

# RECREATIONAL USE OF WHAKAREWAREWA FOREST

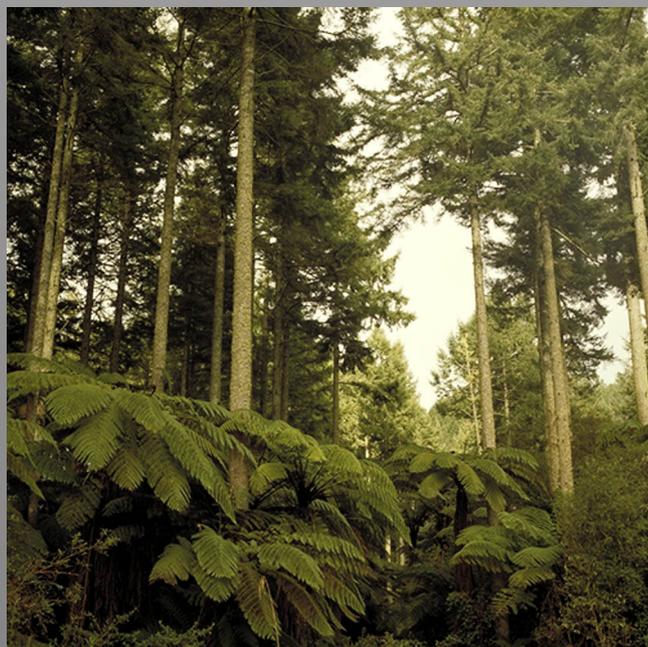
PREPARED BY

APR CONSULTANTS LTD

FOR

ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCIL  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT

OCTOBER 2007



## FOREWORD

Whakarewarewa Forest has provided a haven for recreational use for many years in Rotorua. This gem is largely untapped as a potential showcase for New Zealand as a premiere attraction for recreation, sporting, community, nature events and action tourism activities.

This report was commissioned to gauge both the impact that the forest has on Rotorua and to determine further the sustainability of the forest as a valuable local and national resource for growing and cementing Rotorua as the place to work, live, invest and play.

The intention of the forest management company to reduce the number of tree species in the forest has caused controversy with user groups and individuals. The 'value' both economically, socially, culturally and environmentally would be adversely affected should the reduction of species from the current levels occur. The respondents to the surveys in this report were asked about their views on the levels of reduction and corresponding impact on forest usage.

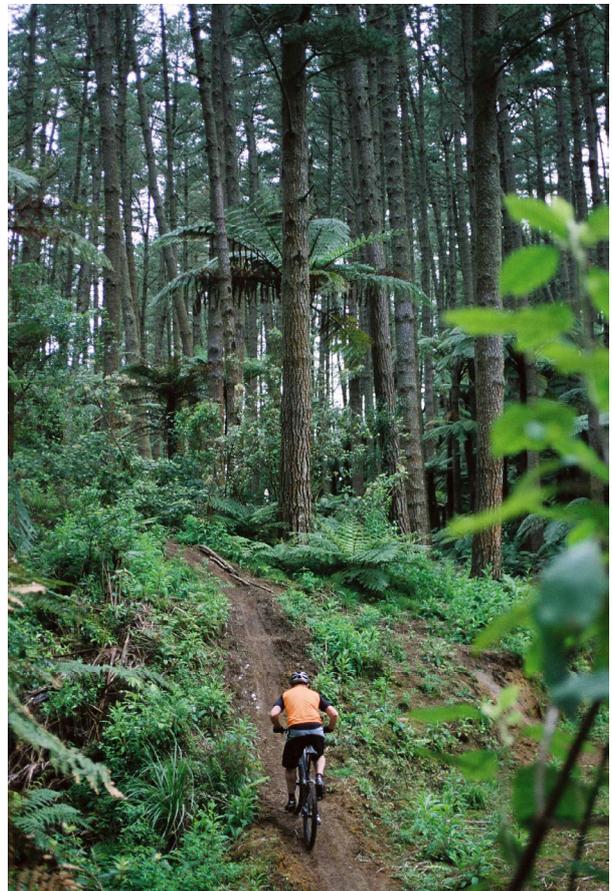
Of major interest is the overall level of increase in visitors and forest recreational usage. Of specific note is the increased expenditure in mountain biking related activities from \$1.94 million in 2005 to around \$2.56 million in Rotorua over the past year. This is reflective of the surge in mountain biking as a recreational activity and the effect it has had on the local economy. As readers will note, overall mountain bike-related spending is estimated to be around \$7.37 million or an average of \$20,192 per day in Rotorua.

The advent of the proposed runway extension to the Rotorua Regional Airport to allow Trans-Tasman flights, will add to the attractiveness of Rotorua as an International destination for 'world events' that can utilise local infrastructure and the forest.

The growing number of events has significantly increased the number of domestic and international visitors to Rotorua that either come as participants or as spectators. As an example of these effects, the World Mountain bike Championships held in Rotorua in 2006, provided national and international coverage to mountain biking in the district. The event attracted 538 competitors, 1,572 accredited visitors, 246 media and around 40,000 spectators. The estimated television audience was 35.2 million while the website attracted in excess of 12 million hits.

The Whakarewarewa Forest is a classic example of how sustainable land use by way of diversification from the original intended forestry to one of enduring recreational capability, could be adopted for future generations in New Zealand.

Grant Kilby  
General Manager  
Economic Development  
Rotorua District Council



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### The Brief

This report was undertaken by APR Consultants Ltd (APR) for Destination Rotorua Economic Development, a unit of Rotorua District Council. The objectives of the project were to:

1. Quantify the recreational use of Whakarewarewa Forest and in particular the use related to major forest users such as mountain bikers, walkers, runners, horse riders and other recreational groups.
2. Estimate the economic impacts associated with recreational use of the forest.
3. Provide information on the characteristics of the forest that recreational users value.

The report contains information gained from reviews of information about the history of the forest, user patterns from field counts of recreational users, and interviews/surveys with key stakeholders, Rotorua residents and forest users. Though outside of the original brief, interest expressed by forest users also prompted the development of an on-line survey which was completed by more than 1,500 people. A major focus of this study was estimating recreational values associated with the diversity of trees in the forest.

### History

Whakarewarewa Forest is unique in terms of its location, history and people's perception of the forest. Nowhere else in New Zealand is there a major forest available for recreation just five kilometres from a city centre. Whakarewarewa Forest is classified as a State Park and is therefore a protected area, though not one that needs to remain unchanged. State Parks are managed for a number of different purposes such as protection of soil, water and wildlife habitats, preservation of areas of scenic, historic or scientific importance, timber production and recreation.

Whakarewarewa Forest is more than 100 years old with the first blocks of land purchased in 1896. Originally a Māori pā called Tokorangi, belonging to Ngāti Tangaroa-mihi, was situated on the northernmost hill overlooking Tarawera Road. There are a number of Māori legends relating to Whakarewarewa Forest and surrounding land, the most well known of which is that of Hatupatu and Kurangaituku, the 'Bird Woman'.

Planting of the forest began in 1899. It was one of several forests planted around that time in a bid to forestall a timber shortage that was predicted due to rapid deforestation of native forests. Determining which trees to plant in Rotorua in the early 1900s was a matter of trial and error. Due to difficulty in obtaining reliable seed, coupled with unseasonable frosts, few species were suitable for extensive cultivation in the area. The species grown were therefore as much the result of chance as due to deliberate design. The California redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) failed in most locations, now only surviving in pockets such as the Redwood Memorial Grove. Principal species grown in 1910 were European larch (*Larix deciduas*), Corsican pine (*Pinus nigra* var. *laricio*), Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Austrian pine (*Pinus nigra* var. *austriaca*), several species of eucalypts and to a lesser extent Radiata pine (*Pinus radiata*) and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). Most of the early planting was undertaken by good conduct prisoners, with the first camp being built at Waipa.

Following an inventory of native forests in the early 1920s there was realisation that the forests would not regenerate as quickly as previously thought. This led to a decade of rapid planting of exotic species, mainly Radiata pine. Utilisation of timber from Whakarewarewa Forest began on a small scale in 1912 when several tree species were thinned and the thinning was used for firewood and mine props. The first logging contract was let in 1928 to cut timber for railway sleepers. Over

the next ten years timber production for firewood, sleepers, mining props and fenceposts increased steadily until 1939 when the first large scale felling of Radiata pine began. All felled timber went to the newly established Waipa Mill. Demand for exotic timber increased in the 1950s due to increase interest from export markets for logs and also the opening of the Tasman Pulp and Paper Mill in Kawerau. New areas of planting began, with the Highlands Block (purchased 1964) and Waimangu Block (purchased 1975) incorporated into the Whakarewarewa Forest.

Whakarewarewa Forest was officially designated as a Forest Park in late 1975 but moves had already been made prior to this for people to enjoy the forest recreationally. Several sites were opened as picnic areas and walking, BMX and motorbike tracks were also developed. The Visitor Information Centre was opened in 1978. Today Whakarewarewa Forest is a leading recreational facility, comprising around 5,700 hectares of forest, managed by Kaingaroa Timberlands on Crown Forest Licence land. Numerous ferns and shrubs (both native and introduced) are present as well as swamp plants and several species of native orchid. The variety of trees to be seen in Whakarewarewa Forest is far more than would be found in a more recently established forest and includes numerous species of pine, spruce, larch, acacias and eucalyptus as well as examples of walnut and chestnut. The forest is also home to numerous bird and insect species.

## **Recreational Use**

Whakarewarewa Forest is well known as a recreation area for user groups including walkers, runners, mountain bikers, horse riders, dog owners, picnickers and tramping groups with many local and out-of-town visitors enjoying the recreational opportunities available. In 2005 a study by APR calculated forest usage at around 185,000 recreational user activities per annum. Of these, around 51,000 related to mountain biking. The 2005 study added to earlier APR studies undertaken in 1999 and 2004 to assess the recreational use, use of facilities and values that people associate with the forest.

Recreational use in 2007 was estimated based on the results of an on-line survey, field survey, residents' survey and field counts of recreational users and activities. All of these surveys have limitations and it is important that data is interpreted reliably. The data from these surveys was also compared to results from earlier work. As an example of the data needing careful interpretation, all 2007 surveys reported a small sample of people using the forest on a daily basis over the past year. These ranged from a low of 2.7% in the Rotorua residents' survey, to 8.9% in the on-line survey and 9.2% in the field survey. It is likely these results are skewed upwards by recall bias and/or acquiescence bias. At the very least, inclement weather, Christmas Day and other low user days are likely to limit activity to less than 365 days per year. Even allowing for non use of the forest by respondents in the resident survey (39.0%) and on-line survey (16.6%) the average use of the forest as outlined by those in the surveys was 18.7 times per year for the resident's survey, 49.9 times per year for the on-line survey and 51.6 times per year for the field survey. Surveys undertaken in 1999 and 2004 showed average annual use of 40.0 and 20.9 times respectively. As with surveys of this nature, overall averages can be skewed by a minority in the sample undertaking high levels of recreational activity. Therefore the median level of use was reviewed, which showed annual use of up to 12 times per year from the residents' survey, around 12 times per year from the on-line survey respondents and around 12 times per year from the field survey (note these results are derived from grouped data which is also a limitation).

A further factor is the observed large groups of international visitors who undertake a short bush walk from the Redwood Grove to the Visitor Centre. Personnel at the Visitor Centre report that in the summertime approximately twelve buses of visitors per day undertake this recreational experience, dropping to three buses per day in the wintertime. A conservative review was taken based on eight busloads in the summer and 2.5 in the winter with an average of around 30 visitors per bus. This equates to around 57,000 visitors who undertook this walk in the past year.

Provisionally, other overall use is estimated to have increased to around 225,000 recreational visits per year with around 37.8% occurring over summer, between 22% and 23% in spring and autumn and 17% in winter. This is an increase of around 40,000 recreational visits which equates to a

21.6% increase in use over a two year period (ie, more than 10% annual rate of increase). Notably the surveys were undertaken before and after the UCI World Mountain Biking and Trials Championships in Rotorua in 2006, which provided national and international coverage to mountain biking in the district. The event attracted 538 competitors, 1,572 accredited visitors, 246 media and 40,000 spectators. The estimated television audience was 35.2 million while the website attracted in excess of 12 million hits<sup>1</sup>. The exposure to mountain biking in Rotorua before and after the event was significant, reflecting increased participation in events, greater development of mountain biking trails in the forest and resulting in a greater number of mountain bikers in the forest.

### Summary of Recreational Activities in Whakarewarewa Forest 2007

Recreational Activity	Recreational Activities (1)	Rotorua Residents (2)	Visitors	Total Recreational Users	Annual Recreational Activities per person
Mountain Biking	85,000	6,192	4,151	10,343	8.2
Walking	85,000	22,211	4,145	26,356	3.2
Organised "Bus Walks"	57,000	0	57,000	57,000	1.0
Running/jogging	46,000	3,769	3,458	7,228	6.4
Horse riding	3,000	1,077	242	1,319	2.3
Other	6,000	5,115	373	5,488	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>282,000</b>	<b>24,769</b>	<b>69,444</b>	<b>94,213</b>	<b>3.0</b>

Note (1) rounded to nearest 1,000 activities based on field observations.

(2) based on the proportions reported by respondents in the residents survey.

While Rotorua residents comprise around 26.3% of recreational users in the forest, they undertake 68.9% of all recreational activity in the forest. If recreational activity was measured on an hourly basis this figure would likely be much higher as the recreational category 'Organised "Bus Walks"' above represents on average less than one hour per visitor and many of the activities undertaken for residents are much longer given the increased relative accessibility (eg, lower travel times and reduced barriers to access).

An additional survey of event organisers and promoters identified that nine organisers had around 16,700 participants in the past 12 month period in Whakarewarewa Forest, some of whom may not be included in the previous table of forest recreational use.

### Economic Impacts

The 2005 survey showed that around 47.1% of mountain bikers were residents in Rotorua, while 48.0% were domestic visitors and 2.9% international visitors. Notably over half (53.7%) visited Rotorua specifically for the purpose of mountain biking. Based on this ratio and the overall level of increased visitors and forest use, mountain biking visitor expenditure would have increased from \$1.94 million in 2005 to around \$2.56 million in Rotorua over the past year to 2007. On a similar basis total spending on mountain bike activities by Rotorua residents would have increased from \$2.4 million to around \$4.81 million annually.

Overall mountain bike-related spending is estimated to be around \$7.37 million or an average of \$20,192 per day in Rotorua. Note that this includes all travel, accommodation, food and refreshments, mountain bike equipment and related expenditure.

The Tourism Research Council estimates that average expenditure for visitors to Rotorua in the latest period was \$155 per day. If one day and approximately 7.5% of expenditure by international visitors were related to their walk in the forest, this would equate to an annual economic impact of around \$660,000 per annum (note that this would equate to \$11.6 per person per walk). A short bush walk is one of the most common activities undertaken by international visitors to New Zealand and while visitors to Rotorua undertake many activities, their spending attributable to the forest has been assessed conservatively (ie, at only 1/20 of the value of their visit to Rotorua). On

<sup>1</sup> Tourism News August 07, Tourism Industry Awards, New Zealand – Showcasing the best – winners in 2007; Distinction Award Winner, Sports impact Ltd, (page 11).

a similar basis, domestic visitors to Rotorua spend an average of \$72 per person per day. The 12,070 domestic visitors who used the forest undertook an average of three activities per annum providing 36,839 recreational days. Given that the forest is likely a greater reason for visiting Rotorua than for international visitors (eg, 20%) this equates to an annual spend of around \$530,500 related to use of the forest.

Local residents undertake walking, jogging and horse riding in the forest. Local expenditure is generated around horse supplies, walking and running apparel and footwear and vehicle travel. While there are substitute venues, even if a portion of this activity was related to activities in the forest, over the estimated 140,000 recreational activities this would still generate at least \$1.4 million (ie, \$10 nominal value per recreational activity).

On the basis of the figures above, economic impacts related to recreational activity in the Whakarewarewa forest are conservatively estimated at \$10 million per annum.

## Forest Values

The number of people that use the forest and the extent of recreational activities undertaken is a direct reflection of the value that people associate with the forest. Residents, recreation stakeholders and participants in the on-line surveys were asked to specify the values that they associate with Whakarewarewa Forest. All samples rated recreational values most frequently, followed by aesthetic values and existence values. The very high recreational values from the on-line survey sample (95.6% of the sample) are possibly a reflection of the high levels of response to this survey coupled with a high degree of self-selection bias.

### Summary of Values Associated with Whakarewarewa Forest

Value	On-line Survey (n=1,580)	Rotorua Residents Survey (n=300)	Recreation Stakeholder Survey (n=9)
Existence Value (ie, knowing that the forest is there)	61.8%	57.0%	77.8%
Aesthetic value (ie, the natural beauty of the forest)	75.1%	69.7%	77.8%
Recreational Value (ie, use of the forest for recreational activities)	95.6%	72.3%	88.9%

Respondents were asked to rate the three most important qualities associated with the forest. This question was also used in earlier studies undertaken by APR on the forest (1999 and 2004). Notably the variety of tracks, natural environment and proximity and ease of access were consistently in the top three ranked qualities in nearly all of the surveys, indicating the importance of these qualities in the forest.

### Summary of the Three Most Important Qualities associated with Whakarewarewa Forest

Three most important qualities of the forest valued	Field Survey (n=120)	On-line Survey (n=1,580)	Rotorua Residents Survey (n=300)	Recreation Stakeholder Survey (n=9)	1999 Field Survey (n=300) (1)	2004 Field Survey (n=300) (ranking) (1)
Variety of tracks	17.3%(1)	19.6%(1)	12.3%(2)	20.0%(2)	23.0%(1)	36.7% (3)
Natural environment	16.3%(2)	10.1%(3)	18.7% (1)	1.8%(7)	18.0%(2)	50.2% (1)
Proximity ease of access	13.4%(3)	16.1%(2)	11.9%(4)	40.0%(1)	5.0%(8)	45.7%(2)
Track surfaces	9.4%(4)	9.3%(4)	4.2%(10)	0.0 (10)	(ns)	(ns)
Publicly accessible	43.6% (7)	8.9%(5)	6.2%(6)	20.0%(2)	7.8%(5)	20.3%(6)
Size/variety of trees	3.6% (10)	4.4%(7)	12.2%(3)	3.6%(6)	(ns)	(ns)

Note (1) – Ranking system changed but relative rank is still valid

(ns) – Not specified in questionnaire

Respondents in all four surveys were asked: if the variety of tree species was reduced (with no change to the area of the forest) in the Whakarewarewa Forest excluding the Redwood Grove, what would be the change in enjoyment of the forest either (increase, decrease or no change). The responses, outlined in the three tables below demonstrate that:

- There was essentially no reported increase in enjoyment from a reduction in the variety of tree species.
- A majority of respondents in all surveys reported either no change or a reduction in enjoyment if the variety of tree species was reduced.
- If the reduction in tree species was reduced to 50% or less from current levels a majority in all four groups of survey respondents reported a decrease in enjoyment.

#### Increase in Enjoyment of Whakarewarewa Forest

Reduction in Variety of Species	Field Survey (n=120)	On-line Survey (n=1,580)	Rotorua Residents Survey (n=300)	Recreation Stakeholder Survey (n=9)
Reduce to 75% of current levels	0.8%	4.3%	0.7%	0.0%
Reduce to 50% of current levels	0.8%	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Reduce to 25% of current levels	0.8%	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Reduce to 5% of current levels	0.8%	3.9%	0.0%	0.0%

#### Decrease in Enjoyment of Whakarewarewa Forest

Reduction in Variety of Species	Field Survey (n=120)	On-line Survey (n=1,580)	Rotorua Residents Survey (n=300)	Recreation Stakeholder Survey (n=9)
Reduce to 75% of current levels	35.0%	46.6%	42.0%	44.4%
Reduce to 50% of current levels	55.0%	63.7%	63.3%	77.8%
Reduce to 25% of current levels	57.5%	67.2%	71.7%	88.9%
Reduce to 5% of current levels	57.5%	55.0%	72.7%	88.9%

#### No Change in Enjoyment of Whakarewarewa Forest

Reduction in Variety of Species	Field Survey (n=120)	On-line Survey (n=1,580)	Rotorua Residents Survey (n=300)	Recreation Stakeholder Survey (n=9)
Reduce to 75% of current levels	60.8%	41.1%	50.3%	55.6%
Reduce to 50% of current levels	40.0%	22.9%	28.7%	22.2%
Reduce to 25% of current levels	37.5%	18.7%	19.3%	11.1%
Reduce to 5% of current levels	37.5%	29.9%	18.3%	11.1%

Respondents were able to provide verbatim comments on the reasons for their assessment of the qualities of the forest, the values they associate with the forest and their reasons for their views around any change in enjoyment resulting from a change in the variety of species. These comments are listed in full in the appendices to this report. The comments provide useful insights as to the reasons why the forest is so highly valued by locals and visitors alike.

# CONTENTS

<b>1.0</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Project Objectives .....	1
<b>2.0</b>	<b>A BRIEF HISTORY OF WHAKAREWAREWA FOREST.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>INTERVIEWS WITH KEY RECREATION STAKEHOLDERS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1	Key Recreation Stakeholder Survey .....	4
3.1.1	<i>Organisations Perceived Importance of Whakarewarewa Forest</i> .....	4
3.1.2	<i>Organisation of Events in Whakarewarewa Forest</i> .....	4
3.1.3	<i>Reduction in tree species</i> .....	5
3.1.4	<i>Importance of the Whakarewarewa Forest for recreation</i> .....	5
<b>4.0</b>	<b>EVENTS USING THE FOREST.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>FOREST USE MONITORING PROGRAMME.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>FOREST USE FIELD SURVEY .....</b>	<b>9</b>
6.1	Results .....	9
6.1.1	<i>Use of Whakarewarewa Forest</i> .....	9
6.1.2	<i>Visitors to Rotorua</i> .....	12
6.1.3	<i>Qualities of Whakarewarewa Forest</i> .....	13
6.1.4	<i>Demographics</i> .....	14
6.1.5	<i>Final Comments</i> .....	14
<b>7.0</b>	<b>ON-LINE SURVEY RESULTS.....</b>	<b>15</b>
7.1	Results .....	15
7.1.1	<i>Use of Whakarewarewa Forest</i> .....	15
7.1.2	<i>Qualities and Values of Whakarewarewa Forest</i> .....	18
7.1.3	<i>Demographics</i> .....	19
7.1.4	<i>Final Comments</i> .....	20
<b>8.0</b>	<b>ROTORUA RESIDENTS SURVEY.....</b>	<b>21</b>
8.1	Results .....	21
8.1.1	<i>Use of Whakarewarewa Forest</i> .....	21
8.1.2	<i>Qualities and Values of Whakarewarewa Forest</i> .....	24
8.1.3	<i>Demographics</i> .....	26
8.1.4	<i>Final Comments</i> .....	26
	<b>APPENDIX ONE: FIELD SURVEY RESULTS.....</b>	<b>27</b>
	<b>APPENDIX TWO: ON-LINE SURVEY RESULTS.....</b>	<b>43</b>
	<b>APPENDIX THREE: ROTORUA RESIDENTS SURVEY RESULTS .....</b>	<b>125</b>
	<b>APPENDIX FOUR: KEY RECREATION STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESULTS .....</b>	<b>143</b>

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

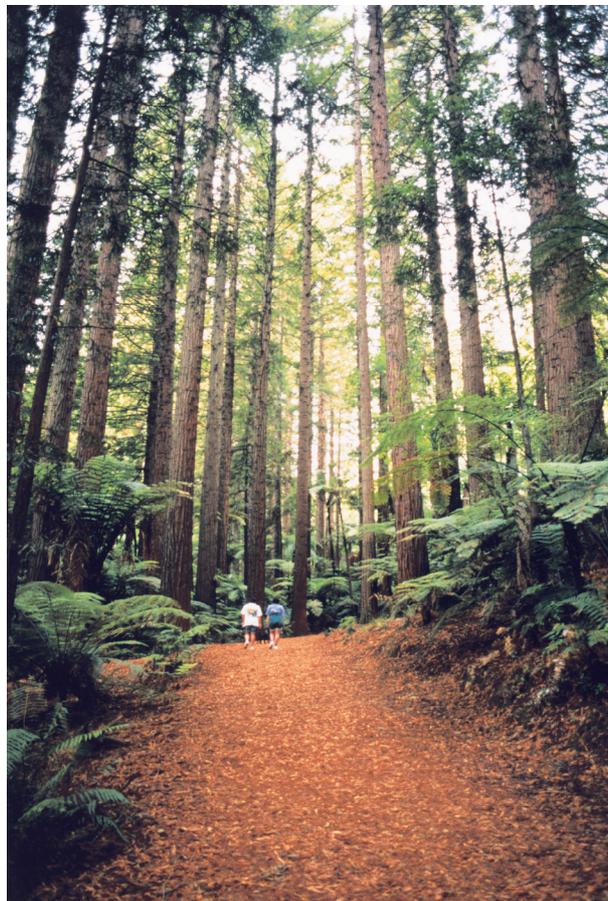
APR Consultants Ltd (APR) was commissioned by the Destination Rotorua Economic Development, a unit of Rotorua District Council, to compile a report on the recreational use of Whakarewarewa Forest and the values that users associate with the forest. This report contains information gained from reviews of information about the history of the forest, user patterns and interviews/surveys with key stakeholders, Rotorua residents and forest users. The high level of interest expressed by forest users also prompted the development of an on-line survey which was completed by more than 1,500 people.

This report contains a series of photographic images of the Whakarewarewa Forest sourced from various departments of the Rotorua District Council and APR Consultants Ltd which provides some visual representations of recreational activity in the forest.

### 1.1 Project Objectives

The objectives of the project were to:

1. Quantify the recreational use of Whakarewarewa Forest and in particular the use related to major forest users such as mountain bikers, walkers, runners, horse riders and other recreational groups.
2. Estimate the economic impacts associated with recreational use of the forest.
3. Provide information on the characteristics of the forest that recreational users value.



## 2.0 A BRIEF HISTORY OF WHAKAREWAREWA FOREST<sup>2</sup>

The Whakarewarewa Forest is unique. Nowhere else in New Zealand is there a major forest, available for recreation just five kilometres from the city centre. Whakarewarewa Forest is classified as a State Park, that is a protected area, but one that need not remain unchanged. State Park's are managed to be used for a number of purposes, some of which are protection of soil, water and wildlife habitats; preservation of areas of scenic, historic or scientific importance, timber production and recreation.

The first blocks of land on which Whakarewarewa Forest now stands were purchased in 1896. Originally a Māori pā, called Tokorangi and belonging to Ngāti Tangaroa-mihi, this was situated on the northernmost hill overlooking Tarawera Road. There are a number of Māori legends relating to Whakarewarewa Forest and the surrounding land, the most well known of which is that of Hatupatu and Kurangaituku, the 'Bird Woman'.

Planting of Whakarewarewa Forest began in 1899. It was one of several forests planted around that time in a bid to forestall a predicted timber shortage, expected due to the rapid deforestation of native forests between 1840 and the 1870s. In 1898 a nursery began on the grounds with the first trees planted 18 months later.

Determining which trees to plant in Rotorua in the early 1900s was a matter of trial and error. Due to difficulty in obtaining reliable seed and the unseasonable frosts, few species were suitable for extensive cultivation in the area, and the species grown were as much the result of chance as due to deliberate design. The California redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) failed in most locations, now only surviving in pockets, such as the Redwood Memorial Grove. Principal species grown in 1910 were European larch (*Larix deciduas*), Corsican pine (*Pinus nigra* var. *laricio*), Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Austrian pine (*Pinus nigra* var. *austriaca*), several species of eucalypts, Radiata pine (*Pinus radiata*) and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), the last two in smaller numbers. Most of the early planting was undertaken by good conduct prisoners, with the first camp being built at Waipa.

Following an inventory of native forests in the early 1920s came the realisation that the forests would not regenerate as quickly as previously thought. This led to a decade of rapid planting of exotic species, mainly Radiata pine.

Utilisation of timber from Whakarewarewa Forest began on a small scale in 1912 when several tree species were thinned and the thinning was used for firewood and mine props. The first logging contract was let in 1928 to cut timber for railway sleepers. Over the next ten years timber production for firewood, sleepers, mining props and fenceposts increased steadily, until 1939 when the first large scale felling of Radiata pine began. All felled timber went to the newly established Waipa Mill, which had been built partly as a demonstration mill to train sawmillers in new techniques. Around the same time most of the original nursery land was transferred to the newly formed Forest Service training centre, and Forest Research Institute (now Scion).

Demand for exotic timber increased in the 1950s due to both an increase in interest from export markets for logs and the opening of the Tasman Pulp and Paper Mill in Kawerau. New areas of planting began, with the Highlands Block (purchased 1964) and Waimangu Block (purchased 1975) incorporated into the Whakarewarewa Forest.

---

<sup>2</sup> Sources: Mountain Biking in Rotorua (APR Consultants, 2006); Rotorua Forests – A History (1980); Whakarewarewa Forest Park (New Zealand Forest Service, 1983).

Whakarewarewa Forest was officially designated as a Forest Park in late 1975; however moves had been made prior to this for people to enjoy the forest. Several sites were opened as picnic areas and walking, BMX and motorbike tracks were developed. The Visitor Information Centre was opened in 1978.

Today Whakarewarewa Forest is a leading recreational facility, comprising around 5,700 hectares of forest, managed by Kaingaroa Timberlands on Crown Forest Licence land. Numerous ferns and shrubs (both native and introduced) are present as well as swamp plants and several species of native orchid. The variety of trees to be seen in Whakarewarewa Forest is far more than would be found in a more recently established forest and includes numerous species of pine, spruce, larch, acacias and eucalyptus as well as examples of walnut and chestnut. The forest is also home to numerous bird and insect species.

The forest is well known as a recreation area with user groups including walkers, runners, mountain bikers, horse riders, dog owners, picnickers and tramping groups with many local and out-of-town visitors enjoying the recreational aspect of Whakarewarewa Forest.



## **3.0 INTERVIEWS WITH KEY RECREATION STAKEHOLDERS**

### **3.1 Key Recreation Stakeholder Survey**

The following results were obtained from a series of phone interviews undertaken with key stakeholders who use the Whakarewarewa forest. It is recognised that there are many groups who have a significant interest in the forest from owners, managers, users and those agencies that have an ongoing involvement in the forest through statutory and other responsibilities. In the case of this survey it was confined only to those involved in recreational activities in the forest through events or those involved in managing and promoting events in the forest. The reason relates back to the objectives of the project which were to understand and quantify recreational activity in the forest. A total of nine completed interviews were undertaken and used as the basis for this section.

#### **3.1.1 Organisations Perceived Importance of Whakarewarewa Forest**

All respondent organisations indicated that Whakarewarewa Forest was important to the activities of their organisations. Comments included “critical”, “essential” and “my business wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for the forest...”.

When asked if the importance of the forest has changed over the past five years, two thirds (66.7%) stated that it had, while the remaining 33.3% indicated that it had not. Respondents that stated that it had changed indicated that it was due to growing popularity of mountain biking, the increased number of events held at the forest and increased awareness of the forest.

Respondents were asked to identify the three most important qualities about Whakarewarewa Forest. The results from this question were transferred into a score. A rank of one was given a score of three, a rank of two, a score of two and a rank of three, a score of one. All the rankings added together totalled a score of 55. The three top qualities identified were proximity/ease of access (score of 22 out of a total of 55), the variety of tracks (a score of 11) and being publicly accessible (also a score of 11).

#### **3.1.2 Organisation of Events in Whakarewarewa Forest**

All respondents had organised events in the forest or assisted in events. Of these organisations, over half (55.6%) had organised events associated with walking, mountain biking or multisport. Slightly under a half (44.4%) had organised events associated with running and a third (33.3%) had organised events associated with duathlons.

When asked about preference of the seasons of events, over half (55.6%) indicated all year round, a third (33.3%) indicated in winter and under a quarter (22.2%) indicated a preference for Autumn. No respondents identified spring or summer as good seasons for staging events.

The organisations sampled had been organising events using Whakarewarewa Forest for an average of 14.3 years. The shortest period of time was 5 years, with the longest being 27 years.

Over the previous 12 months, eight of the nine organisations that participated in the survey identified that they had been involved in organising events. Half of the eight organisations (44.4% of the total sample) had organised one to five events, two (22.2% of the total sample) had organised between six and nine events and a further two (22.2% of the total sample) had organised ten or more events.

The number of people attending these events within the previous 12 months was estimated at an average of 2,085 people per event. The minimum participation identified was 8 people, and the maximum was 7,500 people.

### 3.1.3 Reduction in tree species

Organisations were asked to rate their organisations value of the forest if the number of tree species in the forest was reduced to 75% of current levels, 50% of current levels, 25% of current levels or 5% of current levels. No organisations stated that their organisations value of the forest would increase with a reduction in species. With a reduction leaving up to 75% of current species, 55.6% identified no effect on the perceived value of the forest, this dropped to 22.2% with a reduction up to 50% of current species and 11.1% with a reduction of 25% of current species or less. At a reduction level leaving 75% of current species, 44.4% indicated that it would decrease the organisations value of the forest, this increased to 77.8% at a 50% reduction level and 88.9% with a reduction to 25% or less of current tree species.

Respondents were asked to make comments regarding a reduction in tree species. Eight of the nine respondents took the opportunity to make a comment. Most of these comments indicated a desire not to reduce species. Comments included *“the forest would lose its uniqueness”*, *“variety is a strong plus for the forest”* and *“like it to stay the same”*. Other comments included *“doesn’t affect us as long as we have trails and facilities”* and *“only a change in the size of the trees would affect us”*.

### 3.1.4 Importance of the Whakarewarewa Forest for recreation

Respondents were asked to rate how important Whakarewarewa Forest was for recreation on a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 is not important and 10 is of extreme importance. With regard to Rotorua residents, Over half (55.6%) of organisations gave the forest a rating of “nine”, a further third (33.3%) gave it the highest rating of “10” and the remaining respondents (11.1% of the sample) gave it a rating of “eight”. Note that all responding organisations gave the forest a rating of eight or above.

When asking the same question, but focusing on visitors to Rotorua, a third (33.3%) gave the forest a rating of “eight”, a further third (33.3%) gave a rating of “nine”. Under a quarter of respondents gave a rating of “seven” and one respondent (11.1% of respondents) gave a rating of “10”. All responding organisations gave the forest a rating of seven or above.

The responses to these questions indicate that stakeholder organisations consider the Whakarewarewa Forest very important for recreation.



## 4.0 EVENTS USING THE FOREST

While the Whakarewarewa Forest has become more recognised as a recreational destination particularly for mountain biking, running and walking, it has increasingly been recognised as a great venue for many outdoor recreation events. Details of the events (events include NDuro mountain bike and run series, Cateye Moonride, NZ International Two Day Walk and multiple events organised by schools, Lake City Athletic Club, Rotorua Association of Triathletes and Rotorua Mountain Biking Club) in 2006/7 and those projected for 2007/8 (sourced from Rotorua District Council) are as follows:

<b>Events Overview</b>	<b>2006-2007</b>	<b>07-08 projected</b>
Bike Events only	17	20
Walk/Run events only (could be multisport but using forest for run)	16	10
Multisport where run/bike took place forest	13	12
<b>Total Number of events</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>July</b>		
July	9	4
<b>August</b>		
August	1	4
<b>September</b>		
September	5	3
<b>October</b>		
October	2	3
<b>November</b>		
November	1	3
<b>December</b>		
December	3	2
<b>January</b>		
January	3	4
<b>February</b>		
February	3	4
<b>March</b>		
March	4	6
<b>April</b>		
April	6	3
<b>May</b>		
May	2	2
<b>June</b>		
June	7	4
<b>Total Number of Events</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Events in Whakarewarewa only</b>		
Events in Whakarewarewa only	24	24
<b>Events in Tokorangi only</b>		
Events in Tokorangi only	9	2
<b>Events in both Tokorangi and Whakarewarewa</b>		
Events in both Tokorangi and Whakarewarewa	13	16
<b>Total number of events</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>42</b>
Total Income received from events (TL & RDC) *	\$28,712.50	\$ 30,937.50
Total amount sponsored by TL & RDC *	\$ 8,950.00	\$ 11,762.50
<b>Total value of events</b>	<b>\$37,662.50</b>	<b>\$ 42,700.00</b>
Events not incurring a fee or sponsorship *		7
Number of events getting sponsorship *		23
Number of events paying full fees *		12
		<b>42</b>
<b>Non-professionally run events including clubs/schools etc</b>		
Non-professionally run events including clubs/schools etc	29	21
<b>Professionally run events</b>		
Professionally run events	17	21
	<b>46</b>	<b>42</b>
Open events - may attract out of town participants	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
Closed events - school/club etc, selected participants only	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>
Closed events - invite out of town participants - other clubs/schools	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>46</b>	<b>42</b>

## 5.0 FOREST USE MONITORING PROGRAMME

There were about 185,000 day user activities in the forest in 2005<sup>3</sup>. Of these around 27% were mountain bike activities (or around 51,000). Provisional data from field surveys over weekdays and weekends in July and August of 2007 revealed a significant increase in recreational activity in the forest. Survey counts were made on Tarawera Road, the intersection of Tarawera and Long Mile roads, Visitor Centre, Redwood Grove and Waipa car park. Also sporadic counts were undertaken of vehicles using the Waipa end of Eight Mile Gate Road due to periods of congestion at the Waipa car park; some mountain bikers were choosing to travel further into the forest and park closer to “outback mountain bike” trails. This information was compared to counts over similar periods in earlier surveys undertaken in the forest of recreational users.

As seasonality and conditions are major influences around recreational activity, it is difficult to assess precise levels of activity. Also there are many other access points into the forest and as users become more familiar with the forest and their use increases, their preferences for access points and activities become more discerning leading to greater variability in access and user activity.

Data from 1,505 on-line surveys revealed that these alone accounted for around 75,000 user activities in the forest over the past year (2006/2007). These surveys were completed by people who use the forest and were keen to provide details of their use and values associated with the forest. The on-line survey revealed that mountain biking has grown significantly and while people could specify multiple recreational activities undertaken in the forest, over the past year 80.6% specified mountain biking, 53.9% walking and 40.5% running/jogging. While it is highly likely those with a great propensity for recreation in the forest completed the on-line survey, the extremely high numbers of mountain bikers are reflective of the major increase in the use and shift towards mountain biking in the forest, particularly since the UCI World Mountain Bike and Trials Championships were held in Rotorua in 2006.

Over time it is also noticeable that there have been more “site specific” recreational activities being undertaken in the forest. That is activities tend to occur where facilities are located. Examples are mountain biking tends to originate from specific locations (eg, Waipa car park and Redwood Memorial Grove) as does horse riding (adjacent to Redwood Memorial Grove). In summary the activities are located where there is convergence of management programmes, facility availability, convenience and recreational preferences. Other examples include the following:

- the dog walk area adjacent to Long Mile Road;
- the “short forest walk” of international visitors from the Redwood Grove to the Visitor Centre;
- a focus on walking by family groups in the Tokorangi Triangle;
- walking and running activities emanating from the Visitor Centre and Redwood Grove; and
- residents living locally accessing the forest through convenient access points for recreation.

The major increases in recreational use of the forest since the previous survey were exemplified by:

- the Waipa car park being full to capacity and on a weekend afternoon more than 100 cars were counted in the car park;
- people per hour at the Waipa car park running at double previous counts over similar periods in previous years (ie, 20 per hour, increasing to 40 per hour);
- high number of buses with international visitors at the Redwood Grove and Visitor Centre with often between 20 and 30 visitors per hour, particularly in the period between 9.00 am and 11.00 am;

---

<sup>3</sup> Mountain Biking in Rotorua, 2006. APR Consultants Ltd

- the significant number of events in the forest and participation in those events. As an example, around 9,375 people participated in events over a year period including Cateye Moonride, N-Duro mountain biking and run series, secondary schools mountain biking, New Zealand International Two Day Walk, Red Stag Forest Relay, RATS duathlon series, Wild Moa multisport, Watties Baked Beans Half Marathon, MTB Kids Jam, WHHS multisport tournament and Odyssey events.

Notably activity in the forest seems to have shifted to a greater proportion of activity in the weekend and holiday periods and the days close to these (eg, Friday afternoon), reflecting the greater recognition of the forest by users from other regions and an increased role of the forest in attracting domestic visitors to Rotorua.

Provisionally, overall use is estimated to have increased to around 225,000 recreational visits per year (note excludes bus walking groups of predominately international visitors) with around 37.8% occurring over summer between 22% and 23% in spring and autumn and 17% in winter. This is an increase of around 40,000 recreational visits which equates to a 21.6% increase in use over a two year period (ie over 10% annually). Notably the surveys were undertaken before and after the UCI World Mountain Biking and Trials Championships in Rotorua in 2006 which provided national and international coverage to mountain biking in the district. The event attracted 538 competitors, 1,572 accredited visitors, 246 media and around 40,000 spectators. The estimated television audience was 35.2 million while the web site attracted in excess of 12 million hits<sup>4</sup>. The exposure to mountain biking in Rotorua before and after the event was significant and reflected increased participation in events, greater development of mountain biking trails in the forest and resulted in a greater number of mountain bikers in the forest.



<sup>4</sup> Tourism News August 07, Tourism Industry Awards, New Zealand – Showcasing the best – winners in 2007; Distinction Award Winner, Sports impact Ltd, (page 11)

## 6.0 FOREST USE FIELD SURVEY

A face-to-face field survey of 120 Whakarewarewa Forest users was undertaken during July and August 2007. The questionnaire for the field survey was designed by staff from APR Consultants and Rotorua District Council (Economic Development Unit). An experienced field interviewer was briefed and trained to a high standard regarding the survey form and the survey's objectives.

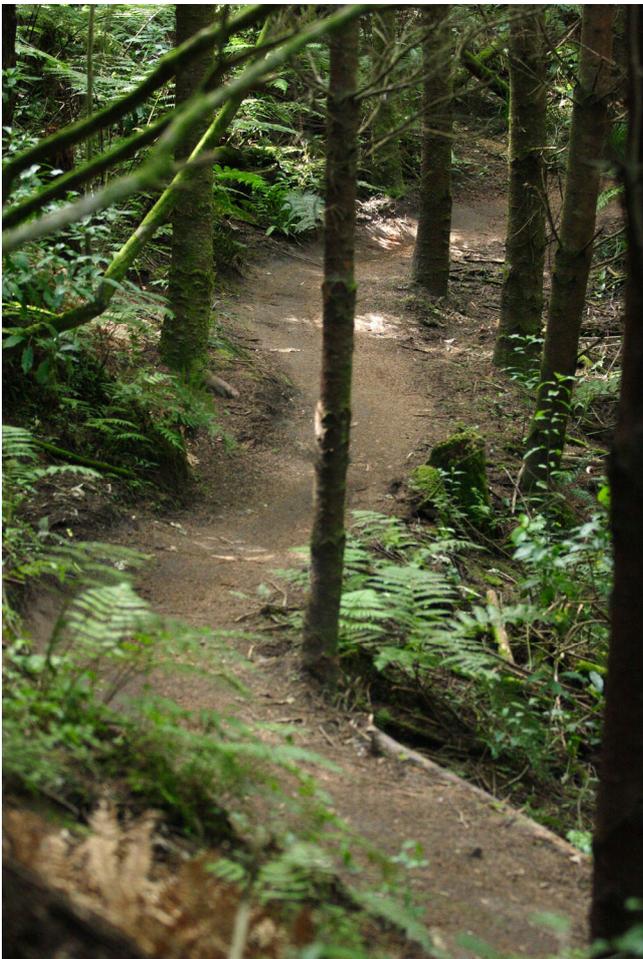
Each interview lasted 10-15 minutes on average. Qualifiers were in place to ensure a minimum respondent age of 15 years and to ensure respondents had not already completed either a telephone survey or an on-line survey. The survey was administered at varying times throughout the day, on both weekdays and weekends. In addition, the field interviewer was stationed at various locations throughout the forest including the Information Centre Car Park and the Waipa Car Park.

### 6.1 Results

#### 6.1.1 Use of Whakarewarewa Forest

Respondents were asked if this visit was their first visit to Whakarewarewa Forest. For the majority (90.8%) this was not their first visit, however, for 11 respondents (9.2%) it was. (It should be noted that all percentages in this section have been rounded to one decimal place).

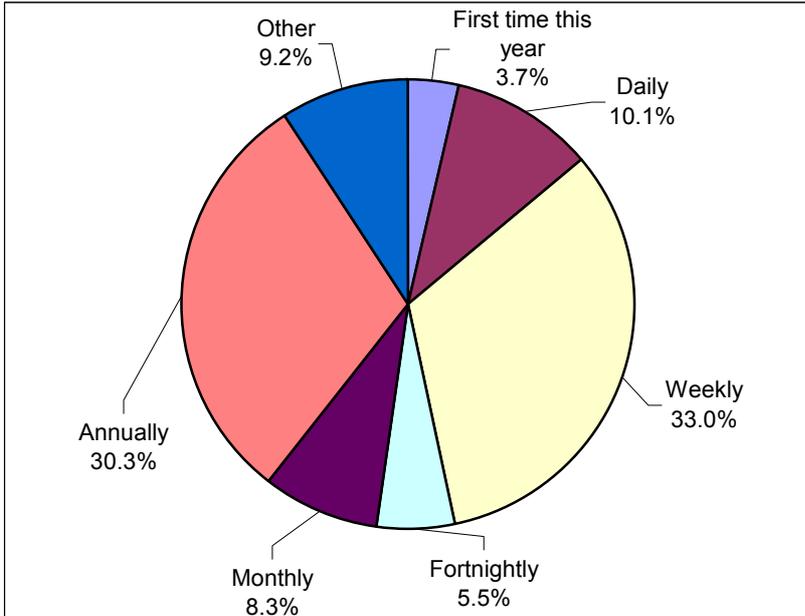
***The majority of this section relates to the responses of the 109 respondents who indicated this was not their first visit to Whakarewarewa Forest.***



When asked how many years they had been visiting Whakarewarewa Forest, respondents indicated between six months and 55 years, giving an average of 10.4 years. Around one-third (35.7%) had been visiting for less than five years, while 22.0% had been visiting for between five and ten years. Nearly one-quarter (23.9%) had been visiting for between ten and 20 years, while 16.6% had been visiting for 20 years or more.

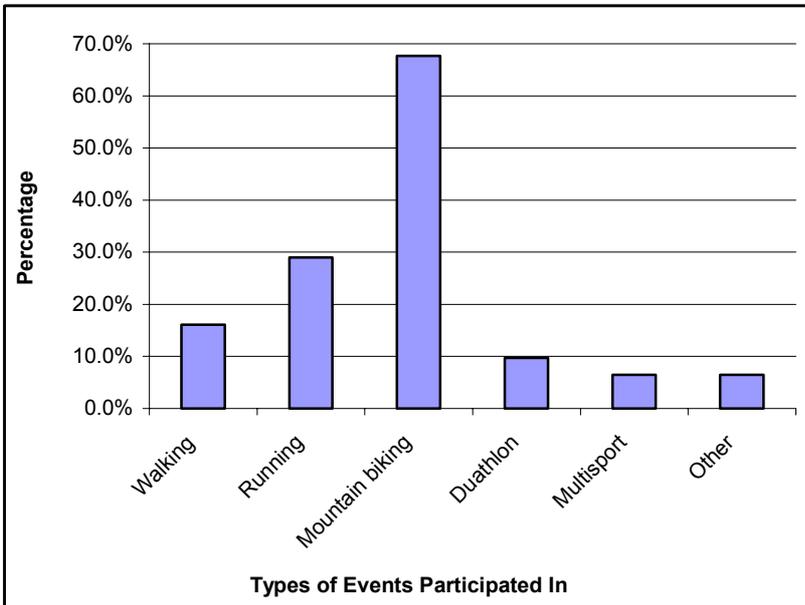
When asked how often they had visited the forest in the past 12 months, four respondents indicated it was their first visit of the year. A further 43.1% of the 109 respondents indicated they visited 'daily' or 'weekly', while 13.8% visited 'fortnightly' or 'monthly'. Nearly one-third (30.3%) stated they visited the forest annually, with the majority of those indicating they visited five times a year or less.

Figure 1: Frequency of visits to Whakarewarewa Forest in the past 12 months



Over the past 12 months around one-quarter (28.4%) had participated in an organised event in Whakarewarewa Forest, while 71.6% had not. Types of events indicated mountain biking events (participated in by 67.7% of respondents who indicated they had participated in an organised event), running events (29.0%), walking events (16.1%), a duathlon (3.7%) and multisport events (6.5%). A further two respondents indicated they participated in Dogs Day Out.

Figure 2: Types of events participated in

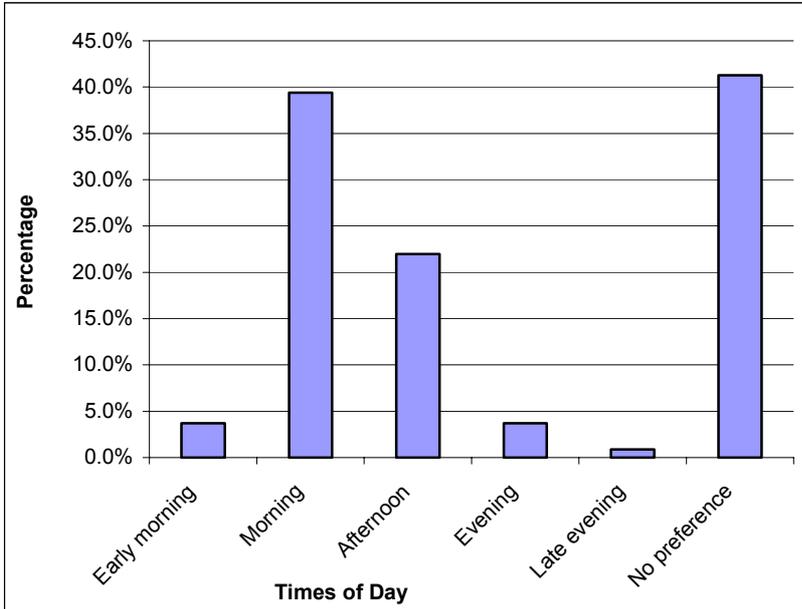


Three-quarters of respondents indicated they prefer to visit Whakarewarewa Forest all year round. Other preferences included summer (22.9%), spring (3.7%), autumn (2.8%) and winter (1.8%).

More than half (56.9%) of respondents normally visit Whakarewarewa Forest on both weekends and weekdays, while around one-quarter (26.6%) normally visit on weekends only and 16.5% normally visit on weekdays only.

Two-fifths (41.3%) of respondents indicated they had no preference as to the times of day they visited Whakarewarewa Forest. A similar number (39.4%) preferred to visit in the morning (8.00 am to 12.00 noon), followed by 22.0% who preferred the afternoon (12.00 noon to 5.00 pm). A small number of respondents preferred early morning, evening and late evening.

Figure 3: Preferred time of day to visit Whakarewarewa Forest

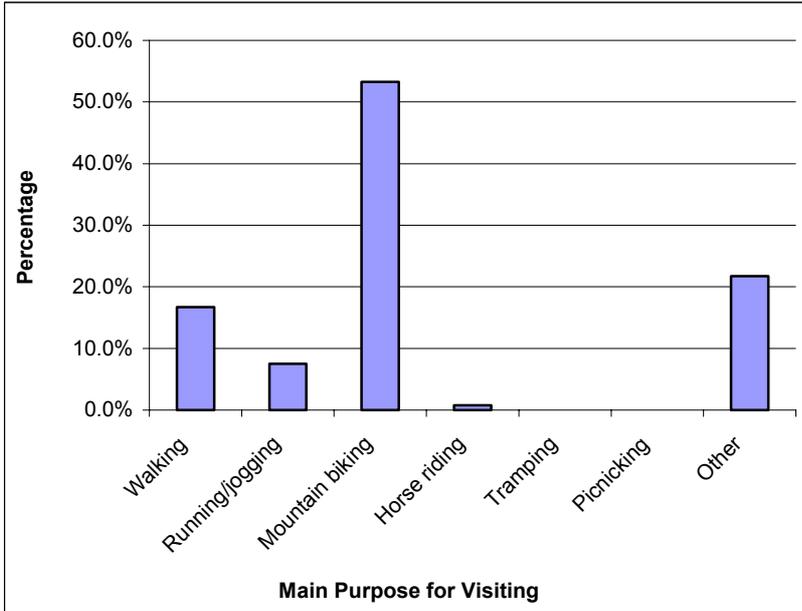


When asked what activities they enjoyed at Whakarewarewa Forest, around three-quarters of respondents indicated mountain biking (73.4%), followed by walking (45.0%), running/jogging (30.3%), tramping (6.4%), picnicking (6.4%) and horse riding (0.9%). Other responses (selected by 22.9% of respondents) included walking with babies, exercising dogs, orienteering, socialising and sight seeing.

All 120 respondents were asked what their main purpose for visiting the forest (on this particular visit) was. More than half (53.3%) visited Whakarewarewa Forest for mountain biking, while 16.7% were visiting for walking and 7.5% were at the forest for running/jogging. One respondent was visiting for the purpose of horse riding. Around two-fifths (22.5%) indicated a different reason for visiting. These included exercising dogs, showing visitors around, visiting the information centre, to see the forest, orienteering and for fresh air and exercise.



Figure 4: Main purpose for visiting Whakarewarewa Forest



More than one-third of respondents (37.5%) were visiting Whakarewarewa Forest on their own on this visit and around one-quarter (26.7%) were visiting with one other person. A similar number (29.2%) were visiting the forest with between two and five other people, while 6.7% of respondents had come to the forest with six or more people.

For those 75 respondents who were visiting the forest with one or more people, 38.7% were visiting with friends, 20.0% with their partner or spouse, 17.3% with a family group and 16.0% with family and friends. One respondent was with an organised tour group, one with business associates, one with a rehabilitation group and three respondents were with school groups.

### 6.1.2 Visitors to Rotorua

Rotorua residents made up half of all respondents. The remaining 60 respondents were visiting from other parts of New Zealand and internationally, with New Zealand visitors coming from Waikato (30.0% of total visitors), Auckland (28.3%), Bay of Plenty (20.0%), Wellington (5.0%), Taranaki (3.3%) and Gisborne/East Coast, Hawkes Bay, Manawatu/Wanganui and Southland (1.6% each). International visitors came from Australia (3.3% of total visitors), Canada (1.6%) and the United Kingdom (1.6%).

Of the 60 visitors to Rotorua, 36 (or 60.0%) indicated that use of the forest was the main purpose of their visit to Rotorua. Other reasons given included holiday/leisure (8.3%), visiting family/friends (5.0%) and for a conference (3.3%).

The majority (60.0%) of visitors to Rotorua were visiting for the day only. A further one-quarter were visiting for between one and three days, while 8.3% were visiting for between four and six days and 5.1% were spending seven days or longer in Rotorua.

When asked how important Whakarewarewa Forest is (as a percentage) as a reason for visiting Rotorua, responses ranged from 0% (not at all important) to 100% (the main reason for visiting). The average percentage given by the 60 visitors was 78.0%.

### 6.1.3 Qualities of Whakarewarewa Forest

Respondents were asked to indicate the three most important qualities they liked about Whakarewarewa Forest. Each answer was allocated a score and the total score for each quality determined its final ranking. Overall, 'variety of tracks' ranked first, followed by 'natural environment' and 'proximity/ease of access'. 'Track surfaces', 'cool/fresh air' and 'clean/no pollution' rounded out the top six.

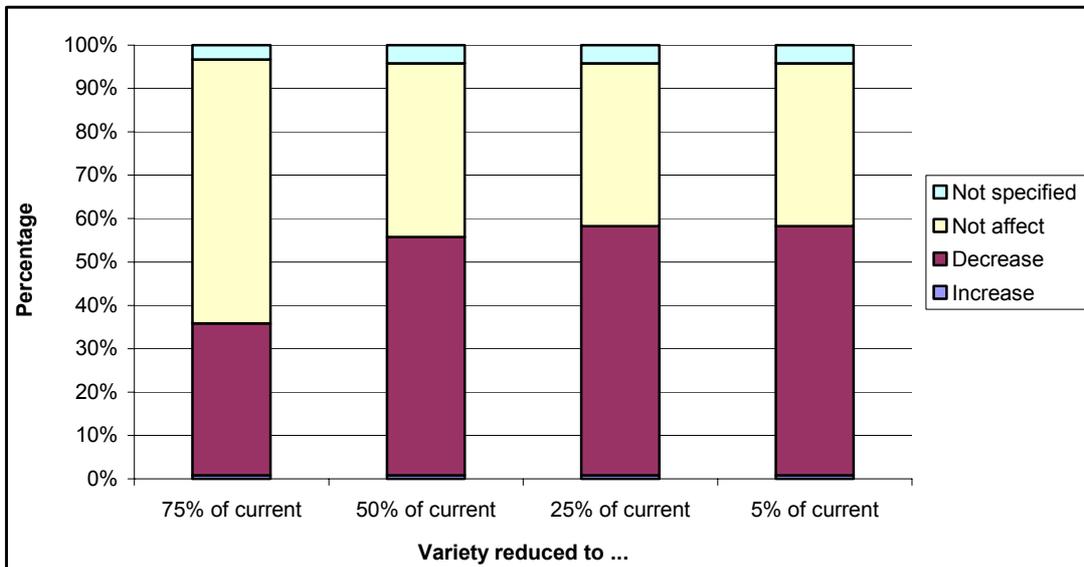
Respondents were asked about a possible reduction in the variety of tree species in Whakarewarewa Forest, and whether this would increase, decrease, or not affect their enjoyment of the forest. Respondents were made aware that there would be no reduction in the size of the forest and the Redwood Grove would not be included.

When asked about a reduction in variety to 75% of current levels, more than half of respondents (60.8%) indicated this would not affect their enjoyment of the forest, while one-third (35.0%) said it would decrease their enjoyment. One respondent indicated this would increase their enjoyment.

For a reduction in variety to 50% of current levels, more than half (55.0%) felt this would decrease their forest enjoyment, while around two-fifths (40.0%) felt this would not affect their enjoyment. One respondent indicated this would increase their enjoyment.

When reductions to 25% and 5% of current levels were suggested, the responses were the same. More than half (57.5%) indicated their enjoyment of the forest would decrease, while 37.5% felt they would not be affected and one respondent indicated this would increase their enjoyment of the forest.

Figure 5: Enjoyment of forest if variety of trees reduced



Most respondents commented that they preferred the forest to remain as it currently is, while others were not concerned about possible changes as long as the mountain bike tracks or character of the forest were not affected.

#### 6.1.4 Demographics

Demographic characteristics of respondents were profiled. These revealed that:

- A total of 14.1% of respondents were aged 29 years or less, while 64.2% were aged 30 to 49 years and 21.7% were aged 50 years and over.
- The number of male respondents (68.3%) was higher than female respondents.
- More than three-quarters (80.8%) of respondents identified as New Zealand European/Pakeha, 6.7% identified as New Zealand Māori and 1.7% as Asian. Other ethnic groups were identified by 17 respondents and included American, Canadian, Australian, British and Kiwi.
- When asked for their gross annual household income 6.6% indicated \$30,000 or less and 12.5% indicated \$30,001 to \$50,000, while 61.7% indicated an income of \$50,001 or more.
- Around one-quarter (24.1%) of respondents were not in paid employment (ie, retired, homemaker, beneficiary, student), while 74.1% were in paid employment. The three most frequently mentioned occupational groupings were professionals (23.3% of total respondents), technical/trades workers (18.3%) and managers (13.3%).

#### 6.1.5 Final Comments

Respondents were given the opportunity to make general comments at the end of the survey. The majority of respondents who chose to answer this question made positive comments about Whakarewarewa Forest, including “fantastic, love it”, “an asset to the city” and “so many people using it, an incredible resource”.



## 7.0 ON-LINE SURVEY RESULTS

An on-line survey was available for completion during July/August 2007 in order to meet the demand of forest users who wanted to be involved in the survey process. While this was not originally planned as part of the assessment of recreational use and values associated with the forest, it was developed to provide an opportunity for those that use the forest that may not have been involved in either the field survey or random survey of residents to outline their use and views on the forest. A link was sent out to approximately 250 contacts, with permission to forward the survey link to other contacts as required. A total of 1,580 people participated in the on-line survey during the two weeks it was available.

### 7.1 Results

#### 7.1.1 Use of Whakarewarewa Forest

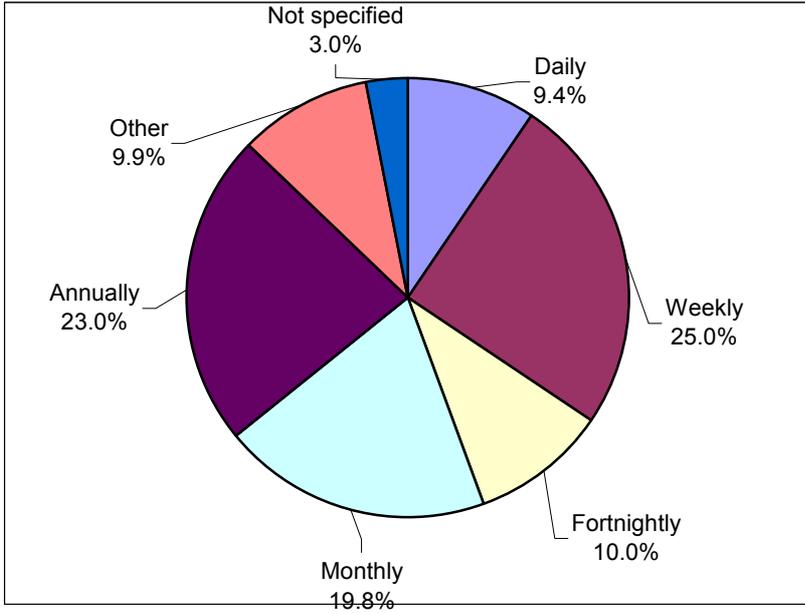
When asked if they had ever visited Whakarewarewa Forest, the majority of respondents (98.7%) indicated that they had. Twenty respondents (1.3%) indicated they had never visited Whakarewarewa Forest.

Of the 1,560 respondents who had visited Whakarewarewa Forest, 96.5% had visited in the past 12 months, while 2.9% had not. For those respondents who had not visited in the past 12 months, nearly half had visited in the last two years. Activities undertaken by these respondents on their last visit included mountain biking (undertaken by 51.1% of respondents who had not visited in the past 12 months), walking (33.3%), horse riding (13.3%) and running/jogging and picnicking (each with 11.1%).

***The remainder of this section relates to the responses of the 1,505 respondents who indicated they had visited Whakarewarewa Forest in the past 12 months.***

When asked how often they had visited Whakarewarewa Forest in the past 12 months around one-third (34.4%) indicated 'daily' or 'weekly', while a slightly smaller number (29.8%) indicated 'fortnightly' or 'monthly'. Almost one-quarter stated they visited the forest annually, while around ten percent made other comments, with responses ranging from every few months to every second day.

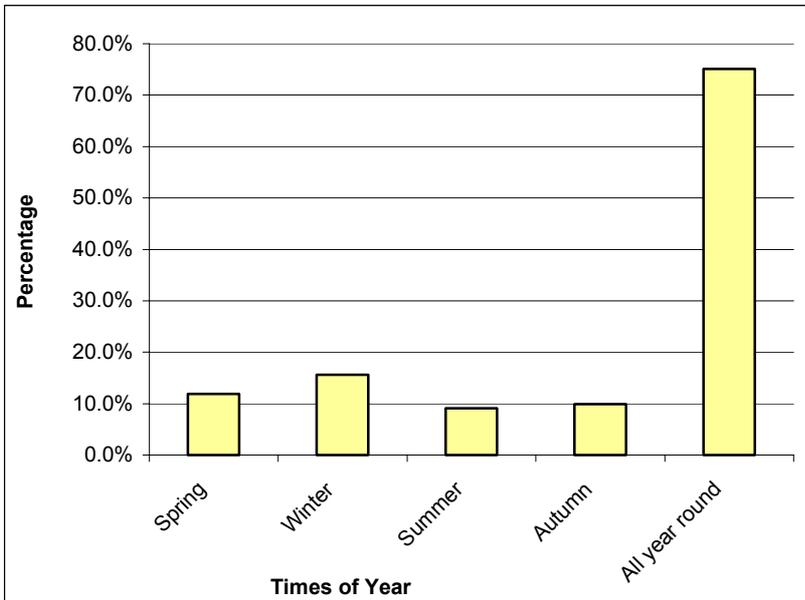
Figure 6: Frequency of visits to Whakarewarewa Forest in the past 12 months



When asked how many years they had been visiting Whakarewarewa Forest, around one-quarter (27.7%) had been visiting for less than five years, 21.5% for between five and ten years, 25.8% between ten and 20 years and 16.9% for 20 years or more.

Around three-quarters (75.1%) of respondents indicated they prefer to visit Whakarewarewa Forest all year round. Other preferences included summer (15.6%), spring (11.9%), autumn (9.9%) and winter (9.1%).

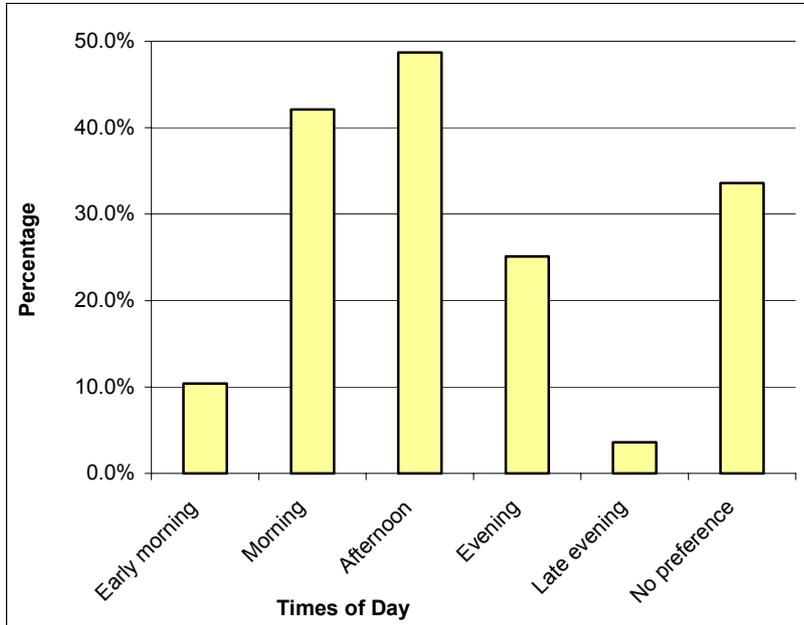
Figure 7: Time of year normally visit Whakarewarewa Forest



Around two-thirds (or 63.7%) of respondents normally visit Whakarewarewa Forest on both weekends and weekdays, while around one-quarter (28.1%) normally visit on weekends only and 3.1% visit on weekdays only.

Afternoon (12.00 noon to 5.00 pm) was indicated by nearly half (48.7%) of the 1,505 respondents as the time of day they normally visit the forest. This was followed closely by morning (8.00 am to 12.00 noon) stated by 42.1% of respondents. Other times of day mentioned (in order of frequency) were evening (5.00 to 8.00 pm), early morning (6.00 to 8.00 am) and late evening (after 8.00 pm). A further one-third (33.6%) indicated they had no particular preference of visiting times.

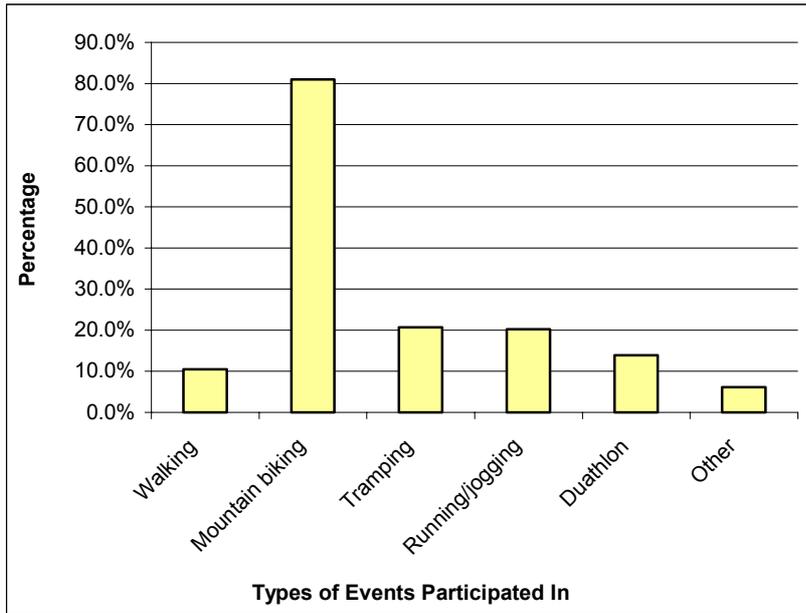
Figure 8: Preferred time of day to visit Whakarewarewa Forest



When asked what activities they enjoyed at Whakarewarewa Forest, the majority of respondents indicated mountain biking (80.6%), followed by walking (53.9%), running/jogging (40.5%), picnicking (10.7%), tramping (8.2%) and horse riding (6.6%). Other responses (selected by 6.0% of respondents) included participating in and watching events, looking at flora and fauna, exercising dogs, orienteering, family outings/socialising and trail/track building and maintenance.

Over the past 12 months around three-fifths (61.2%) of the 1,505 respondents had participated in an organised event in Whakarewarewa Forest, while around one-third (34.6%) had not. The types of events for those who participated included mountain biking events (participated in by 81.0% of respondents who indicated they had participated in an organised event), tramping events (22.0%), running events (20.2%), duathlons (13.9%) and walking events (10.5%). Other events indicated included church events, arts events, orienteering, horse riding events, triathlons and Dogs Day Out.

Figure 9: Types of events participated in



### 7.1.2 Qualities and Values of Whakarewarewa Forest

The 1,560 respondents who indicated they had visited Whakarewarewa Forest before (see Q1) were asked to indicate the three most important qualities they liked about Whakarewarewa Forest. Each answer was allocated a score and the total score for each quality determined its final ranking. Overall, 'variety of tracks' ranked first, followed by 'proximity/ease of access' and 'natural environment'. 'Track surfaces', 'publicly accessible' and 'signage' rounded out the top six.

All 1,580 respondents were asked what values they associate with Whakarewarewa Forest. Nearly all respondents (95.6% of all respondents) associated recreational value with Whakarewarewa Forest (ie, the use of the forest for recreational activities). Three-quarters (75.1%) associated aesthetic values (ie, the natural beauty of the forest) and around three-fifths (61.8%) associated existence values with the forest (ie, knowing the forest is there).

Respondents were asked about a possible reduction in the variety of tree species in Whakarewarewa Forest, and whether this would increase, decrease or not affect their enjoyment of the forest.

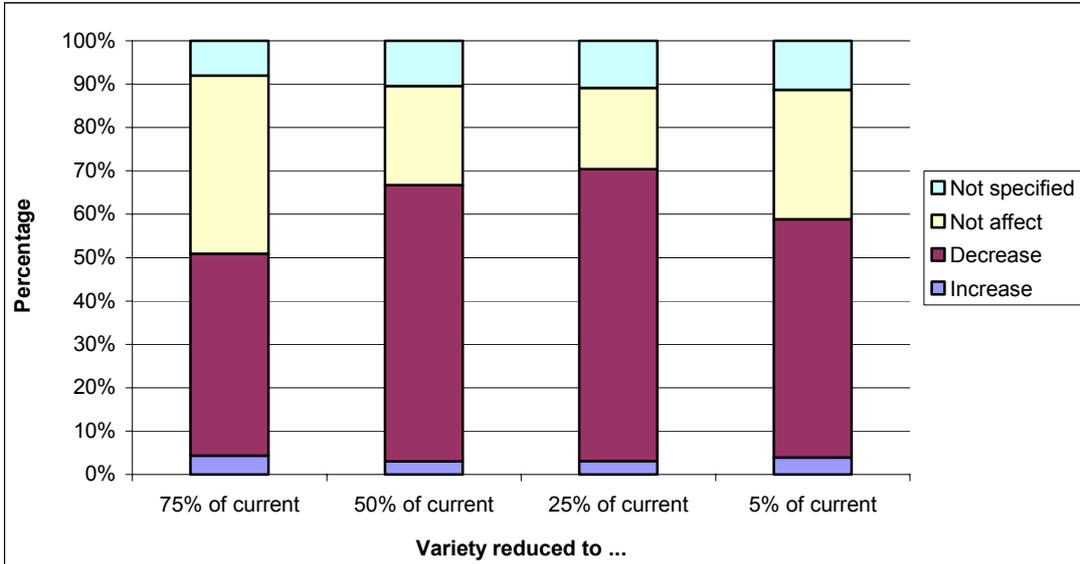
When asked about a reduction in variety to 75% of current levels, nearly half (46.6%) of respondents indicated this would decrease their enjoyment of the forest, while 41.1% said it would not affect their enjoyment. Less than five percent (4.3%) indicated this would increase their enjoyment.

For a reduction in variety to 50% of current levels, nearly two-thirds (63.7%) felt this would decrease their forest enjoyment, while less than one-quarter (22.9%) felt this would not affect their enjoyment. Three percent of respondents indicated this would increase their enjoyment of the forest.

Similar responses were given when a reduction to 25% of current levels was suggested. Around two-thirds (67.2%) indicated a decrease in forest enjoyment, while 18.7% felt they would not be affected. Just over three percent of respondents indicated this would increase their enjoyment of the forest.

For a reduction in variety to 5% of current levels, more than half (55.0%) of respondents felt this would decrease their enjoyment of the forest, while 29.9% indicated they would not be affected. Nearly four percent (3.9%) of respondents indicated this would increase their enjoyment of the forest.

Figure 10: Enjoyment of forest if variety of trees reduced



For a list of additional comments made in regard to this question, refer to Appendix Two, Q14.

### 7.1.3 Demographics

Demographic characteristics of respondents were profiled. These revealed that:

- A total of 20.8% of respondents were aged 29 years or less, while 60.9% were aged 30 to 49 years and 18.1% were aged 50 years and over.
- The number of male respondents (61.9%) was higher than female respondents.
- The majority (87.5%) of respondents identified as New Zealand European/Pakeha, 5.6% identified as New Zealand Māori and 0.8% as Asian. A further 8.2% of respondents indicated another ethnic group.
- More than half of respondents (54.4%) live in Rotorua District. Around two-fifths (42.7%) came from North Island locations outside of Rotorua District, ranging from Northland in the north to Wellington in the south and including Hawkes Bay and Taranaki locations. Small numbers of respondents came from the South Island (1.6%) and overseas (1.1%).
- When asked for their gross annual household income 4.9% indicated \$30,000 or less and 15.1% indicated \$30,001 to \$50,000, while 73.7% indicated an income of \$50,001 or more.
- A total of 11.7% of respondents were not in paid employment (ie, retired, homemaker, student), while 85.9% were in paid employment. The three most frequently mentioned occupational groupings were professionals (42.2% of total respondents), managers (18.5%) and technical/trades workers (11.1%).

#### 7.1.4 Final Comments

Respondents were given the opportunity to make general comments at the end of the survey. A total of 672 respondents chose to make comments. The majority of respondents who chose to answer this question made positive comments about Whakarewarewa Forest. Respondents also commented on the survey itself, while others suggested improvements. Some respondents commented on the commercial nature of the forest and a number of forest users other than mountain bikers (particularly horse riders) commented on the need for courtesy in the forest.



## 8.0 ROTORUA RESIDENTS SURVEY

A telephone survey of 300 Rotorua District residents was undertaken during August 2007 in order to understand the use and relationship of residents to the forest.

The surveys was based on a random sample of residential telephone numbers generated using the Rotorua Telecom White Pages.

The questionnaire for the telephone survey was designed by staff from APR Consultants and Rotorua District Council (Economic Development Unit). Experienced telephone interviewers were briefed and trained to a high standard regarding the survey form and the survey's objectives.

Each interview lasted 10-15 minutes on average and restrictions were placed on the times for calling respondents. Qualifiers were in place to ensure a minimum respondent age of 15 years. The survey was administered at varying times throughout the day, and interviewers made three calling attempts to each contact in order to mitigate non-response bias.

### 8.1 Results

#### 8.1.1 Use of Whakarewarewa Forest

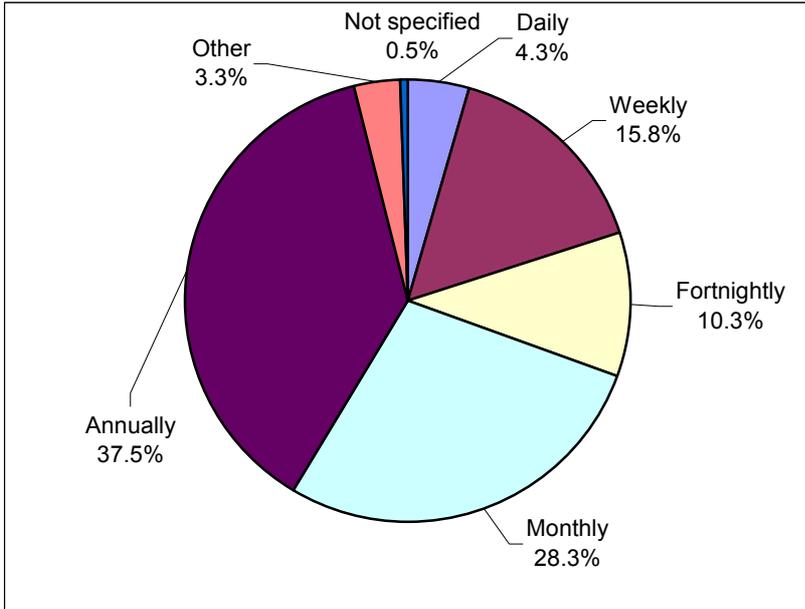
When asked if they had ever visited Whakarewarewa Forest, the majority of respondents (90.7%) indicated that they had. Twenty eight respondents (9.3%) indicated they had never visited Whakarewarewa Forest. (It should be noted that all percentages in this section have been rounded to one decimal place.)

Of the 272 respondents who had visited Whakarewarewa Forest, 184 (or 67.6%) had visited in the past 12 months, while 32.4% had not. For those respondents who had not visited in the past 12 months, it had been 6.2 years (on average) since they had last visited the forest. Activities undertaken by these respondents on their last visit included running/jogging, mountain biking, horse riding, tramping, picnicking, working and weddings, with more than three-quarters also indicating walking.

***The remainder of this section relates to the responses of the 184 respondents who indicated they had visited Whakarewarewa Forest in the past 12 months.***

When asked how often they had visited Whakarewarewa Forest in the past 12 months around twenty percent indicated 'daily' or 'weekly', while more than one-third (38.6%) indicated 'fortnightly' or 'monthly'. A further one-third stated they visited the forest annually, with the majority of these indicating they visited five times a year or less.

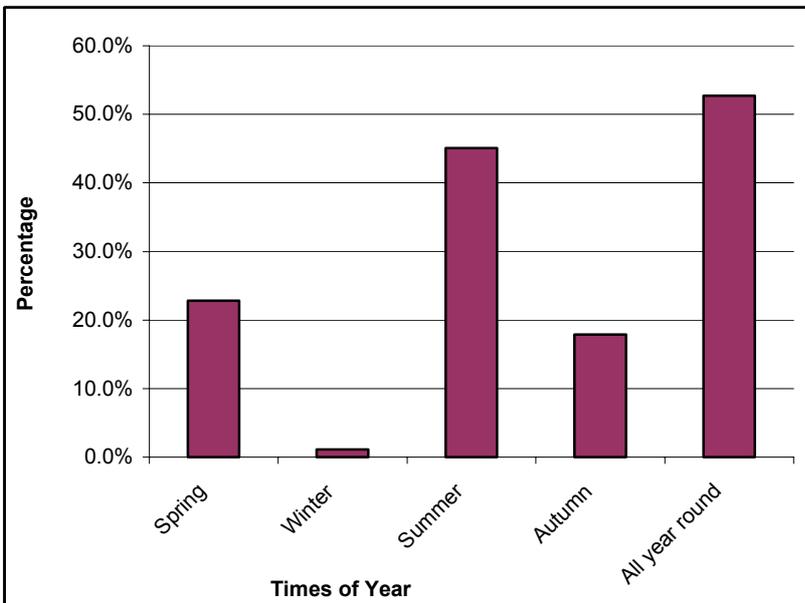
Figure 11: Frequency of visits to Whakarewarewa Forest in the past 12 months



When asked how many years they had been visiting Whakarewarewa Forest, respondents indicated between one year and sixty years, giving an average of 15.5 years. Around one-third (35.9%) had been visiting for less than ten years, 27.7% between ten and 20 years, 17.9% for between 30 and 40 years and 18.4% for 40 years or more.

More than half indicated they prefer to visit Whakarewarewa Forest all year round. Other preferences included summer (45.1% of respondents), spring (22.8%), autumn (17.9%) and winter (1.1%).

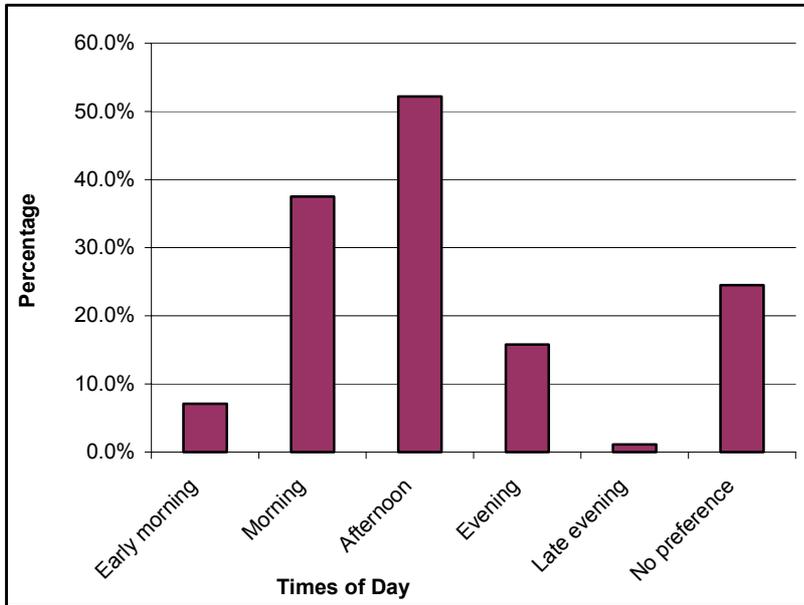
Figure 12: Time of year normally visit Whakarewarewa Forest



Around two-thirds (or 64.1%) normally visit Whakarewarewa Forest on both weekends and weekdays, while one-quarter (25.5%) normally visit on weekends only and 10.3% visit on weekdays only.

Afternoon (12.00 noon to 5.00 pm) was indicated by more than half (52.2%) of the 182 respondents as the time of day they normally visit the forest. This was followed in frequency by morning (8.00 am to 12.00 noon), evening (5.00 to 8.00 pm), early morning (6.00 to 8.00 am) and late evening (after 8.00 pm). A further one-quarter (24.5%) indicated they had no particular preference of visiting times.

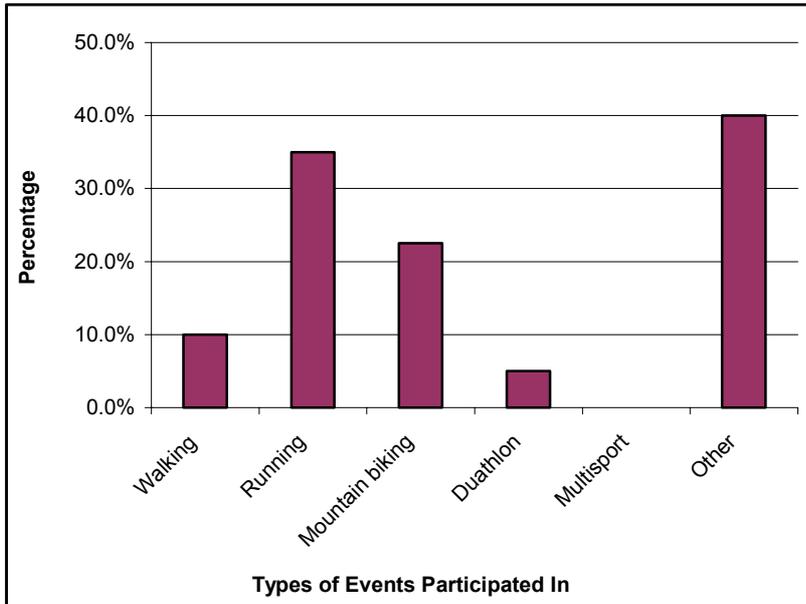
Figure 13: Preferred time of day to visit Whakarewarewa Forest



When asked what activities they enjoyed at Whakarewarewa Forest, the majority of respondents indicated walking (89.7%), followed by mountain biking (25.0%), running/jogging (15.2%), horse riding (4.3%), tramping (3.8%) and picnicking (1.1%). Other responses (selected by 20.7% of respondents) included looking at trees and/or wildlife (including glow worms), exercising dogs, cycling, being there for work and watching the mountain biking.

Over the past 12 months less than one-quarter (21.7%) of the 184 respondents had participated in an organised event in Whakarewarewa Forest, while around three-quarters (77.2%) had not. The types of events for those who participated included running events (participated in by 34.1% of respondents who indicated they had participated in an organised event), mountain biking events (22.0%), walking events (9.8%) and duathlons (4.9%). Other events indicated included Conservation Week events, library events, plays and concerts, church services, school trips and Dogs Day Out.

Figure 14: Types of events participated in

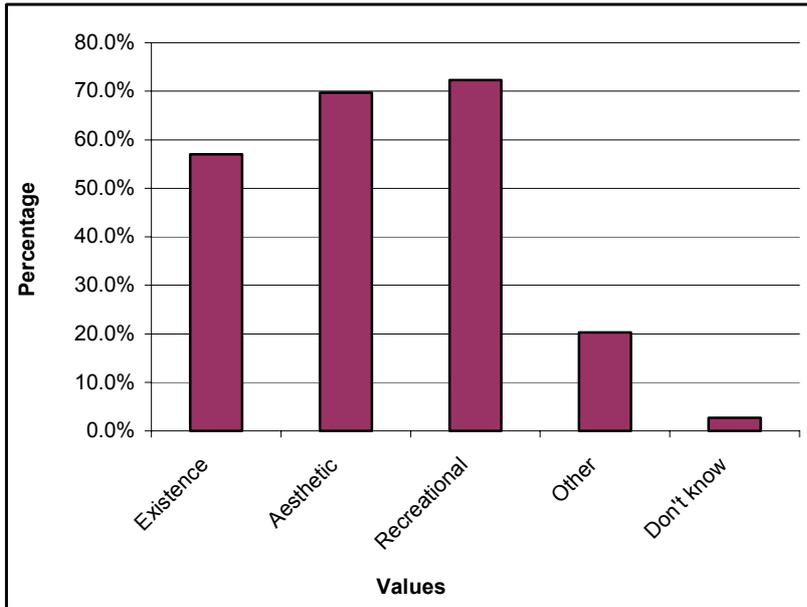


### 8.1.2 Qualities and Values of Whakarewarewa Forest

The 272 respondents who indicated they had visited Whakarewarewa Forest before (see Q1) were asked to indicate the three most important qualities they liked about Whakarewarewa Forest. Each answer was allocated a score and the total score for each quality determined its final ranking. Overall, 'natural environment' ranked first, followed by 'variety of tracks' and 'size/variety of trees'. 'Proximity/ease of access', 'away from it all/privacy' and 'publicly accessible' rounded out the top six. Other qualities indicated included the peace/quiet, forest maintenance, mountain bike tracks, size of the forest, Redwood grove, free access and the bird life.

All 300 respondents were asked what values they associate with Whakarewarewa Forest. Nearly three-quarters (72.3% of all respondents) associated recreational value with Whakarewarewa Forest (ie, the use of the forest for recreational activities). More than two-thirds (69.7%) associated aesthetic values (ie, the natural beauty of the forest) and more than half (57.0%) associated existence values with the forest (ie, knowing the forest is there). A further 2.7% indicated that they didn't know.

Figure 15: Values associated with Whakarewarewa Forest



Respondents were asked about a possible reduction in the variety of tree species in Whakarewarewa Forest, and whether this would increase, decrease or not affect their enjoyment of the forest. Respondents were made aware that there would be no reduction in the size of the forest and the Redwood Grove would not be included.

When asked about a reduction in variety to 75% of current levels, half of respondents (50.3%) indicated this would not affect their enjoyment of the forest, while 42.0% said it would decrease their enjoyment. Two respondents indicated this would increase their enjoyment.

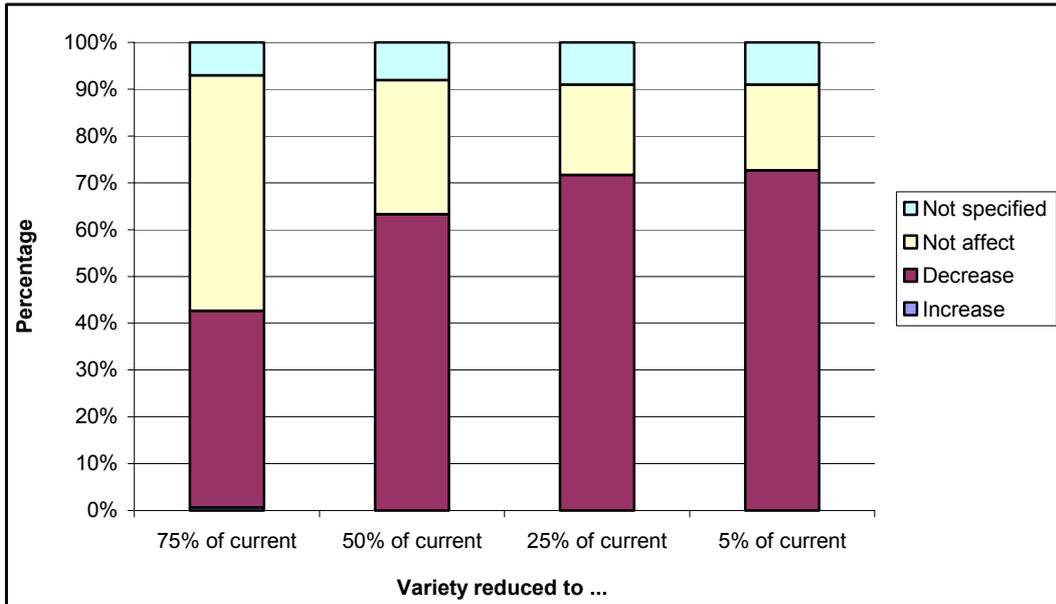
For a reduction in variety to 50% of current levels, nearly two-thirds (63.3%) felt this would decrease their forest enjoyment, while around one-quarter (28.7%) felt this would not affect their enjoyment. No respondents indicated this would increase their enjoyment of the forest.

When a reduction to 25% of current levels was suggested, there was an increase in the number of people whose enjoyment of the forest would decrease, up to 71.7%. No respondents indicated this would increase their enjoyment of the forest.

For a reduction in variety to 5% of current levels, nearly three-quarters (72.7%) of respondents felt this would decrease their enjoyment of the forest, while 18.3% indicated they would not be affected. No respondents indicated this would increase their enjoyment of the forest.

The majority of respondents wanted to see Whakarewarewa Forest remain as is, with several commenting that the forest was a Rotorua icon. Some respondents wanted to ensure any felling of trees would not leave the forest with 'bare patches', while others commented that they enjoyed the forest as it was a contrast to the numerous pine forests in the area.

Figure 16: Enjoyment of forest if variety of trees reduced



### 8.1.3 Demographics

Demographic characteristics of respondents were profiled. These revealed that:

- A total of 9.7% of respondents were aged 29 years or less, while 43.0% were aged 30 to 49 years and 47.0% were aged 50 years and over.
- The number of female respondents (52.0%) was slightly higher than male respondents.
- More than three-quarters (79.7%) of respondents identified as New Zealand European/Pakeha, 16.3% identified as New Zealand Māori, 2.0% as Pacifica and 2.0% as Asian.
- More than half of respondents lived in Rotorua suburbs (59.3%), followed by rural locations (15.3%), Rotorua central city and lakeside settlements (each with 9.3%) and Ngongotaha (6.0%).
- When asked for their gross annual household income 24.4% indicated \$30,000 or less and 40.7% indicated \$30,001 to \$70,000, while 19.6% indicated an income of \$70,001 or more.
- One-third (34.0%) of respondents were not in paid employment (ie, retired, homemaker, beneficiary, student), while 56.3% were in paid employment. The three most frequently mentioned occupational groupings were professionals (15.3% of total respondents), technical/trades workers (8.7%) and clerical/administrative workers (7.3%).

### 8.1.4 Final Comments

Respondents were given the opportunity to make general comments at the end of the survey. The majority of respondents who chose to answer this question commented that Whakarewarewa Forest was an asset for the area and should be retained.

## APPENDIX ONE: FIELD SURVEY RESULTS

1. Is this your first visit to Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
Yes	11	9.2% <i>[go to Q10]</i>
No	109	90.8%
Not specified	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

2. For how many years have you been visiting Whakarewarewa Forest?

Sample	107
Min no of years	0.5
Max no of years	55
Total years combined	1107.5
<b>Average</b>	<b>10.4</b>

	Number	Percent
<1 year	3	2.8%
1 to <2 years	13	11.9%
2 to <3 years	13	11.9%
3 to <4 years	8	7.3%
4 to <5 years	2	1.8%
5 to <6 years	13	11.9%
6 to <7 years	4	3.7%
7 to <8 years	4	3.7%
8 to <9 years	2	1.8%
9 to <10 years	1	0.9%
10 years to <20 years	26	23.9%
20 years to <30 years	7	6.4%
30 years to <40 years	5	4.6%
40 years to <50 years	3	2.8%
50 years +	3	2.8%
Not specified	2	1.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

3. Over the past 12 months, how many times have you visited Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
First time this year	4	3.7%
Daily	11	10.1%
Weekly	36	33.0%
Fortnightly	6	5.5%
Monthly	9	8.3%
Annually	33	30.3%
Other	10	9.2%
Not specified	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Annually specified:*

- 1 time (x4).
- 2 times (x7).
- 3 times (x6).
- 4 times (x5).
- 5 times.
- 6 times (x7).
- 8 times.
- 10 times.

*Other specified:*

- 26 times.
- 30 times.
- 100 times.
- 250 times.
- 26 in summer.
- 3 (for the last 5 months).
- 4 times a week.
- 4 times last month.
- 4 visits so far in the last 6 months.
- Daily in summer and weekly in winter.

4. Over the past 12 months, how many organised events (ie, public events – excludes normal club activities) have you participated in, in Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
None	78	71.6%
One to five	31	28.4%
Six to nine	0	0.0%
Ten or more	0	0.0%
Not specified	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*[go to Q6]*

5. Please indicate the types of events you participated in

	Number	Percent
Walking	5	16.1%
Running	9	29.0%
Mountain biking	21	67.7%
Duathlon	3	9.7%
Multisport	2	6.5%
Other	2	6.5%
<b>Sample</b>	<b>31</b>	

*Other specified:*

- Dog Day Out (x2).

6. What times of the year do you prefer to visit Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
Spring	4	3.7%
Winter	2	1.8%
Summer	25	22.9%
Autumn	3	2.8%
All year round	82	75.2%
<b>Sample</b>	<b>109</b>	

## 7. What time of the week do you normally visit Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
Weekdays only	18	16.5%
Weekends only	29	26.6%
Both weekends and weekdays	62	56.9%
Not specified	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 8. What times of the day do you normally visit Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
Early morning (6am-8am)	4	3.7%
Morning (8am-12noon)	43	39.4%
Afternoon (12noon-5pm)	24	22.0%
Evening (5pm-8pm)	4	3.7%
Late evening (after 8pm)	1	0.9%
No particular preference	45	41.3%
<b>Sample</b>	<b>109</b>	

## 9. What activities do you enjoy at Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
Walking	49	45.0%
Running/jogging	33	30.3%
Mountain biking	80	73.4%
Horse riding	1	0.9%
Tramping	7	6.4%
Picnicking	7	6.4%
Other	25	22.9%
<b>Sample</b>	<b>109</b>	

*Other specified:*

- Baby walking or dog walking.
- Dog running (x2).
- Dog walking (x13).
- Motor biking.
- None, I'm the bus driver.
- Orienteering.
- Sight seeing, looking around at the changes, exercise.
- Socialise.
- Spiritual experience.
- Walking dogs, sight seeing and meeting other dog owners.
- Walking with buggy.
- Walking with my dog (I'm blind).

10. What is your main purpose for visiting the forest today?

	Number	Percent
Walking	20	16.7%
Running/jogging	9	7.5%
Mountain biking	64	53.3%
Horse riding	1	0.8%
Tramping	0	0.0%
Picnicking	0	0.0%
Other	26	21.7%
Not specified	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Other specified:*

- Dog walking me (as I'm blind).
- Dog walking, to keep fit.
- Dog walking (x7).
- Drive the tourists here.
- Entertaining a pom.
- Fresh air and exercise.
- Get a permit from the office (information centre).
- Have a look.
- Killing time.
- Mountain biking and to exercise the dog.
- Orienteering.
- Running with dog.
- See the forest, hiking.
- Sort things out (in office at information centre).
- To have lunch.
- Walk and picnic.
- Walk dogs.
- Walking as part of a rehabilitation programme.
- Walking, taking photos and to see the trees.
- Work.

11. How many people did you come here with today?

	Number	Percent
None	45	37.5% <i>[go to Q13]</i>
One	32	26.7%
Two	18	15.0%
Three	10	8.3%
Four	5	4.2%
Five	2	1.7%
6 to 10	4	3.3%
11 to 20	2	1.7%
21 to 30	2	1.7%
31 to 40	0	0.0%
41 to 50	0	0.0%
50+	0	0.0%
Not specified	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 12. And are they?

	Number	Percent
Partner/spouse	15	20.0%
Family and friends	12	16.0%
Family group	13	17.3%
Organised tour group	1	1.3%
Friend(s)	29	38.7%
Business associates	1	1.3%
Other	4	5.3%
Not specified	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Other specified:*

- Class of 7th formers.
- Rehabilitation group.
- School group (x2).

## 13. Where do you normally live?

	Number	Percent	
<i>Rotorua - local resident</i>			
Rotorua city (central city)	10	8.3%	[Answer and go to Q17]
Ngongotaha	7	5.8%	[Answer and go to Q17]
Rotorua suburbs	34	28.3%	[Answer and go to Q17]
Lakeside settlement	4	3.3%	[Answer and go to Q17]
Rural	5	4.2%	[Answer and go to Q17]
<i>Domestic visitor</i>			
Northland	0	0.0%	
Auckland	17	14.2%	
Waikato	18	15.0%	
Bay of Plenty	12	10.0%	
Taranaki	2	1.7%	
Gisborne/East Coast	1	0.8%	
Hawkes Bay	1	0.8%	
Manawatu/Wanganui	1	0.8%	
Wellington	3	2.5%	
Wairarapa	0	0.0%	
Nelson/Tasman	0	0.0%	
Marlborough	0	0.0%	
Canterbury	0	0.0%	
West Coast	0	0.0%	
Otago	0	0.0%	
Southland	1	0.8%	
<i>International visitor</i>			
Australia	2	1.7%	
USA	0	0.0%	
Canada	1	0.8%	
United Kingdom	1	0.8%	
Central Europe	0	0.0%	
Germany	0	0.0%	
Switzerland	0	0.0%	
The Netherlands	0	0.0%	
Austria	0	0.0%	
Italy	0	0.0%	
Spain	0	0.0%	
France	0	0.0%	
Belgium	0	0.0%	
Scandinavia	0	0.0%	
Japan	0	0.0%	
Singapore	0	0.0%	
Malaysia	0	0.0%	
Indonesia	0	0.0%	
Thailand	0	0.0%	
South Korea	0	0.0%	
Hong Kong/China	0	0.0%	
Taiwan	0	0.0%	
Other Asia	0	0.0%	
Other country	0	0.0%	
Not specified	0	0.0%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

*Rotorua suburbs specified:*

- Central.
- Fordlands.
- Glenholme (x2).
- Hillcrest.
- Kawaha Point.
- Lynmore (x8).
- Owhata (x2).
- Pleasant Heights.
- Pomare.
- Pukehangi (x2).
- Springfield (x4).
- Te Ngae junction.
- Tihi-o-tonga (x2).
- Utihina Road.
- Wai-o-tapu.
- Westbrook (x2).
- Western Heights.
- Whakarewarewa.

*Rotorua lakeside settlement:*

- Holden's Bay.
- Kawaha Point (x2).
- Okawa Bay.

*Rotorua rural specified:*

- Atiamuri.
- Hamurana.
- Hawthornden Drive.
- HoroHoro.
- Waikite.

## 14. What is the main purpose of your visit to Rotorua on this occasion?

	Number	Percent
Use of the forest	36	60.0%
Conference	2	3.3%
Sports/hobbies/recreation	1	1.7%
Visiting family/friends	3	5.0%
Special event	1	1.7%
Holiday/leisure	5	8.3%
Business	1	1.7%
Other	10	16.7%
Not specified	1	1.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Other specified:*

- Accompany girlfriend to conference.
- Lake and forest.
- Picnic.
- See the country and the thermal springs.
- Stay in holiday home.
- To see girlfriend.
- Visiting family/friends and shopping.
- Visiting father in hospital after his serious mountain biking accident.

15. How many days will you spend in Rotorua for this visit?

	Number	Percent
One	3	5.0%
Two	8	13.3%
Three	4	6.7%
Four	2	3.3%
Five	2	3.3%
Six	1	1.7%
Seven	1	1.7%
Eight	1	1.7%
Nine	0	0.0%
Ten	0	0.0%
Over Ten	1	1.7%
Day visit only	36	60.0%
Not specified	1	1.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

16. How important is Whakarewarewa Forest as a reason for visiting Rotorua?

Sample	57
Min percentage	0
Max percentage	100
<b>Average percentage</b>	<b>78.0</b>

17. What are the three most important qualities that you like about Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Sample	Score	Percent	Rank
<b>Variety of tracks</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>17.3%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Natural environment</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>16.3%</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Proximity/ease of access</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>13.4%</b>	<b>3</b>
Track surfaces	32	65	9.4%	4
Cool/fresh air	20	38	5.5%	5
Clean/no pollution	19	33	4.8%	6
Publicly accessible	17	32	4.6%	7
Away from it all/privacy	12	28	4.1%	8
Caters for pets	16	28	4.1%	8
Atmosphere	16	25	3.6%	10
Size/variety of trees	15	25	3.6%	10
Safety	11	24	3.5%	12
Caters for families	13	24	3.5%	12
Range of activities	13	19	2.8%	14
Views/scenery	7	17	2.5%	15
Meeting other people	4	4	0.6%	16
Signage	4	4	0.6%	16
Facilities	0	0	0.0%	18
<b>Sample</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

Note: For this question, respondents could only identify three qualities, ranked one to three. Qualities ranked first were given a score of three, those ranked second a score of two and those ranked third a score of one. The scores were added together to determine the total score and the ranking.

Other specified:

- Bike riding (3).
- Can't comment (only just arrived).
- Exercise (3).
- Good place to exercise (2).
- Jumps (mountain biking) (1).
- No bikes (usually) (1), no loose dogs (2), no rubbish (3).

- Outdoors, facilities and getting away from it all (3).
- Peace and quiet (3).
- Quality of tracks which are well maintained (2).
- Quiet, soft ground (2).
- Tracks for mountain biking - best around for miles (1).
- Variety of mountain biking tracks (1).
- We enjoy walks (2).
- Well maintained tracks.

18. If the variety of tree species in the Whakarewarewa Forest (excluding the Redwood Grove) was reduced from present levels to one of the following, would this a) increase, b) decrease or c) not affect your enjoyment of the forest?

Reduced to 75% of current levels	Number	Percent
Increase	1	0.8%
Decrease	42	35.0%
Not affected	73	60.8%
Not specified	4	3.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Reduced to 50% of current levels	Number	Percent
Increase	1	0.8%
Decrease	66	55.0%
Not affected	48	40.0%
Not specified	5	4.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Reduced to 25% of current levels	Number	Percent
Increase	1	0.8%
Decrease	69	57.5%
Not affected	45	37.5%
Not specified	5	4.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Reduced to 5% of current levels	Number	Percent
Increase	1	0.8%
Decrease	69	57.5%
Not affected	45	37.5%
Not specified	5	4.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

19. Do you have any specific comments you would like to make about this?

*Comments specified:*

- A trust should be formed so that the forest can be bought and users should pay. Commercial forestry should still continue but not be the prime objective. People would be willing to pay - get a seasonal pass.
- Anti-removal of native trees. Anti-changing use of the forest. It would affect tourism.
- Any change would decrease my enjoyment. I don't want to do activities whilst chopping is going on.
- As an ex forester I enjoy the variety. Under the Commercial Act.
- As long as it doesn't affect the tracks. Accept a temporary change. Good they (owners) let us use the forest.
- As long as it has the same character. Take what you get. Come for the Redwoods, nice walks, green, peaceful.
- As long as it is all sustainable.

- As long as natives are left it is fine. No need to put in exotics (species) in New Zealand.
- As long as the natives aren't touched it is not a problem. Make use of the timber of the introduced species.
- As long as the Redwoods were still there,
- As long as the tracks are still there and maintained.
- As long as there are still trees I wouldn't notice the change.
- Assuming it would affect the density and not the size? Would be able to see through it.
- Can't comment.
- Can't really comment. Continued access and replant. Must be realistic about felling. May need to make the car park safe.
- Current mix is good. Interesting with different plants.
- Current variety is spectacular. In Auckland they (the trees) are all the same. Environment and surroundings are very good.
- Deforestation annoys me.
- Deforestation doesn't bother me. The Mountain Bike tracks to ride on have been established on cleared, felled forest. It doesn't matter because the tracks will pop up around.
- Depends on what they are going to do. Aware it's a working forest. Amazing that people can use it the way they do.
- Depends on whether the mountain bike tracks are affected. I like pine forest.
- Don't care.
- Don't go out of Redwoods (therefore doesn't affect me).
- Don't know enough to comment.
- Don't want it 100% radiata.
- Enjoyment would decrease whilst they were gone but increase if others were planted.
- Fantastic resource. Should be managed for the people.
- Felling trees would change the overall appearance. Good (scenery) as it is now.
- Good that a place close to Rotorua has a variety of species. Allows access for easy walking. Will become dog's favourite place.
- Good thing about the forest is the tree species. Wouldn't want them changed.
- Good to have variety.
- Great that there is variety. Don't come here for the trees. Would notice a change more if I was walking.
- I am here for the tracks. If the trees (variety) weren't there it wouldn't matter too much. If they were all gone that would make a difference.
- I can only comment when I've seen the end result.
- I don't mind. Nice it's free to use.
- I don't think it would affect the mountain biking. Scenery would/might be less scenic. Beautiful place as it is.
- I have put up with felling in the past. It wouldn't affect mountain biking if they kept some tracks open.
- I like the redwoods and the pine.
- I like the variety of tree species, particularly when walking as you see much more.
- I like the variety of trees for the riding.
- I prefer to see kauri and other large natives.
- I would be upset if they tarnished the mountain biking tracks. Don't know the full background so it is difficult to comment ie, tracks further out wouldn't affect so many people.
- I wouldn't like to see any trees cut down, particularly because of the commercial area in Te Ngae - forest soaking up the CO2 emissions. The forest is important because we live in a basin. The forest is the only green belt area close to the city.
- I wouldn't want them to touch anything. Don't interfere.
- If it gets smaller with more people using the forest then it would have an affect.
- If it was reduced for commercial purposes I wouldn't be happy. I wouldn't like to see a reduction. It (the reduction) may have an affect on the shelter in the forest.
- If the Redwoods remain it (reduction in tree species) wouldn't affect my enjoyment. It would not be as nice for a while but it will regrow. Wouldn't affect us for walking. Mountain bikers would have to accept it.

- If they were planted for the purpose of harvesting they would have to be harvested. It's how they would go about it that would be a concern. Do it in stages. Replant before harvesting the next batch. Make it educational. Provide viewing platforms - invite schools - turn something negative into something positive. I've seen it done in Napier. Educational boards are used.
- I'm a forester. Need to pay for upkeep (of forest).
- I'm against any deforestation. The area between Whaka Forest and the Blue Lake should be a national park.
- I'm sure they know what they're doing.
- In a perfect scenario I wouldn't want it to change. Do notice different trees when riding. Wouldn't want tracks to change. Species help to create the atmosphere. Lucky to have something like this (the forest).
- It (deforestation) would ruin what we have. Safer in Waipa as there is nowhere for people to hide. You would have to replant with smaller trees so in the short-term this would decrease the enjoyment (of the forest). Different if it is (deforestation) for safety reasons.
- It would make the place more boring (if number of tree species was reduced).
- Keep it as it is now.
- Keep it as it is. The forest was established artificially. Foresters want a return but it's not worth it. Silly to consider it. Absolutely unique. Don't bugger around (with forest). The forest brings Jaffas down. The recreational use of the forest far outweighs commercial harvesting - back to Green Lake (the entire triangle).
- Keep it as natural as possible.
- Keep it the way it is - beautiful. With more trees the experience is intensified. You feel away from everything. If you took anything down it would lessen the experience.
- Leave it as is.
- Like it as it is.
- Like it as it is.
- Like it how it is.
- Like the current mix - as do the children.
- Like the current mix (of trees). Prefer to cycle in a forest with mixed species. I like the smell of eucalyptus. Need (the owners) to make a buck. Can understand the need to change the species. Can respect the need to change. Shouldn't be logging - the forest is worth more to Rotorua as a forest. Best place in New Zealand for mountain biking. You can grow trees anywhere.
- Like the way it is.
- Like to see more natives, permanently. Natives should stay.
- Like to see more natives. Replant with more natives.
- Lucky to have such a facility.
- Lucky to have the Redwoods in Rotorua.
- Mature forest which makes it a pleasure to cycle through.
- Most valuable asset the city could have. Unique. You can bring two year-olds and people in their wheelchair. Even the most sedentary people can walk a short distance. Always full of people and in use. Different type of people on the mountain bike side. Took son tramping here at the weekend. Activities for all moods and all ages. Daughter runs and it is a safe place to run. I do a 50 minute walk here three times a week and one big walk once a week as well as mountain biking. I have withdrawal symptoms if I don't get out here.
- Nice and shady as it is. Good as it is.
- Nice for locals to be able to use it. Not so good if access was restricted or if it became baron.
- Nice to have more variety/native trees. I like tree ferns - don't chop them down.
- Nice to have the variety.
- Not enough trees at the moment. Glades are nice for the dogs. I like the Redwood on the opposite side of Long Mile Road (opposite side of the car park). Rimu trees are nice.
- Not qualified to answer question.
- Privileged to get what we have. Must be flexible. Lucky to be allowed in. Even after it has been logged it is still good. "Boneyard" is good to ride in.
- Public access will be limited if they start felling trees.
- Replant with natives.

- Riding through an established place makes it what it is.
- Safety is important when/if felling.
- Shame to change current variety. Detrimental to what we have. Leave it here. Love it here.
- Shame to lose what there is. Wouldn't want a pine forest (as in Auckland). I would still come here but it wouldn't be the same. Here you can ride in different directions, completely different levels, and different heights.
- Stay as it is.
- Take away one species and plant another - it makes no difference. Logging all the time ie, Tarawera Road. Trees towards the Blue Lake have been grown to be cut down.
- The forest still has to be logged otherwise it would become too dangerous. Some trees are bordering on the dangerous side. Selectively log. The country still has to move.
- The more diversity, the more enjoyment. Some trees are mature and need to come down anyway.
- They are trying to sneak it in (changes to the forest). They should keep it as it is.
- Tracks may get cut down. Didn't know it was a commercial forest. Loss of tourism. Best place (almost) in the country for mountain biking, particularly for families. Free and accessible.
- Trees are trees.
- Whole benefit is the variety of species - scenic - part of it. If it was all radiata pine it wouldn't be the same.
- Will not have an affect in the long term. The trees are replanted in sections normally so it is not noticeable. Trees grow quickly.
- Wouldn't like to see it go.
- Wouldn't want any change.

## 20. Please stop me when I reach your age group

	Number	Percent
Under 20	7	5.8%
20 to 29	10	8.3%
30 to 39	42	35.0%
40 to 49	35	29.2%
50 to 59	17	14.2%
60 and over	9	7.5%
Refused	0	0.0%
Not specified	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 21. Gender

	Number	Percent
Female	38	31.7%
Male	82	68.3%
Not specified	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 22. Which of the following ethnic groups do you mainly identify with?

	Number	Percent
New Zealand European/Pakeha	97	80.8%
New Zealand Maori	8	6.7%
Pacific Island	0	0.0%
Asian	2	1.7%
Other	17	14.2%
Refused	1	0.8%
<b>Sample</b>	<b>120</b>	

*New Zealand Māori iwi specified:*

- Nga Puhi.
- Rongomaiwahine.
- Te Arawa (x3).

*Other specified:*

- American (x2).
- Asian/Canadian.
- Australian.
- British.
- Canadian (x2).
- Celtic.
- Kiwi.
- New Zealand Caucasian.
- New Zealander (x3).
- No preference.
- White New Zealander.
- White (x2).

## 23. Please stop me when I reach your gross household income (ie, income before tax)

	Number	Percent
Zero income	1	0.8%
\$1 - 5,000	0	0.0%
\$5,001 - \$10,000	0	0.0%
\$10,001 - \$15,000	1	0.8%
\$15,001 - \$20,000	3	2.5%
\$20,001 - \$30,000	3	2.5%
\$30,001 - \$40,000	5	4.2%
\$40,001 - \$50,000	10	8.3%
\$50,001 and over	74	61.7%
Don't know	7	5.8%
Refused	16	13.3%
Not specified	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 24. What occupational grouping do you belong to?

	Number	Percent
Manager	16	13.3%
Professional	28	23.3%
Technical/trades worker	22	18.3%
Community/professional service worker	6	5.0%
Clerical/administrative worker	6	5.0%
Sales worker	5	4.2%
Machinery operator/driver	4	3.3%
Labourer	2	1.7%
Unsure	0	0.0%
Retired	10	8.3%
Student	5	4.2%
Other not in employment	0	0.0%
Homemaker	13	10.8%
Beneficiary/Unemployed	1	0.8%
Refused	1	0.8%
Not specified	1	0.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 25. Do you have any final comments?

*Comments specified:*

- Absolutely amazing place.
- Absolutely brilliant to have in Rotorua.
- Absolutely fantastic. Fantastic resource. New Zealand does a good job of providing these facilities.
- All good.
- Always bring friends. Often they haven't heard about it. Picnic in summer by the picnic tables.
- An asset to the city. Encourages the native bird life close to town. Don't get this close (to forest) in other big cities. Nice, peaceful. Enjoyable place to come to clear head.
- Asset to Rotorua. Beautiful, fresh air, mind clearing.
- Awesome.
- Beautiful and free (important).
- Beautiful place.
- Beautiful. Love it.
- Best place to go for mountain biking in the North Island.
- Bloody fantastic. Superb. Unique in New Zealand. Wellington (Macro Peak) is good. Whaka Forest is manageable for families. Well maintained and signposted.
- Brilliant. Love it. Favourite place in New Zealand. Love mountain biking tracks.
- Can't believe it's free. Owners must be crazy. I pay \$80 a year in Auckland. Others pay \$6 for casual. No-one complains.
- Can't comment yet (as only just arrived).
- Come from Hawkes Bay once a fortnight. Definitely one of the best. Better variety of trees and tracks. Good for families. Brought boys here since they were four. Easy tracks for beginners. Local forest (pine) too hard, particularly with roots.
- Concerned about price and position of dairy farms. From Rotorua to Taupo they are cutting down trees which is a concern. They are converting the forest to pastoral land because farmers have such a powerful lobby group. Forest is undervalued.
- Cool.
- Don't change anything. Worse day in Redwoods is better than best day at Woodhill (Auckland).
- Don't ruin it. Keep up the standard. They do a good job of maintaining it.
- Enjoyable.
- Enjoyable. Meet other dogs and dog owners. Great place.
- Everyone keep on doing a great job. More trails. Great resource - everyone has an area to do their thing. Truly unique.
- Fantastic facility for Rotorua. People come from Whakatane because it is a wonderful place. People are happy to drive.
- Fantastic facility. Would be willing to pay for use as long as it (the forest) was well maintained.
- Fantastic.
- Fantastic. Don't think they should cut it down.
- Fantastic. For everyone to enjoy.
- Fantastic. Love it. More developed each time I visit (for the better). Like the scenery. Safe, pleasant. Ideal for the girls (daughters) - let them loose - they keep on the main tracks. Don't mind paying in the future. Already charged \$6 a time (in Auckland). Don't mind paying if it's well kept. Felling would affect the mountain biking - you would lose mountain bikers and revenue.
- Foreigners always comment, "You're so lucky." Charge tourists for use of toilets and tracks. Ratepayers pay anyway. Stricter control of dogs. So many dog attacks recently.
- Good facility. I feel uncomfortable walking alone.
- Good for mountain biking. Needs another toilet. Willing to pay a car parking fee to cover use of shower, more toilets and maintaining the tracks. Don't change the forest so there is no mountain biking.

- Good place to come to. Different from road cycling.
- Good place to hang out.
- Good place to ride. Keep coming back. Better than anywhere else in New Zealand.
- Good place. Lucky to have it, particularly for dog owners.
- Good resource.
- Good stuff. Love it. Keep it up. One of the best things on offer. Rotorua is fantastic for the Redwoods and the mountain biking.
- Good to have the two lane bridge (at the entrance to the mountain biking area). Keep up the good work. I take my hat off to those who do the work.
- Good.
- Great asset to New Zealand. Just look at number of cars. Great place for families and for everyone to come.
- Great asset. Continue to mix production (commercial) needs by keeping the variety and keeping it open.
- Great facility.
- Great facility. Keep it open to the public. Don't be afraid to cut down the trees to let the sun in or to use for timber (except native - don't mess with). Peace, love and unity.
- Great for whole community. Can't believe they don't charge. Great place for the number of tracks.
- Great place to come.
- Great spot. Under appreciated and under used. Commercial forest should not be dictating to shareholders.
- Great they have expanded the forest at the back - opened up motor bike tracks/circuits. Tree were originally supposed to be left for the public. Shame if bird species disappeared.
- Great. Better than the Auckland tracks - different. Some of the Auckland tracks are sand based.
- Great. Love it. Would like some toilets here. Good to have coffee shop and accommodation but not too touristy.
- Great. Wonderful asset for Rotorua. Enhance rather than detract from its current state.
- Hands off!
- Happy how it is. Plenty of variety of tracks to use.
- Happy with forest. Take it for granted.
- Heaps of cars here but you don't see anyone. Superb tracks. Well maintained. Peaceful and quiet.
- I enjoy the freedom to roam (and for the dogs to roam).
- I like the forest as it is.
- I like the way the Rotorua Mountain Bike Club maintains the tracks and puts in new ones.
- I regularly travel from Wellington. Well signed. Fantastic. Coffee place, shuttle, Planet Bike - all good facilities. Real disincentive (to visit if the trees were felled).
- I wouldn't like to see the area altered, stripped or replanted. A wilderness is good.
- It has taken the Council a long time to wake up and see how valuable the forest is.
- It would be a shame if they took a short-sighted look at the place to make a little bit of money. Equipment used would destroy the forest and take years to recover. No brainer to even think about felling.
- It's really good what they've invested in mountain biking. Good for economy, people's health and fitness. Good for Rotorua. One of the best mountain biking places in the world.
- Keen on new horse trails and off leash areas for dogs.
- Keep it as it is.
- Keep the bus doing. Nice to have more toilets. Signage is awesome. Tracks are cool. Good to see new tracks being built. Here they're planning to build a hotel complex - as long as it doesn't affect general access.
- Like it.
- Looks good so far. Well laid out. Easy to get to from town. Free.
- Love coming down here. Tied because of children.
- Love it.
- Love it.
- Love it.

- Love it. Challenges oldies. Lucky to have the forest but must work with the owners.
- Love it. Detrimental to change. Shame to change it. Leave it public.
- Love it. Fantastic. Fortunate to have it.
- Love it. Please bring in a coffee bar which offers coffee, tea and scones.
- Lovely morning. Traffic (people) is non invasive. Like the Redwood shop. Would be nice to have a coffee shop.
- Lovely.
- More water available/taps.
- Moved to Waikato to be close to the forest.
- Must be made clear that it's free. Some get charged (by the tour guides).
- My daughters come here for cross-country. Son does mountain biking. Activities for all so great.
- Nice that it's free.
- Nice.
- Nice. I use it for running. Good for running because it is non-polluted and away from it all. You can run in private.
- Pretty nice. Key feature for Rotorua citizens and tourists. Don't change it.
- Provide it as it is. Provide a semi-open changing area.
- Really enjoy it. Good facility. Safe for families.
- Really great. Caters for different levels (mountain biking). Great environment. Will be back.
- Really love the place.
- Really neat. Good for children to exercise. Children love coming here.
- Really, really good. Great place.
- Recognise more trees here than anywhere else in New Zealand.
- Saw a ferret (native wildlife).
- Security.
- Serene and peaceful. Time out to think. Leave your doors locked. Cameras are good for safety.
- Sign posting is challenging in the forest, in the mountain bike tracks in particular because there is a mix of old and new signs. I am constantly getting lost, even with a map.
- So lucky to be able to enjoy this. One place that compares is Stanley Park in Canada.
- So many people using it. An incredible resource.
- Start policing the bikes and dogs. Horses create hoof holes. They should keep to their own tracks.
- The forest caters for different age groups. It's free. Timberlands is working with the council to keep the forest public which is a good thing.
- The forest is the main asset in Rotorua. It's where you bring visitors. There are not many places you can go that cater for all abilities - you can bring Granny for example.
- The mountain biking is unreal - best in New Zealand for the type of riding. You can bring families. Quality and variety for families and beginners. Something for everyone. Best built single track in New Zealand. Disneyland of mountain biking. Leave it as it is. Build a chairlift!!! Shuttle service is wicked. You can ride the same track on different days and have a difference experience due to the weather. Weather can make tracks more challenging. Don't cut the trees down. If there was an honesty box we would pay. Annoyed with rubbish (not in Redwoods though).
- Very good place. People don't realise how much money goes into Rotorua (hotels, shops, restaurants etc). Very happy to be allowed to use the forest. Could make different trails. Tree experimentation forest and permanent mountain bike forest would be the best case scenario. Get bored using the same tracks.
- Well managed. Good that they can keep the horse riding, walking and mountain biking separate. They cross (horses, walkers, mountain bikers) at a certain point. Lovely place. One of the best for provision of outdoor activities.
- Wonderful place. Lots of fun.
- Wonderful.

## APPENDIX TWO: ON-LINE SURVEY RESULTS

The first set of questions relate to your use of Whakarewarewa Forest.

1. Have you ever visited Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
Yes	1560	98.7%
No	20	1.3% <i>[go to Q12]</i>
Not specified	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1580</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

2. Have you visited Whakarewarewa Forest in the past 12 months?

	Number	Percent
Yes	1505	96.5% <i>[go to Q3]</i>
No	45	2.9% <i>[go to Q2a]</i>
Not specified	10	0.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1560</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

2a. When was the last time you visited Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
> One and < 2 years	22	48.9%
> 2 years and < 3 years	7	15.6%
> 3 years and < 4 years	5	11.1%
>4 years and < 5 years	1	2.2%
> 5 years	4	8.9%
Not specified	6	13.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Q2b What activities did you undertake during your last visit to Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
Walking	15	33.3% <i>[go to Q11]</i>
Mountain biking	23	51.1% <i>[go to Q11]</i>
Tramping	0	0.0% <i>[go to Q11]</i>
Running/jogging	5	11.1% <i>[go to Q11]</i>
Horse riding	6	13.3% <i>[go to Q11]</i>
Picnicking	5	11.1% <i>[go to Q11]</i>
Other	3	6.7% <i>[go to Q11]</i>
<b>Sample</b>	<b>45</b>	

*Note: Not additive as respondents could identify multiple activities*

*Other specified*

- To visit the shop.
- Wedding in the Redwoods.
- Went there to get information on horse riding and mountain biking.

## Q3 How regularly have you visited Whakarewarewa Forest in the past 12 months?

	Number	Percent
Daily	141	9.4%
Weekly	376	25.0%
Fortnightly	150	10.0%
Monthly	298	19.8%
Annually	346	23.0%
Other	149	9.9%
Not specified	45	3.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1505</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Annually specified:*

- > 10.
- 1 (x20).
- 1 day.
- 1 or 2.
- 10 (x8).
- 10 As a walking group.
- 10 per year.
- 10 visits.
- 100 (x2).
- 12 (x2).
- 12 times.
- 1-2 Visits.
- 15 (x2).
- 18 (x1).
- 2 (x50).
- 2 or 3 days a year.
- 2 or 3 depending on circumstances.
- 2 or 3 times (x2).
- 2 or 3 visits.
- 2 times.
- 2 to 3.
- 2-3 visits per year.
- 2-4 times.
- 3 (x51).
- 3 but can be up to a week at a time.
- 3 or 4 times a year (x3).
- 3 times but hope for more trips.
- 3 to 4 (x2).
- 3 visits.
- 3+.
- 3-6 times.
- 3-6 visits.
- 4 (x46).
- 4 or 5 but about to change, more training scheduled.
- 4 or 5 times.
- 4 visits 4 days per visit.
- 4-5 visits pa.
- 4-6 times a year.
- 4-6 times.
- 5 (x24).
- 5 times a year (x3).
- 5 to 6 times a year (x2).
- 5-6 visits per year average.
- 6 (x41).

- 6 or 7 per year.
- 6 or more.
- 6 times per year.
- 6 to 10.
- 6 visits this year.
- 7 (x3).
- 8 (x9).
- 8 times a year.
- 8 times.
- About 3.
- About 5.
- About 6 x per year.
- About 8 visits per year.
- About once a year.
- Am currently overseas but when I'm home I try to visit weekly.
- Approx 15-20 times per year.
- Approx 10.
- Approx 4.
- Approx 7-8.
- Approx every two months - but varies.
- As many as possible but usually 2-3.
- At least 2.
- At least 4 - 6 times a year.
- Depends on the events held there.
- Hope to more often in the future.
- I live in Oz and come back for the Moonride.
- I travel to Rotorua twice yearly just to ride the forest, it is the best MTB facility in the country.
- Once a year but have now moved to the Bay of Plenty and intend visiting on a monthly basis.
- Once a year for last three years.
- Only once this year as I have moved.
- or more.
- This year is probably my lowest visiting rate due to retirement from my photographic business.
- Try and make it down to Whakarewarewa at least 2x per year.
- two 5 times per year.
- Up to 20 visits.
- Varies, some years 3-4 times, others 1-2.

*Other specified:*

- 2 - 3 times per week (x11).
- 2 - 4 days per week.
- 2 times a week during the winter and 2-4 times a week during the summer.
- 2-5 times per week.
- 2-7 days a week.
- 2 x weekly in summer, once a month in winter (x2).
- 3 - 4 times weekly.
- 3 - 5 times a week.
- 3 or 4 times a year for 1 to 5 days each.
- 3 or 4 times per week.
- 3 separate trips in January, then another trip in May, multiple days each time.
- 3 times in a year.
- 3 times per week (x6).
- 3 to 4 times per week (x2).
- 3 x per week (x2).
- 3-4 times per week (x5).
- 3-5 times per week.

- 3-6 times per week in summer training for marathon and participating in Rotary Two Day walk and Half Marathon event in the Whaka Forest.
- 3 x weekly.
- 4 times per week (x5).
- 4 times per year.
- 4 times (x2).
- 4 to 5 times a week (x3).
- 5 times.
- 5 times per week (x2).
- 6 times in the last year.
- 6 x per year (x2).
- 7 times in the last 12 months.
- A few times.
- About 4 times a week.
- About 4 visits a year. A visit can be from 1 day to 4 days.
- About 8 times in the last 12 months.
- Approx 6 times per year.
- Approx every 2 months.
- As and when it was possible, been about 6 times in past 12 months.
- As and when work or sporting commitments bring me to Rotorua. Approx 7 or 8 times per year.
- At least 2 times per week.
- At least 3 times per week (x3).
- At least twice a week.
- Between 1 and 4 times per week.
- Bi monthly.
- But have now moved to Rotorua.
- During summer months I do a lot of running training in Whaka Forest.
- Every 2 months.
- Every 4-5 months (I live in Wellington).
- Every day for the week spent in Rotorua.
- Every four months.
- Every other day.
- Every second day.
- Every time I come home I am in the forest at least 3-4 times a week.
- First trip last month - I intend to go again (4-6 times annually).
- Five.
- Four days/week.
- Four times a week.
- Generally more than once per week, but not every day.
- Have only visited it the once.
- I travel quite a bit to Taupo to work but often will continue on up the road just to MTB in Vegas (every 2 months average).
- I was running three times a week prior to April this year.
- Irregular.
- Irregularly but at least four times a year.
- Irregularly timed Hash House Harrier runs mainly in summer.
- Just returned from 10 months away.
- Minimum twice a week.
- More in the summer than in winter but 3 or 4 weekly Sept – March.
- More than once a week, but varies.
- Most working weekdays.
- N-duro events (3).
- NZ Duro races and practice and 3 x for practice in 2007. Will be visiting monthly from now on.
- On average 4 x per week.
- On average about 5 times per week.

- On average probably 5 times a week.
- Once only so far, but I'll be back.
- Once, the majority of this year I've been overseas.
- Once (x3).
- Only when it is too hot to run the roads.
- Over the years have used the forest on a daily basis.
- Quarterly (x4).
- Rode in there for 3 days solid.
- Spent a whole week riding there in January.
- Sporadically, when the weather is fine and university is on a break I go for a few days.
- During summer I'm training there once a week, winter once a month.
- Take school trips mountain bike, 15 riders every 3 months.
- Three times per week (x3).
- Three to four times per week.
- Three to four visits per week.
- Three to seven days per week. It depends on time of year i.e. daylight saving.
- Three, four times a year sometimes more (x2).
- Thrice.
- Twice a week.
- Twice for events in the last three months, planning on more regular trips in the future.
- Twice this year, returning soon.
- Twice weekly (x2).
- Twice.
- Two to four times per week.
- Two to three times per week.
- Usually 2 times a week.
- Varies between daily or every couple of days in summer to weekly in winter.
- Visited for World MTB Championships, and twice previously.
- Was monthly then had kids but getting back into it again to go monthly.
- Weekly in summer, monthly in winter.
- Weekly in winter & 2/3 times per week in daylight saving hours.
- Whenever there is a mountain bike race on or I feel the need for a change of scenery.
- When visitors come we take them there for a walk.
- When we can get over - usually fortnightly in summer.
- Whenever I feel like it, usually twice a month.
- Whenever I'm up in Rotorua - maybe x 4 p.a.

Q4 For how many years have you been visiting Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
< 2 years	89	5.9%
> 2 years and < 3 years	111	7.4%
> 3 years and < 4 years	132	8.8%
> 4 years and < 5 years	85	5.6%
> 5 years and < 10 years	323	21.5%
> 10 years and < 20 years	389	25.8%
> 20 years and < 30 years	170	11.3%
> 30 years	85	5.6%
Not specified	121	8.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1505</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Q5 What times of the year do you prefer to visit Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
Spring	179	11.9%
Summer	235	15.6%
Winter	137	9.1%
Autumn	149	9.9%
All year round	1131	75.1%
Not specified	59	3.9%
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1505</b>	

Note: Not additive as respondents could identify multiple seasons

Q6 What time of the week do you normally visit Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
Weekdays only	46	3.1%
Weekends only	423	28.1%
Both weekends and weekdays	959	63.7%
Not specified	77	5.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1505</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Q7 What times of the day do you normally visit Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
Early morning (6am-8am)	157	10.4%
Morning (8am-12noon)	634	42.1%
Afternoon (12noon-5pm)	733	48.7%
Evening (5pm-8pm)	378	25.1%
Late evening (after 8pm)	54	3.6%
No particular preference	506	33.6%
Not specified	58	3.9%
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1505</b>	

Note: Not additive as respondents could identify multiple times

Q8 What activities do you enjoy at Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
Walking	811	53.9%
Mountain biking	1213	80.6%
Tramping	124	8.2%
Running/jogging	609	40.5%
Horse riding	99	6.6%
Picnicking	161	10.7%
Other	90	6.0%
Not specified	60	4.0%
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1505</b>	

Note: Not additive as respondents could identify multiple activities

Other specified:

- As a spectator for duathlon and any other events.
- Attending events.
- Being in the forest - even though supervising PD crews.
- Botanical interests (ex plant scientist) and taking visitors.
- Church service, playing hide and seek, teaching children about plants and trees.
- Cycling.
- Dog exercise.
- Dog walking (x8).
- Dog walking, taking visitors there is a must.

- Downhill riding.
- Driving along Long Mile on way to work.
- Education - EOTC projects with my students.
- Events (x2).
- Exercising my dogs.
- Family outings, nature watching, botanising.
- Filming segments for SBS TV Australia programme "Cycling Central".
- For many years I walked my dogs daily in the forest - lived at Tihi-o-tonga.
- Forestry work opportunities it provides to Rotorua residents.
- Girls morning out.
- Glow worm sighting.
- Glow worm spotting.
- Glow worm watching.
- Glow worms.
- Got married there at Christmas.
- Just being in a nice environment with friends - often go there for lunch breaks.
- Looking for and learning about fungi with kids.
- Mostly walking with dog.
- Mountain bike orienteering.
- Mountain bike trail maintenance.
- Orienteering (x10).
- Organised sports events.
- Orienteering and mountain bike orienteering.
- Orienteering, dog exercise.
- Orienteering, mountain bike orienteering.
- Out catering.
- Participating in events eg, Two Day Walk and half marathon and spectator at events eg, mountain biking, Enduro, Cateye.
- Photography.
- Playing with my nephew.
- Races.
- Relaxation, collecting samples.
- Show students and visitors.
- Sled dog racing training.
- Socializing, meeting people.
- Special events (e.g. performing arts).
- Special events, like races.
- Spiritual & physical well-being.
- Take visitors to see glow worms.
- Taking kids out.
- Track work.
- Trail building; helping run events.
- Trail working bees.
- Triathlon – Xterra.
- Unicycling.
- Visiting forest shop.
- Walk dog in dog area.
- Walk the dog (x11).
- Walking the dog and wife.
- Working (x2).
- Working bees and shuttles.
- Working on the tracks in the forest environment.

Q9 Over the past 12 months, how many organised events (ie, public events – excludes normal club activities) have you participated in, in Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
None	521	34.6%
One to five	793	52.7%
Six to nine	105	7.0%
Ten or more	22	1.5%
Not specified	64	4.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1505</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*[go to Q11]*

Q10 Please indicate the types of events you participated in?

	Number	Percent
Walking	97	10.5%
Mountain biking	745	81.0%
Tramping	190	20.7%
Running/jogging	186	20.2%
Duathlon	128	13.9%
Other	56	6.1%
Not specified	2	0.2%
<b>Sample</b>	<b>920</b>	

*Note: Not additive as respondents could identify multiple activities*

*Other specified:*

- BA5, employer xmas breakup.
- Church.
- Church gathering, tales by torchlight.
- Church service (x3).
- Community stuff like Dogs Day Out.
- Dogs Day Out (x7).
- Dogs Day Out + 1/2 marathon.
- Dogs Day Out, kids mountain biking event.
- Drama.
- Drama, walking.
- Half marathon.
- Half marathon (maybe just over a year ago).
- Hash House Harriers.
- Horse riding (x2).
- Horse trekking.
- Mountain bike skills training.
- Mountain bike orienteering.
- Music gig.
- Music/art.
- Not always participated but have enjoyed observing other events held in the forest.
- Orienteering (x4).
- Orienteering, mountain bike orienteering, Rogaine.
- Out catering.
- Pony Club treks.
- Rogaine.
- Rotorua WRC / Rotorua Horse & Pony Trekking club.
- School cross country.
- Sled Dog Club fun days.
- Social.
- Stories by Torchlight.
- Story-telling, native falcon exhibition.
- Take the dog out for a run.

- Theatre plays.
- Theatre productions.
- Tramping.
- Wedding.
- Work related with Dept Corrections - Probation.
- Xterra Triathlon (x6).

### The second set of questions relate to your opinions about the forest

Q11 What are the three most important qualities that you like about Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Score	Percent	Rank
<b>Variety of tracks</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>1739</b>	<b>19.6%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Proximity/ease of access</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>1428</b>	<b>16.1%</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Natural environment</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	<b>3</b>
Track surfaces	408	825	9.3%	4
Publicly accessible	365	787	8.9%	5
Signage	204	417	4.7%	6
Size/variety of trees	216	386	4.4%	7
Caters for pets	186	303	3.4%	8
Clean/no pollution	156	301	3.4%	9
Range of activities	152	285	3.2%	10
Views/scenery	148	280	3.2%	11
Atmosphere	150	279	3.1%	12
Away from it all/privacy	123	220	2.5%	13
Caters for families	104	186	2.1%	14
Meeting other people	114	173	2.0%	15
Safety	72	142	1.6%	16
Cool/fresh air	59	110	1.2%	17
Facilities	58	103	1.2%	18
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1580</b>	<b>8862</b>		

Note: For this question, respondents could only identify three qualities, ranked one to three. Qualities ranked first were given a score of three, those ranked second a score of two and those ranked third a score of one. The scores were added together to determine the total score and the ranking.

#### Other specified:

- 1 - mountain bike tracks.
- 1 for all of the above. The Whakarewarewa Forest is an example of why I love my home NZ.
- 1 for all questions.
- A variety of reasons, can only list 3 here!
- Able to take part in organised events / races.
- Access for horse riding off roads.
- All above 1 to 2.
- All above options except pets are important to me.
- All are important.
- All of the above (x3).
- All of the above are important to me (x2).
- All of the above but cursor won't allow me to click 1 in all categories.
- All of the above really.
- All these things are an attraction
- An amazing resource thanks to the foresight of the Forest Service in creating a people's forest! An internationally renowned resource Rotorua should be proud to have!
- Availability
- Awesome environment to exercise in.
- Awesome MTB Trails.
- Because the forest offers all the above, it makes it the amazing place it is. Nothing ranks least important on this list.
- Best mountain bike trails for miles around.

- Can't work out how you want that answered!
- Can't delete dots put in, in error - 1 accessibility, 1 trees and scenery.
- Clicking above didn't work properly.
- Columns above not working properly.
- Community events.
- Couldn't answer more, not sure why.
- Difficult question to answer. Would put 1 for all!!!!!!
- Don't like this question - hard to choose 3!
- Downhill tracks.
- Enthusiasm of mountain bikers to develop the area.
- Everything a great asset.
- Excellence for MTB Experience.
- Fantastic mountain bike tracks.
- Forest caters for a wide range of recreational activities.
- Forestry work opportunities.
- Free.
- FREE ACCESS.
- Free of charge.
- Great for horse riding.
- GREAT MOUNTAIN BIKE TRACKS.
- Great mountain biking trails!
- Handy, free place to take visitors.
- Hard to choose 3.
- Have clicked on my preferences but some dots have disappeared. Have my choices been recorded.
- Hi APR - the above question is incorrect because it asks only for the 3 most important but it should actually ask what is the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2nd and 3rd most important, I presume.
- Horse trails.
- I am a logger and love this forest and environs.
- I can't reply to this question properly. The dots don't stay in the correct box.
- I just love being in the bush...and it's so safe!!
- I like walking with friends and family and the tracks in the forest allow you to do this in groups.
- I ranked all 1 except 4 and 6 r 2.
- I would tick 1 for all of above except safety which is difficult given that people fall down on occasions.
- I'm using a Mac and for some reason could not select one item in each category... not working properly.
- If I tick one the others go away.
- It is not clear if you seek an opinion on each item.
- It provides a fantastic alternative to the mountain bike tracks I use in Auckland.
- Most important: The awesome mountain bike trails!
- Mountain bike single tracks.
- Mountain bike tracks.
- Mountain bike tracks.
- Mountain biking.
- No cost access for leisure/fitness activities.
- Not being able to answer 1 to two qualities is not a good way of structuring this question as I place "most important" on several qualities like "clean/no pollution", "publicly accessible" .
- Peaceful relaxing away from traffic.
- Plus all of the above in varying degrees.
- Poorly designed question methinks!
- Productive forest.
- Q11 not working can only tick two boxes.
- Quality and quantity of trails for MTB.
- Quality of bike tracks.
- Quality of mountain bike tracks.

- Quality of mountain bike tracks.
- Quality of mountain bike trails.
- Quality of mountain bike tracks.
- Quality of MTB tracks.
- Quality of the mountain bike trails.
- Quality of tracks and environment.
- Quality of tracks for mountain bikes.
- Quality of trails.
- Question does not work correctly.
- Shaded areas would not hold.
- Sheltered on rainy or windy days.
- Simply the best in the world, and so close.
- Southstar Shuttles.
- Survey would only let me click on 1 of each!
- That it is always there for you to use in your convenience without payment or set fees. It makes getting out and about so much more accessible when you are low on funds and that in turn helps to promote "push play".
- The above, all number 1.
- The above question does not work properly.
- The above questionnaire does not work!!
- The above questions section has an error. I could not select my options. The network of bike trails is of world standard, and draws me back to Rotorua again and again.
- The above wouldn't let me tick the appropriate boxes.
- The awesome mountain biking!
- The best mountain bike park in NZ that caters for all abilities.
- The best mountain biking in NZ.
- The big trees are the number 1 highlight.
- The iconic Redwoods are a major highlight for me!
- The mountain bike tracks.
- The outstanding mountain biking tracks (1).
- The shuttle service.
- The trees.
- THIS DIDN'T WORK! Mostly I answered 1 with the odd 2.
- This field is not working. All points rated at 1.
- This is a confusing question and the buttons don't work properly!
- This part is not working properly on my computer. It won't allow me to go to the next line?
- This part of the survey isn't working - the buttons don't stay clicked down?????
- Three options here are hopeless. I like the place for a number of reasons not just one or two.
- Tracks in winter muddy. Signage coloured before.
- Tranquil, not crowded.
- Variety of mountain biking tracks.
- Views over the city. Take as many visitors there as possible to stretch their legs.
- Well built mountain bike tracks that are close to town.
- Well constructed and maintained mountain bike tracks.
- Will not "hold" selection. All are No.1.
- Will not allow more than one tick in a vertical line. Please sort out.
- Won't let me answer more than one on Q11.
- World class mountain bike trails.
- Would also rank 1 on 2,3,6,7,8,9,11,13,15.

## Q12 What values do you associate with Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
Existence value (ie, knowing the forest is there)	976	61.8%
Aesthetic value (ie, the natural beauty of the forest)	1187	75.1%
Recreational value (ie, use of the forest for recreational activities)	1510	95.6%
Other	159	10.1%
Not specified	12	0.8%
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1580</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Note: Not additive as respondents could identify multiple values

## Other specified:

- ?
- A great place to take visitors to Rotorua.
- A great walk to and from work.
- A place of renewal and refreshing to face increasing pressures.
- A valuable health resource for the whole family.
- Accessibility to such a beautiful resource.
- All of the above (except other!).
- All sorts.
- Also non commercialisation - particularly the 'sacred' areas like Tohotu Ariki track - which is an amazing wilderness - I would hate to see the shuttle that takes the MTBers up to the skid site on Tawa get them up to The Tuhoto Ariki track.
- Also range of plantation species.
- Also that renowned in NZ for walks, bikes etc- a cultural value (?)
- Appreciate being able to ride horses there - so few places to ride nowadays.
- Associated with Rotorua.
- Availability to which to take visitors.
- Available to all.
- Awesome MTB tracks.
- Awesome place.
- Beautiful Redwood trees.
- Being able to walk my dog.
- Best family mountain biking in the North Island.
- Bike tracks.
- Biodiversity value
- Clean safe environment, well kept tracks.
- Community value - it's a meeting place for the mountain bike community.
- Conservation value ie, retaining diverse tree species for the community to learn from and appreciate.
- Contributes to the lifestyle one can enjoy in Rotorua.
- Cultural Values (Tane), Social/Community Value.
- Cultural/Māori (has significant pa sites).
- Danger value from car thieves.
- Easy free access.
- Easy to get to, free, tracks are wonderful amongst the trees.
- Ecological values.
- Educational.
- Educational value - numerous opportunities.
- Educational value eg, plant species, seasonal variations, learning navigation.
- Environmental (sewerage disposal).
- Environmental services eg, carbon sink, effluent disposal etc, whilst being provider of jobs and commercial return.
- Environmental value.
- Environmental value - carbon sink and wildlife habitat.
- Environmental value (carbon sink, biodiversity).
- Environmental value (ie, carbon absorbing).

- Every factor.
- Feels good, wellness.
- Financial. Trees have a value to the local economy
- Fitness.
- Forest absorbing impurities in the air.
- Forestry work opportunities and cultural significance to Māori.
- Free access.
- Free and unhindered access.
- Freedom to go there.
- Genetic resources value.
- Good, unmanaged free access.
- Great recreational and fitness resource. Encourages people to be active outdoors.
- Haven for birds close to the city.
- Healing value.
- Health aspect of the variety of terrain to test oneself. An easy walk, a vigorous walk. THE HALF HOUR LOOP WHEN TIME IS LIMITED OR THE 2 HOUR TRAMP IF THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME.
- Health value (ie, derived from recreational, and to some extent, aesthetic values).
- Health, physical and spiritual values.
- Heritage value, grew up walking through it, father planted Redwoods on our farm as a result.
- Historic aspect being part of the original nursery.
- Historic value.
- Historic value, personal historic value (ie, feelings of personal attachment through a history of using the area), carbon sequestration/green lung value, biodiversity value (e.g. tomtits, fantails, thermal wetland, tall tree ferns etc.), scientific value (ie, uniqueness of some of the plantations in NZ).
- Historical.
- Historical scientific interest.
- Historical value.
- Historical value of Redwood Grove and their legacy.
- Historical, Redwood Memorial Grove.
- Home - this has always been a part of my life and my family's lives and is very symbolic in terms of being "at home".
- Huge asset for Rotorua.
- Huge tourist attraction and therefore revenue generating for Rotorua.
- I live in Auckland and visit Rotorua regularly during the week on business and choose to stay in Rotorua because of the mountain biking so I can bike after work. I also visit regularly during the weekend with the family to partake in mountain biking events.
- I would not live in Rotorua without the forest access.
- Iconic Rotorua leisure space.
- Identification with Rotorua. An Icon.
- Is now part of Rotorua's identity.
- It allows me to escape the stresses of working life for a short time every day and re-energise for the afternoon.
- It allows people to easily stay active in a natural setting, great place to appreciate our environment and learn about different flora.
- It feels like a spiritual place.
- It helps my physical fitness and spiritual well being.
- It is a place to relax. It is a very calming environment.
- It is a unique and priceless jewel in Rotorua's crown.
- It is an incredible place that needs to be protected and utilised.
- It is free.
- It is my whenua tuturu.
- It makes outdoor activity freely available to all ages and socio-economic groups.
- It will still be there for the future generations.
- It's size and knowing you can get away from the crowds.
- It's natural and fresh

- It's value to the city as a destination product.
- Key attribute of Rotorua, something to be proud of - "the lakes and the forest".
- Lifestyle - so many people get out there, enjoy themselves, and enhance their lifestyle.
- Majestic stands of old mixed species trees with tracks underneath closed in canopy. Unique compared to wandering around young radiata plantation forest areas.
- Many Asians come from concrete jungles and marvel at Whaka Forest.
- Māori.
- Māori cultural value.
- Meditation value, solitude etc.
- Monetary value to forest owner.
- Most activities I participate in promote fitness & exercise (x2).
- Mountain biking tracks, development and accessibility.
- Mountain biking!
- My father died in the forest so it has a Spiritual Value to me.
- My spiritual home, my stress relief, my passion.
- Not just a local resource - can share with international visitors.
- One of New Zealand's finest MTB parks.
- Peace and quiet.
- Peacefulness of the forest.
- Positive, active draw card for tourism (domestic and overseas visitors).
- Pretty much unrestricted access.
- Price.
- Production forest (log).
- Productive use of land.
- Proximity.
- Public availability.
- Quantity - the size of the available area creates a wilderness feeling close to town.
- Reaction from overseas and New Zealand visitors to what is on our doorstep.
- Significant historical associations with this area.
- So close to city.
- Social value - great place to interact with others!
- Spend a lot of time there with the family.
- Spiritual.
- Spiritual.
- Spiritual presence that is so Whakarewarewa.
- Spiritual value belonging to Rotorua.
- Taking visitors there. They can't believe how lucky we are as a city to have this on our doorstep. Something for everyone in the family no matter how active they are.
- The association with the tangata whenua.
- The awesome MTB tracks.
- The best mountain biking in New Zealand/ the world.
- The coolest mountain biking area on the planet.
- The forest is my church.
- The history of the forest and the reasons behind why they were planted. These trees are also so rare in New Zealand and the world. They are something to be cherished and protected.
- The huge old trees and how long they have taken to grow.
- The huge value to Rotorua's economy.
- The mountain biking is the best in the North Island.
- The spirit/energy of the forest.
- The taniwha track!!
- This forest is Rotorua's BEST asset.
- Tourism income.
- Tourism value.
- Tourist attraction - worth \$\$ for Rotorua.
- Tourist attraction, wildlife, birds.
- Unique, premium mountain biking experience.

- Uniqueness value.
- Value to local economy.
- Value to Rotorua as a cycling/tourism icon.
- Value to the community and local businesses.
- Very grateful of forest management, Council, business, clubs and public support of this resource.
- We can use it whenever it suits us.
- We usually travel over from Tauranga with 2-3 families - great outing.
- Without the Whakarewarewa Forest Rotorua would not be as desirable a place to live.
- Working forest providing employment for Rotorua residents.
- Working production forest that we can have access to.
- World class location for recreation.
- World famous MTB trails.
- You always feel great after visiting the park!

Q13 If the variety of tree species in the Whakarewarewa Forest (excluding the Redwood Grove) was reduced from present levels to one of the following, would this a) increase, b) decrease or c) not affect your enjoyment of the forest?

Reduced to 75% of current levels	Number	Percent
Increase	68	4.3%
Decrease	737	46.6%
No effect	649	41.1%
Not specified	126	8.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1580</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Not affect , not no effect

Reduced to 50% of current levels	Number	Percent
Increase	47	3.0%
Decrease	1006	63.7%
No effect	362	22.9%
Not specified	165	10.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1580</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Reduced to 25% of current levels	Number	Percent
Increase	49	3.1%
Decrease	1062	67.2%
No effect	296	18.7%
Not specified	173	10.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1580</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Reduced to 5% of current levels	Number	Percent
Increase	61	3.9%
Decrease	869	55.0%
No effect	472	29.9%
Not specified	178	11.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1580</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Q14 Do you have any specific comments you would like to make about this?

*Comments for average rating indicating increased enjoyment:*

- A great resource. Track signage could be improved.
- A management plan for this area has already been produced (at great expense). Local consultant Dave Elliott did a great job out of a difficult and highly emotive issue, and this gutless Council has sat on this plan, not taking it any further.
- A visit to Whaka makes me so appreciative of the superb forests we have in New Zealand, and the need to preserve and conserve. Thank you.

- Apart from felling trees for the safety of users, the forest should be left alone and only the tracks maintained.
- Conifers are nice to be around.
- Don't change it otherwise you'd lose 1000's of mountain bikers from around the world who fly there to ride the variety of tracks.
- Don't cut the forest!
- Don't ruin the forest. Leave as is.
- Fantastic resource. Credit to all involved in setting this up and maintaining it.
- Forest is great the way it is.
- I drive a long way to ride in this awesome forest. I can ride in open space anywhere. Don't chop the trees down. Buy them and make it pro. I'd happily pay like I do at Woodhill. Also, this is the worst written survey ever. Would this increase my reduced to 75% of current levels or decrease my reduction?
- I live in Auckland and I often make the trip to Whakarewarewa Forest because it is the best mountain biking in New Zealand - if not the world! It's a beautiful forest with great tracks and fantastic track surfaces. I think the forest is iconic to Rotorua and everyone I speak to raves about riding/running/walking there. The first thing I did after four years in London was drive to Whakarewarewa Forest for a ride. It's a special place.
- I love the forest, please leave it alone.
- I really enjoy how 'different' and 'diverse' each track is and the trees and their foliage dictate that.
- I use the forest mainly for walking and running, especially running. I am happy to run on tracks free of trees such as exists on the Wither Hills.
- I would in future, as just recently moved to area, be able to do both walking and horse riding on the trails. Increase in levels of planting would not affect me as I would not veer off tracks.
- If it was reduced or taken away it would be a great loss to Rotorua.
- It detracts from the enjoyment if the area is all messed up.
- Keep all the beautiful trees.
- Keep making fantastic mountain bike tracks.
- Keep the forest managed the way it is. Can we contribute to the forest owners to offset loses they face by not harvesting?? We do need forestry type people to maintain and harvest areas as they currently do to keep the area from becoming dangerous with old trees etc.
- Leave the trees alone - touch them if you only have you have to.
- Managing the forest by thinning trees and cutting low branches would enhance use, especially in some track circuits.
- Please don't cut down the trees, trees are our friends!!!
- The forest has to be managed to balance the needs of a commercial industry against the recreation that the community has come to expect.
- The forest is a big part of my life. I visit the forest for a run or bike ride up to 4 times a week.
- The forest is world renowned for MTB trails. Gary Fisher (mountain bike guru) ranks it in the top ten in the world for access and trail types. Would be a shame if logging eroded this.
- The mix of native trees, shrubs and ferns compliments the forest.
- The tree environment is very important to the feeling you get while in the forest and a significant removal would detract from the feel of the area.
- There are some small but very spectacular stands of trees that I would like to see remain (Redwoods), and some areas which would seriously diminish the experience of riding in the forest if it was cleared (between the mill and town, including the Wash Redwoods).
- To lose access to the forest or change the forest in any way that the public use would effect tourism as I work at a hotel and a lot of people (especially Aucklanders) love this for mountain biking.

*Comments for average rating indicating decreased enjoyment:*

- A big THANK YOU to the council and the workers who make it all happen.
- A good variety of trees and shrubs make the forest seem different at every turn. If the forest were planted with the same variety all over it would all look the same and become a less exciting place to visit.

- A group of us visit from Auckland. We all believe it is some of the best mountain biking around.
- A state forest park gains particularly aesthetic value in having a diverse range of species.
- A thinning of the trees would be far more acceptable than the clear fell of the species to reduce the variety. As a result of thinning some small stands that are inter-planted would probably cease to exist because their size and position would make it impossible to retain them during the thinning process.
- A variety of trees is always nice but not essential for my preferred uses of the forest.
- A wonderful asset for the public that needs to remain as it is with no reduction of timber.
- Accept maintenance of forest must be maintained for public safety, but in no way is this forest a commercial entity.
- Aesthetics of Douglas Fir, Redwoods and other species is important. Surface feeding roots of radiata pine make mountain bike tracks in pines less smooth than in fir and redwoods. Older age classes and tree mix make Whaka a unique forest.
- Already noticing bareness of forest in some places. Where milling has occurred tracks and roads are too exposed.
- Am extremely concerned that this wonderful resource should be handled in a long-sighted way for the continued enjoyment and discovery of all.
- An asset of the forest is its scenic composure.
- An awesome asset for Rotorua.
- Any commercial impact would affect the natural beauty of this grand forest!
- Any more pinus radiata than what is already there would detract from the overall appeal of the forest. The percentage of other tree species present. I see as a minimum - it would be great to have more douglas fir for example or eucalypt.
- Any reduction in the variety of species would detract from the varied nature of the trails and the scenery and reduce the enjoyment of riding there.
- Any reduction in variety would be disappointing although I do accept that this is a commercial forest. Would be fantastic if reductions could be limited to say reducing to 75% of current levels.
- Any reduction would threaten the intrinsic value of the place and what makes it special.
- Any tree reduction that would result in mountain bike tracks being altered is undesirable.
- Any trees removed would require to be replaced.
- Apart from maintaining the safety aspects of the trees nothing should be reduced from the present levels.
- As a forester and botanist, I enjoy the wide range of species in the forest. Some of the failed species, such as the eucalypts in the Tokorangi Triangle should be replaced.
- As a market research professional, I have to say that is a terrible scale to expect someone to self-complete and is likely to be horribly prone to error.
- As a mountain biker, I have appreciated the collaborative approach that has been taking place between forest management and the mountain bike club, which has allowed us to retain a sizeable trail network by developing new trails as we have lost others to forestry activity.
- As a person from overseas, this as a public asset is spectacular so why change it? Cherish what we have.
- As it is a commercial operation, a commercial decision must be allowed to take place. Businesses can act responsibly and we are sure Timberlands will be responsible.
- As long as from the Tarawera Road water tanks to the FRI campus (Scion?) stays the same I am not that bothered.
- As long as the mountain bike tracks remain and any trees logged were replanted, then my enjoyment would only decrease slightly.
- As long as the trees are there then it doesn't matter what sort, but pine drop needles etc, on surface of tracks which helps keep them in good order.
- As long as there is not a large area clear felled then all will be fine. Larger trees are nicer to ride through.
- As stated, I work in forestry in a harvest management role and accept the commercial realities, but the variety of species, and seeing the great examples of the different species all in one forest, does it for me. Oh and the smells of the forest on a warm day, great. I would

love this forest to go into council ownership and log only when over mature. If this forest is managed properly it will grow in reputation around the world and continue to bring visitors to this wonderful city. I can see a parallel with the kauri forest up north where there is more money being made with tourism now, with people visiting the few remaining stands, than was recovered from wood value of all that was felled. This is a huge asset for Rotorua. The current management is to be congratulated for the foresight, which has allowed this wonderful recreational facility to be created.

- As we should all know by now, forests are not something that you can instantly grow back. We should not be taking away diversity, due to wildlife, evolution and the many people who enjoy it just the way it is!
- As well as the variety of conifers I also appreciate the patches of native vegetation and the tree fern ground canopy is beautiful.
- At the very beginning of this survey you need to outline the reason that prompted it.
- Availability of such a resource is to be preserved for the public to enjoy - shrinking forests and increased usage of resources - we need to plan for the future now.
- Awesome resource for the mountain biking/recreational community. Love it!
- Awesome resource. I have so much fun there when my mates and I come up for a weekend of mountain biking.
- Awesome, well marked, well maintained trail network. Excellent job guys!
- Besides all the other attractive features of this forest, the variety of species makes Whaka Forest just that much more interesting and therefore enjoyable.
- Biodiversity is important for us all. Also pollen is one of the biggest problems of pines radiata forests. More and more people have problems with it and it causes many thousands of dollars damage to people / equipment (air-filters etc,).
- Biodiversity is as important as use - we should be encouraging species being grown for other benefits, not just timber values. If RDC can recognise the value in the 'other' aspects of the forest - recreation, tourism, nutrient uptake etc, then they can call themselves a world leading council. I would pay slightly more rates to ensure this asset is maintained. Also, tree variety adds to different tracks (surface is different underneath) and aesthetic values.
- Changing the variety of trees would greatly effect the soil and terrain, possibly destroying everything that is great about the trails in the forest.
- Consult FRI (Scion) about block thinning in the forest in order to maintain tree vigour and safety (we don't need a tree to fall on someone at some stage eg, monitor crowns dying back).
- Decreasing number of trees can only have negative effects I think, but if it's necessary it should be kept to a minimum.
- Depending on where the trees were to be cut. Corridors for recreation could be left and if it did not destroy a vista.
- Depends on species. A change from exotic species to natives would be better, even if commercially grown and harvested...kauri, kahikatea, totara. Need to maintain sufficient small areas and tracts of non-harvested trees throughout for wildlife.
- Different species create different track surfaces (douglas fir = good!), and different light conditions / ambiance. Although the forest is small (ish), the variety contained within means that new landscapes constantly open up when riding and running. Having ridden amongst monocultures (eg - Woodhill in Auckland), this becomes an important consideration in addition to the physical quality of the tracks.
- Diversity is good for recreational enjoyment.
- Diversity of species within the forest is part of its recreational value.
- Diversity of the environment is one of the most important values to me.
- Do like the variety.
- Do not cut the trees down that are around the tracks. It takes the best views and beautiful trees of the Whaka forest. The Whakarewarewa Forest is recognised as an international quality MTB track forest.
- Do not fix what is broken.
- Don't change anything. This is a beautiful forest with a unique variety of large, older trees.
- Don't cut down the Redwoods.

- Don't just go planting a whole heap of pine so that it can be ripped out 10 years later and destroy the beauty of this place and the enjoyment it brings so many people.
- Don't log the forest!
- Don't touch the Redwoods, control/limit the amount of tree farming by allowing a smaller area for clear cutting and increasing the time span between the cuttings.
- Don't change or touch the forest in any negative way! THIS WOULD BE VERY SHORT SIGHTED AND ANYONE PROPOSING THIS LACKS THE KNOWLEDGE OF HOW AMAZING IT IS THAT WE HAVE THIS RESOURCE.
- DON'T CHOP IT DOWN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Don't cut it down.
- Don't touch the trees.
- Enjoying the older part of the forest is the best. If this is removed it will take a very long time to regrow some trees.
- Enjoy riding under large trees / shade.
- Eucalyptus trees are dangerous in the way they shed their large branches and can be prone to dieback and toppling, so I would not be concerned about the loss of eucalyptus species in the Whaka Forest. I feel recreational users need to be kept safe, and old eucalypts are probably not ideal to keep in the forest.
- Even if you don't use the forest, I drive past this forest all the way into town at least twice a day. Tourists use this road too. The clear fell in the past few years has detracted from the scenery. There is no need to manage a public amenity forest this badly.
- Even though I mainly visit this forest for mountain biking, it is a great asset for all other users, which I know travel from all over the North Island. It is also known worldwide for its ease of accessibility and quality of tracks, which is very difficult to replicate and is therefore an amazing asset to have.
- Ever since it was planted, the forest has been known for the variety of trees.
- Felling of exotic forest is inevitable but should be replaced with new planting. This is the best facility for sports people in the country. I personally use a motel in the CBD as I then don't have to worry about my car being broken into. The forest is a leisurely 10 minute ride and with the aid of a map is brilliant to ride.
- For the past 20 years, this lovely resource has been a fantastic place to walk, tramp, and more recently mountain bike. The mountain bike tracks have encouraged our whole family to cycle together from 1 - 4 times a week and our fitness and health have vastly improved as a result. We enjoy our favourite tracks very much, and have become fond of them as a result. I think that the appeal of the Waipa tracks have an appeal that impresses people from all over the world whether walking, biking or tramping and this is a uniqueness that should not be taken away merely because some more money could be made on this track of land. I think that the bigger picture should be looked at, in terms of uniqueness and being a real asset to Rotorua's attraction especially in the domestic national market.
- Forest facing Rotorua should be left as a recreational area to be enjoyed by residents and visitors
- The forest is great as it is. Don't cut the trees down.
- Forests comprising only cultivated pine trees are no substitute for mixed species, natural forest from an existence or aesthetic perspective.
- Full credit to the people behind the tracks and access for recreational mountain bike riding. These tracks are promoting a healthy and active community.
- Good to have lots of trees, and the differing areas of trees enhances my enjoyment of the forest
- Great for family mountain biking.
- Great place with top tracks.
- Great to have both indigenous and exotic habitats.
- Great to hear of somewhere horse riding is allowed.
- Having access to a forest environment such as Whakarewarewa is a privilege for everyone who visits there. To be able to walk, run or bike through the magnificent trees and scenery is something that you cannot do in many other places and that in itself makes this a unique place that we should preserve and take care of.

- Having to remove trees to make the forest safer and maintain and encourage goods growth of ferns etc is fine, but in general it should remain as it is.
- Hug a tree!
- I accept that forest thinning and management is necessary but a drastic reduction in the number/species of tree would remove much of the attraction of the forest.
- I accept that it's a commercial forest and can live with losing the pinus radiata etc (the commercial trees). Losing the natives and the redwoods would be just AWFUL!!
- I accept that there is commercial reality that needs to be considered for the forest owners. However clear fell of large blocks would destroy that area from a recreational perspective for a number of years and therefore the planning of that felling is critical to ensure it is grouped to allow enjoyment in other parts of the forest
- I am (or was!) planning to visit New Zealand specifically to mountain bike through this forest. If the forest is destroyed by chopping down these trees there will be nothing for me to visit!
- I am a horse rider, I appreciate and enjoy the environment we have and the privilege to use the forest. I would not like to see any trees culled unnecessarily.
- I am a relatively recent migrant to New Zealand. The existence of such a mature publicly accessible forest with such a variety of activities available in close proximity to our home was a factor which persuaded us to relocate here. To fell it would be a travesty. I grew up in a working forest in the UK, and visitor numbers always dropped after a large area was felled.
- I am both a mountain biker and a forester (not working for KT) so have knowledge of both sides of this debate. The public perception is that they will start harvesting and will create a lunar landscape which is totally incorrect. The forest owner is not a charity and pays for the lease of the land so needs to make an economic return which you don't get from minor species. For this situation to end amicably there needs to be a good public awareness programme of KT intentions and acceptance that there will be some changes to the species structure over a long period (KT will also have to be reasonable here as well in terms of range of species and timing of harvest).
- I am not fussed what happens to the trees as I understand it is a working forest, HOWEVER, the reason I go is there is a great variety of tracks and I understand logging would affect this in a big way. If the logging could be done so not many tracks are affected at a time this would be awesome.
- I am not really fussed about the variety of tree species outside the Redwood Grove.
- I appreciate that certain sections of the forest need to be felled for safety reasons as the trees have gone to their normal age of maturity – however, I would like to see as many areas conserved as possible.
- I appreciate the variety of species at present. The aesthetic value would be reduced along with the number of species.
- I appreciate there are groups who own the timber in the forest. If they choose to harvest and replant in pine that's their choice, but it will have a definite effect on recreational users. I'm most concerned about the tourism dollars the recreational users of the forest bring to Rotorua, and the risk of this being effected by having what is currently a diverse forest experience being 'dumbed down' to merely a pine forest like so many other forests of NZ.
- I believe that management of Whaka forest needs to be a balancing act - not just because it is a working forest which provides employment for people in the Rotorua community, but also because there are a range of recreational activities which are carried out in the forest. The management of the forest requires consideration of all of these factors, and therefore it is important that all parties realise that to continue their use of the forest, they have to work together and make sacrifices. Also I would like to see all parties involved in the decision-making, so that smaller groups such as the horse riders are not over-powered by larger groups such as the mountain bikers.
- I believe that the council should buy the more established recreational areas in the forest as a local recreational reserve and allow sustained selected logging in the forest on a rotation so that tracks and the recreational values are sustained while allowing the forest to turn over for some commercial gain. The forest would die back naturally or trees would become dangerous at some point in their lives anyway. It is a resource that could earn more and be exploited more as a recreation source than as a pure logging venture. Gate-waying the entry to the forest with more commercial access at the entrance and increasing use with council

sponsorship of events. Increasing pick up and transport to the entrance would be superb, say a free bus service with racks for bikes make the bus run on wood pulp ethanol or electric power from the forest. Some eco sell to get the euro turos all excited.

- I believe that the current variety of species should be maintained. It would be a shame to see them replaced with pinus radiata.
- I believe that the forest and maintaining tree planting programmes should be maintained. The forest is an asset to Rotorua and the envy of us Aucklanders who are into the outdoors.
- I bike at Woodhill Forest and the whole feeling of the Whakarewarewa Forest is different, nicer, and the mix of trees might be a contributing factor.
- I can understand the need to farm the trees, but around the main hub. Could they not farm them in small pockets? I think a big farming project could devastate the tourism side of Whaka.
- I choose to live in Rotorua for the mountain biking. Our business employs a significant number of full-time staff and if my main motivator (mountain biking) is reduced significantly then we would seriously consider relocating to Australia.
- I consider Whaka Forest to be a prime asset which makes Rotorua virtually unique in New Zealand. It is the facility I would miss most if I had to leave the city.
- I do like the different tree cover, as I prefer to mountain bike around on tracks under pines, but prefer to horse ride under the more open canopy type trees.
- I do not agree with the chopping down of other trees, especially if native. If those trees are a danger to people, than that's another story. Other than that, please leave the forest alone.
- I don't mind if tree felling takes place on areas where mountain biking and walking tracks are, however, I feel that if we lost many of the tracks it would be a great loss to Rotorua.
- I don't mind radiata pine and douglas fir, but running along Tokarangi Pa Road in native bush is one of those really special things in Rotorua, and the main reasons why I chose to live here.
- I don't see why there should be any changes - for years this forest has been here and unless the Redwoods are in danger of falling - they should remain. We don't go removing your housing - do go removing other living things housing. This only affects the natural environment around us.
- I don't understand question 13. What I'm saying is that if you remove too much I will not like it.
- I don't mind a reduction in trees as long as the trees are left where the mountain bike tracks run (the trees really add to the good vibes you get when riding there). Where the trees are felled replanting asap would be alright.
- I enjoy looking across the lake towards the forest and seeing the different varieties of trees in the different seasons.
- I enjoy the great variety of trees species. It is wonderful to spend time in a natural looking forest that is not just pine plantation.
- I enjoy the variety of species at Whakarewarewa. It is a unique forest to mountain bike in.
- I enjoy the variety of trees.
- I find the trees effect on wind, rain etc,. Excellent as is.
- I generally enjoy the variety of species offered.
- I guess it's a huge forest and I'm only using a small part of it. It depends wholly on where would be harvested. Would be a shame to loose the work that has gone into the trail network - especially 'out the back' in the newer area by Taniwha.
- I guess some harvesting/clearing is needed to ensure safety and improve some access, but the more trees left standing the better.
- I have just taken up mountain biking and have had great reports of the Whaka Forest. I am keen to visit Rotorua in the near future to check it out.
- I have seen the effect of logging around direct road and the reduced enjoyment of a great run prior to that logging. Make the forest a National Park.
- I hope that any reduction in the size of the forest would be the result of a decision to preserve the forest; otherwise I would strongly oppose this. If any, ecological considerations should be given first priority.

- I hope the mountain biking tracks stay there, they're awesome, and are the only reason I stop in Rotorua when passing through from Whakatane. Are safe, well marked and well designed.
- I know the forest is not a public park, but a commercial forestry operation.
- I know when I take family and friends to Rotorua we have a great time mountain biking and enjoying Rotorua's hotels and thermal resorts. If the tracks at Rotorua were reduced or turned into boring tracks with no shelter from the elements ie, (no trees) we simply would stay in Auckland to ride.
- I like the shading effect of the trees for summer riding and walking rather than for the enjoyment of any particular species, although I'm VERY fond of the Redwoods.
- I live in Wellington and travel to Rotorua just to go mountain biking in the Whakarewarewa Forest. If for some reason the variety and trail quality is reduced I am not sure I would make the trip back.
- I lived in Rotorua for 15 years and went running, walking and biking in the forest almost daily during that time. Even now that I've moved away I really enjoy coming back to the forest and knowing the tracks it brings back great memories.
- I love going to the forest and have done so since I was a young child. I have instilled the same love of the forest with my children and we regularly ride or walk in the forest.
- I love having such a great forest so close. It will be even better if you don't cut trees but let it age a little. It will naturally diversify over time.
- I love mountain biking at Whaka Forest.
- I love the forest as it is and would hate to see it reduced in any way.
- I love the forest as it is. I love Rotorua because of Whaka Forest. It is a unique.
- I love the forest in question, but it does have an owner and they under the laws should be permitted to harvest what they like. I feel we who have had the benefit of using this magnificent area of forest should be grateful that we have had that opportunity.
- I LOVE THIS FOREST ENOUGH AS IT IS TO RESPOND WHILE ON HOLIDAY IN GREECE!!
- I love the events held there.
- I mainly run through the forest. Unlike the mountain bikers, I probably have more time to enjoy the view as I go. I'm not saying the run would be boring but it is nice to have a change of scenery.
- I only use the forest for mountain biking but it would be a shame to see it deforested or changed.
- I particularly enjoy the small pockets of deciduous trees eg, the areas of larch, as visual highlights.
- I realise that the forest is a 'working forest' and that free public use isn't an automatic right. As long as help was offered to restore tracks (mountain bike one are the most important!), all would be ok.
- I realise the forest is a pine forest, however, it would be tragic to see vast tracks of it milled simply because the forest has so many users and is a huge resource for Rotorua - I know people who have moved to Rotorua BECAUSE of Whakarewarewa!!
- I really appreciate the variety of ages as well as the variety of species of the trees.
- I really enjoy our New Zealand environment and that includes our flora and fauna, so it is neat to see it reflected around you.
- I really enjoy the variety of the plantation which is part of the experience
- I recognise that there is a tension between the economics of a functioning commercial forest and the aesthetic desires of the recreational users. Sensitivity to both needs, which is made clear to all, is important in the management of this process.
- I recognise the need to harvest a lot of the unique species, for safety and for financial reasons, but regrowing and retaining some of those areas should be seriously considered to keep some of the unique qualities of the most travelled parts of the forest.
- I respect the fact it's a commercial enterprise and as such business viability is important.
- I think a large variety is better for the eco-system.
- I think it is important that the natural bush of the Whakarewarewa Forest is kept and not logged. For example, at the top of Tawa Road. Also, the Redwood trees in the walking/running part of the forest are unique and I hope these aren't logged either.

Walking/running in The Redwoods is much more beautiful than walking/running in bare land or in pines. I think other users of the forest other than just the loggers should be looked after. This is currently being done, but it would be a disaster to see the tracks and trees go for the sake of money. The Whakarewarewa Forest is a priceless resource for recreational activity and I hope it is still like that when I'm an old man.

- I think it very important that the forest remains in tact. It is a fantastic place for mountain biking for me and my family. I would like to see more horse trails. It is great to get out in a natural terrain.
- I think it's important to have a variety of species present in the forest.
- I think part of the character of Whaka is the range of plantation species there. I appreciate it is a plantation but this gives it a quality of a special plantation with a very high aesthetic value.
- I think that the forest serves a great purpose to all people. It is natural beauty that everyone enjoys and looks after. It is nice to have somewhere to go where you don't have to pay and you have all this space to your available. It helps the community to push play and it provides a natural and beautiful place for everyone in Rotorua to enjoy all the time.
- I THINK THAT THE VARIETY OF TREES MAKES THE WHAKA FOREST WHAT IT IS, AND MAKES IT UNIQUE IN THE WORLD OF MOUNTAIN BIKING.
- I think the forest is a good peaceful place to go for a family walk or bike ride. I would be very disappointed in you guys if you chopped down the lovely peace of nature.
- I think the forest is an integral part of the Rotorua residents' lifestyle. It is a major draw card for recreational tourism, and for those who are choosing Rotorua as a place to live and raise a family. The forest also brings revenue to the area from the visitors that it attracts. It is a fantastic place to take your children so that they can experience nature and get exercise at the same time.
- I think the forest is awesome and really love how it is so accessible and offers so much to everyone.
- I think the forest is Rotorua's greatest asset and to lose any of it would be a tragedy.
- I think the forest is world class for mountain biking and that people come from all over to bike there. We travel from Palmerston North every second weekend to get amongst the trees as they are a major factor in drying the trails so they are the best place in New Zealand for winter riding due to the forest creating good rideable trails.
- I think the presence and availability of this forest for public use is the best thing about Rotorua. I've only been here for two years but I use it for jogging at least four times a week and couldn't imagine where I would go without it. I love the native understory where it exists and would like to see it left to spread further into the monoculture areas.
- I think the trees help with the natural beauty of the forest and losing them would destroy what is so good about the forest and riding there.
- I think the Whaka Forest is one of the greatest assets in a city packed full of assets. It is a major draw card for mountain bikers from all areas of the world. It is quiet, clean and close. We are very lucky to live in Rotorua.
- I think the Whakarewarewa Forest and the activities it offers is a HUGE resource for Rotorua. All users should consider themselves privileged to have it available for public access. Given its proximity to the town and lakes, it is unique.
- I think we are losing too much natural diversity in nature because of the all mighty dollar. Even though the original forest has already been cut down and replanted it has matured into a great place for people to enjoy and the amount of visitors to the area should be proof enough. There is a great network of trails and large diversity of trees. There are lots of mountain bike, running, tramping etc, etc, events which use the forest every month and the main appeal is mature trees and diversity.
- I think Whakarewarewa Forest in its current vegetation cover acts as a recreation tourism magnet for Rotorua. As such, the economic values of the forest accrue indirectly to the Rotorua community.
- I travel all over the forest and really enjoy the beautiful trees everywhere. By reducing them you will be opening up the tracks and trails to the weather and taking away the 'enchanted' canopied environment from the users (x2).

- I understand that investors need a return on the trees. Is it possible to leave trees immediately adjacent to the track for shade, shelter and maintaining the integrity and natural feel of tracks, particularly in mountain biking? The flow rhythm and track surface is disrupted when the trees next to it go.
- I understand that trees need to be harvested, however, they should be replanted with amenity species. Tracks etc, can be re-routed through other mature stands as required which would add interest. Absolutely opposed to taking out the Redwood species unless individual trees become unsafe. This area is important to locals as well as a tourist draw card. We are lucky to have it and need to protect it.
- I understand the need to harvest a production forest, but perhaps the council should purchase the forest as it is of such importance to Rotorua. If the forest must be harvested, surely this could be done in such a way to have minimal impact... ie, in stages, so new trees are growing before the next section is harvested? Also it could be an awesome educational opportunity... most people never get close to a logging operation. You could have viewing areas for the public; have schools involved in learning from harvesting processes (like Forests For Life between SCION and Mokoia Intermediate). You could turn a negative event into a positive event.
- I used to use the forest a lot more when I mountain biked and it was my favourite place to ride.
- I would be anti reduction in native species. Large parts of the forest used for mountain biking is pine or gum trees anyway, so reduction in any of those two species would not have an influence on the enjoyment of my experience.
- I would be devastated if the Whaka Forest was changed!!! It is perfect just as it is.
- I would be most upset if this forest was reduced in any way. People should be able to enjoy one of the most natural environmental beauty spots.
- I would be real sad to see the forest reduced in size (trees). It is fine to see them thinning in the forest but to fully clear would be a shame.
- I would hate to see a reduction of native tree species or more prominent commercial forestry. It would detract from my pleasure in using the forest.
- I would like to see the forest retained in it's current state. Felling of trees for safety reasons and to maintain the current forest levels/density is okay, but it would be devastating to lose large areas of tree cover and the wonderful tracks beneath them. I ride all types of tracks from beginners to advanced, all over the forest. The variety is what keeps me going back. I look forward to teaching my children to mountain bike in Whakarewarewa when they are old enough.
- I would like to see the Redwoods in the block between Wash Road and Red Tank road remain. I realise that it is a production forest and that as such it is subject to harvesting on a regular basis (hell, I even used to work in a logging crew) but it would be a shame to lose significant trees like these ones.
- I would like to suggest Whaka Forest is one of Rotorua's best assets. Its accessibility to all is its attraction and every City needs a place like this for families to play that doesn't cost them. I appreciate being able to use the facilities / tracks for mountain biking and running in particular. I feel the loss of a large proportion of the forest would be detrimental to Rotorua, especially mountain biking which has obviously become more and more popular over the last few years.
- I would love to see the natural and recreation resource that this forest is be put into government ownership and be preserved for generations to come.
- I would need more information to give an informed answer about this.
- I would not like to see any reduction in forest area that contains or has the potential to contain tracks.
- I would not like to see any of the existing bike trail network damaged by any forest harvesting.
- I would not like to see any reduction in the number of trees/species in the Whakarewarewa Forest. Any reduction in the number of available MTB trails would be considered a major blight for me.
- I would not like to see the area cleared of the trees.

- I would prefer an increase in variety and species as radiata are removed through old age or disease or are milled. It would be good to see a stand of Kauri or large native trees as an additional 200-year crop.
- I'm aware it has to be run as a production forest, so we can't be too unrealistic about the species grown, however, to replant predominantly in radiata would detract from the whole environment (no Redwood needles to line the trails, no big Douglas fir to admire etc).
- I can understand that this area is a production forest but we must somehow purchase the cutting rites for perpetuity, as this area is a huge asset for Rotorua and also tourism.
- Ideally for recreational purposes it would be good to increase the variety of tree species, and in particular increase the number of indigenous species. However, I recognise it is a commercial forest and its existence depends on this being a viable business, which in turn requires planting commercial species. A balance is needed.
- If any trees at all were cut down it becomes something else ie, NOT A FOREST!!!
- If blocks of trees are to be felled, replanting needs to be done ASAP to minimise the damage caused by the logging operation and to allow new mountain bike trails to be made.
- If it is a choice between decreasing the variety of trees and the park ceasing to exist then decrease away. Mountain bikers mostly don't notice what sort of trees they are going through until they hit one.
- If it isn't broken don't fix it. Duh.
- If pines are to be logged, replace with native species.
- If the public opinion and wish is that the forest should not be harvested then RDC or some benefactor should negotiate with the government (LINZ) to purchase all or part of the CFL from the present CFL holders who paid big money for the cutting rights, and also have the area removed from Waitangi treaty claims and settlements.
- If the trees are gone it's not as fun to mountain bike in there anymore.
- If the variety of native trees were reduced in any amount it would likely decrease my enjoyment of the area.
- I'm a mountain biker and I was stoked about the downhill tracks. They all had awesome flow, especially hot x buns. Also the whole network linked together well and the ratings are good though in a few places inaccurate.
- Important that the majesty of the older stands - with the mix of species is maintained and enhanced. The Whaka experience is unique for the fact that there are old mixes (species) of trees with undergrowth that makes the under canopy experience so variable.
- In the summertime in the middle of the day riding in mostly shade has benefits all round.
- If the council wishes to charge so much to hold events in the forest then it needs to provide better services; facilities at Waipa Mill car park.
- Is it necessary to reduce tree specimen in that small area?
- Is this the whole forest or just the triangle? It would be great to have even more different blocks of tree types than there are now. The variety makes for more interesting rides.
- It depends specifically where the changes are. There are equally pleasant Redwoods over the Waipa side. These should remain.
- It is a beautiful forest and should be left alone as is!!
- It is a fantastic venue for the public to enjoy for recreational purposes. I note many foreigners use the Redwoods by way of buses or coaches. Perhaps these people could be charged a small sum for their use of the forest. This is consistent with what happens in other countries such as Chile for use of National Parks etc. Use the funds to develop the forest for other recreational users so that people continue to be attracted to Rotorua to use the forest.
- It is a gem just the way it is. You can go and have great family time seemingly in the middle of nowhere.
- It is a great asset for Rotorua and New Zealand.
- It is a matter of balance. Variety does make the forest unique and different from other recreational forest areas (x 2).
- It is a wonderful resource, close to the local community. We need to look after it.
- It is a working forest and change is not a bad thing.
- It is a working forest and new tracks can be built in the newly felled/planted areas. Currently it is close to perfect, but I would still ride there if it was all pine forest. I'm from Napier and we have pine and loose blocks from logging sometimes.

- It is a working forest as well as a recreation area. We have to work with the forest management. Trees become dangerous when they get too old.
- It is an amazing place to be able to go, for myself and my kids, to experience the change in forest as you move through the different varieties of trees.
- It is apparent from talking to colleagues that the Redwoods and other areas of the forest are one of the main attractions for health care professionals coming to live and work in Rotorua. Loss of this facility could have a potentially profound effect on health sector recruitment.
- It is great how it is. Unless one variety is overtaking another I see sustainability of all varieties being the key issue here, not selecting which we should like most.
- It is great to see a production forest in action. However, it is also great to experience a wide variety of forest (larches, Redwoods, eucalypts, etc).
- It is important for the survival of the forest as a recreation area. It also has to be a working forest therefore some areas must be logged. You have to break an egg to make an omelette.
- It is more than just a production forest, and it is quite unique. Similar forests elsewhere like Woodhill and Waiariki just don't seem to have "it", and I think part of "it" is the variety of vegetation, tracks, and terrain.
- It is nice to have different trees in the forest for variation. It's nice to show our children the different species and how the bark, branches and trunk grow differently.
- It is noticeable when mountain biking that the variety of trees present can have a huge effect on the track surface and therefore the "rideability". By reducing the number of varieties of trees the tracks may be adversely affected.
- It is outrageous to even suggest diminishing Whakarewarewa Forest in any way, shape, or form. People from all over New Zealand, as well as locals, travel to Rotorua to visit the forest.
- It is used greatly for recreational use. A lot of voluntary time has been dedicated to its upkeep and the magical beauty of this resource and should not be destroyed for locals and visitors.
- It "wood" (excuse the pun) be a shame to see any of it go. It's a beautiful place to ride.
- It would be a great shame if, in the future, the Redwood Grove became the only memory of how beautiful and varied the forest is today! Rows of radiata just don't compare to what we have now. Whilst commercial value has to be considered, the value and beauty appreciated by visitors and users of the forest (local and international) is equally important. This forest is now famous worldwide (particularly for mountain bike tracks!). It attracts thousands of visitors every year just for the mountain bike/multi-sport events!
- It would be a real shame if the area is logged. It is so unique and of major value to Rotorua.
- It would be a real shame to take away such a unique environment such as the Redwood/Whaka forest area, especially given the amount of people who use the area for recreation, sport and exercise.
- It would be a shame to decrease the variety, even though I don't use the forest much for scenery (because I've run through it so many times), it's always nice to take others there for the purpose of a scenic walk or run.
- It would be a shame to reduce the variety of the forest.
- It would be a tragedy to reduce the amount of forest. It is quite a unique facility to have in our city.
- It would be a travesty to decrease the number of species as the potential is the loss of native flora and fauna.
- It would be cool if the exotic trees were replaced by natives.
- It would be disappointing to lose access to a number of tracks through logging operations. It is however, a commercial forest so active planning and construction of new tracks prior to logging would negate this to an extent.
- It would be good to maintain the current cover of forestry to stop erosion, make riding cooler in summer and enhance aesthetics.
- It would be sad to see the forest decreased in size. People and tourists love it.
- It would be wonderful for all concerned to leave it how it is. It is a huge asset to Rotorua.
- It's hard to imagine what the forest would be like in these different circumstances but the variety of species does add interest and makes it visually more attractive.

- It's important to keep a broad variety of tree species in the forest to not destroy the eco system. We need to leave some nature and variety of plants in New Zealand to be able to call it green!
- It's nice to be in the trees. I don't actually notice the diversity of the trees. Just that there are a pile there.
- It's a beautiful forest that I have enjoyed mountain biking in with my friends and family. I would seriously consider going somewhere else for my Christmas holidays.
- It's a magical place. It caters for all types of people. It's a place that needs to stand the way it is so our children's children can enjoy its magnificence.
- It's a national treasure.
- It's good as it is. More native stuff would make it better.
- It's great as it is. Leave it alone.
- It's one of the best places to visit in NZ and keeps getting better. If it got worse it would put me off. People don't like things getting worse when they have been spoilt!
- Jesus Christ, with what organ do you guys think? It isn't the brain.
- Keep it open and available to the public. It is a huge benefit to the town with tourists and community.
- Keep the trees!
- Keep the variety of trees as it is, or better still, increase it!!
- Keep up the great work! I wish to live in Rotorua one day due to the mountain biking.
- Large redwoods and douglas fir look the best.
- Leave as is.
- Leave as is.
- Leave it. It's a great resource as it is.
- Leave it all alone!!
- Leave it alone but put in changing rooms
- Leave it as it is.
- Leave it be. There is plenty of other forested land about. To touch it would be criminal.
- Leave the forest alone, especially the Redwoods. It is a major tourist attraction and enjoyed by many locals and tourists alike. I don't want to see a repeat of what was done with the trees at Hamurana Springs!
- Leave the forest as it is.
- Leave the forest there to do it natural thing and create a clean green New Zealand. Take the forest away and you are taking the veins from the heart of New Zealand.
- Leave the trees alone, especially any natives.
- Leave the trees there.
- Let the forest live on!
- Like the big trees in the forest. Hate to see parts of it chopped down.
- Looks like another council looking at revenue generation rather than offering recreational areas for people to enjoy.
- Love the trees!
- Maintain free public access.
- Make a map available in the visitor centre/ on-line of the tracks available for walking, running and mountain biking etc.
- Many guests of our B&B enjoy the forest.
- Many health professionals I know live here to enjoy the forest. If the forest is diminished, the professionals leave, the community suffers (especially the families in the news recently)!!
- Mountain biking in amongst the trees plays a part in the Whakarewarewa Forest experience, with trails winding through the trees, pine needles and leaf litter on the ground, etc.
- Must be replanted if felled.
- My favourite species are the redwoods and the furs themselves. If these were the trees that would be reduced this would decrease my enjoyment of the forest considerably. We moved to Rotorua because of our love for the forest and mountain biking.
- My husband and I (early 30s, professionals, full-time workers, blue collar jobs, earning \$200,000 between us) moved from Auckland to Rotorua two years ago because of the access to the forest and its beauty. Since then lots of our friends from Auckland can see

what we see and are now making the move here. If it wasn't for the forest we would not have moved so easily.

- Need to see a management plan re re-establishment and management which may or may not change the negative ratings shown above.
- Needs to stay as it is and maintained as it is
- No, just that it is a hugely special part of Rotorua and I would be unhappy to see it change too much.
- No-one wants to ride, walk, run in a logging graveyard. The trees are a huge attraction to the area. It would take decades to re-establish what there is now.
- No other cities have these facilities.
- Not too worried about the types or number of different trees in the forest. The size and the fact that you are riding through them is the main thing. Although having at least a changing environment is of value.
- Nothing like riding amongst trees and native bush.
- Obviously hard to know the exact impact until the trees have gone, but as it is the forest is a beautiful resource for the community
- One of the attractions of the forest was its mix of species and age classes.
- One of the attractive features of Whaka is the diversity of species both exotic and native ie, the lack of monoculture is desirable.
- One of the main appeals of the forest is the varied nature of the plants and trees and the different trail conditions they produce. Most mountain bike parks in New Zealand are just pine forests and this seems to create very similar trails and conditions no matter where in the country you ride. It's nice to have something different to ride in and I believe it a major part of the attraction of people to ride in the Redwoods.
- One of the main enjoyments of the Whaka forest is the variety of tree species, especially when mountain biking.
- One of the things I love about riding in the forest is listening to the variety of bird life. If the variety of trees reduced this might reduce the bird life.
- Other mountain bike parks that I have ridden in that were all one species felt dead and uninviting.
- Our forest is an enviable asset to be treasured and looked after for generations to come. I believe recreation and commercial interests can co-exist if we continue working together to retain one of Rotorua's biggest assets.
- Part of the aesthetic value of the forest is the range of species present - different textures, smells, and colours all add to the experience of being in the forest.
- Part of the appeal of the forest is the variety of species, and a large part of the appeal of Rotorua is the forest as it stands at present.
- Part of the enjoyment for me is the whole sight and sound of the current forest. To decrease some of the plants would effect the habitat of species living there and therefore detract the natural environment I enjoy being in.
- People come from all over the world to ride our beautiful tracks - it wouldn't be the same ride if it was through clear cut forest. I do understand that the landowners have invested money in maintaining the land, however. What are our compromises?
- People must realize that Whaka Forest is a working forest and that there will be harvesting of trees. On the other hand, those doing the harvesting could leave the area felled so that it is more appealing to the eye, ie, tidy up the felled areas more.
- Personally I believe that the forest is such a huge asset to Rotorua that the council should own it and manage it sustainably of a variety on trees.
- Pinus radiata monocultures are very boring.
- Plant natives!
- Please do not destroy such a gorgeous and well-loved treasure. It is a testimony to the far-sightedness of its founders and something the entire country can be so proud to have protected for so long. It would be a tragedy to remove the variety and majesty of those older trees, which can live on for hundreds of years if protected.
- Please do not interfere with the arboretum!!! It is not the variety of commercial, redwood and native trees/plants that are a problem, but the exceptionally high infestation of noxious weeds

(black wattle, Australian black woods, ink berry, bramble/blackberry, etc.) and exotic "stand alone" trees (mainly eucalypts).

- PLEASE don't destroy it! It's an important part of Rotorua. People come from all over the world/country to enjoy it at all times of the year. It's an integral part of the Rotorua experience. I've lived in a lot of places across the world and never experienced anything like it on my doorstep. It's truly amazing.
- Please don't infringe too much on the mountain bike tracks. That is all I really use.
- Please don't reduce the forest!
- Please don't reduce the forest. We can understand that's it there for business reasons, however, you need to regrow/replant each area when trees are removed or culled.
- Please leave the diversity as it is.
- Please leave the forest alone. It is handy to locals and visitors. It has a natural beauty that should not be lost.
- Please limit commercial cutting and reforest with natives.
- Please sort out the question above that doesn't seem to work.
- Please treasure it. I do! I no longer live in Rotorua (but now in Auckland) but regularly return to enjoy the forest (especially mountain biking) with friends. It is a treasure and a great asset to the region!
- Please try and keep it the same. I understand the need for it to be financially viable but cutting down the trees would also potentially decrease the other financial aspects to the area of people specifically coming to the area to use the facilities and wider impact on the Rotorua economy.
- Prefer it to remain or increase current levels.
- Presumably when you are referring to 'this' you are referring to Q13. If so, the species add to the mountain biking experience. If someone could get some cutting rights in regard to the species then this would be fantastic. This amazing resource is on our doorstep and it is being increasingly threatened by 'offshore' interests. If the people of Rotorua could get some security of tenure in regard to this facility it would be amazing. It's a shame that 10 years ago it was not recognised what a huge resource this is for the Rotorua community and I would hate to see us being squeezed out by the Pension Schemes that really govern it. But that seems like wishful thinking, unless Rotorua as a community can buy its way back in again.
- Protect this natural resource.
- Put enjoyment of a special natural place for local people and visitors alike over a commercial interest (foreign) just wanting to make money.
- Q13 difficult to answer - not so much the variety of tree species but the quantity and location of trees that is important to enjoyment of the forest. Reduction in tree quantities would reduce my enjoyment of the forest.
- Question 13 is really badly phrased. I'd like to see more natives in Whakarewarewa, but I don't want existing pine to be culled.
- Question 13 is unclear as to what would be removed, but removing any trees (apart from for safety reasons) would decrease the enjoyment.
- RDC should safeguard the use of the Redwoods for the enjoyment of the public (ratepayers). The Redwoods is a huge economic benefit to the district.
- Retain forest as it is
- Recently large areas have been felled with consequent unappealing visual effects and waterway damage from erosion. Any further felling would be very detrimental to the forest visually and environmentally
- Reducing the variety wouldn't necessarily affect the recreation I enjoy there but it would affect the aesthetic and that's just as important. I don't know enough about the varieties present but can assume more diversity = better eco system too.
- Removing trees could destroy some excellent riding trails.
- Riding on the leaf litter of Redwoods, of spruce, of pine, of gum - the fragrance, the feel the sound, the diversity = amazing and unmatched by anywhere I have ridden in Europe and the US.
- Rotorua has a wonderful facility that I drive a long way to get to - and I'm not alone in that. Don't ruin it, make it better!

- Rotorua separates itself from other mountain biking areas because of the tree varieties. So many other parks are much less interesting because of the mono species of trees
- Rotorua's forest brings thousands of people to the area each year, which either stay in city hotels, motels, eat and drink in local restaurants and bars, have bikes repaired in bike shops. They all spend money in town, the long term \$\$\$ generated from this must outweigh the short-term gain of felling the trees.
- Sacrilege.
- See below. Would be so sad to see the variety of trees we currently enjoy in the area replaced by more boring bloody pine trees!!
- Selective felling would have minimal effect on my enjoyment of the forest. Short-term effects on the bike trails could be offset by the knowledge that the trails could be built in regeneration areas which would allow many years of unaffected (by logging) riding. A balance between the recreational needs and commercial needs to create a win win situation should be the goal.
- Selective removal of trees would allow more light etc, into some areas thus extending access hours and allow for better track flow without destroying the aesthetic appeal of the forest.
- So long as each compartment is harvested in a manner that enables the replanting and re-establishment of tracks (either on old alignments or new alignments) that would be fine. Rampaging through the area and clear felling a number of compartments at once will wreck the area for a number of years. Re-planting of other production species is at the discretion of the forest company. It is after all a business for them and we should be happy to be able to enjoy the area no matter what trees are planted. But if there is an option then I would prefer a range of exotic or native tree species.
- Some of the 'crop trees' will become hazardous if not felled. Variety should be maintained - no objection to commercial species however.
- Some trees may have to be harvested but as long as new ones are planted.
- Some variety of species creates diversity and encourages bird life, use of native planting around stream areas and track junctions would provide a food source for the birds and aids navigation around the forest roads, as junctions appear different.
- Sounds like a bit of a trick question. The diversity makes the forest but it is also a forestry area and a single species may be what they are after.
- Sure, the terrain is great and yes, if it was all pinus radiata it would still be a fabulous resource but the uniqueness and soul of this forest would be gone - and the current biodiversity can never be replaced. Plus it is a living historical document of the work of the pioneers of forestry in our region.
- Taking out any trees would dramatically affect the existing great nature of the trails. Whakarewarewa Forest has to be one of the best systems of riding trails in this country, and one of the best worldwide. It is an area of natural beauty much appreciated by all mountain bike riders. Thank you.
- Taking the trees out not only takes away aesthetic values but could substantially reduce a hugely sheltered resource for outdoor activities. Even if the roads were there without trees, the wind and rain would have more effect on activities.
- That was a badly structured question.
- The amount of work that the local mountain bike club does is wonderful and we have a unique situation here.
- The attraction of going to the forest is that you can enjoy the scenery, natural habitat and atmosphere - having events/activities and a variety of tracks is the how a lot of people enjoy this.
- The beauty of mountain biking is to be able to be out there enjoying the forest. There are lots of different areas which are accessible on bike but prefer to bike in big trees rather than the little ones.
- The beauty of the forest is key to myself and a lot of other people, it feels like your miles away from anywhere with the abundance and thickness of the forest. It has so much visual pleasure, when mountain biking or running, you take this all in.
- The beauty of the Whaka Forest is in its diversity.
- The beauty of the Whakarewarewa trails is riding in the forest on lovely and varied trails. It's just not the same riding out in the open and in the weather, trees add atmosphere.

- The change in species will affect the type of tracks, streambeds and water, bird life, shade quality and many other aspects of the specific enjoyment factors of forest users.
- The commercial harvesting of forestry has already depleted landscapes back to farmland rather than re-planting. It will devastate recreational users of a wonderful and accessible resource, especially families.
- The current variety of the forest adds to its appeal.
- The different species add a lot of interest to the aesthetic appeal of the whole area
- The different types of trees in the forest make it special to Rotorua.
- The diversity of species greatly adds to my appreciation and enjoyment of this amazing recreation park. Without access to this area, I would seriously consider leaving Rotorua and residing elsewhere eg, Tauranga. It holds me here.
- The diversity of trees is a real point of difference for Whakarewarewa from other mountain bike destinations
- The diversity of trees is one of the draw cards to the forest.
- The enjoyment level of the forest is in the nature of the variety of trees that help create a satisfying experience that leaves me wanting more.
- The exceptional nature of the environment includes the variety of species and also age of the trees. I'd hate to see it changed other than to maintain and manage.
- The feeling in the Whakarewarewa Forest of seclusion is not easily experienced in any other multipurpose recreational facility so close to a city in New Zealand. It has a magic that will be majorly diminished if large areas of trees are felled.
- The forest and access of it is one of the best things about Rotorua.
- The forest as a recreational resource for the local population and as an economic benefit to Rotorua is one of the top three priorities for all of Rotorua businesses and the RDC.
- The forest as I see it is good as it is. We really don't need to play around with nature. Nurture what is already there and manage accordingly.
- The forest has so much charm like it is. Why take the risk of destroying it?
- The forest is a beautiful and fantastic resource for the visitors and local economy.
- The forest is a beautiful place, however, I know it is a working forest thus I understand certain areas need to be forested. Just think about what it may do to the atmosphere in certain parts.
- The forest is a fantastic place. It was a major draw card to moving back to Rotorua after completing my university study.
- The forest is a great tourist attraction for Rotorua and a reason why so many people living in NZ would come to Rotorua for weekends etc. What a great asset this is for Rotorua.
- The forest is a huge asset to Rotorua and should not be touched.
- The forest is a large part of what I really like about living in Rotorua. The lack of public access to open spaces is one of the things I dislike about New Zealand, so this makes Rotorua special.
- The forest is a lifeline in this day and age for people to commune with nature.
- The forest is a really great place. I use it almost every day for training and never get bored because of the variety of tracks. If the trees were changed I would not mind too much because I understand that it is a working forest, as long I could still use it for running. A variety of trees brings birds which are nice to hear when you are running
- The forest is absolutely beautiful and a huge asset to Rotorua. It would be a huge loss if trees were milled. If this had happened in the past the forest would not be here today.
- The forest is an amazing resource that hosts world class mountain biking trails - it should be nurtured not forested.
- The forest is an important part of Rotorua life and any reduction in trees would damage that relationship.
- The forest is awesome as it is, people travel from different parts of New Zealand to mountain bike. Reducing the trees reduces the fun.
- The forest is awesome. The Redwoods are unique and Rotorua won't know what it had until they are gone!
- The forest is beautiful and the fact the trees carry so much history is not only a great tourist attraction (I see buses of tourists every time I am there) but also wonderful for people living in a city to walk through.

- The forest is fantastic the way it is. Don't change it. A few more drinking taps around the forest would be great!
- The forest is great how it is. I regularly travel from Wellington just to use it as it is like no other area to bike in.
- The forest is great how it is!
- The forest is great the way it is. It does get a little slippery but that is the nature of the forest!
- The forest is one of the jewels for me and living in Tauranga I feel so lucky to have it on my back door step. I see so many families there enjoying themselves. It is a special place. Please leave it the way it is.
- The forest is really great as it is. It's hard to imagine what it would be like with a lot of change.
- The forest is unique in the diversity of the plantation trees. While I understand there has to be a balance between commercial and recreational use of the forest, it would be a shame to see the forest turn into just another pinus radiata plantation.
- The forest is used to educate teenagers on how to recognize different species. If the number of species is reduced so is its effectiveness as a teaching tool.
- The forest manager should harvest the forest when it is ready (ie, not have to pander to recreational users). That said, the forest manager should ensure the biodiversity of tree species is enhanced not reduced. Whaka is an ideal forest (location/access and site type wise) for testing the performance of different species of commercial tree types.
- The forest should be in public ownership managed as a recreational park.
- The forest should remain as it is, a legacy for future generations.
- The forest and the surrounding area is a popular tourist attraction. People from all around New Zealand (including myself) come specifically to bike. Assessing the value of the forest should include the effect of tourism on the town economy and also less measurable effects such as promoting physical fitness and health.
- The forest in its current form is a great resource for a wide variety of people in Rotorua and also a large tourism draw. Cutting down the trees will affect its beauty and replacing the trees with solely pine will make it a less enjoyable place to carry out activities and may also mean that we have less of a draw as a tourism location as we will be losing some of the beauty of the forest.
- The forest is one of the greatest resources Rotorua has. It is one of the main reasons myself and my wife (both medical professionals) moved to Rotorua. We love it. Please don't break it.
- The gums and ferns are stunning, alongside the radiata.
- The intrinsic non-market values of this forest are enormous. The people of Rotorua need to stand up and protect this forest from commercial degradation via converting the majestic stands of redwood and douglas-fir to young radiata pine monocultures. However, if Timberlands has a valid enough point that Whaka was bought by Harvard as a commercial forest, they should not lose financially. Key areas (high public value) should be identified and fair market value should be paid to Harvard by the government and the forest then managed by the council for all to enjoy.
- The less trees around the less appealing it would be
- The less trees, the worst the forest will be
- The maturity of the trees is a key rather than species. They need to be large to create the enclosed feeling of space and wilderness, with a canopy above.
- The mixture of species in Whaka forest is part of its appeal. The prevalence of radiata pine monocultures in New Zealand is boring and unnecessary.
- The more far reaching mountain bike tracks are also some of the most attractive ones to experience.
- The more trees in the recreational area the better.
- The mountain biking tracks are special because they travel through different species of forest and provide a great deal of variety. Although I haven't been mountain biking in the last 5 years, I will do so as my children get old enough to come with me. The mountain biking section of the forest is an important resource for all of New Zealand, not just Rotorua residents.

- The mountain bike trails are some of the best in the world, definitely the best in New Zealand, and cutting down trees, even if new ones are planted, will ruin them because the trees are part of the trails.
- The number of types of bush and trees available in the forest make a large part of the enjoyment - different trees provide different light (and soil conditions), and really make areas like the stands of Redwoods stand out.
- The operation of the harvesting and felling of trees (apart from thinning and necessary maintenance work) affects both safety and public access to forestry tracks and detracts from the beauty of the area.
- The park is an asset to the community and the future of the region. I should not like to see anything changed as have enjoyed for many years.
- The pine forest creates a pleasant atmosphere all year round.
- The previous question is ambiguous.
- The range of varieties is one of the things that make mountain biking really cool - it affects the surfaces that are ridden on.
- The RDC should ensure the forest stays available for public access, free and maintained to at least the standard it currently is maintained to.
- The reason I enjoy Whakarewarewa is plainly because of the forest for mountain biking.
- The reduction of species would be purely a commercial decision by a profit hungry forestry company. That company may collapse tomorrow. Where would our forest be then? The size of Whaka Forest is insignificant to that company.
- The Redwood Forest is a real draw card and treasure to have in the middle of a large city and Rotorua wouldn't be the same without it. I would hate to see it reduced in size.
- The Redwoods are a great great place that has to be rated on a world scale! For a place for out door activities it is awesome and gets families, friends and people with the same interests together.
- The Redwoods are Rotorua's best asset. It is a truly beautiful place to be and decreasing the variety of tree species would affect its uniqueness. To be surrounded by different types of trees on different tracks is magic. We need to keep it that way.
- The Redwoods are there for the enjoyment of all in Rotorua. We have paid dearly for most of the infrastructure, and now they are all turned into huge businesses, at huge financial expense of the citizens – it's called exclusivity. Everything that Rotorua residents have for enjoyment is being removed or a huge price slapped on it - with the haves (\$ people) feeling exceptionally proud to even announce these profits, and the citizens here annihilated and made to cough up. I believe this survey will be used to give someone a licence to do just that - after all, even in the current Mayoral electioneering turning public good (our moneys being used to put them in and maintain them) into businesses are hailed as a success. Again, as the salaries in Rotorua remain very low and professionals are forced out of town, a small minority gains financially - the big boys of the town. So, those that have plenty (\$ terms) will stay, and the rest, often labelled as undesirables, will be forced into submission and out of town. A new Raupatu has arrived robbing citizens of all their amenities and their ability to afford it to live in the city through higher prices.
- The Redwoods are great for family walking. The mountain bike tracks are worth the trip from Hawke's Bay and stay the whole weekend. Team the two up, add the Blue Lake, it's a winner (x 2).
- The Redwoods is a major reason I choose to live in Rotorua. It is a huge asset to me and many of my friends.
- The Redwoods is such an icon for Rotorua, I cannot imagine how anyone can even consider harvesting them. They are so majestic and such a fantastic setting for visitors and tourists alike.
- The Redwoods, eucalypts, larches and native sections of the forest are largely what make it such a unique environment to be in.
- The removal of trees or particular species of trees would have an impact on the area including soil erosion, track stability not to mention aesthetics.
- The Rotorua District Council does not appear to recognise, nor do enough to increase, the HUGE tourism asset value which is currently untapped and could be realised in promoting the "diamond" which is Whakarewarewa Forest for recreation. Around the world the "peers"

to this asset - Whistler in BC and the forests of the Scotland are doing far more to promote the economic and sustainable assets which they have for their true potential.

- The species diversity adds to the aesthetic appreciation and enhances the recreational value by providing different environments to ride/or walk through.
- The trails are awesome for all ability levels of mountain bike riding.
- The trees and bush are the reason myself and my family go there. Why must it always be about making money??
- The trees and tracks within are part of the natural appeal of this area and would reduce its attraction to us if it was no longer a forest.
- The trees are a big part of the experience of riding the Whakarewarewa tracks.
- The trees are a large part of the enjoyment factor of the forest.
- The trees are an important factor in maintaining a strong and stable soil base (by way of the root networks, drainage, shade, and shelter). This is a necessity for sustainable tracks and trails. I feel that a reduction in tree numbers and/or species would largely reduce the forest's use in those areas directly, and the whole forest indirectly (people would have less reason to travel to Whakarewarewa if there was less diversity in the trail network). A lot of people travel to Rotorua primarily for the mountain biking in the Whakarewarewa Forest. The Cateye Moonride alone attracts hundreds of people from outside the region who all seek accommodation as well as spending money in and around the city.
- The trees are nice, as is the pine needle forest surface. However, if new trees (and I'm guessing pine) are to be planted it would be nice if the existing flora was not cleared first, instead the new trees planted in and around the current lot.
- The trees are what make the forest what it is. An absolutely beautiful forest to walk and bike through.
- The trees are what make the riding the experience that it is. Why does New Zealand insist on chopping down all of its native forests?
- The type of trees present are part of what gives a variety of track surfaces for mountain biking and therefore provides more track variety and keeps the ride interesting.
- The value of the land with respect to tree varieties is in its accessibility to people. Important to retain the significant varieties in reasonable sized plantations (chestnut, larch, fir, spruce, mixed gum, native) as the nature of the plantations differs. Current staggered harvesting of radiata gives mix of mature and young forest which is also interesting. Plenty of other areas for radiata on a more commercial basis.
- The value of the forest and habitat as it is by far outweighs the monetary gains that could be got by felling.
- The variety and changing nature of the forest, not only the location and spatial arrangement of trees, but also by season is one of the most endearing aspects of the forest.
- The variety and range of tree species and the layout of the forest and access seem really unique and would never be replaced. This is pretty unique - can we preserve it if at all possible?!
- The variety of trees should be increased, preferably by increasing the number of natives.
- The variety is important from an aesthetic point of view as well as an educational point of view.
- The variety is what makes the experience of using the forest so pleasurable.
- The variety of different tree species within the forest plays a big part in why it is such a great place for recreation. Rather than just a radiata pine forest, users enjoy the many different species, which differ from many of the other forests open for public use, which are frankly, rather boring.
- The variety of different trees in Whakarewarewa is the defining feature of the forest, and the loss of this would greatly detract from the Whaka experience. It would be truly sad to see it turned to boring old pinus radiata. It would be a major loss for Rotorua.
- The variety of foliage and colours throughout the year is important.
- The variety of foliage in the forest plays a big part in the enjoyment I get from being in it. I spend a large part of my free time in the forest and will continue to do so for any years to come.
- The variety of species adds to the aesthetic value of the forest.

- The variety of species gives us something to look at and compare. It does make for good conversation.
- The variety of species in the forest is one of the things that makes it unique. Cycling and walking through stands of Douglas fir and Californian redwood, not to mention the New Zealand natives, adds diversity to the forest (mainly as an under story to the larger trees), and a lot to my enjoyment of the forest resource. Not only do the different species alter the aesthetics of the forest, they alter the nature of the trails which add variety and help to make each trail unique. It would be very sad to see that go.
- The variety of species in the Whakarewarewa Forest is part of its uniqueness. I enjoy the entire scope of the forest and have been alarmed by the recent felling of some sectors of the forest. I would feel disappointed to lose any part of the current atmosphere and natural beauty of this Rotorua resource.
- The variety of species is a major factor in making this forest such a pleasant place to visit.
- The variety of species makes Whaka Forest a special place. Reducing this would be detrimental to all who use it recreationally and affect tourism.
- The variety of species is part of its tourist attraction and I can't understand why this would be reduced.
- The variety of the trees is definitely important for the enjoyment of the forest. Some areas are dark, some are light, different tracks smell different, and there are different forest floors and types of pinecones.
- The variety of tree species is a big part of what makes Whaka Forest stand out from other forest parks and hugely increases my enjoyment of it.
- The variety of tree species is an important element in the value of this forest. The emphasis of tree selection in this forest should be on research/experimental tree crops. It would be a very great loss if it was reduced to fewer species grown for commercial purposes only. In addition, in order to preserve non-commercial values, cropping should be limited on a hectare/year basis to minimise impacts.
- The variety of tree species is an important factor in making Whaka Forest a special environment. They are also a reminder of an important part of forestry history.
- The variety of tree species is less important than the maintenance of clear, safe, well sign-posted access - and walking and mountain biking tracks. Retention of some species and diversity in key landscape amenity areas is desirable.
- The variety of tree species is nice, but not critical. I go to ride the tracks - what's important is that they are there, and freely accessible.
- The variety of tree species is one of the major attributes that make riding (or running, picnicking, walking etc) in the Redwoods so special and such an awesome place to visit. It's like another world in there, and would be very hard to find a place as fantastic as this. We need the variety of greenery and trees to truly appreciate how fabulous the great outdoors are to be enjoyed by everyone!
- The variety of tree species is what makes the forest - reduce the variety and you will change the whole atmosphere as well as the species of animals/insects.
- The variety of trees adds to the pleasure of walking in the forest.
- The variety of trees and huge open area in the forest creates an amazing, unique environment so accessible to all.
- The variety of trees enhances the pleasure of the forest experience. If it were to be just pine the undergrowth/environment would all be the same and the flora and fauna would also be affected/altered accordingly.
- The variety of trees has always been a major attraction of the forest-seasonal change, atmosphere, different undergrowth, bird life, soil of tracks etc, but of course mountain biking and running etc, would continue even if it was all *pinus radiata*.
- The variety of trees is a major factor that makes Whakarewarewa unique. The seasonal changes are stunning.
- The variety of trees is what makes this place stand out from the others, as it creates a different riding experience compared to the average pine forest.
- The variety of trees is what makes Whakarewarewa forest beautiful. Mono-forests of pine exist extensively throughout New Zealand and on the whole they are rather dull due to the fact they are 100% pine.

- The variety of trees make it a very unique place in the world to walk and bike.
- The variety of trees make walking more enjoyable and should in theory increase the biodiversity of the fauna
- The variety of trees make it more pleasant, especially for walking, however, I don't think this is so critical for mountain bike use.
- The variety of trees makes the place a lot more interesting to visit. Stops the place getting boring on runs.
- The variety of trees rather than just all pine trees make for a more interesting place.
- The variety of vegetation is one of the things that makes the forest so special - the environment changes in such small areas making the recreational experience feel varied and more exciting.
- The variety of trees makes the forest a more interesting place to visit.
- The way it is now is fine
- The Whaka Forest experience is unique from other forest experiences for the variety of tree species - of mature age - with good tracks under a closed canopy. This experience and the fact that there is a sizeable area - in close proximity to a tourist town – that makes it available to local and tourist alike is priceless. Hence the reason why Rotorua has so many Auckland/Wellington bikers / runners coming from around the country every weekend - bypassing their own local Pine Forests to come and ride / walk amongst Whaka.
- The Whaka Forest is what makes Rotorua a beautiful place to live, work and play. It helps us to recruit staff into this area, as they love the natural bush walks and mountain biking available on their back door step. It would be a tragedy if it were to be lost.
- The Whakarewarewa Forest is a major tourism and recreational draw card for Rotorua. Reducing tree species could reduce the money that is put into the Rotorua economy from this.
- The Whakarewarewa Forest is a wonderful natural asset. I either run or bike there any day that I can, as do so many other people. Our city lifestyle would be much poorer if it was not available for our use.
- The Whakarewarewa Forest is world class, and synonymous with our unique Rotorua. I travelled to the USA last year and when mentioning I was from Rotorua, New Zealand, people immediately asked about our Redwoods and famous mountain bikes tracks, with specific mention of trails amongst established trees. And nationally it is a destination for many New Zealand sporting enthusiasts. We have friends that travel frequently from Palmerston North to use our forest. Many Aucklanders come here to use the forest. The contribution the forest makes to the Rotorua economy is enormous. The Whakarewarewa Forest is an integral part of Rotorua's spirit and should be treasured not diminished.
- The whole point of this forest is trees and terrain to explore. It's the reason I come to Rotorua! No trees then I won't come.
- The world needs diversity to maintain viable ecosystems.
- There are not many places we can ride horses in Rotorua with farmland being divided up etc. The forest is an enjoyable place but the horse track should be separate from the bike tracks.
- Thinking about the mountain biking tracks - by reducing the tree levels to 75% some of the tracks would be more manageable at my standard (quite basic). Reducing them below 50% would hugely detract from the forest.
- Thinning of dangerous trees is acceptable but the attraction of the forest is its current maturity.
- This area is the best mountain bike area in New Zealand. Whatever changes are made, I would not like to see them have an adverse affect on this recreational activity or the range of mountain tracks available.
- This facility is a huge asset to Rotorua both from a social aspect as well as financial. I love it because you see mum and dads with the little ones all out on bikes together as well as the serious riders. There is a great cross section.
- This forest is a great resource and should remain free and available. I believe it has enormous potential to generate extra value for the area with further access/tracks available.
- This forest is a resource that should be preserved for generations. It is also an integral part of Rotorua's tourism portfolio.

- This forest is a unique and wonderful addition to Rotorua and it would be a great loss to the community to have it altered due to mass cuttings etc.
- This forest is almost unique in that it is close to a city and accommodation and is easily accessible.
- This forest is beautiful and should be left as it is for all to enjoy - now and in the future.
- This forest is part of the unique make up of the Rotorua District. As a district we sometimes overlook the fact that it is, for better or worse, a forest that needs to make a return for its shareholders. We are fortunate to be able to have such free access to this area and develop it for our recreation. If the Rotorua District could become a shareholder in this forest and forgo commercial profit of forest return for some input to the diversity and longevity of access, this could be a possible option to have some sort of commercial control of the forest. It might be a bit of a pipe dream as well.
- This forest is Rotorua's BEST asset.
- This forest is the future. The resource and variety of species have value in themselves. If more profitable options are required, why not develop them? Why not grow high-value timber species over longer rotations - and extract value through tourism/recreation in other ways.
- This forest, so close to the city, is the most amazing recreational facility which is unique to Rotorua. It would be a disaster if it was felled.
- This forest is a great resource, not just for Rotorua but all New Zealand. The mountain bike world champs last year showed that, and I personally take school groups down there regularly.
- This is a fantastic facility which caters for a wide range of people and activities. The maintenance of this facility in its current state is very important to me and many others who use the mountain biking tracks and jogging tracks.
- This is a fantastic mountain biking facility that many of us from Auckland travel to regularly. Please continue to develop it; it is the best in NZ! The Waikite Valley Hot Pools are a great place to go afterwards too.
- This is a fantastic public area and rates with overseas facilities.
- This is a fantastic recreational area and in particular for mountain biking. It's rated in the top ten of all places in the world to ride. It's known internationally and to lose it now and for future generations and overseas riders would be a tragedy. It's well looked after by mountain bikers and respected by all, something that should be preserved and worked with local bodies and industry to work for all.
- This is a key question, and I do not think that it is very clear. I hope other respondents understand it (better).
- This is a natural playground for all age groups, and there are a number of recreational activities catering for the whole community. It is also a great asset and should be preserved.
- This is a natural treasure. Try to keep it this way for the use of all New Zealanders.
- This is a regional treasure used for a variety of purposes by a wide range of people. It would be highly detrimental to do anything that would negatively impact its usefulness and recreational value.
- This is a resource that needs to be looked after. It is also a shame event organisers get charged so much money to run events in the forest.
- This is a valuable resource and has large economic implications for Rotorua. I know of many people that travel from Auckland just to visit this resource at weekends.
- This is a wonderful and unique attribute of Rotorua. It gives me a sense of pride to show visitors around the forest.
- This is a wonderful playground for Rotorua residents and visitors. Does this really need to be reduced??????
- This is an asset that people from all over New Zealand enjoy and should be protected for all to enjoy.
- This is an extremely beneficial asset to the people of Rotorua which is difficult to put a value on. It is an attraction of the town and I am proud to live there.
- This is one of the few public access areas where we can share this variety of nature with our children and visitors.

- This is one of the most important recreational mountain bike locations in New Zealand or in the Southern Hemisphere.
- This is one very special forest that offers so much in recreational pursuits for the people of not only Rotorua but also New Zealand. Rotorua businesses also benefit from the trade.
- This is such an iconic natural resource for Rotorua that we need to leave in place for future generations. Having free public access is wonderful. It's a treasure.
- This is the most amazing resource for us here in Rotorua. It is with great pride that I take visitors, both local and overseas to the forest, usually on their arrival. I mention that this is our New Zealand equivalent of the European cathedrals. The towering redwoods are like English fan-vaulted cathedrals. Please let us preserve these "cathedrals" for future generations. Let us preserve our New Zealand icons of peace and spiritual replenishment.
- This year I'm only travelling to Vegas monthly, but will increase that back to fortnightly next year. I travel from Athenree north of Katikati to Rotorua this often because it is just an amazing forest to mountain bike in. One only needs to go on a weekend and look in the car park to see the amount of Auckland cars that travel down to the forest for a ride. Look after this resource as it makes Rotorua the best mountain bike park in New Zealand.
- To hope they would not affect current cycling and walking tracks.
- Tourism aspect of the forest is a major aspect. We come all the way from Auckland regularly for various activities in this forest.
- Tracks facilities are world class. The expanse of the area is also an attraction, that I can go riding for 4 hours, and not need to do the same track twice.
- Tree and vegetation variety is an important part of the enjoyment and educational value.
- Tree variety (apart from redwoods) is not important, as it is obvious this is a working plantation forest. It would be best if: 1. tracks are maintained, 2. removal and replanting is done over a reasonably long period to maintain a mix of age classes.
- Tree variety gives diversity in the environment adding different dimensions to the mountain bike tracks (including smells, lighting, and ground coverage). Douglas fir, eucalypts, redwoods are refreshing from straight production pine.
- Trees are a major part of the beauty of the forest, not a good idea to decrease the quantity much more than what exists now.
- Trees are contributing positively to our carbon footprint! Furthermore, it gives you the fulfilment of nature.
- You need more trees and more variety not less.
- Understanding this is a commercial forest, the pine plantations of course would be harvested. However, the varied plantations nearer the information centre and mountain bike car parks would have a huge benefit to users if they were to remain untouched. Personally I live in Tirau, am a RMTB club member and trail worker and have introduced many people to the forest over the years. The close trail networks are great for family rides, walks etc.
- Understand it is a working forest. Happy for areas to be milled as long as replanting is done and tracks are re-established.
- Unless carefully managed, reducing the tree species could interfere with tracks in the forest. A long-term programme to plant more natives would be great. The Rotorua Mountain Biking Club and/or similar groups should be involved in any such programme as they have track building knowledge and are highly motivated, with large support networks.
- Unless there is a particular reason for depleting the variety of species, diversification should be promoted.
- Valuable asset for horse riders as access to farms decrease and large areas with hills and little traffic are necessary for horse fitness. Prefer tracks with no stones on them.
- Value of forest for public access extends beyond the Redwood grove itself (x2).
- Value to Rotorua economy greater than the tree value for harvest.
- Variety is the spice of life. As a mountain biker, the different forest types and even tree size all add to it being a pleasant place to be.
- Variety in tree species aids both the appearance of the forest, the quality of the undergrowth and thereby the state of the trails too.
- Variety is good in terms of age of trees in the forest and the different species in the forest currently.
- Variety is good. Dislike monoculture forests.

- Variety of tree species along the walking tracks make it much more interesting.
- Variety of tree species is very important for the forest's aesthetic value. However, as a production forest, there are likely economic pressures to focus on specific species, like douglas fir, eucalypts and the ubiquitous radiata pine. Hopefully a balance can be reached.
- Variety of trees is what makes a lot of the tracks so enjoyable visually.
- Very concerned to hear that Timberlands plans to remove the Redwoods and replace with faster growing species. Feel that would significantly change the feel and utility of the forest.
- Very hard question to ask - depended where they were at what time. Bottle Lake Forest in Christchurch is a working forest and the change in tracks with felling makes it interesting but the quality of the forest is nowhere near as good as Whakarewarewa. Part of it is how it's managed
- Very impressed by the upkeep of the riding and walking tracks and the signage. The opportunity for the public (pets included) to access and enjoy this recreational asset is unique in New Zealand. Incredible landscape with access to stunning scenery in the views and the lakes. A pleasure to visit from Tauranga.
- Very thankful that such an amazing area is available for mountain biking.
- Whaka Forest is one of the premier destinations for recreation activities in New Zealand. The amount of time and effort that has gone into making this place should not be squandered by tree logging.
- We come up from Wellington four times a year (total of about 20 days a year). This forest is amazing. We always take new people and they are blown away by the trails and beautiful place. Please don't take or change the best riding in New Zealand! And if it's for money (the foresting) then shame.
- We got to ride in the forest because that's part of the experience. Before I rode I hiked in the forest because it was enjoyable. We do it because of the trees.
- We have a great mix. Please don't remove the redwoods around the wash etc, these are WORLD famous tracks and a national treasure.
- We have such an asset here with the trees. There is not only the beauty, and recreational use but also the history behind the planting of the trees. What other city in New Zealand has such a wonderful place so close to the city.
- We have the most amazing playground right on our doorstep. We are very privileged to be so close to such a wonderful forest.
- We like it the way it is.
- We love the forest as it is.
- We love the forest, that's why I moved here from Wellington with my husband and children. We spend lots of time in the forest both training and family rides.
- We mainly use the mountain bike tracks, and as keen mountain bikers, rate the variety and quality of tracks available as World Class, and easily the best in New Zealand.
- We need to encourage our kids to enjoy the forest and nature, whilst keeping active.
- We utilise most of the area on our mountain bikes and any reduction in size would have an impact on tracks.
- Whaka Forest is an icon of Rotorua. It is one of the key attractions and should not be spoiled. People in other countries and even in other centres in New Zealand envy this resource Rotorua people enjoy, especially with its proximity to the city.
- Whakarewarewa Forest is a beautiful and highly valued piece of forest estate not for its economic value but rather for the immense amount of pleasure it has given to generations of Rotorua residents and visitor alike. To dramatically alter its current species make-up and configuration simply to make some relatively small economic gain would be a catastrophic mistake that could not be reversed.
- Whakarewarewa Forest is famous for its variety of tree species and this really enhances the visual/recreational appeal of the forest. I think reducing the variety of tree species would have a really severe impact on the public perception of forestry/forest management recreational users (events-Cateye, multisport events etc..) as well as the negative visual impacts.
- Whakarewarewa Forest is unique - the variety of trees in such an accessible location is a national treasure.

- Whakarewarewa Forest is unique in the fact it supports a variety of tree and bush life. Many of our forests are now simply pine. The diverse combination of plant life gives the area a great "mana" and supports many bird and wildlife species. Why would we want to change it or decrease the variety???????
- Whakarewarewa Forest is very unique in that it has such a variety of tree species which makes it a very special and wonderful place. However, I am aware of its primary purpose as a production forest and I feel if changes in the species present are necessary to retain it as a forest which can be used by the public then that is the best option.
- Whakarewarewa Forest mountain bike trails are a national treasure. Bikers visit from other countries just to ride here. My relocation from the UK as a skilled migrant was in part due to the fantastic bike trails available at Whakarewarewa.
- Whakarewarewa Forest is a unique facility famous worldwide. Surely the tourist \$ is worth something in the big picture.
- Whakarewarewa Forest has proved itself very popular and successful over the past years with a whole range of outdoor recreational visitors and has the potential to become even greater with a correct sustainable management programme. The time and efforts of the local community, and particularly, the Rotorua Mountain bike Club have further enhanced the forests appeal to recreational mountain bikers not only locally, but nationally and even globally too. Whakarewarewa Forest is already an internationally proven mountain bike destination and may it long continue to grow even more.
- Whakarewarewa has unique tourism, recreational and community values: world-class mountain-biking/walking/running/horse-riding plus the wastewater scheme. The variety of tree species and ages is fantastic, matched only by Hanmer Forest. Treating it solely as a production forest is shortsighted.
- WHAKAREWAREWA IS A GREAT ASSET TO ROTORUA. THE ONLY REASON I VISIT ROTORUA IS BECAUSE OF IT. IT SHOULD BE PRESERVED OR ENHANCED SO THAT IT CAN REALISE ITS REAL POTENTIAL.
- Whakarewarewa is unique in New Zealand because it is so accessible. Don't ruin it!
- Whakarewarewa Forest is a unique local treasure. It is a priceless asset which needs to be maintained.
- What is the driver for change? This is not clear.
- What specifics are being proposed???
- Where else can you walk or bike through douglas-fir, larch, eucalyptus, redwoods, and different types of pine? Nowhere!
- While I understand this facility is partially commercial forest, it would be very disheartening on various levels to have this reduced in any way. Reduction of species = increased chance of pests and diseases affecting more portions of the forest.
- While most people couldn't name many of the tree species in the forest, I think that they do appreciate the variety of trees.
- While mountain biking is my sport, I feel it is important that all user groups have access to such a great asset.
- Whilst I enjoy the tracks in the forest for their variety and quality of build, as a visitor from overseas it is also about riding in a different place and exploring the landscape. Reducing the tree species would probably act to sanitise the experience and reduce the identity of the various places in the forest.
- Whilst my main enjoyment comes from mountain biking, I am also aware of the forest around me and would not like to see any real reduction in variety of species. The current variety adds value to the property. If anything, the varieties should be increased. The property is a rare commodity in New Zealand and one that many North Islanders don't realise is on their back door step. There is too much thought of reduction in New Zealand, especially with regard to public facilities.
- Whilst the mighty dollar tends to rule company and shareholder thinking, the logging of any part of the Whaka Forest where the tracks are located will lose the appeal of the place. Tourists and sports people will eventually look at other places to go to and so the icon value of the place will be lost.
- Why alter what is already a thing of beauty?
- Why cut the trees?

- Why should we change a good thing?
- Why change something that is unique? Is the Council that greedy? Could not they reduce their spending elsewhere?
- Why would we want to chop back the one piece of beauty all Rotorua residents and visitors can enjoy for free?
- Why would you bother reducing any amount of tree species? Variety is the spice of life.
- Why would you want to decrease the variety of tree species? The more varieties increases the diversity, enjoyment and aesthetics of the area
- Without the trees it wouldn't be a forest. If it's not a forest it wouldn't be mountain biking. The trees are KEY to the natural environment that makes mountain biking so special and treasured.
- Woodhill Forest in Auckland is mainly radiata pine and by far not as enjoyable than Whakarewarewa. Every type of tree has a different aura to it and that's what makes Whaka Forest so special.
- Would like to see areas with particular character, such as the wash, preserved.
- Would like to see the diversity of species increase if possible, certainly not decrease.
- Would love to see planting of natives.
- Would not like to see any trees cut down and to be kept unspoilt.
- Would not like to see any trees removed from the existing forest.
- Would open up the scenery if less trees.
- Would prefer forest diversity to increase not decrease.
- Would suck if it were all just pine forest
- Would this effect mountain bike tracks? Would not like to see any destroyed. We as well as a lot of our friends travel from Auckland simply to ride the mountain bike tracks in Whakarewarewa. Often just day trips, because the tracks are so worthwhile. I know a lot of people travel from out of town to Rotorua simply for the mountain biking. These are the best mountain bike tracks in New Zealand that we know of. I know a lot of people would agree with this.
- You haven't specified any species, native versus exotic species, where they are located. This is a loaded question and hard to understand with the way you have worded it.
- You need trees to call it a forest. It is currently a great locals' and tourists' asset. It would be a tragedy to change its current appeal.

*Comments for average rating indicating no affect on enjoyment:*

- Although I enjoy the variety of riding through different tree species in the forest, it would not affect my enjoyment of visiting as much as if some of the native tree areas were disturbed. Not so concerned about exotic varieties. The views and amazing landforms in the area are enough to make up for presence of exotics.
- Although I only go to the forest for the mountain biking and the don't feel the type of tree there would really affect mountain biking, I do feel that if too many of the variety of trees were removed it would detract some of the greatness/experience of the forest for international visitors (x 2).
- Ambiguous question! Are you asking for a response on, if the variety of tree species decreases (say to 1 or 2) or are you asking if the forest decreases in overall size??? These are two different things! I have based my response on the variety reduction as your 'NOTE' may have meant to say "not (as opposed to "no") reduction in size".
- As long as access to the mountain bike tracks are still there it will not bother me. It just depends what they do with the land.
- As long as there were trees it's all good.
- Could be select harvest without major long-term effects.
- The forest is a production forest firstly and foremost so species growing are determined primarily by economics. Recreation is available because it IS a production forest not despite it.
- Good to have variety of trees but it doesn't matter too much to me just as long as the horse riding tracks are accessible

- Having the forest accessible to the public is more of an asset that concerns over the whether the production forest area is managed with one or more species of tree. This is a huge asset outside of minor issues like what tree species are planted!
- I am happy as long as the size of the forest remains the same and we are still permitted access.
- I believe the access to the forest and the variety of tracks is a treasure. I have taken many overseas mountain bikers to the forest.
- I enjoy recreation in the expansive area, appreciate that the forest is privately owned and I value being able to use it.
- I enjoy the terrain and the environment. The tree species is largely irrelevant to me.
- I have always understood that this is a working forest and as a user there will always be changes to the forest cover and the experience of using the tracks.
- I hope I understood the question. I interpret it to mean that there would still be the same amount of trees but the variety mix would be different.
- I normally only walk in the Redwood Grove part so don't really see it affecting me. Maybe aesthetically not as appealing though.
- I ride horses and the areas are not affected by logging as there is always a way around. Horses do not need defined tracks for the enjoyment of riding.
- I think a decrease of species diversity in the forest would not have a marked decrease in my enjoyment of it, as long as the forest is replanted. I believe varied age classes will have the same effect.
- I WORKED IN WHAKA FOREST NZFS FOR 30 PLUS YEARS I SEE THE RADIATA ABOVE THE REDWOODS MUST BE READY TO TAKE OUT. THEY COULD BE A DANGER TO THE PUBLIC IF LEFT FOR TOO LONG. THANKS
- If this company has Forest Stewardship Certification then the issues, as raised by the public, need to be seriously considered for them to maintain this Certification.
- In our opinion, if the cleared areas were replanted, even with a different species ie, radiata pine, this would not affect our enjoyment of the forest at all. We use the forest as a natural access to the lakes and native bush reserves and a challenge of tramping the 30km Black Track.
- It is an operational forest, and the managers let us in on their goodwill, and they can do what they like with the forest. It is already a modified environment and they aren't native.
- It is a privilege that we are able to use this forest for our enjoyment, as I know of no other private landowner that would allow and make possible the ability to take part of these activities on their land. The trees are the business of the land owner and this provides a lot of employment and other economic growth factors in our community, to not allow them to do their business on their land because of some silly reason of it not being as pretty would ruin a lot of people's lives to the point that you must ask yourself would you allow people to walk/bike round your back yard or farm to the point where you can no longer continue with your business and would possibly go to the extent of costing people their jobs?
- It is excellent as is. If anything plant more natives under the pines.
- It is not about money. Cutting a few trees for better health of remaining trees is OK, but the uniqueness of the place is due to the density of the growth, and the age and the unique types of trees. Any tree is not the same.
- It's a working forest and we have to work with it and be prepared to adapt to change to preserve the opportunity to ride there.
- It's naturally a good place to be. Also close to city.
- Leave it as is.
- Like the variety of trees but the mountain biking tracks are superb and this is the most important factor to me.
- My response is obvious - makes no difference. Away from the Grove I don't mind if only pinus radiata is planted.
- Needs more downhill mountain bike tracks.
- Not concerned about tree species - leave that to the experts in that field.
- One assumes that a decrease in species would not mean a decrease in the number of trees in the forest.

- One of the best recreational and racing environments that I use. Will organise friends to meet there travelling from out of town because it is such a great set-up from mountain biking.
- One of the great aspects of the forest is the diversification of the trees.
- Prefer the variety, but a reduction would NOT reduce enjoyment.
- Reducing the variety of tree species would undermine the international uniqueness of the forest park. Think of the future for Rotorua as a premium international destination!
- So long as the access was still available and the trail network was not affected in any way the type and species of tree does not worry me at all.
- The answers above are only valid if current mountain bike tracks are not destroyed in the process of this reduction. If any trails are destroyed then it will impact us greatly.
- The forest is so handy.
- The grove of Redwoods in the Wash should not be touched ever. Numerous Mexican pines should be left.
- The Redwood Grove is a sufficient enough area to cater for our needs. Further out the back from this is where we mountain bike and my focus is on the tracks rather than what surrounds them.
- The toiled blocks are disgusting. Tourists and visitors should not see such bad amenities. Organised N-Duro events are the only reason I travel from Auckland to visit and enjoy the forest.
- The variety of tree species is not what makes Whaka attractive. In fact, some of the tree species that are not growing well make the place less attractive.
- This is a public place used by heaps of people every day. Forget spending more money on the airport and save the forest.
- To me the forest is the most fantastic thing about Rotorua. To get out there and breathe the fresh air, test myself on the hills, enjoy the scenery and feel so incredibly special to have an area like this so close to the city.
- Variety would effect how often trees were harvested, therefore longer gestation time is best.
- We do need specific horse riding trails made available as there are too many mountain bike trails taking over the forest. Other users of the forest need to feel safe in there.
- We love the forest and it plays an important part in our lives. We don't just use it for exercise but also for the pleasure of the environment. Incredible to have such a fantastic environment so close to the city. We take all our visitors there for a walk or to ride. We also chose to get married in the forest.
- Whaka is a mecca for mountain bikers, both kiwi and international. Long may this continue.
- Whaka is commercial forest that allows public access. This is very special. For Whaka to remain commercial, it needs to reduce the non-economic minor species. The beauty of Whaka is its proximity and availability to Rotorua residences and its multiple use strategy which enables runners, walkers, cyclists, horseman etc, to enjoy this wonderful playground.
- While it would be good to maintain diverse species, it is more important that the forest and its current access are maintained no matter what the species.
- Do not understand the question.
- I'm sure most bikers don't spend a lot of time looking at the trees, and had never noticed any more than pine and redwoods anyway.
- If tracks for mountain biking were rebuilt after logging then it wouldn't affect my use of them.
- If you clear-fell the lot you can just have one spy camera on the highest point instead of the first of presumably many to come, at the mountain carpark. It's there for my "protection" isn't it? Why not microchip everyone who enters the forest?
- It is the size or age of trees that would be more important to me rather than species or type.
- Just love the availability and it is worth driving 1.5 hours to get there.
- People in Rotorua should be happy with what is provided. Not everyone can go for a walk in such pleasant as it is environment.
- So long as the trails were still available for our horses it wouldn't affect us very much.
- The Redwoods is one of the best riding places I have ever been with its peacefulness and its natural beauty.
- The species of the forest needs to firstly have a real market commercial value and secondly an intrinsic value, not vice versa.
- The tracks are on a private forest, and I understand that the company has a right to log them.

- This is a real "community forest" in the true meaning of the word, the species mix is not important to me, rather the ability for recreation to co-exist with production. I think most of the people who are bringing up the species mix issue have a personal financial stake ie, through "piggybacking" their businesses with Whaka Forest.
- Very against loosing any of the redwoods, but not concerned about the other trees.

*Comments for respondents who did not specify an answer:*

- 1% decrease would affect enjoyment. DON'T GO THERE.
- Although I don't get the opportunity to visit the forest often these days, I appreciate the wonderful facility available to horse riders, knowing they can ride safely away from traffic and other noisy and dangerous speeding vehicles.
- As long as tracks still maintain shelter from wind and rain, and keep variety for aesthetics.
- Classic mountain bike tracks close to a major city. If reduced/trashed Rotorua would fall off my visiting list.
- Do not understand question criteria but do not want to see any reduction in diversity.
- Don't reduce the forest at all!!!! There is plenty of other land to build on!! Greed only cost us the beauty of our land.
- Don't understand purpose of question - does this mean less trees or more variety of trees? Certainly wouldn't want a reduction in forest size/density.
- Find this question hard to grasp - do you mean the public access size would remain the same but there would be less variety of exotic trees or natives too? If same size area - less exotics and still beautiful (ie, full of felled bits - would not affect - otherwise it would).
- I love riding in the Redwoods with my horse. It's fun and time away from what me and my horse do.
- I ride and train three endurance horses in the forest with my friends.
- I think that you should leave the forest as it is.
- I think there should be nothing done to disturb the present levels. It is perfect the way it is.
- I wasn't sure how to answer Q13.
- I would be very sad to see a reduction in the planting but realise this is a working forest.
- I would not like to see any changes, as I believe the forest is just perfect the way it is. I enjoy the variety the forest offers both in types of tracks and trees it offers.
- If this was to mean the reduction of native areas and the increase of radiata I would not be in favour.
- IT DEPENDS ON WHICH SPECIES OF TREES ARE BEING REDUCED.
- It would be awesome to see a lot more Community Events held at the Redwoods (Whakarewarewa Forest) because it is a beautiful place.
- Keep horse tracks open
- My Firefox browser didn't display the tree variety = web coding bug!
- No.
- Not sure I understand Q13 but I would not like to see the forest get smaller. The bigger trees offer shelter for riding eg, wind and shade in summer.
- Open pines are better than open gum plantations.
- Please leave as it is.
- Q13 would depend if you are reducing variety or reducing coverage of trees. The forest is a huge asset to Rotorua locals and visitors. It's affordable, accessible, big enough to be shared by so many different types of recreation without overcrowding and a flexible destination - you can go for ages or just a while.
- Question 13 web form is broken.
- Sorry I can't follow the question. I would not support reducing the present levels of different tree varieties as this adds to the beauty of the forest.
- Strange question?
- The question makes no sense - too complicated. I love the trees- don't cut them down.
- The redwoods are the forest.
- The spiritual aspects/tikanga associated with the local tangata whenua gives the forest its inherent mana. The relationships are extremely important.

- There are limited places to go in the city where we can be with our family AND take our pets. Being able to go for a horse ride or walk our dog in such an awesome surrounding is a very valuable resource!
- When making a strategic plan, avoid using foresters only, or you could end up with a stuff up like what happened at Hamurana Springs! Try to make parallels with similar resources in Europe. I believe their environmental planning is years ahead of New Zealand.
- Why do you need to reduce the variety? (x2).
- This would depend on the effect and access to the trail network. Any permanent or extended loss of any length of trail would have a 100% negative effect.

**Lastly, we have some questions to ensure that we survey a cross-section of people**

Q15 What is your age?

	Number	Percent
Under 20	82	5.2%
20 to 29	246	15.6%
30 to 39	502	31.8%
40 to 49	459	29.1%
50 to 59	212	13.4%
60 and over	74	4.7%
Not specified	5	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1580</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Q16 Gender of respondent

	Number	Percent
Female	587	37.2%
Male	978	61.9%
Not specified	15	0.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1580</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Q17 Which of the following ethnic groups do you mainly identify with?

	Number	Percent
New Zealand European/Pakeha	1383	87.5%
New Zealand Maori	89	5.6%
Asian	12	0.8%
Other	129	8.2%
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1580</b>	

*Note: Not additive as respondents could specify multiple ethnicities*

*Other specified*

- 6th generation New Zealander.
- A New Zealander.
- African.
- Also Swiss.
- American.
- American Jew.
- Australian (x10).
- Australian immigrant
- British (x5).
- British - resident in New Zealand.
- British Citizen with Permanent NZ Residency.
- Canadian (x3).
- Caucasian - New Zealander.
- Celtic.

- Czech.
- Dutch.
- English (x4).
- European (x10).
- Fijian-Indian
- I am a New Zealander.
- I will not answer this silly question.
- Indian.
- Kiwi (x8).
- K-iwi
- Kiwi New Zealander (x2).
- New Zealand European.
- New Zealand European/Māori.
- New Zealander (x44).
- New Zealander none Māori.
- Non New Zealand European (x2).
- Norwegian.
- NZ Chinese Kiwi.
- OZBLOODYSTRALYANMATE!
- Permanent Resident from Canada.
- Pome.
- South African (x5).
- South African European.
- Swiwi.
- UK European.
- United State of America.
- Welsh.

*New Zealand Māori specified:*

- Half Ngati Hurunga Te Rangi.
- Ngai Tahu (x3).
- Ngai Tahu, Ngati Maniapoto.
- Ngaitai.
- Ngaiterangi, Ngati Haua.
- Ngapuhi.
- Ngapuhi & Tuhoe.
- Ngati Apakura (Waikato).
- Ngati Awa (x3).
- Ngati Hurungaterangi.
- Ngati maniapoto.
- Ngati Maru.
- Ngati Maru, Te Arawa.
- Ngati Porou (x6).
- Ngati Rangī Tihi.
- Ngati Rangīweīweīhi.
- Ngati Raukawa (x2).
- Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Porou & Ngapuhi.
- Ngati ruanui / ngati maniapoto.
- Ngati Whakaue, Tuhourangi, Ngati Pīkiao.
- Ngati Whakaue/Tuhourangi/NgatiWahiao/Ngati Pīkiao.
- Ngati Whars.
- Tainui.
- Tainui & Te Arawa.
- Tainui, Ngapuhi.
- Tainui, Ngati Pīkiao.
- Tangahoe.
- Te Arawa (x8).

- Te Arawa, Raukawa.
- Te Arawa/ Rongawhakaata.
- Te Ati Awa ki Whakarongotai.
- Tuhoe.
- Tuhoe and Tuwharetoa.
- Tuhoe, Ngai Te Rangi.
- Tuwharetoa/ Raukawa.
- Waikato/ Tainui/ Ngati Kahungunu/ Ngati Tuwharetoa.
- Whakatohea.

Q18 Which of the following best describes where you live?

	Number	Percent
Rotorua city (central city area)	92	5.8%
Rotorua suburbs	538	34.1%
Ngongotaha	35	2.2%
Rotorua lakeside settlement	83	5.3%
Rotorua rural	111	7.0%
North island excluding Rotorua	674	42.7%
South Island	26	1.6%
International	18	1.1%
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1580</b>	

*Rotorua suburbs specified:*

- Aorangi.
- East (x2).
- Fairy Springs.
- Fenton Park (x6).
- Fenton park/ Glenmore.
- Glenholme (x30).
- Hannahs Bay (x5).
- Heights.
- Hillcrest (x9).
- Holdens Bay (x1).
- Homedale (x1).
- Kawaha Point (x14).
- Koutu (x4).
- Lake Okareka (x2).
- Lake Rotoehu.
- Lynmore (x183).
- Mangakakahi (x4).
- Matipo Heights (x3).
- Moana Views.
- Ngapuna (x3).
- Ngongotaha (x2).
- Okareka (x3).
- Otonga (x4).
- Owhata (x35).
- Owhata/Lynmore boundary - close to the forest as I could afford.
- Owhata/Poets Corner.
- Paradise Valley.
- Pleasant Heights (x3).
- Pomare (x6).
- Pukehangi (x30).
- Pukehina (x1).
- Selwyn Heights (x4).
- Springfield (x74).

- Sunnybrook (x14).
- Tarawera.
- Tihi-O-Tonga (x16).
- Utuhina (x4).
- Westbrook (x18).
- Western Heights (x11).
- Whakarewarewa.

*Rotorua lakeside settlement specified:*

- Awahou.
- Hamurana (x9).
- Hannahs Bay (x2).
- Holdens Bay (x5).
- Koutu.
- Lake Okareka (x17).
- Lake Rotoiti.
- Lake Rotoiti, Otaramarae.
- Lake Rotoma (x2).
- Lake Tarawera (x2).
- Lakeside - Haumoana Street.
- Mourea.
- Ngongotaha.
- Okareka (x17).
- Okere Falls (x15).
- Parkcliff.
- Rotoiti.
- Tarawera (x4).
- Worldmark.

*Rotorua rural specified:*

- 4km up Oturoa Road (near Ngongotaha).
- Atiamuri.
- Auckland (x2).
- Brunswick Park (x3).
- Eastern area
- Eastern Lakes.
- Galatea.
- Galatea/Murupara.
- Hamurana (x7).
- Holdens Bay area.
- Horohoro (x2).
- Hunts Farm, off Pukehangi Rd
- Kaharoa (x21).
- Keith Road.
- Lake Okareka (x6).
- Mamaku (x2).
- Mourea.
- Murupara.
- Ngakuru (x5).
- Ngongotaha (x3).
- Okawa Bay, Lake Rotoiti.
- Okere Falls (x2)
- Owhata.
- Paengaroa.
- Paradise Valley (x2).
- Rainbow Mountain.
- RD3.

- RD4.
- Reporoa (x6).
- Rerewhakaaitu (x6).
- Rotokawa (x2).
- Tarakenga.
- Tarawera Rd.
- Tarukenga (x2).
- Tauranga Direct Road.
- Te Waerenga Road.
- Te Whaiti.
- Tikitere (x12).
- Waikite Valley.

*North Island, excluding Rotorua specified:*

- Arapuni.
- Ararimu.
- Athenree (x2).
- Auckland (x196).
- Awakeri (x2).
- Cambridge (x3).
- Cambridge/Waipā.
- Coromandel.
- Dorkland.
- Eskdale, Hawkes Bay.
- Feilding (x2).
- Franklin District.
- From Auckland, moved to Wellington end of last year.
- Galatea (x2).
- Gisborne (x2).
- Hamilton (x47).
- Hamilton and Whakatane.
- Hastings (x2).
- Havelock North (x2).
- Hawera, South Taranaki.
- Hawkes Bay (x7).
- Helensville.
- Kapiti.
- Kapiti Coast (x2).
- Kerikeri (x2).
- Levin.
- Live at Pukehina Beach but work in Rotorua.
- Lower Hutt (x2).
- Manawahe.
- Masterton (x3).
- Matamata.
- Morrinsville (x8).
- Mount Maungauni (x10).
- Muriwai, Auckland.
- Napier (x14).
- New Plymouth (x8).
- North Shore City.
- Northland.
- Ohope (x2).
- Ohope Beach (x3).
- Opotiki.
- Orewa.
- Otorohanga.

- Paengaroa (x2).
- Pakuranga, Auckland.
- Palmerston North (x13).
- Papakura (x2).
- Papamoa (x9).
- Paraparaumu.
- Pikowai - near Matata.
- Palmerston North.
- Pongakawa.
- Porirua (x3).
- Pukeatua.
- Pukekohe (x9).
- Putaruru (x2).
- Rotorua is my turangawaewae. I live away.
- Tahawai – Katikati.
- Tamaki-makau-rau.
- Taranaki.
- Taumarunui.
- Taupo (x13).
- Tauranga (x74).
- Te Aroha.
- Te Awamutu (x3).
- Te Kauwhata.
- Te Puke (x5).
- Tirau.
- Tokoroa (x2).
- Torbay, Auckland.
- Waihi (x2).
- Waikato.
- Waipawa.
- Waipu Cove, Northland.
- Waitakere (x3)
- Waitomo.
- Waitomo district.
- Wanganui.
- Warkworth.
- Wellington (x80).
- Whakatane (x13).
- Whangarei (x7).
- Woodhill, Helensville.

*South Island specified:*

- Christchurch (x18).
- Dunedin (x4).
- Hanmer Springs.
- Invercargill.
- Queenstown.

*International specified:*

- Australia (x5).
- Brisbane, Australia (x3).
- Canada.
- Canberra, Australia.
- Germany.
- Hawaii, USA.
- Mid North Coast of NSW.
- Naples, Italy.

- Sydney.
- Sydney/London.
- Thailand short term (yearly visits home to AKL).
- USA.

Q19 Please specify your gross household income (ie, income before tax)

	Number	Percent
Zero income	15	0.9%
\$1 to \$5,000	12	0.8%
\$5,001 to \$10,000	4	0.3%
\$10,001 to \$15,000	11	0.7%
\$15,001 to \$20,000	15	0.9%
\$20,001 to \$30,000	20	1.3%
\$30,001 to \$40,000	81	5.1%
\$40,001 to \$50,000	158	10.0%
\$50,001 and over	1165	73.7%
Don't know	64	4.1%
Not specified	35	2.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1580</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Q20 What is your occupational grouping/status?

	Number	Percent
Manager	292	18.5%
Professional	666	42.2%
Technical/trades worker	175	11.1%
Community/professional service worker	42	2.7%
Clerical/administrative worker	113	7.2%
Sales worker	50	3.2%
Machinery operator/driver	5	0.3%
Labourer	11	0.7%
Unsure	13	0.8%
Retired	37	2.3%
Student	108	6.8%
Homemaker	34	2.2%
Other not in employment	6	0.4%
Not specified	28	1.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1580</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Q21 Do you have any final comments?

	Number	Percent
Positive comments about Whakarewarewa/leave forest/access as is	516	32.7%
Survey comments	38	2.4%
Suggested improvements	27	1.7%
Love forest but recognise that it is a commercial business	24	1.5%
Horse tracks/users other than mountain bikers	20	1.3%
Commercial events/activities at Whakarewarewa	7	0.4%
Forest should be purchased by Council or Central Government to ensure access	5	0.3%
Admission charge	4	0.3%
Other	31	2.0%
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1580</b>	

Note: A total of 672 respondents identified comments. These comments could be coded into multiple categories.

Comments coded to "positive comments about Whakarewarewa/leave forest/access as is":

- A forest with worldwide acclaim and major tourist attraction for Rotorua and New Zealand. Don't change it!!

- A priceless asset to have so close to the city with general unrestricted access. Overseas tourists can't believe it.
- A wonderful resource with relatively unrestricted access - well worth a special trip from Auckland to ride mountain bikes in the forest.
- About to move to Owhata from Kawaha Point, so hope to make much more use of the forest.
- Aesthetics/public use versus forestry returns on investment...overall, how much is the volume in the Redwoods compared with the total forest estate of this company?? Negligible I would have thought!! Thanks.
- Although I appreciate Whaka is a working forest, there are very few (if any) other examples within New Zealand which are in such close proximity to a city and offer the same features. People travel from great distances to visit for recreation / events and many comment on the beauty of the forest including the variety of tree species found within it. It would be a great shame if these minor species were removed from the forest, particularly around the areas with the mountain bike parks which are used by many.
- Although part of the beauty of the forest is that it is free to use, I believe that given an option of having to pay a fee (similar to some mountain bike parks around) and continuing to have access like we do or reduced access I am sure most people would be happy to pay an annual subscription. The commercial value to the Rotorua community must also be taken into account. The forest draws a huge group from outside the Rotorua everyday and more so in weekends. That brings revenue into the city that would be lost / reduced if nothing done.
- Amazing job with the mountain biking tracks, best in the country, but I think work still needs to be done to make more free riding tracks.
- Apart from the large number of overseas groups, I can only find really good things to say about the place. Very special to Rotorua.
- As a B&B operator we frequently send overseas visitors to the forest. The feedback from them is that it is a wonderful asset to have such an accessible beautiful park on our doorstep.
- As a bit of an outsider [American in Wellington - that visits Rotorua for mountain biking at least twice a year] - the forest and its use/system doesn't seem to be "broken". Keep this in mind - recreational uses of the forest will not ruin it...developers and greed will. For infinite examples go to America.
- As a family we love the Redwoods to bike in and the awesome tracks that just appear.
- As a mountain biker, the forest is what attracts me to Rotorua on a regular basis for events. It is a remarkable facility for the sport.
- As someone that has moved here from Canada and has plenty of international career opportunities, the forest is a very large reason for me to want to remain in Rotorua and even New Zealand.
- Awesome place. One of the reasons I enjoy Rotorua. Have spent many many hours at the Redwoods.
- Back of the forest needs a wee bit more maintenance work. However, even without regular maintenance it is still beautiful to walk in and a wonderful asset we can ill afford to let go of!!
- Beautiful area!
- Because one of us works in Tauranga, the mountain bike tracks are the main reason that keep our family in Rotorua.
- Best mountain biking I have done.
- Best mountain biking in New Zealand and the reason for my trips to the region.
- Best mountain biking place ever!!!
- Best mountain bike tracks in New Zealand. Awesome!!!!
- Biking in Whaka Forest is awesome. It is our favourite place to ride - if the forest changed and this affected the mountain biking in any way (less tracks, poor surface, decreased nature...) then we would have no reason at all to visit Rotorua any more.
- Competitive advantage for Rotorua with respect to mountain biking, as best in the country. People will travel elsewhere if the forest is degraded/changed significantly.
- Conditions of tracks have improved over the last 18 months.
- Dam shame if it's taken away from public use.
- Dear Whakarewarewa Forest Management, Whakarewarewa Forest is something special, special to anyone who's been there, a place of desire for those who haven't from over the

whole world. As a mountain biker I can say the best memories on my bike come from Whakarewarewa Forest. My first single track experience came from there. The trails in the forest are sought after worldwide, the smooth flow, the soil that's smoother than tarmac, the trees that take you away into the wilderness, away from the city and into a place where nothing matters. That's achieved by other places, true, but none quite as well as Whakarewarewa Forest. Please, don't change the atmosphere.

- Don't chop down the forest. Nature is beauty.
- Don't blow it.
- Don't change a thing.
- Don't change it, it's fine as it is. So many people are coming from overseas to use it since the world mountain biking champs last year.
- Don't chop down the trees. We take all our visitors to the forests - New Zealanders and overseas visitors. Our children come back from other cities in New Zealand to walk and ride the tracks
- DON'T CHOP IT DOWN. IF YOU DO I WILL BE VERY VERY FURIOUS!!!!
- Don't cut down the forest. The world is becoming more industrialised by the day and it is important that we preserve and look after all the natural beauty that there is now, so that future generations may have that privilege too.
- Don't cut it down.
- Don't cut the trees.
- Don't even think about removing the Whakarewarewa Forest.
- Enhance this resource. Make it world class. Grow it. Develop it. Whakarewarewa is a jewel for our town. Preserve it.
- Enhancing the ecological environment adds to my appreciation of the forest. The regenerating under storey is fantastic and much nicer than cut over or newly planted pine plantation.
- Every year my family spend 2-3 weeks in Rotorua eating in cafes, riding mountain bikes, and walking in the forest. Whaka Forest is one of the main reasons for the visit and has the best mountain biking in New Zealand - leave it alone or improve it but please don't destroy it.
- Everyone who comes to visit us from New Zealand knows about the forest and thinks we are incredibly lucky to have it so close. Everyone who comes to visit from outside New Zealand are amazed when we take them biking or walking there. And everyone who comes to visit gets taken there by us or directed to go there. What an asset to Rotorua!!!
- Expand and protect the forest and the trails within, the walking, biking and horse tracks. I have lived in cities with no areas of recreation value. You have an unbelievable asset here!
- For me, Whakarewarewa Forest is one of the major reasons I choose to live in Rotorua. It is imperative that any further development be completed in a manner that preserves or enhances the unique qualities of the forest so that it becomes an even greater community asset as well as a "must visit" place for visitors to Rotorua.
- For our family the forest is like the Disneyland in mountain biking. There is such a variety of enjoyable tracks and trails. Most of our out of town visitors visit the forest for walks and mountain biking.
- Forest is a great asset to Rotorua, and it's a place I recommend visitors go.
- Forest is important for recreation and fitness and emotional well-being in our family.
- Forget the airport and buy the forest.
- Free access to the forest is a large factor in my recreation and incentive to stay living in Rotorua.
- Free public access to this forest is of great importance to all the people of Rotorua and visitors to this area.
- Free public access to the forest encourages activity. This improves public health, reducing health costs to the people of New Zealand. Promotion of healthy activity in modern society is hard.
- From what I have seen, Rotorua is the best place in the country to do mountain biking. Hopefully it can only get better.
- Given its importance to local residents and its renown among tourists, loss of the forest in its current format would be sheer lunacy. Whilst there is potential for increased revenue from

more commercial forestry, there is also similar or more potential from tourism and organised events.

- Great forest, keep the user tracks for activities separated.
- Great mountain bike tracks and good atmosphere with all people I meet - walkers and bikers.
- Great stress relieving area.
- Hands off. This forest was donated to the public of New Zealand for recreational purposes.
- Happy that the bridge at Waipa is open to horses.
- Harvesting the older non-radiata species would be of marginal revenue and would significantly reduce the community value of the forest. Regional government should purchase northern Whaka for tourism / recreational / wastewater management purposes.
- Have been coming to the area for over thirty years and really appreciate the availability of the forest for various activities, especially walking, horse-riding and being able to walk a dog there. Our son, based in Auckland, is a keen mountain biker and visits/competes in the forest regularly so we are keen to see the area preserved for everyone's future use.
- Have felt for many years that the city and council seriously underestimated the value of the forest and mountain biking, especially to the town's attraction for visitors - and the facilities are woeful.
- Have only been to the forest a couple of times (for multisport races) but it is really amazing. A great asset to Rotorua. I wish we had something like that in Whangarei!
- Having been a regular user of forests as a recreational facility, felling trees creates a completely new environment for at least 6-8 years. Can we afford to do that to a forest so close to our city?
- Having mountain biked extensively throughout New Zealand, I can comment that Whakarewarewa is the best mountain bike park we have. It doesn't offer quite everything I like about mountain biking but gives the most enjoyment in one place. I would be most upset if things changed at the forest that would result in a decline in the quality of mountain tracks (especially since I'm about to move to Tauranga to be closer). I know that this would be a general feeling amongst mountain bikers as you probably know or will do from this survey. I would like to thank all those who have made it such a great place to ride; track builders, permission givers, ideas people etc.
- Having moved here from Wellington in the last 18 months, the forest, and the availability of it for mountain biking and running was quite a large deciding factor in relocating our family north. Rotorua would lose a lot of its attraction should the forest use be taken away or restricted. It's just such a damn good place to exercise in and be in.
- Having the dog recreation area is a fantastic facility, especially with the tighter restrictions of having your dog out in public.
- Having the use of this forest over the years has catered for our family in all aspects from being younger and having a place to train off the streets in pleasant surroundings, taking the children while growing up, nature trips observing glow worms etc, enjoying family orientated events through to being involved with world class events. Having the use of this forest has enabled many people from Rotorua and other areas to exercise and go on from this enjoyment to participate in events all over the country and the world giving not only our country but our city recognition. It is a great training ground for so many things whether you are a serious exerciser or just going out there to get fitter for the benefit of your health. This is something that people from many other cities envy the people of Rotorua for. A great asset to not only the city but the community as a whole.
- Home of the best downhill track in the country.
- Huge asset to Rotorua that is taken so much for granted by the local people.
- I absolutely love the forest and use it at every opportunity. Visitors comment on how lucky we are to have it accessible on our doorstep.
- I absolutely love the forest and will be back as soon as I can to ride it again - it is the best mountain biking around.
- I accept that the forest is a "working forest" and that trees must be harvested. I would be extremely disappointed to see the forest clear felled, the block by block felling done in the past is an ideal way for harvesting to be done. I would not like to see a reduction of the variety of trees and would certainly not like to see any of the small native bush areas denuded. We have a wonderful asset in the forest and it is the envy of many people around

the country and the world. It would be extremely detrimental to Rotorua to have the forest heavily harvested within any short period of time. It is vital to Rotorua's economy as well as very important to users like myself who enjoy it so much.

- I along with a huge amount of people truly love that park.
- I appreciate the fact that we the general public have such excellent access to a forestry working area. The company is generous by this.
- I believe it is critical that we retain the attractiveness of the forest for recreational use as we have a number of out of town friends who come to Rotorua for mountain biking, walking etc, and I believe this translates to inboard tourism and the marketing of Rotorua as the mountain biking capital of New Zealand.
- I believe that free public access to the forest is one of the best things about living in Rotorua - it is a beautiful and peaceful place that we have been visiting with our children since they were babies.
- I believe that the forest is a significant public asset. The access that we currently enjoy to go mountain biking etc, is a great thing and should be preserved if at all possible.
- I believe the forest is very important to Rotorua, for residents who use it, schools, events, visitors, tourists and is an important part of Rotorua. It caters for everyone and provides so many people with enjoyment from either mountain biking, running, walking, picnics, and so on. Let's keep it the way it is and continue to reap the rewards.
- I bring groups (25+) of intermediate school students from Gisborne to ride the forest trails every year and would like to see the status quo remain in place.
- I came up to Rotorua to ride/experience the forest tracks. I have read about them in so many New Zealand sports magazines. I was not disappointed - the tracks are well formed, just go on and on, well sign posted and cater for all skill levels. I'll be back and bring someone with me. It's New Zealand's MECCA for mountain bikers. We all (Otago mountain bikers) will visit your wonderful facility before we die (or become immobile).
- I choose to live in Rotorua (and for that matter Lynmore) because of the wonderful outdoor facilities we have that are FREE to use. The forest is just awesome and is a real treat to have at our doorstep. I have worked, studied, and travelled around New Zealand and abroad, and the forest is one of the things I missed the most. I have been running and mountain biking in the forest since I was a kid and I put down my injury free running career (if you could call it that) to running on the soft surface (ie, no sealed roads and footpaths!) that the forest provides.
- I choose to live in Rotorua because of the trail network in the Redwood Forest. If the trail network did not keep expanding and changing I would probably leave the city and relocate. To choose Rotorua as home is a lifestyle based decision that many young professionals are making. Take this key attraction away for any extended period and I believe Rotorua will feel it on many fronts.
- I did this survey because I love getting into the forest, not because I like surveys.
- I don't know enough about the size and types of trees in the Redwoods so felt unable to answer one of the questions but feel that it is a wonderful asset to Rotorua and surrounding towns as many people travel from Ohope and Whakatane to ride on the tracks over there so wouldn't like that area to change at all.
- I enjoy the forest as it is and would not like to see trees cut down unless they are in a dangerous condition.
- I feel that it is vitally important to keep or expand the current facility to ensure future generations will have access to a unique piece of New Zealand.
- I greatly value the asset that this forest is to Rotorua. My family and I see it as an important part of the outdoors lifestyle that is offered here.
- I grew up in Rotorua, central in those days. It must remain for future generations of children and all ages to enjoy - just as it is - right on our doorstep.
- I have always felt a priority has been given to mountain bike access in preference to other activities and sometimes to the point of affecting the safety of walkers/runners/horse riders. Public events should be better advertised so as to avoid disappointment to those wanting to use the forest on those days when an event is in progress. It is a recreational area we should be proud of and its access should be freely and safely available to all interested parties.

- I have been a visitor to Rotorua for many years now. I now visit less frequently, but bring my family these days. Mountain biking is the main focus that draws me to Rotorua. I meet with friends from around New Zealand and abroad in Rotorua to enjoy the bike trails. As a result we have been exposed to many of the other gems in the Rotorua area, swimming, hiking, etc... but the Whakarewarewa Forest is the magnet.
- I have been using this forest for biking for years! It would be a shame if all the bike tracks disappear.
- I have lived and recreated in a number of different resort towns in New Zealand and USA and I think it is fair to say that the Whakarewarewa Forest, with its extensive trail network and variety of natural environments, is world class as a recreational facility, and particularly as a mountain bike recreational area. Based on twenty years of involvement in mountain biking, both in a recreational and a vocational capacity, I have no doubt that Whakarewarewa Forest, as it is currently managed and taking into account huge growth in cycling as recreation, will continue to attract an increasing number of national and international mountain bikers. As the trail network develops, mountain bikers are more likely to stay multiple nights in Rotorua to enjoy this world-class facility. It would be a great loss for the community as a whole if the present and future potential value of this facility is not able to be valued alongside the forestry company's requirements to return a profit, and a sustainable compromise reached.
- I have recently moved to Rotorua and heard a lot about the Redwoods and how wonderful it is for walking, bike riding, views etc. I am looking forward to visiting.
- I have used the forest for about 12 years. I was initially introduced to it while working at Forest Research. Having been to many of the mountain bike tracks in the North Island I believe it to be the best.
- I hope access to the forest remains unchanged. It is a wonderful place to spend time in, alone, with family and with friends.
- I hope that the forest is not going to be tampered with too much as Rotorua has a marvellous and unique facility in New Zealand and the rest of the world that is starting to bring more and more mountain bike tourists to Rotorua.
- I hope that the present use of the forest is to continue. It is excellent and well used.
- I hope the forest remains open to the public so my children and their children can enjoy it as much as I do. We need more places like this.
- I hope the owners can maintain this asset as a multi-use asset for the Rotorua community as close to its present structure.
- I hope this helps save the beauty of Rotorua - leaving it in its natural state - it brings the tourists here and this provides work to the local economy. It would be sad to see that sacrificed for the sake of logging trees - to be sent overseas anyway and kiwis buy back the timber product anyway - leave it alone .....cheers good luck.
- I just love using the forest and think it is a real asset in attracting people to Rotorua.
- I know of lots of people who have relocated outside Rotorua for work ... the first thing they do is head for the Redwood Forest when they come and visit us now! It's a treasure!
- I like the status quo. Please leave the forest as it is! Involve the user groups in management. Don't forget all the people that just glance at it as they drive to work or the people that breath the fresh air that the forest provides! There are always flaws with these surveys and consultants know how to rip their fellow citizens off!
- I live in Auckland yet have made it down to the Whakarewarewa Forest six times this year already with another two trips planned. The mountain bike trails are amongst the best in the world and I certainly appreciate them. I have recently heard of people moving down to Rotovegas because of the excellent trails. I am also considering this myself, even with a daughter to support and Woodhill on my own doorstep. They bring me so much joy and fitness and a huge social network. The park is world class, and it brings regular, all-year income to the city. Please do not cut down any trees. They are and will remain integral to mountain biking. Develop the trails further and you encourage more and more people and income into your city. Michelle
- I have lived in Auckland for over thirty years and moved to Rotorua two years ago because of the riding and cycling community, along with a lot of other people. I think if we lost the use of the forest I would definitely move out of Rotorua.

- I love mountain biking at WHAKAREWAREWA.
- I love mountain biking in the forest.
- I love the forest and see it as essential resource for the well-being of our people. As a teacher I take students out every year to visit and walk through our beautiful forest and appreciate what we have right here on our doorstep. I see my role as important so as to educate our youngsters. I am passionate about the outdoors and love mountain biking and running and love to participate in events held out in the Whaka Forest.
- I love the forest and so does my family. My son is a very keen mountain biker and downhill racer and is in the forest more often than me. We love the forest. It is a valuable tourist destination as well.
- I love the forest. Please don't cut the trees down. It is the one of the nicest public use forests in the country. It's the only reason I go to Rotorua. If it wasn't there I don't think I would go anywhere near Rotorua.
- I love the forest. It's amazing when you take visitors there and they realise you have all this sitting on your back doorstep. Every time I use the woods I always think how lucky I am. I have never been anywhere before with such easy access to such a beautiful forest.
- I love the mountain bike tracks in the forest.
- I love the Redwoods and ride as often as my work schedule will allow it.
- I love the Redwoods. The biking and running are fantastic!
- I love the Redwoods, the extensive mountain biking tracks, the friendly people, and the fact that it's free for the public to access. It is a good, clean, and healthy entertainment and provides the public with a much-needed outlet for pent-up stress and frustrations. It's always immaculately maintained and the tracks are a real pleasure to ride (amateur novice mountain bike rider).
- I love the Redwoods. Please don't fell trees on existing mountain bike tracks!
- I love this forest! It's so nice and handy for everyone.
- I love this forest!!! Honestly, if you mountain bike you would understand.
- I moved to Hamilton to study last year, so my use of the forest is restricted somewhat, although, when I lived in Rotorua I used the forest almost daily. Honestly, the hardest part about moving to Hamilton was having no bush to run or mountain bike in - it sucks! I didn't realise how important the bush was to me and what an asset it is until I was faced with running around the streets. Please don't let it change too much - it's perfect the way it is!!!
- I moved to Rotorua from Auckland specifically to be close to the Whakarewarewa Forest as I was driving down every weekend to go riding. It is very important to me personally that it is still diverse and open to the public.
- I only come to Rotorua for the mountain biking. The venue is great. I wouldn't come to Rotorua if the events weren't on up there. The current status quo is brilliant and I am envious of how good the tracks are there.
- I only visit Whakarewarewa for mountain biking but spend time in many other North Island forests, (hunting, tramping). As private interests try and do prevent public access to these areas, I feel the ability to use these forests is a privilege to be preserved at any cost.
- I prize the forest for the variety of outdoor activities it offers. When younger I would run in the forest seven days a week for a total of around 120 km/week. In later years I can enjoy a quiet walk. The availability of Whaka Forest is THE prime reason why I have not moved away from Rotorua in my retirement.
- I really appreciate the forest as a destination and a great visitor resource for the Rotorua area, and really appreciate the people who put their time and energy into providing and maintaining this resource.
- I relocated here with my business five years ago from Auckland for lifestyle. If the forest was not here, in its current form, I would not have made that decision. If the forest changes in years to come and becomes a less diverse pine plantation I would seriously consider relocating my business to another region which still has accessible forests for mountain biking (Taupo, Nelson, or Central Otago).
- I ride all types of tracks from beginners to advanced, all over the forest. The variety of tracks and the beautiful environment is what keeps me going back. You can do downhill runs, cross country missions, or all-day epic rides finishing with a swim in the Blue Lake - where

else in New Zealand has all that in one place? I look forward to teaching my children to mountain bike in Whakarewarewa when they are old enough.

- I see and meet a lot of people in the forest from out of town and I don't think we can afford to underestimate the value of this great asset to Rotorua. All that can be done for this to remain freely available to the public should be done. Even if there were a small charge added to everyone's rates (I would not object to this) or a system for voluntary donations (which couldn't be ripped off). I think it would be unfair to levy all businesses as not all benefit directly but everyone in Rotorua benefits indirectly from people coming to town, spending money, creating employment etc. For locals it is a great way for families, and young people, to gather, exercise and enjoy doing something physically and mentally healthy in a wonderful environment where the people are always friendly towards one another. The locals who volunteer their time to maintain the tracks are to be congratulated.
- I think the facilities are fantastic hence my constant trips down from Auckland for weekends.
- I think the forest is a great asset to Rotorua. The forest has been an integral part of my lifestyle since moving to New Zealand.
- I think the forest is a real asset to Rotorua. The car parks are always full on the weekends with people walking and biking. Whenever there is a major event in the forest the Fenton Street motels have their no vacancy signs out.
- I think the forest is a wonderful asset. It's not referred to in New Zealand's wholly grail of mountain biking for no reason. When the world champs were in Rotorua many of the world's best commented on how awesome it was.
- I think Whaka is one of Rotorua's best assets!! I use the forest 10 times more than the lakes!
- I think Whakarewarewa Forest has become a big part of what Rotorua is about with outdoor activities. Hopefully this issue can be resolved so that forest owner and parties concerned are happy.
- I understand that Whaka is a production forest, but I think that aesthetic values should be paramount for at least the Tokorangi triangle and the lakes. Reducing the number of species would reduce the aesthetic value of these areas in my opinion.
- I view Whakarewarewa Forest as the jewel in Rotorua/North Island - the city is predominately tourist based and having holidayed there a number of times early in my life have no great interest in doing so again....but the mountain bike park and the events on offer take me to Rotorua several times a year.
- I walk in the forest with my dog. Whaka Forest is a treasure. I marvel at it every time. Please don't spoil it. The forest makes Rotorua special.
- I want the Redwood Forest to be left alone in the state it is now. I grew up in Rotorua and it is my favourite memory of Rotorua.
- I went around New Zealand last summer riding as many mountain bike trails as I could and Whakarewarewa Forest sits high on my list of favourite places!!! The trails are awesome. I'd go back to New Zealand just to ride it again (and again, and again!!).
- I would consider the Whakarewarewa Forest to be a key reason why I would choose to live in Rotorua.
- I would like access to the forest to continue to be free and accessible for all people regardless of bloodline/nationality.
- I would like the area to be left more alone - less mountain biking events etc, closing off the access road. They can be more based around at the Waipa Road entrance. Leave the main area free so walkers, tourists etc, can enjoy the area quietly without the noise and inconvenience of road closure and noise from running such events.
- I would like to reiterate, I only live in Rotorua because of the forest's accessibility and purpose (this applies to the lakes as well... but hopefully no one is thinking of messing with them). Thanks for the opportunity of voice.
- I would like to see the forest remain containing the variety of trees currently present, as the variation between areas makes for some amazing riding and scenic variety. I love the riding, and would hate to see any changes that detriment the forests tourism, recreational and potentially globally marketable beauty.
- I would prefer the forest diversity as it is. Thank you.
- I would prefer to see things stay as they are.

- I would think that the amount of money Rotorua generates from mountain bike riders, and other groups using the forest, would far out weigh the economic gains of harvesting the forest.
- If the forest was not in Rotorua I wouldn't live here.
- If the public lost access to the forest it would be tragic for present and future recreational and educational activities. The income lost to Rotorua's shops and cafes would be massive if people stopped coming to use the tracks in the forest.
- If Whakarewarewa Forest wasn't here I would never have returned to Rotorua after completing my qualifications.
- Important that the financial benefits of the recreational use of the forest are clearly calculated for the local community. Major gains - well in excess of short-term harvesting returns - will be lost if the harvesting and production focus sacrifices the recreational use of the forest. Aucklanders / Wellingtonians travel past a number of other production forests in close proximity to their cities to come and spend.
- In my opinion, Whaka Forest is one of the greatest recreational assets of any city in New Zealand. Rotorua people are very lucky to have this resource on their doorstep.
- In terms of the mountain biking aspect of the forest, I (along with loads of other people) believe the Redwoods to be the best mountain bike location in the North Island. We sent tourists that come into our shop down there to ride and they always make positive comments. In addition, the aspect of having loads of people from all around coming to ride/do other activities there, a great atmosphere is created in the town.
- Intend visiting on a much more regular basis.
- It is a beautiful forest to run in, with the soft ground cover to run on. Trees in the forest are beautiful to look at.
- It is a huge wonderful asset used by all ages, shapes and colours. The number of families out there on a weekend is amazing. It is also of huge economic benefit, largely unrecognised, to the retail service sectors in Rotorua.
- It is a wonderful recreational resource and makes Rotorua a destination city for me. I would be pleased to see it enhanced and very concerned to see it eroded.
- It is an awesome facility that we cannot afford to loose. This generates a healthy lifestyle for those locals that wish to use it and an awesome facility for those that want to market it, ie, tourism, timberlands (public relations), Bike NZ etc.
- It is important that this icon of Rotorua and New Zealand be kept. Why destroy what you cannot replace in your lifetime! Let's keep it for others to enjoy. Keep our country's air reasonably ok.
- It is important to retain the natural beauty of the forest and to continue to allow use by the public for the enjoyment of all.
- It is nice to have free, open access to an area where you can go to get away from the crowds, get some fresh air and exercise, and meditate on life or just switch off and think about nothing at all.
- It is one of the best mountain bike riding places in the country. I know a lot of people who if not for the fantastic mountain biking would not go to Rotorua. We spend a lot of money there on accommodation, food, tourist activities etc.
- It is understandable that as a working forest a change in tree species may be necessary, however one must take care not to change the overall uniqueness that is Whaka Forest. It would be horrible to see it turn into a radiata pine forest! (Surely we have enough of them in NZ!).
- It is very important to preserve public access free of any charge to this unique forest. Also reducing the variety of tree species will cause a loss of character and enjoyment of this forest.
- It would be a real shame to see the area felled but that's life.
- It would be appreciated if the forest was left as is.
- It would be very sad to see the beautiful trees in the redwood area disappear, and the lovely well groomed tracks within this area. I personally do not use these tracks as I prefer the outer tracks, but when I explain this to people who have never been there, these are the tracks I tell them about.
- It's a great place and one of the best places I have ever ridden.

