ride in the forest weekly and the distribution within genders is similar.

A higher proportion of the males ride daily.

Forest Usage continued

Q4. I ride in the forest for

Events, fitness, training, recreation, social or club outing, other

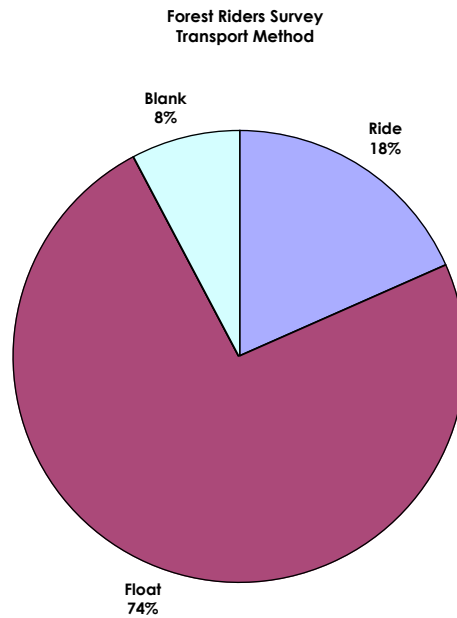


The most common reason for riding was Recreation. The reasons within the genders were similar except that Fitness was a more frequent reason for women and Events more frequent for men.

Forest Usage continued

Q5. Transport to the forest:

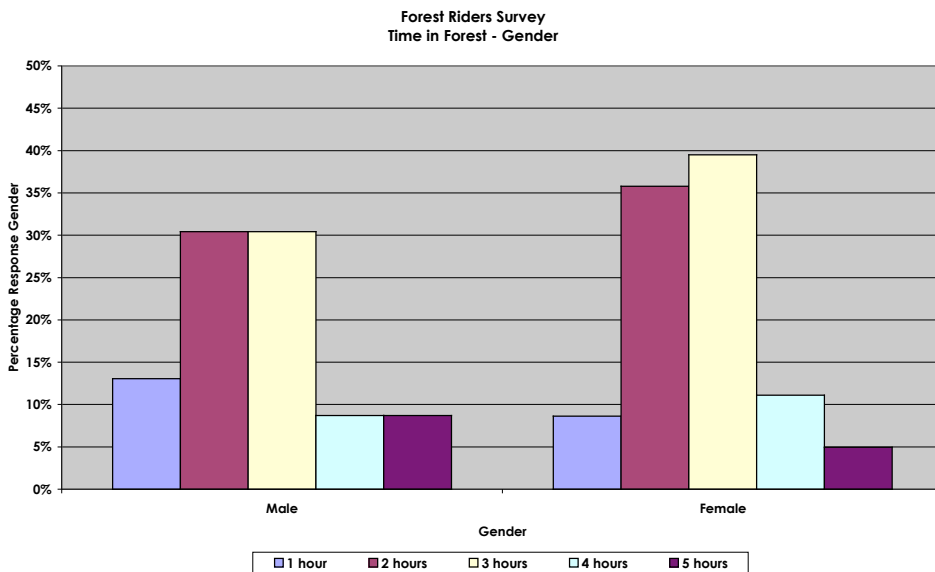
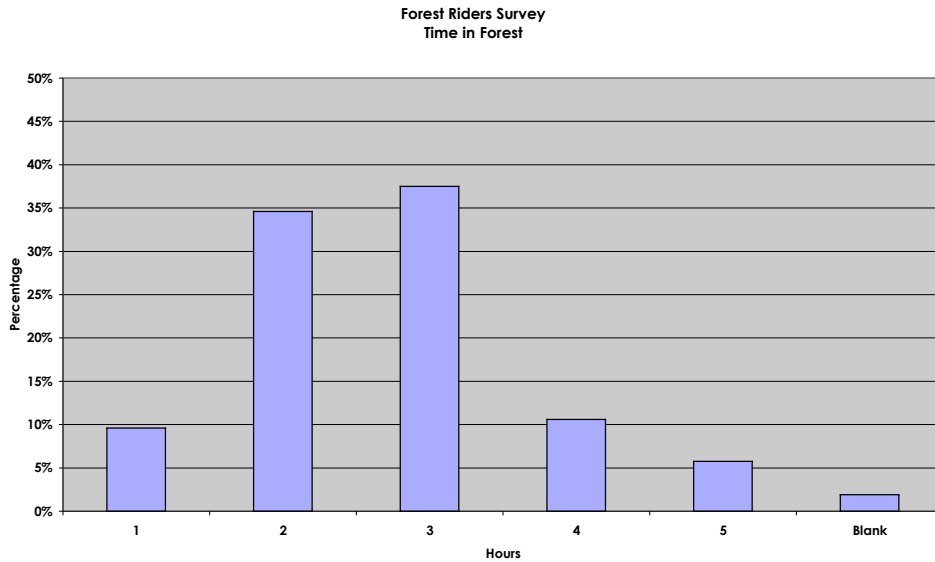
I ride, float the horse, other



Approximately three quarters of the respondents float their horse to the forest areas.

Forest Usage

Q6. What is your average length of time spent in the forest each trip?



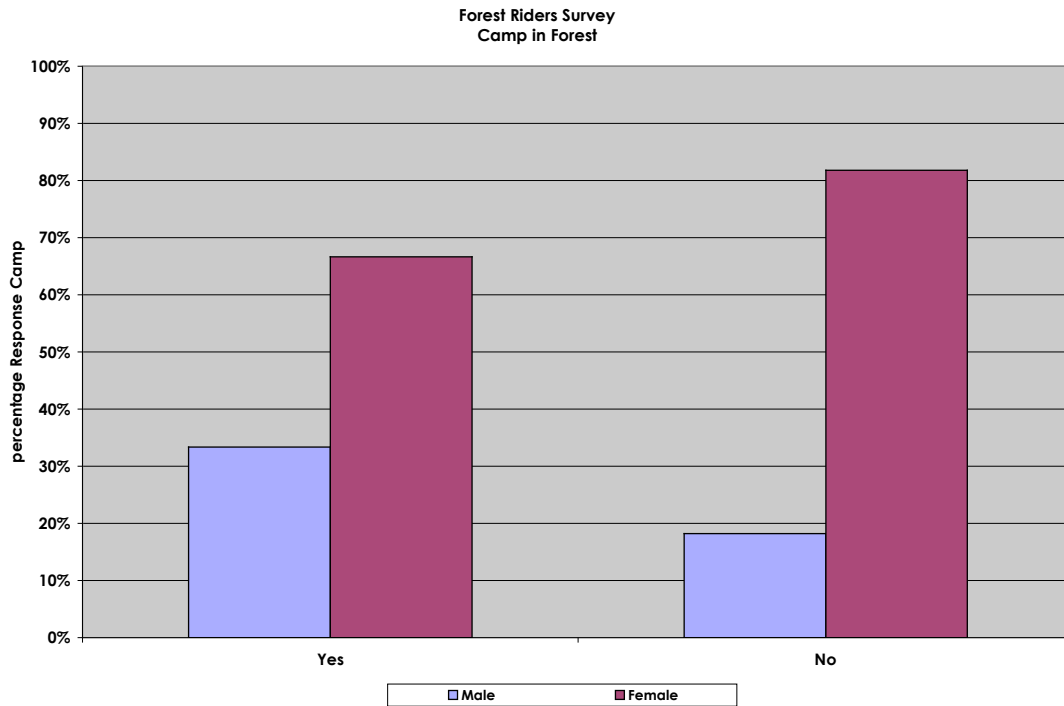
More than 70% of respondents spend between two and three hours in the forest areas.

A greater proportion of the women than men spend more than two hours in the forest

Forest Usage continued

Q7. Have you camped overnight in the forest with your horse in the last 12 months?

| | Number | Percent |
|--------------|------------|-------------|
| Yes | 27 | 26% |
| No | 77 | 74% |
| Total | 104 | 100% |

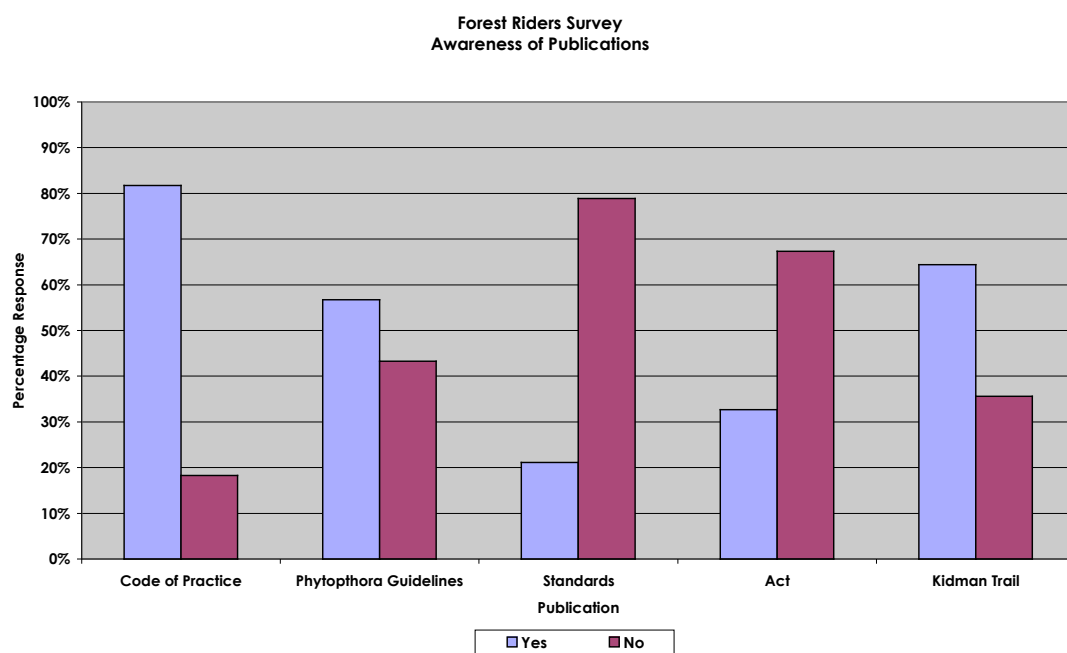


Approximately one quarter of respondents camp in the forest with a greater proportion of men than women camping.

Awareness

Q8. Are you aware of the following:

- Trail riders code of practice
- Phytophthora horse riding guidelines
- Proposed adventure activity standards for horse trail riding
- Recreational services (limitation of liability) Act trail riding code of practice
- The Horse SA Kidman Trail Project

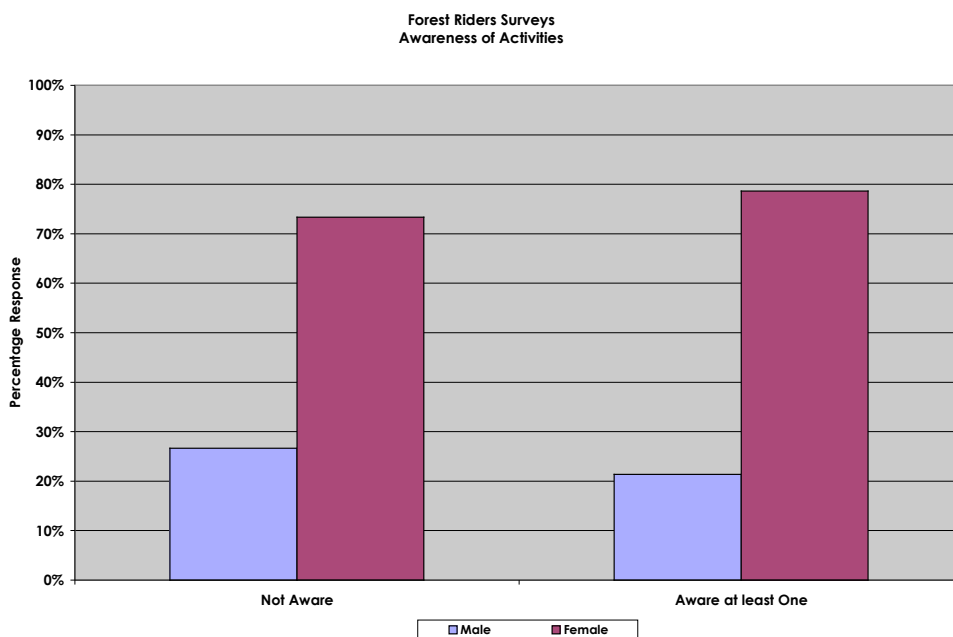


The Codes of Practice and Kidman Trail were well known amongst respondents, whereas the Standards and the Act were not well known.

Awareness continued

Q8. Are you aware of the following: continued

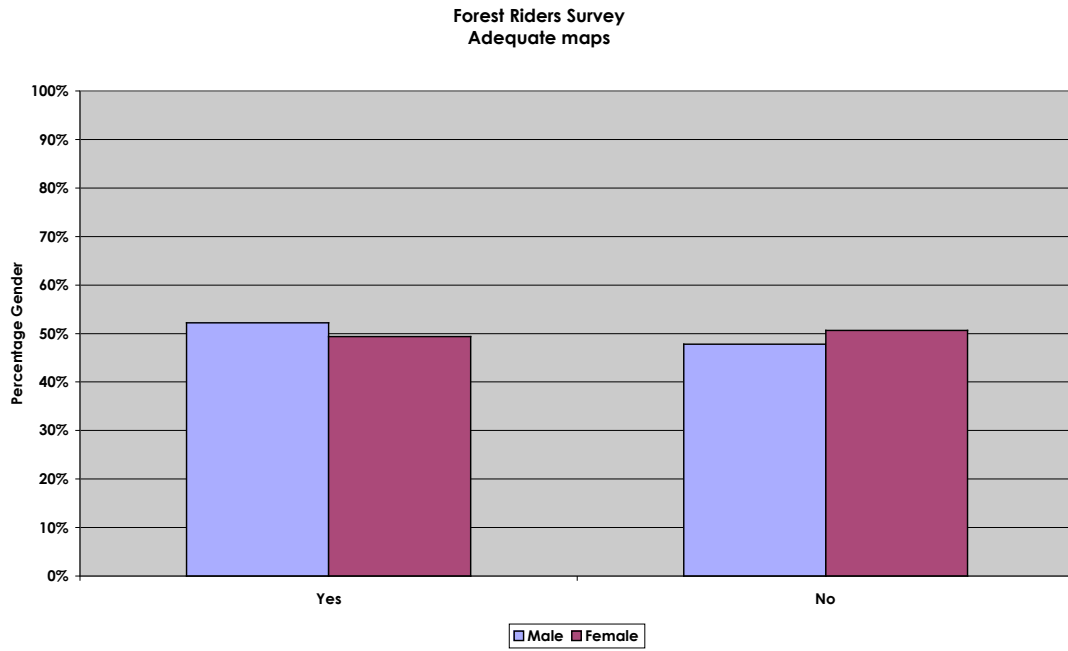
- Trail riders code of practice
- Phytophthora horse riding guidelines
- Proposed adventure activity standards for horse trail riding
- Recreational services (limitation of liability) act trail riding code of practice
- The Horse SA Kidman Trail Project



Women tended to be more aware of these activities than men.

Information

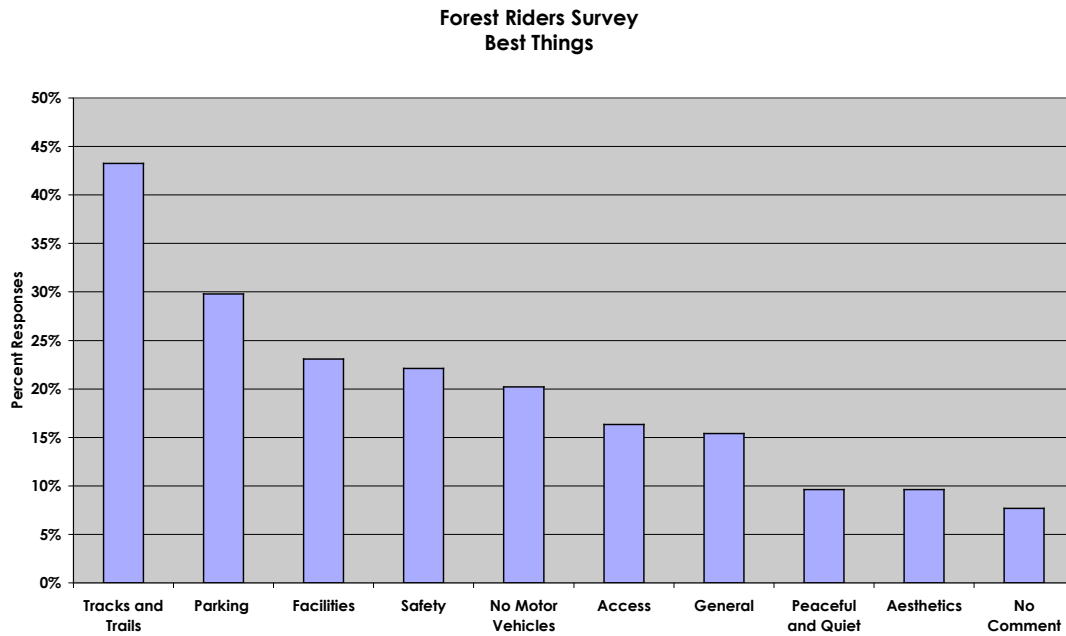
Q9. Do you find that each forest has adequate maps showing where horse riders can go?



Equal proportions of respondents, either All, Male or Female agreed that there were adequate maps for forest riders.

Features and Improvements

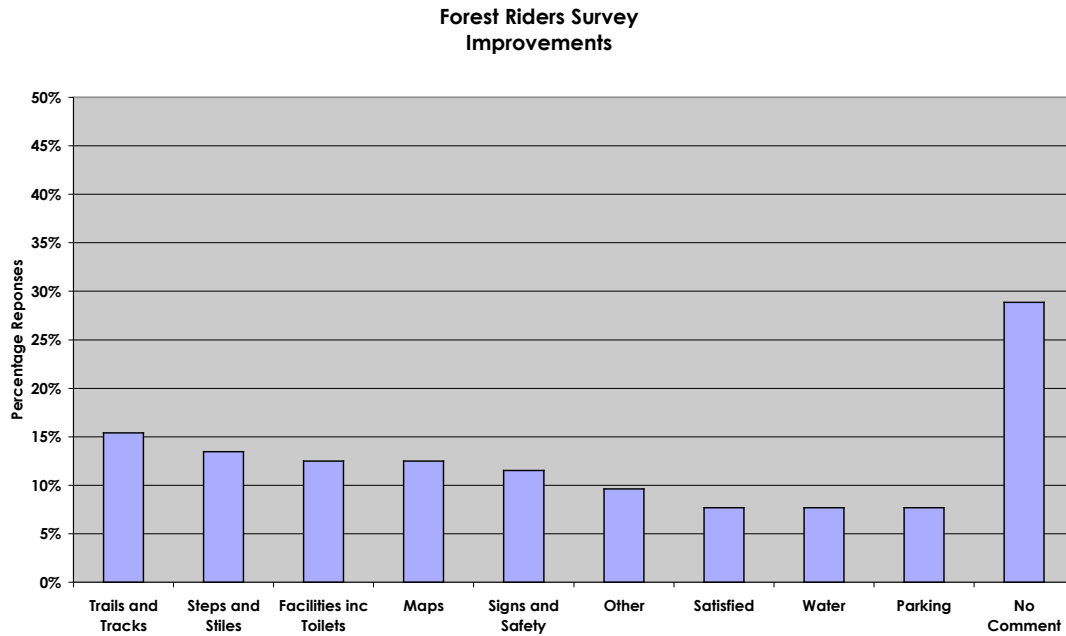
Q10. What do you think the BEST things are about forests and facilities provided for horse riders?



The forest Tracks and Trails are the most popular aspect of the Forest Ride, as 43% of all responses included these items.

Features and Improvements *continued*

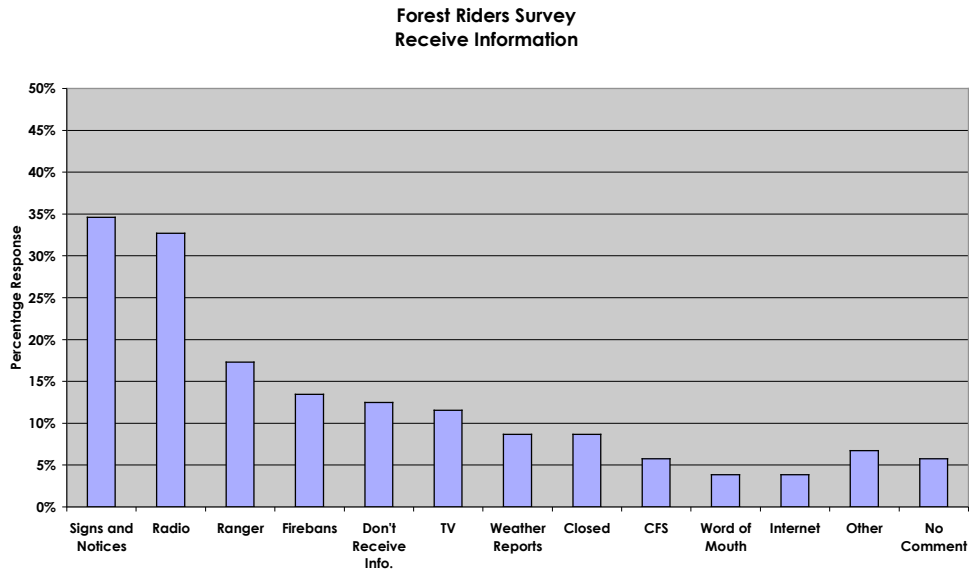
Q11. What aspects do you think need IMPROVING?



A majority of respondents offered some suggestions for improvement, approximately 71%. Although the respondents nominated the tracks and trails as the best feature of the forest, they also were the most frequent improvement.

Features and Improvements *continued*

Q12. How do you normally receive information about forest closures due to Total Fire Bans, re-routing of trails or other specific information relating to forests?



Most respondents read the signs or notices to determine the fire ban status of the forest. Although 12% reported that they did not receive information, they commented on common sense or hearing of the fire ban without a specific medium mentioned. Radio was the most popular medium mentioned specifically.

Features and Improvements *continued*

Q13. Any comments?

Many respondents included other comments. Below are the comments as written by the respondents. Repeated comments and blank comments have been edited from the list.

