



Draft Forest Management Plan 2024–2033

Fact sheet: Recreation and tourism in the south-west forests



Across our south-west forests, there is a growing demand for outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism. Outdoor recreation contributes to the social, spiritual, psychological, physical and economic wellbeing of the community. It also enhances public understanding and appreciation of nature, conservation and forest management.

There is a range of nature-based tourism and recreation opportunities available in the Forest Management Plan area including bushwalking, running, cycling, camping, swimming, fishing, canoeing, four-wheel driving, trail bike riding and caving. Important tourist attractions in the south-west include the Valley of the Giants and Tree Top Walk, the Bibbulmun Track, the 1000km Munda Biddi Trail, and Calgardup, Giants and Mammoth Caves.

Certain landscape characteristics are more 'highly' valued by the community and provide opportunities for recreation and tourism. They also fulfil a psychological need in providing a contrast to the urban environments in which many Australians live.

Many national parks in the region also provide for outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism such as Wellington, Beelu, Warren, Leeuwin-Naturaliste, Walpole-Nornalup, Gloucester and Greater Beedelup. There is also a growing number of towns and locations that are an important element of various trail networks.

Camping draws a lot of people to the south-west, and campers are an important part of many local and regional economies. The most popular camping destinations in the south-west are Lane Poole Reserve, and Leeuwin-Naturaliste and Wellington national parks.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) partners with the private sector to broaden the experiences and range of facilities available for people to visit and appreciate the forest management plan area, in a way that contributes to regional economies.

South-west forests are a popular destination for recreation and tourism due to nature-based activities, and the development of new adventure-based visitor experiences such as Lake Kepwari near Collie, Collie Adventure Trails, and Dwellingup Adventure Trails.

Trailbike riding and four-wheel driving have been popular in the south-west for many years. The demand is currently largely unmet with limited provision for road registered and off-road registered trailbikes and vehicles. It is therefore regularly reported as an unauthorised activity in parks and reserves.

Permitted areas for off-road registered vehicles and trailbikes on DBCA-managed lands are in former pine plantation areas at Gngangara and Pinjar. The Captain Fawcett Track near Dwellingup provides opportunities for road-registered vehicles and trailbikes. Further areas may need to be identified to meet the demand and counter unauthorised use.

Events provide an opportunity for visitors to explore parks in a different and varied way. They range from small, local club events to major international events, and include participation events, adventure racing and cultural immersion events.

To learn about recreation experiences in the south-west, visit the Explore Parks WA website at exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au.

The management of Western Australia's south-west forests will be outlined in the *Forest Management Plan 2024-2033*.

For more information visit our website at dbca.wa.gov.au/forest-management-plan



Conservation and Parks Commission
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions