



Recreation in State Forests

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As in many other countries of the world, Australia's forest lands are a valuable recreational resource. Not only do forests provide a wide array of opportunities for people to engage in leisure time pursuits, but they also offer types of recreational opportunities which can be found under no other circumstances and which can satisfy human needs in no other way. Such is the case in Western Australia where, despite the attraction and availability of beach, estuary and other coastal resources, State Forest areas are used by a growing number of residents and visitors alike for a range of leisure activities.

By world standards, the forest areas of the south-west are not extensive, nor do they possess the rugged relief and spectacular scenery often characteristic of other forested regions. However, their location on the edge of a large arid continent and within easy reach of the majority of the State's population ensures their value for recreation.

This value is perhaps best demonstrated by the apparent rapid growth in forest-based recreational activity that is presently occurring. Areas of forest which were, as recently as ten years ago, virtually unknown to the recreating public are today attracting tens of thousands of visitors annually. Any inquiries for further recreation information can be made through the Extensions branches of the Forests Department at Como, Bunbury or Manjimup.