- Appreciate being able to use the forests
- Are there any maps of the forest available - I seem to get stuck in the same forest all the time
- At gate 39 of Kuitpo abutting Razor Back Road there is a pedestrian stile for walkers to access Korpen Trail into other part of Kuitpo which abutts Pocock Road. Would it be possible to open that connecting pathway to riders? There is currently no step through and gate access is locked. I would really appreciate a reply on this issue
- Generally areas are well contained, still seem to have problems on occasions with motorbike riders in forest - usually down past Jack's Paddock
- Have just started riding in fox creek - is fantastic area. Says there is water available but cant find any taps?
- Hurry up and revegetate after trees are lopped. Many thanks
- I am very pleased to have access to the forests and try to respect the privilege at all times
- I don't mind paying but know of persons riding without permits this is unfair and should be checked and those without permits - fined
- I love riding in the forest. Thanks!
- I only ride in Kuitpo and we are very happy with the way the tracks, step through etc are run (and Nangkita)
- I think Forestry SA are doing an excellent job providing lovely areas for horse riders. Unfortunately I do not live close enough to enjoy the forest more often.
- I would like to express our/my appreciation for allowing recreational use of the forests. These days it is often the only safe place to ride especially young horses. Many thanks.
- Is there a website that could record scheduled activities eg - bike riding, dog sleds etc so could avoid those days
- It is wonderful that we can have great trails to train on and keep the horses fit without having to battle with cars etc. Thank you!
- Like riding in the forest
- More overnight campsite and ride (horse) event campsites in forest
- More signs about dogs off leads don't mix well with horses. Walkers should also be told to stay on trails and not come crashing out of the forest and frightening horses.
- Occasionally the signage for restricted logging areas is a bit too vague. Given your resources you do a wonderful job!
- People (horse riders too!) don't have their dogs under control and we have seen kangaroos being chased by them, which I don't think is fair to the other riders or the kangaroos!
- Ranger "Jason" is terrific (maybe it's "Justin"?) Very helpful and polite. Some picnic tables at Christmas tree Hill spot, plus toilet. We horse riders are just so grateful to be able to ride in the forest, so any improvements are a bonus to us. Thank you.
- Salvation Jane control. As we see many break outs in patches that could be spread

Features and Improvements *continued*

Q13. Any comments? continued

Many respondents included other comments. Below are the comments as written by the respondents. Repeated comments and blank comments have been edited from the list.

- Some general communication about current and proposed logging in immediate future would be very handy especially when planning rides
- Some low logs left on the trails to jump - allow to walk past as well
- Some of the rubble (particularly the large grey rocks) put on the tracks make them unusable for horses and the sides of these tracks are not safe / useable either, because of dead yakka holes
- Some places should be only for horse people
- Some step overs need to be wider, knees may be damaged with energetic horse. Some step overs are slightly too high. Horse wants to jump in those cases rather than step over. Thank you for picnic table at Black Nursery Rd/Toilet car park
- Thank you for giving me some where to ride
- Thank you for letting us ride there!
- Thank you for making the forests available for horse riding
- Thank you for the ability to ride in the forest. It is much appreciated.
- Thank you for the continued access for horses...it is fantastic.
- Thank you for your continuing cooperation with us
- Thank you the forest is the best place to ride.
- Thanks for providing and maintaining a much needed facility for safe recreational riding. I have promoted use of your facilities at opportunity.
- The access to the forests is a must for recreational trail riding
- The gate entrance from the car park to the Rocky Creek Hut is very narrow for horses. I know of one incident where a horse got caught in he chain belt and panicked. Maybe this could be widened. Thank you!
- To have the forest areas accessible to ride in is wonderful. Beautiful area, good amenities for all who wish to visit. We are very lucky to have such a great area to ride in. Thank you
- We are so lucky to be allowed in the forest. Its great riding, usually safe and interesting
- We love riding in the forests and consider it a great privilege.
- When can we use Nangkita again?
- When forests are being logged they need better signs as to where you can't go. At Peters Creek we started riding - no signs - a short way in we had signs on every trails and no where to go. If the signs were in the car park we would have gone somewhere else
- Why do I have to fill out a Forest Permit Form every year when you obviously have my details - I can provide my previous Permit No when I send my cheque.
- Wonderful facilities and excellent support via rangers
- Wonderful resource
- Would like to have a key so I can drive carriage in Kuitpo
- Your efforts are much appreciated.