- It's a great place to go; safe, healthy, free, fun.
- It's a great place to go.
- It's a great place. The forest and lakes Tarawera and Blue are the reason we travel to the area. Not spoilt by excessive tourism - just good clean fun places. You can keep your boiling mud (x2).
- It's a privilege to have free access to this forest and its facilities. It is a real gem for locals and visitors, and we are proud to be able to use it and share it with friends and family.
- It's the best forest for mountain biking and mountain jogging in New Zealand!
- Just to reiterate the point that Whakarewarewa Forest plays a huge role in many many lives of those who live and visit Rotorua and to alter this simply to make some short term economic gain would be criminal. One of the key intrinsic values of Whakarewarewa is the fact that it is not all radiata pine. In a community where the dominant tree species is 99.9% radiata pine, this makes a pleasant and badly required change that should be retained and protected.
- Keep access FREE and as unrestricted as it currently is.
- Keep as much of the forest for recreational use as possible.
- Keep it for the people. Offshore forestry companies have thousands of other hectares to use commercially. This is New Zealand's best recreational forest. Leave it alone!
- Keep it green for the sake of the wider public interest if at all possible.
- Keep it real.
- Keep New Zealand green!
- KEEP THE FOREST AND ITS MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK!!!!
- Keep the forest available for all recreational users.
- Keep the forest how it is.
- Keep the forest unchanged please.
- Keep the forest, mountain bikers' rock! Even if a small charge applied and ownership was south for the area as a Council reserve for recreation.
- Keep this area intact for the people and visitors to Rotorua. The whole area is an asset which generates income directly and indirectly for all of Rotorua.
- Keep up the great work on the mountain bike trails.
- Keep your forest and keep non-locals bringing money into Rotorua full stop.
- Known as the best mountain bike place in the world. Just a good clean place for everyone to enjoy.
- Leave it alone for our children's children.
- Leave the forest alone to be enjoyed by all who use it and those of the future to come.
- Leave the forest alone.
- Leave the forest as it is. It's such a beautiful area.
- Let it be as it is.
- Long-term sustainability of the resource is all-important. Obviously some trees would need to be culled from time to time.
- Love the forest and variety of trails. Would prefer more large hardwood trees but obviously these take centuries to grow.
- Love the forest, more tracks.
- Love the Redwoods and forest behind. Do not appreciate the rowdy Asian bus groups that come through in their droves dropping rubbish, hogging the tracks and making a lot of noise.
- Love the riding and the city, but the mountain biking is the draw for me into Rotorua. It's why I visit and spend my money there so often.
- Love this forest and love the N-duro events that are held there. One of the nicest places in New Zealand for events/activities.
- Maintain the status quo in Whaka Forest.
- Manage it for recreation. It's a great asset and brings heaps of people to Rotorua.
- Maybe the best biking tracks in the southern hemisphere. I relocated my family from Auckland to Rotorua, with the forest being a major factor. In fact I purchased right next to the forest, Awatea Terrace. Not just great biking but walking and for dogs. Great to see kiwis and foreigners getting out amongst it every day. Don't lose such a great feature

- Me, my family and friends all love the forest with passion it gets kids and adults off their bums and out enjoying the environment which is on our back door. There are not many things out there you can do for free these days as a family. It needs to remain that way.
- Most valuable asset in Rotorua for everyone's enjoyment.
- Mountain biking in Whaka Forest is the single most important reason why we are in Rotorua and investing in business in Rotorua.
- Mountain bike tracks are an asset to Rotorua and New Zealand.
- Mountain bike tracks in Rotorua are a significant draw card for many riders. Losing these may significantly reduce visitor numbers and dollars spent in the city.
- My family travels to the forest every six weeks from Auckland to go mountain biking. Any changes to the forest, especially the Redwoods, would force a re-evaluation of this.
- My husband and I love the Redwoods, and our friends come from Auckland, Whakatane, Wellington, Taupo etc, to ride here and experience this magical, exciting, fun and clean place. Thanks so much for all the awesome work put into it!!!
- My husband and I love the forest and use it regularly for all of the above activities. We do not take it for granted and appreciate it very much.
- My mother used to take us walking through the forest all the time when we were kids - it was great fun getting out into space and having freedom. I look forward to when my horses are broken-in and I will be able to return in the saddle to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere.
- My parents live in Rotorua and whenever I go and visit them I usually include a visit to the forest or go running with my mother through it. It is beautiful and peaceful and the air is really fresh. I really value being able to have access to the Whakarewarewa Forest.
- Myself, and a number of my friends, travel to Rotorua from Christchurch once or twice a year, for a mountain bike trip. The news that some of our favourite trails in the Redwoods are potentially going to be logged is of obvious concern to us. I believe that Whakarewarewa is a very strong asset for Rotorua, drawing visitors not only from around New Zealand, but around the world. Especially after the international coverage it received last year with the World Champs!
- New Zealand is green. Let's keep it that way!
- Nice dog exercise areas are few and far between. The forest is important for this reason.
- Nice place to ride. Excellent facility.
- No matter who owns the forest, the wider community must be able to use this amazing resource for running, walking, mountain biking and other recreational purposes. The forest must stay and shouldn't be turned into something else for the sole purpose of money.
- No way should they be allowed to harvest these areas of forest.
- Often come to Rotorua with the main purpose of mountain biking at Whakarewarewa and will stay overnight in a motel and then return to Whakarewarewa or do something else the next day.
- On average, we budget \$500 for a 2-3 day stay in Rotorua, and our sole purpose for visiting is to ride at the Redwoods. If the trail network was disrupted, we'll spend our money riding in Taupo or Wellington instead.
- One of the first places I take visitors to. So many of them say how few trees there are in their hometowns so a great pleasure to walk in the forest.
- One of the main reasons I live in Rotorua is because of the forest! There is nowhere else like it!
- One of the reasons for returning to Rotorua from overseas and Auckland was the availability of the mountain biking facilities in Whakarewarewa Forest.
- Open minds working together so everyone gets what they need and want, and to preserve Whakarewarewa Forest. This is a benefit to all New Zealanders
- Our family over thirty years have been regular users of the Redwood Forest and love the experience a walk run or bike ride offer to anyone regardless of income or race.
- Over the years there has been an upward trend in users, especially family groups and out of town people. Clearly evident by the bikes on cars over the Tauranga back road and the Mamakus on weekends. It is of national recreational significance not just local.
- People from around New Zealand and around the world complement us on our large leisure spaces in the city centre. It would be a negative tourism move for any forestry operation to happen in this forestry parkland. I do not like radiata and I know it needs to be logged.

There needs to be a plan of removal and replacement with quality long life trees - but the plan should be carried out by way of careful environment consideration not the slash and trample mentality we see from commercial loggers. Believe me we have just witnessed a horrible mess at Hamurana.

- People from around the world have made comments that the forest has the best mountain biking facilities in the world. It caters for all skill levels, plus it has many other activities on offer; walking, horse riding, dog walking. Where else in New Zealand does any place offer this?! This is a tourist Mecca. It brings money to Rotorua and pleasure to so many people.
- Please allow our children, and future generations, to have the same enjoyment and appreciation of Whakarewarewa Forest as we have had!
- Please continue to have access made available to horses and dogs in your wonderful forest!
- Please do not change our forest. Leave it alone. Leave it access free. Leave. Let our people enjoy our forest.
- Please do not cut down some of the redwoods. Mountain biking home in New Zealand is the Redwood Forest and the best trails in New Zealand are in the Redwoods. Cutting down the trees will definitely decrease the amount of tourists to Rotorua.
- Please do not ruin Whakarewarewa Forest.
- Please do not take away this lovely resource.
- Please don't change our beautiful forest.
- Please don't change the status quo.
- Please don't cut trees. The planet needs them!
- Please don't take it away!!!
- Please ensure that the Whakarewarewa Forest trail network continues to become accessible to all recreational users, especially the dedicated community of mountain bikers who cherish this forest and pay pilgrimage on a worldwide daily basis.
- Please keep access to the Redwoods free and available to all, without any restrictions from the current availability. It is a beautiful place and a great asset to Rotorua.
- Please keep the tracks open to the public.
- Please keep this excellent recreational area open and able for use - especially for the mountain biking!!
- Please keep this fantastic area as a great place to play! My son loves coming to the forest to ride his bike too. Wonderful that there is no charge and access is easy.
- Please leave it alone.
- Please leave the forest as it is!
- Please leave the mountain biking tracks as they are.
- Please let us all keep open access to this wonderful area.
- Please maintain this forest as currently. Thanks for your action.
- PLEASE make all efforts to maintain this facility in its current state
- Please make sure the forest exists in all its beauty for future generations. It's a slice of heaven and should be treasured.
- Preserve all mountain bike tracks for the good of the sport, the Rotorua community and the future
- Protect Whaka Forest for future generations. Have a happy day!
- Really appreciate the beautiful Whaka Forest. Love to mountain bike there. Hope to visit more often as time allows. Thank you for making it available!
- Recently moved from Tauranga to have better access to Rotorua's natural facilities, including the forest.
- The Redwoods is the best area in New Zealand to mountain bike. Long may it continue.
- Removal of species other than radiata would be unfortunate. The value to the current owner (North American) should not be allowed to prevail over the interests of the local community.
- Rotorua has been at the forefront of mountain biking and is accessible recreation worldwide, but has slipped well back because we don't offer credible facilities on site people now expect. Don't lose the golden egg. C'mon Rotorua.
- Rotorua has many assets. We must keep them.
- Rotorua is an awesome place to visit. I would like to see the mountain bike aspect broadened, and made more professional, as it could be world class chairlifts and more trailer

runs and more structures on tracks. Overall, Rotorua is a great place to visit for overseas tourists and New Zealanders.

- Rotorua is extremely lucky to have such an asset for recreation on the edge of town and the local businesses must do extremely well from the visitors who come to town to ride there and participate in the events held in the forest. Only wish we could have a similar facility here in New Plymouth.
- Rotorua keep your forest. Charge if you have to but leave the trees alone!
- Save the Forest!
- Save the forest. I know many people who come up from Wellington and rave about this superb area to bike. Without this area you would not get half as many visitors to Rotorua.
- Save this special forest.
- Serious concerns about any erosion of the current recreational facilities we now enjoy especially the mountain bike tracks. We have a WORLD-class facility, many of our guests come to visit primarily to enjoy the forest. Felling the existing species and replacing with pinus radiata would be an aesthetic disaster. Would love approaches to be made to the government to turn the area into a park which belongs to all of us and the existing owners be compensated. This area has turned into a Rotorua icon and should be preserved as such.
- Serious consideration be given to locking up the entire Whaka Forest as a recreational reserve - with limits on any production harvesting - to promote and expand the forest as a recreational only use forest - promoted internationally for events such as World Mountain Bike and MultiSport events.
- Single-track mountain bike trails are the best! Thanks.
- Thank you for providing some of the best mountain bike riding tracks in New Zealand. Keep up the good work!
- Thank you for providing the community with the opportunity to complete this survey. Four generations of my family have enjoyed access to the Whakarewarewa Forest and I would like to think that future generations will have the same opportunity.
- Thank you for such an awesome place to ride, it is greatly appreciated, even from an Aucklander.
- Thank you who ever got the ball rolling to develop the forest into a Disneyland for mountain bike riding. Oh and sorry if I answered too many questions. Just wanted to get my feelings across. Cheers.
- Thanks for asking our opinion. Whaka is a wonderful place, perhaps the best thing about Rotorua environment for me/our family!!
- Thanks to the people who make it possible for a wide group of people and animals to enjoy the forest.
- That I trust the forest will remain open to all public users who wish to enjoy the forest from walkers, bikers, horse-riders and all others.
- The added value this park brings to Rotorua is huge. We take every visitor that comes to our place into the forest, either walking, running, or mountain biking. At least once per month we have people coming to stay with us to go into the area, normally mountain biking, and they all spend money in the city when they are here.
- The area is of specific value to the city of Rotorua for its uniqueness, being very close and well used natural resource for health reasons.
- The bigger picture needs to be considered here. Removal of these trees will affect the economy of Rotorua.
- The clear-cutting techniques I have seen in New Zealand are barbaric. Prune your forest to reduce need/occasion for fire, but cherish it.
- The forest and specifically the mountain bike and walking tracks are a huge asset for all of New Zealand and a positive example to regions outside of Rotorua of what can be done to invest and therefore improve the lives of all ratepayers/citizens.
- The forest and tracks are some of the best in New Zealand, and is a must visit when in Rotorua.
- The forest and trails at Whakarewarewa were one of the key reasons I moved from Ireland to New Zealand, and now I'm looking for an opportunity to move back to Rotorua. It's hard to overstate what an amazing asset Rotorua mountain biking is to New Zealand.

- The forest area should be for all and currently it appears to be for mountain bikes only - please let other uses have the same access. Also would like to see the very fast mountain bike tracks kept away from the walking areas off Nursery Road. Real safety issue.
- The forest contains some of the best riding in the country - beautifully designed tracks, varying levels of difficulty, all-year around riding, just awesome. They are the only reason Rotorua is a destination for me and my biking friends. Damage or reduced access to the tracks will deter bikers and impact on local businesses. Thank you very much for looking into this issue. Please save the forest.
- The forest has given me somewhere I can ride and feel safe. There is no way you can ride a horse down the road these days as traffic has increased over the years and it is too dangerous.
- The forest in its present state is synonymous to Rotorua. A great tourist attraction and a huge source of beauty and pleasure for the residents. Please do not destroy it!
- The forest is a brilliant resource and a very special part of living in Rotorua (x2).
- The forest is a fantastic place for riding, mountain biking and walking. At present it is not always safe to ride as you can come across bikes going extremely fast, and sometimes this is on horse tracks. There are also places where the horse and bike tracks cross but where visibility is poor. Clearer signs for the horse tracks would be good.
- The forest is a great asset for Rotorua, particular the way it has been developed versus forest/recreational areas in other towns and cities.
- The forest is a great asset to Rotorua and the whole of New Zealand. It should be kept for all to use.
- The forest is a great asset to Rotorua.
- The forest is a great asset. I would hate to see the recreational use available decreased in any way.
- The forest is a great place - let's treasure it!
- The forest is a great safe place to go for a multitude of activities. The mountain biking is second to none!!
- The forest is a great way to get away from it all it and it's completely accessible. It's breathtaking!
- The forest is a huge asset to Rotorua and a statement that we value trees above their commercial value. Please don't change this.
- The forest is a huge asset to Rotorua due to being so close to the city.
- The forest is a huge asset to Rotorua for recreational use. It is wonderful to see the huge numbers of young people and old making use of it. We need this facility.
- The forest is a huge draw card for the city and an asset which needs to be protected for use by general public. Currently, forest maintenance does not impact greatly on our recreational use of the forest. I think the accessibility of such a variety of forest tracks for such a wide range of outdoor activities can only be beneficial for our community - both in terms of economic spin-offs for the local economy, and also for the health and well being of users.
- The forest is a jewel in the Rotorua crown and my friend and family from overseas enjoy the use of the forest when they visit me. Please keep it, manage it and make it better.
- The forest is a local, regional and increasingly a national asset. As a long-time user of the forest the recent growth of usage is very marked.
- The forest is a major asset to Rotorua!
- The forest is a major draw card to Rotorua. We have a constant stream of friends who visit just to bike, walk or visit the forest.
- The forest is a national treasure and a huge asset for Rotorua. It should be nurtured as such. Look at the feature in the Rotorua Post asking what locals value most. It comes top.
- The forest is a significant resource for the people of Rotorua and their visitors. It has significant links to the area's history both pre and post European. Public access must be retained and I would like to see it become a resource of the people of the area. It once was a State Forest Park. Has that status been lost?
- The forest is a treasure for people. It is important to ensure recreation use for all groups as well as preserve and sustainably mill the forest. Mountain bikers seem to have taken over a lot of the forest, and this is noticeable. Important a balance for everyone occurs. Thanks for opportunity to participate.

- The forest is a unique environment. We need to keep and enhance it for all who wish to visit it.
- The forest is a wonderful asset and one that attracts locals and overseas visitors. Continued development needs to be maintained.
- The forest is an awesome facility that some people take for granted. The variety of species and different conditions that they provide make it more appealing.
- The forest is an extraordinary asset for the city, something to be proud of and which attracts people from far afield. Its loss would greatly affect my perception of Rotorua. I would be happy to pay a fee for its continued use.
- The forest is an icon for Rotorua. Don't cut your nose to spite your face!
- The forest is an international recognised destination. Removal of the public access would be detrimental to the local economy.
- The forest is awesome and it's a credit to the Rotorua Council, MTB club and the owners of it.
- The forest is awesome and one of the best mountain biking facilities in the country - wicked!!
- The forest is awesome. I love the variety of terrain and vegetation. It's great to explore it, as you don't get bored. I used to ride the old tracks but got bored of them so didn't visit as often. Now that it has been opened up out the back with new trails it makes me and my friends ride there more and more. The variety is awesome.
- The forest is great and I wish I could be there more often.
- The forest is great the way it is.
- The forest is great. I hope it is never logged. I wouldn't mind paying a membership to use the forest and the tracks. I think I will join the Mountain Bike Club.
- The forest is one of the greatest assets Rotorua has and I have friends that travel internationally that love it for its varied mountain bike trails and natural environment. Would hate to see this change.
- The forest is perfect as it is. Leave it alone!
- The forest is really an international icon for Rotorua.
- The forest IS Rotorua!!!!!!
- The forest is Rotorua's greatest asset and my fondest memory of home. Please don't change it. It's perfect as it is. Leave it as a natural environment. That's what makes it special.
- The forest is such a valuable recreational asset to the Rotorua community. It attracts visitors and must have economic spin offs. Hopefully a way will be found to protect this resource.
- The forest is such an asset to Rotorua. The track conditions could be improved for wet conditions and the signage has deteriorated. The colour coding has been replaced in some places. I used to live in Lynmore at which time I went every day without fail. I see so many people using it for so many reasons that I am appreciative of the fact that we have such a great facility in Rotorua. My sister from Auckland would give her back teeth to have such a facility near her.
- The forest is the best asset that Rotorua has. I purchased a house in Lynmore primarily to be close to the forest. I spend many hours a week in the forest and have done for most of my life. We are incredibly lucky to have it.
- The forest is the best mountain biking area in New Zealand by far.
- The forest is the best mountain biking in New Zealand. Nowhere else can you have young children and elite athletes in the same forest using the tracks. The forest is very multi purpose.
- The forest is the country's best mountain biking area. The fact that I have travelled from Wellington six times in the last 12 months specifically to ride in the forest should bear testament to its huge appeal as a mountain biking area.
- The forest is the only thing that keeps me working in Rotorua. I can get paid a lot more outside this city but nowhere else could compete with the tracks and trails here.
- The forest is too great an asset to throw away. It is a huge tourist attraction and a beautiful gift for the Rotorua residents.
- The forest is what brings people to Rotorua and also connects them. Rotorua without the forest would not be the same and many people would move away or not come to visit in the weekends!

- The forest must be sustainably managed for present and future citizens. Rotorua's future is dependant on "lifestyle choices" to attract and retain value adding citizens. Lifestyle is our one trump card. It must be protected because reading the papers will not entice people to live here!!!
- The forest network at Whakarewarewa (and the mountain biking opportunities on them) is the primary (I would almost say only) reason that I have visited Rotorua so regularly over the past 10 years.
- The forest now has become such an asset, not only to Rotorua but to New Zealand, that any major felling would be short-sighted and very sad. Central government should buy the forest. Would be a hell of a lot more worthwhile than what they throw money at now.
- The forest tracks are known to be one of the best in the country, if not THE BEST!!
- The forest with its proximity to the city, ease of access, variety of tracks, good signage and range of activities available is a major asset for this city. It has played a large part in my decision to remain living and working in Rotorua. I initially intended to stay two years and have now been here for 14 years. Over that time my own children and now grandchildren have enjoyed it and also my students. Having spent 10 months of the past year in various places in Europe I can say that it is a special and unique feature of our city well worth preserving and enhancing.
- The forest is an excellent place for all people. Please let it grow.
- The forest is an international icon, a national treasure and a War Memorial. Enhance it.
- The forest is worth so much more to Rotorua in its current state. We should be further developing it for the entire benefit of Rotorua not for its timber.
- The lakes and the forest are THE best things about Rotorua.
- The most important thing about Whaka Forest for me is that the public will be able to retain access to the forest and that it stays the same size/area.
- The mountain bike tracks here are world class!!!
- The mountain biking is unique in New Zealand and wonderful. Me and my friends travel up to Rotorua from Wellington to use it.
- The mountain biking tracks are awesome... don't touch em!!!
- The mountain biking tracks are some of the best in New Zealand. The local club does an outstanding job maintaining them, enabling the rest of us to enjoy the tracks.
- The mountain bike tracks have spread well beyond the original confines of the forest park! The "prime" tracks encompass essentially all of the park. Reducing the park size will proportionately decrease the amount of "rideable" track. Expand the park!! Decreasing the size will decrease its value.
- The mountain bike trails in the Whakarewarewa Forest are known as some of the best in New Zealand. It would be such a shame to remove or destroy any of the trail network.
- The mountain biking facilities are world class.
- The mountain bike park in the forest is probably the best in the north island. I would seldom visit Rotorua without the park.
- The only issue I have with the forest is that after a lot of rain the tracks get very muddy and difficult to walk/run on. I wouldn't want this problem solved in a way that would detract from the natural beauty of the forest though (i.e. putting gravel on the tracks!). I would rather things remain as they are.
- The opportunity to ride on horseback in this area is a New Zealand piece of paradise. Our overseas friends love it.
- The paths and signage need more care than they get. Maps available at the information centre are inaccurate and outdated. It's wonderful that access is still free. I hope it can be kept that way. It's a Rotorua treasure and it keeps me healthy and in good spirits. The loos at the information centre are inadequate and very shabby. More dustbins are needed.
- The proximity of Whaka Forest to the city is its key attraction. It could be likened to the value of say Lake Taupo to Taupo, the mountain ski fields to the Central North Island etc etc.
- The proximity, access and variety of recreational pursuits offered by the forest is one of the key reasons why I choose to reside in Rotorua.
- The RDC has an important stewardship role for our forest and should be careful about what it does.

- The reason I travel to Rotorua is because of the forest. I plan my holidays around riding in the forest, bring my friends, use accommodation, eat out and shop in Rotorua because of the well-developed and maintained tracks and beautiful scenery. I feel the forest and its mountain bike park is one of the greatest assets in the North Island.
- The recreational benefits and tourism opportunities of having a beautiful forest on our doorstep is part of the culture of this city. Any significant felling of trees would seriously disaffect the benefits to Rotorua.
- The recreational importance of the forest cannot be underestimated or understated.
- The Redwoods offer awesome riding/running. Wouldn't like to see it lost, as it is one of the best in the country. Would be cool if there were other places like this and Woodhill in Auckland. The Redwoods gets all sorts of people on bikes which is really good to see young and old.
- The Redwood Forest is such a valuable recreational resource. The forest environment inspires people to be active.
- The Redwoods and surrounding areas are a fantastic facility that we are lucky to have here in Rotorua and one I get a lot of use from.
- The Redwoods are a beautiful piece of New Zealand that we take all our overseas friends to whenever we can. Removing the trees would be like trying to take them skiing when there's no snow - completely pointless.
- The Redwoods are a very special place not just to Rotorua but to all New Zealand. The mountain biking really is world class.
- The Redwoods is a significant asset to Rotorua and it attracts lots of people and money to Rotorua. Congratulations to all the people involved in the development and maintenance.
- The Redwoods is an icon to Rotorua. Let's hope that common sense rather than dollars and sense takes priority. A hell of a lot of people use and enjoy the forest. Some of the other areas in there have already been plundered and destroyed ie, Fern Drive as a prime example. What a bloody mess to a formerly beautiful bush area. Now it looks like a war zone and it's not half as nice walking/running in that part of the forest.
- The Redwoods is the key factor for visiting Rotorua. If there were no mountain biking tracks, I would go to Taupo.
- The Redwoods mean so much to lots of people. It brings people into the Rotorua district.
- The Redwoods need to be preserved for further generations to visit and enjoy.
- The resources in Rotorua should belong to all citizens. We are all paying heavy rates to live in a city like this. It should be preserved for generations to come. On the ethnicity question, I refuse to answer this as it is totally unnecessary. What is important is that we are all residents here and should all have our say, without being boxed in. You want to understand how important the forest is to the Rotorua community. On grounds of this the only important thing is whether we live in Rotorua or not:) not our ethnicity. Also, who's fooling who? More than 50% of the Rotorua population earns an average salary of \$15800 (November 2006). Other than making events and amenities exclusive to a privileged few through high price.....I rest my case.
- The Rotovegas tracks are amazing and are going from strength to strength. I can't get there often enough. I have always been very impressed by the support of the forest owners. I do realise they are obligated to provide public access, but I really appreciate the forest owners positive attitude.
- The value of the variety of species shouldn't be underestimated. It creates a great atmosphere.
- The variety of tree species, the tracks, and terrain make Whaka forest a jewel for all New Zealand.
- The Whaka Forest is a truly wonderful asset to Rotorua. I sincerely hope it continues to remain available to the public.
- The walking and mountain bike trails are very well maintained so well done to all involved.
- The way this survey is worded is a back door way of "gaining" support for a clear fell operation. The only way to "...reduce the variety of tree species..." is to clear fell and this is NOT ACCEPABLE. Timberlands have already set president by thinning the douglas fir around the Green Lake, therefore, this method should be applied to all high public value areas for example bike and walking tracks within Whakarewarewa Forest.

- The Whaka Forest (and the access to it) is one of Rotorua's most vital assets. I believe that it brings as many visitors as all the lakes combined. Its economic value is enormous. As a former runner and current biker I have used it four to five times a week for 20 years. In that time my own informal polling of other users indicates that in many cases it is the only reason that visitors come here at all. They can find lakes geothermal activity and even Māori cultural experiences elsewhere but there is only one Whakarewarewa Forest.
- The Whaka Forest is a huge asset to Rotorua, and one that is well-known and used by those outside of Rotorua as well.
- The Whaka Forest is a unique attraction which helps set Rotorua and New Zealand in general aside as one of the greatest places on earth to visit.
- The Whaka Forest is an asset that was recognised by Rotorua residents to have a huge social and economic benefit to Rotorua tourism and more importantly to the residents of Rotorua. Although when this was given to the people of Rotorua it was made clear that this was a commercial forest and may be harvested in the future, there are more ways for the community to benefit from a forest than to harvest it and this includes the economic benefit from the visitors who come to the forest as is shown by the number of tourists buses seen coming out of the forest area. Don't vandalise yet another asset which was gifted to the people of Rotorua by cutting down magnificent trees which will not be replaced in our lifetime!
- The Whakarewarewa Forest attracts a huge number of people to the Rotorua region, particularly for the mountain biking. The sustainability of this forest plays a significant part in the Rotorua region's economy. It is a very important investment for the city.
- The Whakarewarewa Forest helps create the outdoor culture of Rotorua and would be one of the main attractions for visitors and tourists. This area would change significantly should the forest change.
- The Whakarewarewa Forest is a huge asset to not only Rotorua but also New Zealand as a whole. It's vital that it is carefully managed for the whole community.
- The Whakarewarewa Forest is a major asset to the Rotorua region and to the lifestyle of people in its environs. Few other places in the world, can you be away from the city noise within minutes. More needs to be done to ensure the serenity of the asset as increased usage of the track systems bring more to the forest.
- The Whakarewarewa Forest is a national (and world renowned) mountain bike destination. It has frequently been the subject of articles in magazines both in New Zealand and overseas, as one of "the places to visit". It is a major asset to Rotorua and provides excellent recreational opportunities for people of all abilities. While selective harvesting could be carried out without interfering with the enjoyment of the area, it would be a great loss to Rotorua and New Zealand if widespread destruction of the area was to occur.
- The Whakarewarewa Forest is a Rotorua icon and a major attraction (for both tourists and to live - one of the first places I was taken to when I was considering moving to Rotorua). It is highly appreciated and respected by (almost) all Rotorua citizens.
- The Whakarewarewa Forest is a unique and extremely valuable resource that needs to be protected for now and future generations - a fantastic mountain biking experience.
- The Whakarewarewa Forest is an icon for mountain biking. The quality of the trails and huge network of tracks are the best I have ridden in the North Island.
- The Whakarewarewa Forest is one of the main reasons I visit Rotorua. They have the best mountain biking tracks in the North Island making Rotorua our place to visit all year round.
- The Whakarewarewa Forest is part of the international identity of Rotorua. To lose it would be to lose part of the draw to the area. Manage it as a tourist destination. It is of more value to the area as a tourist draw than as timber.
- The Whakarewarewa Forest is such a huge resource at our back door for Rotorua and New Zealanders. It has some of the best mountain biking and walking tracks in the world. We should be trying to preserve this asset for future generations.
- The Whakarewarewa Forest offers the best all round mountain biking in New Zealand. It was one of the reasons that I emigrated to New Zealand.
- The whole forest holds value beyond what is seen superficially. It has a psychological value to everyone who uses it in their own personal way and to disturb this is counter-productive to the region.
- There is four of us in the family and we all use the forest the same amount

- There will be protests. You can count on it.
- This facility is becoming world-renowned and is by far the best mountain bike facility in New Zealand, if not the Southern Hemisphere. We must as a community protect it for generations to come
- This forest has the best riding for mountain biking I have ridden and love driving up there to ride there even though Wellington has really good riding too.
- This forest is a lynchpin for outdoor recreation for the average Rotorua family, as well as a draw card for tourists and other visitors to this town. Please do your job. Listen to everyone's opinion, and do as the public votes, not just the council.
- This forest is a magnificent asset to the community. I know a lot of people that have chosen to live in Rotorua because of the Redwoods network and its accessibility. It provides a safe area for family enjoyment and a means of income for the city.
- This forest is an asset to Rotorua.
- This forest is awesome! It's one of the best things about Rotorua. While we all need to be aware that it is a working forest, I believe there is opportunity for RDC to slowly increase their reserve area over time, and then to manage the forest primarily for its recreational values - and this will no doubt include ensuring a mix of species is planted.
- This forest is iconic for mountain biking in New Zealand. Riders from all over Aotearoa and the world travel to Rotorua specifically for mountain biking in the Whakarewarewa Forest.
- This forest is now world famous in mountain biking communities. Rotorua should think very carefully about the development of this resource for the good of the users, visitors and locals alike. The forest is a huge asset to the image of Rotorua tourism and should be respected and nurtured as one. Thanks. (x2).
- This forest is one of my favourite places in the world. It rejuvenates the spirit without fail. Please preserve and protect it.
- This forest is Rotorua's BEST asset.
- This forest is the gem in Rotorua's crown, few cities can boast such a facility so close to the town centre that is accessible to all people and for such a variety of uses. Its non-commercial values (aesthetic, recreational, ecological, research) far outweigh any commercial (tree cropping) value that it might be given.
- This forest is unique so make sure it's not going to be ruined.
- This is a fantastic asset to the community and the region both aesthetically and financially.
- This is a great attraction to your fine city and brings a lot of visitors over from here.
- This is a great resource for the community. It provides income for the community and helps in making Rotorua a tight knit community passionate about the place they live.
- This is a major asset for Rotorua locals and visitors.
- This is a nationally-important mountain biking facility that induces many riders from Christchurch to travel north. Beyond the environmental and social/recreational value, it must therefore contribute substantially to the local economy (witness how fast cheap seats Christchurch-Rotorua sell out compared to other destinations!). It therefore deserves protection and sensitive, sustainable development to maintain and further capitalise on its value.
- This is a treasure, and is something unique and special to Rotorua. We are lucky to have this beautiful forest so easily assessable, and one of the main reasons I live in Rotorua!
- This is a very special place and one of the best mountain biking areas in the world.
- This is a world-class mountain biking destination that showcases some phenomenal tree species. There is nothing like riding through the pungas on a misty morning.
- This is an absolute resource for our community.
- This is an amazing resource. Be wary about trying to define it and manipulate it. You will know when you have gone too far and it will not be reversible. A huge appeal is the variety of activities and appeal to the whole family. Interestingly if this resource wasn't there, my family and I would probably never visit Rotorua again, and I speak for several other families.
- This is an awesome asset to the community in general. It caters for people from all walks of life and any age group following many activities.
- This is one of the best forests I have been to. I absolutely love the mountain biking trails. They are amazing and the reason I visit Rotorua.

- This is one of the best multi ability, especially family, riding areas in the North Island. I hope it's there for everyone to use for many years yet. Thanks.
- This is one of the last areas in New Zealand for such access from a close proximity of a city that caters for all walks of New Zealand life, and that encourages people to use our forests not just drive by them.
- This is such an untapped resource.
- This is the best mountain bike destination in New Zealand. Don't mess it up!
- This is the greatest natural resource Rotorua has. People all around the country and world talk about it. Please protect it for all of us and our children to enjoy.
- This piece of land should be managed for recreation only.
- This place is a treasure and special to Rotorua. Please leave it the way it is.
- This place is invaluable. It caters for so many and provides so many health benefits. We need to get people out enjoying these sorts of areas rather than sitting indoors playing video games etc. The benefits of outdoor activities are wider spread than most people see.
- This recreational park is the only reason I visit Rotorua with my family of five and stay in hotels and eat at restaurants, and buy gas and bike bits there - even though it smells like rotten egg s!
- This resource is one of the truly great things about living in this area. The mountain biking is world class and I believe an important asset to Rotorua and New Zealand.
- This used to be public land in the forest service days. It was managed as a forest park with both production and amenity values. It is a disgrace that the people of New Zealand have lost this asset, particularly such a highly visible asset in a tourist centre.
- To lose all or any of the present availability of the forest would be a personal heartfelt loss and disastrous to the local identity.
- To lose this forest asset to walkers and other activities other than mountain biking would be a great loss to our community and other surrounding areas.
- To me Whakarewarewa Forest is the biggest draw card for choosing Rotorua as a place to live outside my career.
- To tamper with the natural existence of the forest would be a shame and could affect more than you count on; not only the recreational people, the workers, animals, other surrounding natural co-habitants. This is a serious matter and should not go ahead.
- To the powers that be thank you for such a beautiful environment to take our children. We moved from Wellington for the lifestyle in Rotorua and the forest was a major part of that decision. We encourage our friends from out of the area and within Rotorua to use and enjoy this treasure.
- Use the forest primarily for mountain biking, though was previously employed in the tour industry and involved in taking groups to the Redwood Forest. The Whakarewarewa Forest is undoubtedly one of the best mountain bike facilities in New Zealand and ranks among the best I have used anywhere in the world. The bike park's deserved popularity makes it an underestimated contributor to the city's tourism industry and to the wider Rotorua region's economy. It is a major asset to Rotorua that its owners and the area can be proud of and of a standard for which I would be fully prepared to pay a modest fee to use.
- Very valuable resource that needs to be maintained not only for locals but for visitors to the region.
- Waka forest is an icon for Rotorua's image as an outdoors based destination and to me it is just as important as the surrounding lakes. It is accessible and merely by being there where it is promotes a healthy attitude towards exercise and the environment. It has more value than many believe.
- Was Pony Club's representative on the original Whaka State Forest Park Advisory Committee and present at the official opening in 1975. In the four years I was on this committee we worked hard to ensure that a wide variety of interests and pursuits were catered for. It would be a retrograde step to limit these to the money making, larger scale public events. Keep it open to the horse and pony riders of the area!!!
- We (large group of adults who have been travelling to Rotorua for approx 10 years at least once a year are now taking our sons mountain riding). We love the great variety of tracks of different abilities and terrains.

- We are a group walking twice weekly in the Bay Of Plenty area and have done so for 25 years, providing outdoor pleasure for retired folk.
- We are increasing our visits just in case you make the wrong decision!
- We cannot afford to harm this valuable resource that we have become so renowned for.
- We enjoy organised events and recreational events in the forest and it is the sole reason why we spend our summer holidays in Rotorua.
- We have a fantastic playground. My husband, our two children and myself love being able to access it. We have many friends who visit us with the intention of using it. Whatever you do, keep up the level of fun / access / enjoyment. Good Luck!
- We have a group of six families that go to Rotorua annually for a summer holiday - the full focus is to go mountain biking in the forest and we all ride at least once a day. Now our young children are learning to ride and this forest is great to introduce them to the joys of mountain biking. There just is no other place like it and it would be a shame to see it change!
- We have a unique situation in Rotorua of having a forest so accessible to the general public for all sorts of uses. It would be a shame to see the forest changed in any way.
- We love the forest. We would move to Rotorua just for the forest if we could find the right kind of job to suit our professions. It's a precious and unique thing. Change it if you must - but only change it for the better.
- We love using the Whakarewarewa Forest, mainly for mountain biking. It is such a great asset being so close to town and with a wonderful collection of well-maintained and easily accessible tracks.
- We really appreciate having a fantastic place like the Redwoods for all the domestic and international visitors to enjoy. It is a great place for family activities.
- We specifically chose our house location due to its proximity to the forest.
- We still live in Rotorua for two reasons - our jobs and Whaka. It is so accessible and is improving all the time. We feel it is very important to maintain the diversity of the forest, as that is a contributing factor to the variety of trails and the enjoyment of them. It is a living place.
- We travel from Australia to Rotorua three to four times per year, staying in Rotorua and using the facilities and services of the town, specifically to enjoy the benefits of the Redwoods.
- Whaka Forest is a fantastic asset for Rotorua. It attracts many visitors and users to the city. It should be recognised as an asset and managed accordingly.
- Whaka Forest is a fantastic resource. I moved away from Rotorua 14 years ago and not until then did I really appreciate having it. Regularly three or four of us come to enjoy the forest at least once a week. KEEP IT UP ROTORUA COUNCIL AND KAINGAROA TIMBERLANDS. THE AREA ROCKS.
- Whaka Forest is a great asset. Certainly the best location for mountain biking in New Zealand.
- Whaka Forest is a lot of the reason why I live in Rotorua - I even ride through on the way to work. Please don't diminish this wonderful asset. I support any move to maintain the natural heritage, especially the redwoods that have/are considering felling.
- Whaka Forest is a Mecca for mountain bikers from throughout the North Island. The tracks are the most extensive system accessible to the largest population in the country. Hundreds of Jaffas visit the tracks every week and frequently stay over spending money in the bars and cafes. Long may this asset be freely accessible to the public
- Whaka Forest is a special place with an international reputation and is where the sport of mountain biking all started in New Zealand.
- Whaka Forest is a valuable asset to Rotorua and hopefully it will continue to be accessible to all.
- Whaka Forest is an asset to Rotorua and should have special protection. Commercial activities should be secondary to recreation. Mountain biking should be nurtured as it brings many visitors into Rotorua. Direct flights from Australia could bring more mountain-bikers for weekends.
- Whaka Forest is becoming a major part of Rotorua's identity. I feel cities leaders have yet to identify with this. Hopefully the survey results will wake them to the fact.
- Whaka Forest is hugely valuable to Rotorua and must be very sympathetically managed.

- Whaka Forest is important to Rotorua. Rotorua is thriving largely due to the activities in the Whaka forest.
- Whaka Forest is the reason I can't see me leaving Rotorua - ever. Many people come here to live because of Whaka Forest. How lucky are we.
- Whaka Forest is unique for several reasons. It is right on the edge of the City, easily accessible. Has a fantastic network of trails, and has a diversity of trees. All are important.
- Whaka Forest is unique on the world stage and needs to be protected at all costs. The economic spin off for Rotorua is huge.
- Whaka Forest such a unique area, used by locals and tourists alike. It would be devastating to the community if a significant amount of felling was to occur.
- Whaka Forest is one of the reasons New Zealand is a great country. Don't change it. Make it bigger and tell more people about it!
- Whaka is an important part of what attracts people and business to Rotorua and New Zealand. We need to think carefully before we act on any changes to Whaka as it directly effects people's well-being and quality of life.
- Whaka is the most unique forest in New Zealand. Being in the heart of the city we need to preserve and promote all the fantastic features this fabulous environment offers. Holding on the World Mountain Bike Champs in Rotorua put Whaka on the map. The number of comments from our overseas competitors about our forest was incredible, and will bode well for hosting rights in the future.
- Whaka should be protected at all costs - the park is internationally renowned and biking friends from the UK are always stunned when they visit.
- Whakarewarewa Forest has some of the best mountain bike tracks in the country. They are a national asset. And heaps of fun!
- WHAKAREWAREWA FOREST has to be one of the best recreational areas in the world.
- Whakarewarewa Forest hosts world-class mountain bike facilities. The quality, management and profile of the area is not only good for mountain biking, but also shows off Rotorua and New Zealand in the best possible light to a growing segment of the tourism market. Please do all you can to preserve its unique nature.
- Whakarewarewa Forest is a beautiful place to be. It would seem a shame to change it, and if we do our children's children won't be able to enjoy it like we do.
- Whakarewarewa Forest is a fantastic resource for our community. I would personally be happy for some of my rates to be used to ensure continued public access.
- Whakarewarewa Forest is a fantastic resource.
- Whakarewarewa Forest is a fantastic resource. As an Auckland resident I don't think twice over travelling 2.5h hours each way to visit the forest for a day trip. Its standard and variety of recreational benefit is a credit to Rotorua and certainly benefits a much wider spread of population.
- Whakarewarewa Forest is a great asset to the region. It is a well-known and recognised area for recreation of all types, particularly mountain biking. I think the custodians of the forest should be proud of what they have done and what they are providing to the public.
- Whakarewarewa Forest is a key resource, especially for locals (although I accept it's an attractant to tourists/visitors as well). The environment helps to promote healthy activity for individuals, families or organisations. My children (and I) have a love of the outdoors, exercise, walking and cycling - all developed since our move to Rotorua.
- Whakarewarewa Forest is a mountain biking Mecca! It has some of the best trails and riding in the country, and I have taken several people from the UK there, and they have said that it is one of the best mountain biking locations in the world. The reviews of trails I have read from international media who attended the 2006 World Mountain Bike champs in Rotorua have all agreed that it's an internationally recognised and praised place to ride. My fiancée, friends and I regularly make the trip down there, to enjoy the fantastic trails.
- Whakarewarewa Forest is a superb mountain biking area and attracts us to drive from Palmerston North to visit each year for a stay in Rotorua.
- Whakarewarewa Forest is a very important asset for Rotorua City.
- Whakarewarewa Forest is a vital city asset. Logging should of secondary importance. National and international events depend on the maintenance of its current status.

- Whakarewarewa Forest is a vital city asset. Logging should of secondary importance. National and international events depend on the maintenance of its current status.
- Whakarewarewa Forest is an amazing asset for Rotorua. Myself and many others travel from Auckland at least once a month to mountain bike ride and enjoy the forest. As someone who rides in many different places, Whakarewarewa Forest keeps bringing me back, due in part to its ease of getting to scenery, good mountain biking tracks and also the variety of trees. I ride often in Woodhill Forest, which is simply pine trees, and it does not come close to the beauty of Whakarewarewa Forest. I understand it is a working forest, but I do believe there is more monetary benefit in maintaining this forest as an asset for all New Zealanders to enjoy and also for the huge amount of tourists that visit the forest.
- Whakarewarewa Forest is my favourite place for mountain biking. Swooping along the tracks there is a wonderful way to enjoy the forest - the smell and the air and the light. It makes me feel like a kid again, riding up and down the driveway as fast as I could just because I could! It is also really great to see so many families there - parents taking their kids out on bikes and walking. It is a fantastically accessible place and caters to a lot of levels and interests.
- Whakarewarewa Forest is the best place to mountain bike in the country. Riders at the recent World Champs were blown away by the tracks available. It would be like destroying a national treasure to dramatically reduce the forest cover, which gives it its unique character. The forest brings a lot of out of town people to Rotorua so if the facility was downgraded it could have a negative economic impact on the town as people go to the likes of Taupo instead.
- Whakarewarewa is a fantastic place for mountain biking.
- Whakarewarewa is a focal destination for mountain bikers all over the world. I first heard about it when living in the UK and it was the first place I spent any real time in New Zealand. Since moving to New Zealand I have returned at least twice a year to enjoy the forest. It would be a tragedy for the forest to lose its individuality for the sake of commercialisation.
- Whakarewarewa is a unique resource in its close proximity to the city, combined with its hundreds of km of mountain bike trails that cater to all level of riders.
- Whakarewarewa is a very valuable asset to the residents and nearby users of Rotorua!
- Whakarewarewa is a world-class mountain biking park. I have biked in multiple places throughout the world and Redwoods rates as one of the best. It has a hugely diverse range of tracks so appeals to everyone from experts to beginners to family. I cannot wait until my children are a bit older to be able to take them there, show them what New Zealand has to offer and encourage them to enjoy. After all the work that has been put into this park in the last 20 years it would be a crime to log it!
- Whakarewarewa is deep in my heart as a place that shows that business really can give something back to the community.
- Whakarewarewa is now world famous, after huge magazine coverage at the world champs, as one of the finest mountain biking destinations. It almost got more column inches than the world champs event!
- Whakarewarewa is the best place in NZ for mountain biking.
- Whakarewarewa is the jewel in Rotorua's crown. It is the number one reason I choose to live in Rotorua rather than overseas.
- Whakarewarewa rocks
- Whakarewarewa rules.
- Whakarewarewa Forest is the main reason I want to move to Rotorua one day.
- Whakarewarewa is a beautiful forest enjoyed by all New Zealanders and overseas visitors. It is a huge asset to tourism within Rotorua and therefore New Zealand itself.
- What is the need to chop down the trees anyway?
- What you have in Rotorua is a natural beauty that should be left alone (aside from management and positive development) as much as possible.
- Wish I lived closer to enjoy the environment I grew up in. I cherish having had a chance to experience a great recreational environment. The tracks have been an amazing evolution involving hard work. The quality, variety and number of them are what make Rotorua the centre of mountain biking for New Zealand. Look after them and protect them from loss.
- With close proximity to Rotorua city and huge human resource, the forest is far more valuable for its amenity values than as a production forest.

- With the decline of the forestry sector in the last 10 years, it is extremely important for the council, as a major influence on local facilities, to ensure resources like Whakarewarewa Forest are a draw card for the local populace and an economic benefit to all of Rotorua.
- With the popularity of mountain biking (events) and walking and running events (International Two Day Walk, half marathon), it seems a pity to tamper with such an awesome draw card for Rotorua. The forest is unique and something to be proud of. The fact that so many people use it for such a variety of events supports this.
- Without damaging the long-term sustainability of Whakarewarewa Forest, the RDC could generate far more tourism traffic through promoting the many benefits associated with families and domestic travellers using this wonderful natural and healthy asset.
- Would be sad to lose some of the older tracks, but provided they can be rebuilt, then all good. Maintaining free public access is one of the most important things.
- Would be terrible to cut down such a natural resource on our doorstep.
- Would hate to see the forest change much.
- You have a beautiful forest and it would be a shame if we couldn't all share it.
- You just have to look at races like the N-Duro mountain bike races and compare the numbers now to those three years ago and see how many people flock to Rotorua. We started riding the N-Duro races four years ago and that is where our love for Rotorua started. It would be interesting to see the percentage of people that come from out of town to race in the N-Duro series, mountain biking and run.
- You preside over a resource that differentiates Rotorua internationally. It's yours to lose.

*Comments coded to "survey comments":*

- A good survey for the most part.
- A very nice survey, but the Q2, Q2a and Q2b bits are confusing.
- Check q11 is working.
- Council should spend money elsewhere - not on surveys.
- Dots in q-11 are not responding when clicked on.
- Found the format of question 11 difficult. Unable to work out how you answer it, but all of the headings are equally important to my enjoyment of such a great place.
- Good luck with the survey.
- Good questions, however, the font needs to be much clearer, especially for us older ones. I found it quite hard to read some of it.
- Hope this helps.
- I appreciate the chance to be able to voice my opinion! Thanks.
- I cannot imagine what relevance my income has to this survey, and so have opted not to answer this particular question.
- I cannot see what my household income has to do with the use of the forest.
- I do not think that this survey is worded very well. I haven't figured out what you want to achieve from this survey and how these questions will apply to further knowledge of use of a mostly exotic forest!
- I think you could have more in this survey.
- It's great that the users of the forest have this opportunity to be surveyed.
- Posted survey #2.
- Question 11 - could not remember where I was clicking dots so all categories were most important.
- Question 11 would not allow any more than one preference to be ticked. I would have also said clean and variety of tracks, atmosphere, safety.
- Question 13 was one of the worst designed questions I've ever answered in an on-line survey - I wouldn't trust the results you get from it. Also, question 11 was pretty bad, because having selected a radio button, there's no way to change your mind about ranking that item. I'd like to see as high a percentage as possible of native trees maintained.
- Sorry, question 11 would not allow me to select my desired selections.
- Survey is rather confusing to complete. It would help if user was directed to the next question so that they need to answer rather than having to read the small direction text in red font.
- Terrible survey, badly worded.

- Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
- Thanks for the opportunity to complete this survey.
- Thanks for the opportunity to have a say. Hopefully enough will do the same and provide good data as to the recreational value of the forest. Please note that I've been out of the country for nine months so my stated frequency for the past 12 months is less than it usually would be. On average it would be a quarterly visit - if not a little more. Cheers.
- Thanks for the survey. I hope you will take my advice on board. We want the forest to stay thank you.
- Thanks for this survey. I live in Rotorua because of the nature of the forest and its trails. I know many other people like me. I can live anywhere I like, and contribute to any economy, but I chose this one because of the forest.
- The above question Retired, should be SEMI RETIRED.
- The area is visited by many visitors and therefore survey somehow needs to incorporate this.
- The check boxes in the middle of the questionnaire don't work.
- The survey is very confusing as it does not define Whakarewarewa Forest. Does it include the Tokorangi Triangle or not? If it includes Tokorangi, then my answers would be significantly different. I cannot see how you could draw a fair conclusion when people are likely to consider that this applies to Tokorangi, where very little change is expected or permitted compared to the productive area of Whakarewarewa.
- The Whaka forest is an under valued resource. An on-site survey during a weekend should be done to determine the range of values and extent of visitor efforts to come and use the forest.
- There is a huge community of horse riders in this community and it would be nice to be considered in this survey.
- This survey is very unclear in question 13, whether you are referring to the Crown Forestry License area, or the area of the Tokorangi Triangle? The variety (or number) of species within the Triangle is significantly more than the CFL.
- This survey was very poorly worded, poorly laid out and with questions that were utterly confusing.
- What is the relevance of my income to this survey? I have only bothered to complete it because I am passionate about protecting forests.
- Why did you stop the income per household at \$50,000, or \$25,000 per person for a couple? Hopefully, even in Rotorua, you need a scale that goes beyond that!!
- Why do you want to know my income?

*Comments coded to "suggested improvements":*

- A cafe out there would be good
- Awesome mountain bike park. Signage needs to be updated though.
- Better signage is required for safety reasons, eg a lot of signs that direct you to Waipa car park or Long Mile information centre. Maps should be clearly visible for sale at both ends. Horse track crosses mountain bike track at base of Nursery Hill. This is very dangerous for both riders, bikes and horses.
- Build more bike tracks.
- Carpark at Waipa Mill Road is in very bad condition when visited in July; big pot holes etc, no toilet facilities, signage needs to be updated, bit confusing following tracks, more signs needed, dogs running free can scare children.
- Coffee shop in the middle of the forest.
- Don't cut it down just have a fence that goes around the edge.
- I would like to see the Asian bus tours pay a little towards the forest, or somehow make them visit the information centre.
- I would love to see Rotorua really grow into a world-class mountain biking area. Signage and map stations throughout the forest would be good for new visitors. It's a pity there is no access to the World's downhill course. Maybe this style of track could be built in the Redwoods.
- I would put in changing rooms with user pays showers. They would pay for themselves.
- Increase and establish more safe (horse riding/walking only) tracks in the Redwood Forest.

- Increased facilities on the Waipa carpark would add significant value to the experience, and I am sure for the position of Rotorua as a forest activity based destination. There is a need to find a commercially sustainable solution to the management and functionality of the forest.
- It is a fantastic resource which enables a lot of interest groups to use it. I feel it's a shame to put an emphasis on any one sport ie, mountain biking. Sometimes the mountain bikers get very possessive, especially I've found when I am horse riding, even in the appropriate areas. Events need to be well advertised as I've gone to the forest on several occasions to find it is being used for a multisport event and despite being local I was unaware of this.
- Make more fantastic mountain bike tracks.
- More tracks. No empty spaces.
- Need to have proper toilet facilities at carpark. Porta loo is disgusting!!!
- Please maintain tracks, eg, wash furrows down to visitor centre, which become unsafe, and puddles. Eliminate car break-ins on FRI side.
- Put a gold coin donation box next to map at Waipa. Aucklanders use this and would help to pay for the ongoing upkeep of forest tracks.
- RDC could help fund more recreation groups in the forest as a lot of work is done by the small band of volunteers of the various clubs. Basic facilities like toilets would be a help. As a parent taking my kids into the forest on a weekend, kids want to go to the toilet; one overloaded port-a-loo just doesn't cut it. I believe this might change with a private venture taking place at Waipa, but will that cater of the general public or just paying guests? You hear of a lot of people who travel to Tauranga to go shopping. There is also a large contingent of people who come over from the Western Bay to mountain bike. If Rotorua as a destination has some pleasant facilities at say Waipa then this may help to encourage non biking "shoppers" to accompany bikers to Rotorua as a day out, spend money in town while partner bikes. Value add? Would you like fries with your mountain biking?
- Rotorua – let's buy the forest and turn it into a huge draw card for New Zealanders to come and holiday - build toilets, showers on the Long Mile side - nice and warm and sunny. Make a road in off Te Ngae Road opposite the old Challenge petrol station - make a big information centre - lots of parking for walkers and mountain bikers. It could be awesome! Forget about the airport. We've spent enough money on that – let's attract kiwis here to holiday!!
- The sails at the Redwoods are a beautiful place for an event - the sails just need to be maintained - they are a real mess!
- The signage on the walks is poor. Also distinct lack of maps on the walkways - only near the visitor centre.
- This forest, and in particular the mountain biking, could be developed to such a high level compared to its current status. The income from it would be vast.
- This wonderful resource should be better marketed overseas in order to attract more visitors to our city.
- Trails need proper signage! At minimum, signs at the end of trails pointing people back to carparks are badly needed.
- We need mapped and signed horse trails, so we know where we are allowed to ride without upsetting other forest users.
- Whakarewarewa is a commercially run forest, where all folk need to realise this. All Tokorangi Pa Road northwards to the city needs to be promoted more as a recreational/ ecological reserve. Is integrated pest management in this area feasible to increase bird life?

*Comments coded to "love forest but recognise that it is a commercial business":*

- As I said before, I am aware that it is a production forest, but I believe that because of its unique location it has more than just financial importance to the Rotorua area. I think that in the past the forestry managers have done an excellent job of balancing the needs of recreational users alongside the harvesting requirements of the forest owners. I can only hope that this will continue in the future.
- Development and change must go on. Work hard at preserving the ethos of the place.
- I am all for harvesting the trees - if the forest owner is prevented from making money the long-term impact on forest users will be negative. It is shortsighted for recreation users/public to complain about the tree owners right to harvest. Rather these groups should

work to ensure the next rotation of planting enhances the forest for the next 30 to 50 years of that rotation.

- My family and I use the forest two or three times a week (no exaggeration). The forest as it extends from the city to the mill and Direct Road should be more carefully preserved in its original variety. I bring students into the forest annually to show them the different kinds of trees. Some hills erode very badly with forestry operations and should not be cleared at all. Beyond that, only parts (such as some hilltops with native bush on them) need to be preserved. The mountain bike tracks are quite clearly marked now, but some of the running/walking tracks have lost their horse/bike barriers and signage, and are becoming dangerous. I encourage the council to bring these back up to standard so that we can get back to the numbers who used to enjoy them.
- I think it is a fantastic resource, but it is also a production forest and should be managed so that the needs of both the forest owners and the recreational users can be met. I believe that if the focus is completely on the recreational users, it sends the wrong signals about multi-use forests to forest owners who will be discouraged from allowing public access to forested areas.
- I think the Whakarewarewa Forest is a great publicly available resource. I also believe that all trees in the forest have a forestry value and should be managed as such. As long as replanting is undertaken and felling coups kept to a reasonable size then there will be no impact on the attractiveness of the forest as a public use area.
- I would love the RDC to consider purchasing for recreational reserve the farmland presently owned by Gavin Spence which is relatively steep (unsuited for housing) but would compliment the forest enormously. Access to it is opposite the water tank on Tarawera Road, like the Withers Hill reserve in Blenheim, or the newly opened Papamoa Heights Reserve / recreational area. This would provide popular and endless recreational access to supplement and enhance access to the working forest on both sides of Tarawera Road. RECT could consider this a lasting legacy to Rotorua and guarantee Rotorua access to the sort of area currently only served by the forest. We accept we are lucky to have access to the working forest now and it would be tragic to have that access threatened and restricted. How lucky we are to have it is the one thing fellow runners always tell me when they come to Rotorua.
- If the trees need to be felled then the community must help to get the forest back to its current state ASAP afterwards. The forest is Rotorua's best free resource.
- It's a great spot but we must realise it is a working forest and respect it as such.
- Let the forestry company do what they like. They own it so let the do as they see fit.
- My 5-year-old son, having been brought up for four years in Taupo, mountain bikes and views the Rotorua and Taupo areas as something of a mythical place. Once he is mountain biking it is hard to get him out of the forests. I fear that an unplanned approach to harvesting the current plantation trees will put the area back by two to three years. I understand that the trees need to be felled and that if fine. It is a case of planning out how this is going to occur and ensuring the replanting (of whatever species is best) and re-establishment of the tracks is undertaken in a systematic way. The public should not take for granted their ability to use this area for recreation. It is a privilege and not a right. I am just happy to be consulted and have my views, and that of my son, taken into consideration.
- The forest is a wonderful asset to Rotorua. It attracts a lot of visitors for mountain biking which is good for the local economy. It must be remembered that it is a working forest and the owners want to make it commercially successful.
- The forest is an amazing resource for the city, attracting many people to live here for a great lifestyle. I understand that the forest is privately owned and appreciate the company allowing the public to use it with no charge. Logging in Rotorua supports a large part of the population, and should be put in perspective when people get up in arms about logging in Whaka. It is only a short period of time that any particular trail is disturbed for, and I honestly don't think that most people even notice what type of trees they are biking through, as long as the tracks are kept at such a good standard as they are now.
- The trees were planted to harvest. Recreational activities are also good for the local economy. Their needs to be a balanced harvest programme.

- This area is a national asset and some areas are okay to be logged and replanted. Pockets of native bush to be untouched and all redwoods and special pines eg, Mexican left untouched. Logging to be carefully done with native ferns and punga undamaged.
- We all know that the forest is a working forest, however, it is a pity when all the mature trees are logged around the lakes and areas where our visitors to the district come to enjoy.
- Whaka Forest is a fantastic resource that we are lucky to have in Rotorua. However, recreational users need to remember that it is a working forest, and this has consequences from time to time.
- Whaka is a huge asset for Rotorua and it must be remembered that it is a privilege to have the use of the forest outside of the area managed by the district council as this is a commercial forest and Timberlands have no obligation to allow access to the public. No, I am not an employee of Timberlands or a forestry company, but Ensis. I feel a balanced approach is required when considering how the forest is managed.
- Whaka is a near unique plantation forest where economic and public recreational interests appear to work well together.
- Whaka is a unique working forest with tremendous untapped recreation potential close to the city centre. We lose this balance at our great cost.
- Whaka is an amazing asset to Rotorua and I believe Timberlands (who I do not work for) is doing a great job at balancing a commercial forestry operation with the needs of the community, especially the mountain biking community, of which I am an avid member.
- What an amazing world-class mountain bike/recreational asset Whaka forest is - keep it as natural as possible. Try to keep a compromise between 'a working forest' and recreational use which seems to have worked okay up to now.
- Would prefer that character and access to forest are maintained during logging operations, ie, only log a small area each year and replant on an ongoing basis.
- Would you allow people to use your private land that you use for a business to walk, bike etc, and have them stop you from continuing with your business? We are privileged to use this forest and lucky that they do not shut the gates on us.

*Comments coded to "horse tracks/users other than mountain bikers":*

- A lot of mountain bikers are disrespectful to horse riders, either passing us too fast or too close, or both. This is a serious safety hazard for us and puts a lot of horse riders off using the forest. They also think it is alright to ride on the "horses only" tracks yet expect everyone to keep off their tracks. We all need to show respect to one another, especially on shared tracks.
- I feel mountain bikers are taking over too much of the forest, and are becoming a safety hazard, for other forest users. Horse riders would appreciate their own area of the forest for their recreation.
- I have enjoyed riding in Whakarewarewa Forest Park for many years now. I appreciate very much having this resource at my disposal. It used to be a much quieter place and there used to be camaraderie between horse riders, walkers and runners, and the occasional bike rider. Unfortunately now there seems to be an attitude from the bike riders that we have no right to be in there! I am sure that there is plenty of room for everyone and that we can all respect each other.
- I have lived in Rotorua all my life. Over the years I have spent many hours enjoying the forest, both on foot and on horseback. It has been increasingly disappointing that it would seem that the \$\$\$\$ has controlled who gets to use the forest. I have felt completely pushed out of my own backyard by mountain bikers and mainly out-of-towners. The forest has become unsafe with their take over tracks. I must add I am by no means against the mountain bikers but I am for equal opportunities for all sport.
- I ride mainly at the Green Lake end of the forest to keep clear of the mountain bikes who have no respect for horses at all.
- I train horses in the forest and would like to see more tracks for horses, with horse events taking place.
- I would really like some more tracks to be made available for horse riding.
- I would visit if I felt it was safe (separate from bikes) to ride my horses. I feel I miss out as the forest is predominantly catering for cyclists. I know there are more of them than us but I

would love a chance to ride the forest on the horse without fear of a cyclist appearing (they tend to terrify most horses). Even one or two days a month would be great.

- It would be nice to see more tracks made available for horse trails, and a stop put on bike tracks, as they have taken over virtually the whole forest. Posted Survey #1.
- Please do not stop us horse riders from enjoying the natural and lovely forest. So many places are now banned or restricted to us. It makes you wonder about this country sometimes.
- Please maintain and increase the horse trails, and keep cyclists off them as much as possible, even if only on certain days.
- Really appreciate the trails dedicated to horse riding. It would be great to develop these even further, ie, putting up some jumps/obstacles, perhaps having an area for hitching, tacking up, etc.
- Some “horse only” tracks would be great!!!!
- The areas we are allowed to ride horses, away from public roads, seem to be diminishing all the time so it is really important to preserve these beautiful, safe places to enjoy our sport and lifestyle.
- The forest is virtually a reserve for mountain bikers, which detracts from other users’ enjoyment.
- The forest should not be dominated by mountain bikers. As indicated in 2b, there are a number of other activities taking part in the forest. All can share. Many of the mountain bikers (whether they are local or out-of-towners is not known) frequently comment to other users that they consider the forest is theirs.
- We appreciate the use of Whakarewarewa Forest for horse riding. Use of the bridal paths where there are horses only is a fantastic asset to our region.
- Whaka is an incredible resource for our city. Mutual respect for all the different users is evident, although on occasion, as a horse-rider, I think that mountain bikers consider they have pre-eminent right to the general tracks. I am concerned that as a minority group, with the general public's increasing loss of familiarity with large animals, horses may not be as welcome. It takes effort and responsibility to own and care for a horse, and horse owners are concerned for the welfare of their animals. It is reasonable to take as a starting position that horse-riders are considerate to other users of the forest and do not wish to endanger themselves, their horses, or any other people, while in the forest. We are the envy of many, and although I have not personally visited such places in England, it seems that the forest is similar to such places there, where all are welcome.
- Would be great if there were more tracks available for horses without large stones, as these can do damage to their legs and hooves, putting them out of action for over a month.
- Would love to have tracks available for horse riding.

*Comments coded to “commercial events/activities at Whakarewarewa”:*

- Commercialise the use of the forest to those who use it as an attraction. Recreational users should continue to enjoy free use.
- Council event concession fees are a big disincentive for promotion of domestic tourism to the forest and Rotorua City.
- Forest is a major draw card for Rotorua. Events management and participants need to be more aware of recreational users. They should not block Long Mile Road and treat recreational users as second-class forest users to event competitors. Their displays of self-importance offends other users.
- I am firmly against more commercial enterprises being set up in or near Whakarewarewa Forest. This detracts from the outdoor experience.
- In the past, it seems only those groups that benefit from this forest through a commercial interest have so much to say, but there is the public in general whose input should also be noted. I also am mindful that hundreds of tourists use the forest also and are not aware that there is a gift shop sitting amidst the trees. It is a pity that the busloads of tourists that go there, only do for walking but never go into the shop. The message needs to go out to these operators that they should take tourists into the shop to look at all the lovely New Zealand made products that are on sale.

- Increasing fees to hold events is bad. Rotorua should support events as people come to the city to enjoy themselves. They also spend money while they're here.
- My family and I thoroughly enjoy the forest and what it has to offer recreationally. We are considering moving to Rotorua to set up an accommodation facility, which would be based around the forest and what it has to offer. If the forest was altered majorly from its current form we would not be able to justify such an operation. If saving the forest in its current form means a financial contribution from the public then we would definitely be interested in contributing.

*Comments coded to “forest should be purchased by Council or Central Government to ensure access”:*

- I favour a trust being set up to buy the forest and manage it as a recreation area first and a commercial forest second.
- The cutover rights to the whole forest should be purchased by the government to provide a recreational asset to the public of NZ. It is unbelievable to think that the government is spending 35 million NZD on another boat race that will not benefit the great majority of New Zealanders. Even for a small entrance fee (like Woodhill/Riverhead) anyone locally or from overseas could enjoy what the forest has to offer and participate at whatever level they like.
- The forest should be available for all people without a charge.
- The forest should be retained for recreational use, either purchased by the government or the local council.
- While the public (particularly mountain bike cyclists) have free access to the forest roads (and their installed tracks) they have limited say on the intermittent harvesting events and re-planting in the track areas. It's a big world and money rules. Maybe some 'body' could strike a beneficial deal (easement) with the CFL owners over some parts of the forest.

*Comments coded to “admission charge”:*

- As a regular user I would be prepared to pay for the privilege so long as the cost was not prohibitive. The area offers such a huge scope for any type of riding I wish to do and as such is worth paying to use.
- Been using the forest for 25+ years. Rotorua cannot afford to lose it. Would even accept a small charge to gain access. Keep it as is.
- I hope that the Rotorua Council doesn't charge an entry fee to use the forest as it would deter a lot of people from participating in exercise - and the government is spending big \$\$ on promoting 30 minutes a day exercise - so putting a user pays fee on the forest would be a step backwards. Also as I travel (which isn't getting any cheaper) to use the forest then I couldn't afford to come as often as I do, so I would get fat = unhappy = mental illness = knees buckle under my weight and cost the tax payer more in medical bills!
- If you have any influence on future use of forest, please try to preserve it in its present state, ie, public access, ecological diversity, recreational use. I would not mind paying a modest or reasonable fee to use the forest should it help maintain the status quo.

*Comments coded to “other”:*

- Any decisions around the Redwoods should be taken in consultation with the customary owners of the forest - not just any Māori or who the council thinks are the people to korero with.
- Great to see that survey needed and forest manager to ensure all benefit.
- I am very concerned at the amount of redwood trees that are getting damaged by tourists leaning on them for photos etc. Especially on the main blue track. Some of the trees' bark is terribly "rubbed" and damaged to a degree where they cannot ever get back to their original state. Is there a way of protecting our beautiful redwood trees? With thousands of tourists taking that track everyday and all touching and "pawing" the trunks, they are getting to look VERY POORLY indeed. Something needs to be done immediately!
- I feel this survey is too narrow and does not look at the reduced appeal of the forest with increased tourism and other commercial ventures associated with it.
- I hope to visit this forest one day to ride in.

- I was under the impression the future of this area of land had been up for discussion in the past and the decision had been made, after consultation with the community to leave this area alone for the use of the people of Rotorua and the visitors to our city? Can't understand why it has come up for discussion again.
- I would like to be included on any future email updates with regards to this project if possible.
- I would like to see a map of Whakarewarewa forest and the proposed sites for harvesting before I could comment further. Very much depends on the site and the reasons for harvesting whether I would support or oppose this proposal thanks!!
- I would like to see good consultation with the community of Rotorua to decide aspects of the maintenance and utilisation of the Whakarewarewa forest area.
- If logging has to occur then plant four trees for every one removed.
- If true user rates are computed it is interesting to note that one mountain biker cover as much trail as 5 or more hikers would in one visit, most at minimal impact.
- It would be good to ask what the users want to do in the Redwoods eg, are the facilities accessible, clean and sufficient?
- Jafas will stay at Woodhill so I guess we will have more room and less tourist dollars? I can live with that.
- Keep talking and a solution to the problem will be found.
- Most local people are unaware of the changes that are being proposed. Users of the forest/local ratepayers should be kept more informed.
- Our forest is a natural wonder, so why are we digging it up to put in unsightly mountain bike tracks, what is wrong with the natural lay of the land.
- Please don't allow recreational use of this forest to be controlled by greedy organisations. It's a fantastic forest for everyone's enjoyment, but security needs to be looked at as there has been some shifty characters seen lurking around the tracks looking for opportunities to harm innocent single people while out exercising.
- Please keep the public informed as to the developments the forest is going through with enough time to try to act to preserve.
- Saddened by the lack of consultation in the past eg, look at recent happenings in Hamurana. Creates bad image and we don't have a chance to correct our mistakes.
- Thank you for the opportunity to participate. I hope the public are listened to and the appropriate action taken so a win/win is the outcome. What do we want the forest to look like in 200 years time?
- The Council should be playing a bigger role in managing assets such as this.
- The forest and the redwood grove is a taonga for us as residents. Please be careful and wise when you make decision in relation to its wairua and the role it places to safe guard our lives and the ones of our mokopuna.
- The forest is a commercial forest brought by the forest owner, who contributes to Rotorua economy by providing employment opportunities directly and through contracting services. The land is owned by the Crown but set aside for settling treaty grievances, commercial recreational providers who seek to profit from the forest owners investment and the treaty settlement process is attempting a free ride under the "public good disguise".
- The Scion long mile "stand" should also be included as this is important to all dog owners!!!
- The toilets are rubbish and more are required. It is unfair to be charging no-profit organisations that are organising events that help people get off their backsides and encourage health and well being.
- There are obviously many dozens of species in Whaka Forest. I can't believe they will be drastically reduced as many of the small graves are surely non-commercial. A management plan for this Council/Māori owned forest is seriously lacking! Dave Elliott was commissioned to develop such a plan incorporating a range of scenarios, why isn't it being progressed?
- We need really up to date figures on the usage of the forest so that RDC can get a real handle on the income that is being generated in the community. Also, not sure what input RDC has in terms of maintenance of the facility - would be great to know.
- What about developing a programme to look at how to increase the value of the forest through other means to compensate for the economic losses from growing longer-rotation and/or a diverse species list - FRST and/or regional councils may be prepared to help. This would surely bring positive publicity and a lot of public good will. The bad publicity received

from cutting the redwoods and the douglas fir from outside the triangle may be worth considering.

- Where there is smoke there is fire. Being a sceptic of councils I wonder whose pocket will be lined if this goes ahead?
- While it is "nice" to have a variety of species, in practice it is more important not to have weeds encroaching on the tracks. For this reason (because of the denser canopy) Douglas Fir is a better species for MTB tracks - or maybe don't thin the P.Rad as heavily as normal.
- Wild dogs can be scary but I haven't seen any recently.

## APPENDIX THREE: ROTORUA RESIDENTS SURVEY RESULTS

1. Have you ever visited Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
Yes	272	90.7%
No	28	9.3%
Not specified	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

[go to Q12]

2. Have you visited Whakarewarewa Forest in the past 12 months?

	Number	Percent
Yes	184	67.6%
No	88	32.4%
Not specified	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

[go to Q3]

2a. When was the last time you visited Whakarewarewa Forest?

*Number of years past since respondent last visited:*

Sample	87
Min no of years	1
Max no of years	50
Total years combined	540.5
<b>Average</b>	<b>6.2</b>

*Note: One respondent did not specify when they last visited*

	Number	Percent
1 to <2 years	15	17.0%
2 to <3 years	22	25.0%
3 to <4 years	10	11.4%
4 to <5 years	5	5.7%
5 to <6 years	10	11.4%
6 to <7 years	2	2.3%
7 to <8 years	2	2.3%
8 to <9 years	3	3.4%
9 to <10 years	0	0.0%
10 years to <20 years	11	12.5%
20 years to <30 years	4	4.5%
30 years to <40 years	1	1.1%
40 years to <50 years	1	1.1%
50 years +	1	1.1%
Not specified	1	1.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

2b. What activities did you undertake during your last visits to Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
Walking	72	81.8% [go to Q11]
Running/jogging	5	5.7% [go to Q11]
Mountain biking	2	2.3% [go to Q11]
Horse riding	3	3.4% [go to Q11]
Tramping	3	3.4% [go to Q11]
Picnicking	5	5.7% [go to Q11]
Other	15	17.0% [go to Q11]
<b>Sample</b>	<b>88</b>	

Other specified:

- Attending a wedding.
- Conference/wedding.
- Dogs for a walk.
- Doing PD (periodic detention) picking up rubbish.
- Had photos taken there.
- Hunting.
- I had to do some fertilizer contracted work.
- I was working there (timber industry worker).
- In relation to work.
- Look at the trees.
- Looking for wedding venue.
- Souvenir shops.
- Took tourist there.
- Visiting the shop.
- Wedding.

3. How often have you visited Whakarewarewa Forest in the past 12 months?

	Number	Percent
Daily	8	4.3%
Weekly	29	15.8%
Fortnightly	19	10.3%
Monthly	52	28.3%
Annually	69	37.5%
Other	6	3.3%
Not specified	1	0.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Annually specified:

	Number	Percent
1 time	7	10.1%
2 times	19	27.5%
3 times	20	29.0%
4 times	11	15.9%
5 times	4	5.8%
6 times	6	8.7%
7 times	0	0.0%
8 times	0	0.0%
9 times	0	0.0%
10 times	0	0.0%
Over 10 times	2	2.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Other specified:*

- 2 to 3 times a week.
- 3 times a week.
- 4 or 5 times.
- 6 times.
- Twice and whenever we have visitors to Rotorua.
- Weekly until winter then monthly.

## 4. For how many years have you been visiting Whakarewarewa Forest?

Sample	184
Min no of years	1
Max no of years	60
Total years combined	2844.5
<b>Average</b>	<b>15.5</b>

	Number	Percent
1 to <2 years	9	4.9%
2 to <3 years	10	5.4%
3 to <4 years	11	6.0%
4 to <5 years	8	4.3%
5 to <6 years	15	8.2%
6 to <7 years	6	3.3%
7 to <8 years	2	1.1%
8 to <9 years	5	2.7%
9 to <10 years	0	0.0%
10 years to <20 years	51	27.7%
20 years to <30 years	33	17.9%
30 years to <40 years	21	11.4%
40 years to <50 years	10	5.4%
50 years +	3	1.6%
Not specified	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 5. What times of the year do you prefer to visit Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
Spring	42	22.8%
Winter	2	1.1%
Summer	83	45.1%
Autumn	33	17.9%
All year round	97	52.7%
<b>Sample</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 6. What time of the week do you normally visit Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
Weekdays only	19	10.3%
Weekends only	47	25.5%
Both weekends and weekdays	118	64.1%
Not specified	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 7. What times of the day do you normally visit Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
Early morning (6am-8am)	13	7.1%
Morning (8am-12noon)	69	37.5%
Afternoon (12noon-5pm)	96	52.2%
Evening (5pm-8pm)	29	15.8%
Late evening (after 8pm)	2	1.1%
No particular preference	45	24.5%
<b>Sample</b>	<b>184</b>	

## 8. What activities do you enjoy at Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
Walking	165	89.7%
Running/jogging	28	15.2%
Mountain biking	46	25.0%
Horse riding	8	4.3%
Tramping	7	3.8%
Picnicking	2	1.1%
Other	38	20.7%
<b>Sample</b>	<b>184</b>	

*Other specified:*

- Being there.
- Birds.
- Children on bikes/exercising the dog.
- Cycling (x4).
- Cycling/exercising the dogs.
- Exercising the dog (x6).
- Glow worms.
- Look at the glow worms with visitors to New Zealand.
- Look for wildlife.
- Looking at forest.
- Looking at the shop - the beautiful woodwork.
- Looking at trees (x2).
- Obedience trials for dogs.
- Playing war games/dog exercise.
- Taking dog for a walk.
- Taking dogs.
- Taking visitors.
- To work (I'm in the forest for work, I don't get to use it for recreation).
- Tree climbing.
- Used to go running a lot when younger.
- Walk the dogs.
- Walking the dog.
- Walking the dog/fresh air.
- Walking the dogs (x3).
- Watching the mountain bikes (x2).
- Work functions.

9. Over the past 12 months, how many organised events (ie, public events – excludes normal club activities) have you participated in, in Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
None	142	77.2%
One to five	40	21.7%
Six to nine	0	0.0%
Ten or more	0	0.0%
Not specified	2	1.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

10. Please indicate the types of events you participated in?

	Number	Percent
Walking	4	10.0%
Running	14	35.0%
Mountain biking	9	22.5%
Duathlon	2	5.0%
Multisport	0	0.0%
Other	16	40.0%
<b>Sample</b>	<b>40</b>	

- A play and a concert.
- Amazing race.
- Chamber of Commerce conference.
- Children's Weet-Bix tri-athlon. Conservation story telling.
- Church service.
- Dogs Day Out (x2).
- Out catering for events in the forest.
- Rescue event.
- School trip.
- Shakespeare play.
- Tom Jones meeting (library).
- Travelling tuatara (library) and school orienteering.
- Watched glow worms on a night walk with Pippins.
- Wedding (x2).

## 11. What are the three most important qualities that you like about Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Sample	Score	Percent	Rank
<b>Natural environment</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>18.7%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Variety of tracks</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>12.3%</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Size/variety of trees</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>12.2%</b>	<b>3</b>
Proximity/ease of access	80	179	11.9%	4
Away from it all/privacy	64	132	8.7%	5
Publicly accessible	41	93	6.2%	6
Atmosphere	41	91	6.0%	7
Views/scenery	50	83	5.5%	8
Clean/no pollution	35	68	4.5%	9
Track surfaces	34	64	4.2%	10
Cool/fresh air	23	46	3.0%	11
Range of activities	25	36	2.4%	12
Caters for pets	13	21	1.4%	13
Safety	9	14	0.9%	14
Signage	6	13	0.9%	15
Caters for families	6	7	0.5%	16
Meeting other people	4	6	0.4%	17
Facilities	3	5	0.3%	18
<b>Sample</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>1509</b>		

Note: For this question, respondents could only identify three qualities, ranked one to three. Qualities ranked first were given a score of three, those ranked second a score of two and those ranked third a score of one. The scores were added together to determine the total score and the ranking.

*Other specified with a ranking of one:*

- Experimental planting of trees.
- Looking at the Redwoods.
- Mountain bike tracks.
- Peace.
- Peacefulness in the middle of a larger town but you would never know it.
- Peacefulness.
- Redwoods (x3).
- Tidy.
- Uplifting.
- Well kept.
- Well looked after.
- Well maintained.

*Other specified with a ranking of two:*

- Ferns and vegetation.
- Free and accessible.
- Interesting.
- Number and quality of mountain bike tracks.
- Peacefulness.
- Quiet and smells nice.
- Silence - but you can hear sounds of insects and birds.
- Size.
- Unique.
- Well maintained (x2).

*Other specified with a ranking of three:*

- Bird life.
- Birds.
- Exercise.
- Free to use.
- Free.

- Gift shop - because it tells the history of the place and the trees.
- Historic place, starting place for all forestry in New Zealand.
- Information on history of forest and Rotorua at the information centre.
- Interested in cleaning the sewage that is going on there.
- It is a great spot.
- Lots of ferns.
- Mountain bike tracks (x2).
- No hunters.
- Not too isolated.
- Sheltered for bike rides.
- Size of forest.
- Size of the forest.
- Spiritual connection I feel when I'm there.
- That cyclists are not allowed on walking tracks.
- Unique forest.
- Well maintained tracks.
- Well maintained.

*Other specified with no ranking:*

- Beauty and peace.
- Beauty.
- Can't list any other qualities as she found it boring when she took tourists there.
- Iconic.
- Quiet, normally clean, natural.
- Very peaceful.
- Well maintained forest.

12. What values do you associate with Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
Existence value (ie, knowing the forest is there)	171	57.0%
Aesthetic value (ie, the natural beauty of the forest)	209	69.7%
Recreational value (ie, use of the forest for recreational activities)	217	72.3%
Other	61	20.3%
Don't know	8	2.7%
<b>Sample</b>	<b>300</b>	

*Other specified:*

- A beautiful place.
- A wonderful backdrop to Rotorua.
- Accessible.
- Asset to Rotorua.
- Away from the hustle and bustle of town.
- Beauty.
- Being able to get into a natural environment.
- Can take dog.
- Clean and well maintained.
- Conservation walks with ~~~ through the forest pointing out all the different trees.
- Don't know. Have only been in New Zealand for two years.
- Everyone says hello/no nasty people.
- Exercising the dog (x2).
- Fitness.
- For school trips. Educational.
- Forestry town. We should have a forest.
- Good for tourism.
- Good to show children the research aspect of the forest.
- Great place to exercise dogs.

- Heaps of trees.
- Huge importance to Rotorua both for leisure and the tourist industry.
- Huge plus for the city, especially as it is free.
- Icon of Rotorua.
- Icon of Rotorua. When son visits from Australia the Redwoods is one of the first places he goes.
- Integral part of Rotorua.
- Is a green belt around Rotorua. Great thing for Rotorua to have. It's free.
- It has put Rotorua on the map for mountain biking which must bring a lot of money and tourists to the city. Great for Rotorua to have such a large forest on its doorstep and not many places have that!
- It helps the "green" image of Rotorua.
- It's a beautiful forest.
- It's free.
- Keeps the air clean.
- Lovely glades - we had our wedding there.
- Once you've been there it draws you back.
- Open air spaces and it's free.
- Other people around.
- Outdoors.
- Peace and quiet.
- Peace (x2).
- Popular place. Everyone knows it in Rotorua. Good for tourists. Lots of room to play games when we were kids.
- Proud to have large forest - green area around Rotorua.
- Purify the air in Rotorua.
- Quiet areas are easily found after you leave the tourists. I like the way the mountain bikers don't interfere with horse riders - tracks cross in some places but no problems encountered so I think the area is well maintained.
- School trips teaching about trees/environment.
- Scientific development.
- Size of it - the whole forest.
- So handy.
- Something for everyone to do, even the "littlies".
- Special trees.
- The interesting shop/information centre.
- Tourist attraction.
- Tranquillity.
- Valuable asset to the town.
- Very calming effect.
- Very pleasant area for a family outing.
- Wonderful asset to Rotorua.
- Wonderful for children - out in the open and riding bikes etc.
- Wonderful place to take visitors (x2).
- Wonderful research asset.

13. If the variety of tree species in the Whakarewarewa Forest (excluding the Redwood Grove) was reduced from present levels to one of the following, would this a) increase your enjoyment of the forest, b) decrease your enjoyment of the forest or c) not affect your enjoyment of the forest? Note, no reduction in forest size.

Reduced to 75% of current levels	Number	Percent
Increase	2	0.7%
Decrease	126	42.0%
Not affected	151	50.3%
Not specified	21	7.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Reduced to 50% of current levels	Number	Percent
Increase	0	0.0%
Decrease	190	63.3%
Not affected	86	28.7%
Not specified	24	8.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Reduced to 25% of current levels	Number	Percent
Increase	0	0.0%
Decrease	215	71.7%
Not affected	58	19.3%
Not specified	27	9.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Reduced to 5% of current levels	Number	Percent
Increase	0	0.0%
Decrease	218	72.7%
Not affected	55	18.3%
Not specified	27	9.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

14. Do you have any specific comments you would like to make about this?

*Comments specified:*

- All bad. Don't want it.
- All the best things for the planet is preserving nature.
- Any felling and replanting would affect my enjoyment as it would open up the forest while the new trees are growing.
- Apart from logging where they have to take them out, some species of pine cortersise and others should be taken out because they are pests. Silver Birch has been classed as noxious so it should go.
- As long as they don't touch the Redwood Grove, it won't worry me.
- Because it wouldn't be as natural as it is now.
- Because I've never been there.
- By the sound of this survey it sounds as if they want to get rid of quite a few trees/definitely need to be left there for people to see and appreciate. The forest is one of Rotorua's tourist attractions.
- Can't answer that - don't know all the varieties. If the variety decrease (exotic trees I presume) then the replacement would need to be carefully planned and thought out.
- Can't see reducing the variety making it better for all the people who use it for so many different activities - walking, mountain biking, jogging etc.
- Could be opened up a little bit more.

- Could reduce it - not quite sure. Just an icon of Rotorua. Everybody loves it. Hard to imagine with less trees there.
- Definitely no more than 75% of current levels.
- Definitely not be a good idea - more variety makes it more interesting. It's a bit boring if you just see pine trees or all the same trees all the time.
- Depends on area. I wouldn't like to see gaps. If spread out the whole area would be ok.
- Depends on the tree cover. If it were to be left bare that would be most upsetting, but as long as someone doesn't want to make a dairy farm or anything else out of it that's okay.
- Depends on what type of trees, how they are going to do it and how they are going to change building the tracks (now done voluntarily). Accessibility is of prime importance.
- Depends on where they take the trees from. I would not like to see any bare patches.
- Depends on which area they are talking about. Part of the pleasure of the forest is the shady areas. I like to see different variety of trees.
- Depends where they are taken from. Could distract from beauty. To see different species of trees is important.
- Do you mean felling the trees or just reducing the number of different varieties? I wouldn't like to see trees taken out if there was no reason for it - reason like danger of them falling down.
- Doesn't really affect me but would not like it changed too much.
- Don't go there much anymore but would like it to remain as I remember it. Can't see any reason for changing the look of the place.
- Don't like the idea.
- Don't really understand - but I do like it as it is. I take my friends there when they come to visit and I like the long walks.
- Don't remove the Redwoods, the big Redwood trees are really the only trees I'm interested in.
- Don't think so. I like the idea of variety.
- Don't think they should.
- Don't want it to be too boring.
- Even though I don't visit much I wouldn't like it to change.
- Find it hard to envisage at 75%. Need more information to make an informed comment.
- Haven't been there for so long I can't give an answer.
- Having different species makes the forest more interesting and beautiful. Variety is the spice of life.
- I am old now and can't go much but it is beautiful as I remember it, so why change it?
- I can't see a reason for doing this.
- I do not like to see trees cut down unnecessarily. Should be left as it is.
- I do value having all the different varieties of trees.
- I don't go right into the forest so don't really know but would not like to think it would be altered too much.
- I don't know enough about it to know how this will effect the forest.
- I don't know enough about the ecology of the forest to give an informed opinion.
- I don't look at the trees - just walk around.
- I don't mind decreasing the variety of tree species as long as the forest remains as dense as it is at present.
- I don't see any point in reducing the variety of trees. I'd hate to see the forest more open with spaces between trees.
- I don't think they should reduce the variety as it would look the same as everywhere else if they did and detract from the unique atmosphere and quality of the forest.
- I don't think they should reduce the variety of tree species at all.
- I don't think they should remove any trees. It is a very special place and should be left as it is. It would be better to add more native trees.
- I enjoy trees/like variety. I like to see something other than pine.
- I guess it is up to the owners to decide what trees will be grown.
- I hope the public don't lose access to the forest.
- I hope they don't decrease any of the species - wonderful to see variety of species.
- I hope they won't reduce the number of tree species in the forest.

- I like it just the way it is, I wouldn't like to see things change at all.
- I like it the way it is. I don't want to see any change.
- I like to have colour in autumn - it makes it more picturesque - so I like the variety of species and would not like to see them reduced too much. Actually changed my mind and would not like any reduction in species.
- I like to see different varieties of trees.
- I love it the way it is.
- I only use the Redwood Grove, but I wouldn't like to see the rest of the forest felled and closed to the public.
- I suppose it depends on what you're taking out. I would suspect if you take out undergrowth, it might look better, but can't understand why you would want to take out trees.
- I think all the different species are what makes the forest special, especially the autumn colours.
- I think it is a tremendous asset to Rotorua and should be kept as it is.
- I think it should stay as it is now.
- I think it would be quite a shame to reduce the variety. It is an asset to the forest to have variety. People like to look at them and a lot of visitors to Rotorua visit the forest.
- I think the variety of species is good - contrast to pines.
- I think things should be left as they are, having all the different species is what makes it special.
- I understand that they have to reduce a bit but as long as they leave sooner it's ok. Having a variety of trees in the forest is important.
- I watched an excerpt from TV1 breakfast show on television yesterday and the mountain biker spoke of the beauty of the forest when you wanted a rest from riding, and specifically mentioned the variety of the species of trees you can look at. I agree! Don't touch!
- I won't like the mountain bike tracks to be effected in any way.
- I would be shocked and sad if the public couldn't use the forest.
- I would be very sad if the public lost any of the beauty of the forest - even though I don't know much about trees.
- I would like it to remain as it is. I feel too many forests are being cut down.
- I would like to see more native trees.
- I would not like to see anything changed that would alter the atmosphere or look of the forest.
- I wouldn't like any reduction, because it is great the way it is - wonderful to look at and walk in and see different trees and colours.
- I wouldn't like the density to be effected.
- I wouldn't like to lose the variety of different trees as it is unique to Rotorua having this type of forest.
- I wouldn't like to see any of the variety of trees reduced. They are very pretty and create a contrast.
- I wouldn't like to see any reduction in the number of tree species as we have to preserve them for future generations.
- I wouldn't like to see the mountain bike tracks changed in anyway, as people come from all over the country to ride in the forest.
- I wouldn't like to see too many fir trees in the forest. It depends on where they are planning to take the trees from. It is very beautiful the way it is now.
- I'd hate to see just pine trees as there are so many pine forests already.
- I'd hate to see widespread logging, selected logging isn't so bad as long as there aren't big gaps.
- I'd like to see all exotic trees protected for all time as they are very significant.
- I'd like to see it managed and maintained as it is.
- I'd like to see no reduction in the variety of trees.
- I'd like to see the forest managed more for the people rather than as a commercial forest. I'd like to see the wide range of tree species retained.
- I'd rather leave it the way it is.
- If it is necessary to reduce the number of tree species, I guess we have to accept this.
- If it was felled the forest would lose its density and it would take a number of years to regain this.

- If the exotic species were reduced that would be OK, but not the native New Zealand ones.
- If there is any decrease I'd be disappointed.
- If they are going to reduce the variety of species, do it gradually so there aren't noticeable changes.
- If they had 50% radiata pine it would keep people in work as it grows quickly and the wood is of high quality.
- If they take them out they would leave big gaps and/or holes that would really detract from the beauty of the forest. It would be good if they planted more native trees.
- I'm a bushman. You know they'll grow back. Have to cut trees down sometime or otherwise they'll die and crash down.
- I'm saying decrease to all of them because I don't quite understand what the proposal is. Seems strange to want to reduce the variety of species if they are growing there already. What is the reason for this? After what DOC did at Hamurana Springs (which is where I walk), I'm very wary of trees being cut down.
- It all depends on what they took out. I would not like to see any species completely gone.
- It can be dark and wet in there - but wouldn't like to see trees cut down that would spoil it.
- It is a wonderful asset and it needs to be looked after for future generations.
- It is hard to answer this as I don't really know what effect reducing to 25% or less would have on the forest.
- It is just in the forest. There are plenty of trees there. Would be still plenty of trees - maybe people wouldn't get lost as much - maybe better views.
- It is just right now, I wouldn't like to see any changes.
- It is nice as it is with all the different species.
- It is nice to see all the different species of trees. I take many overseas visitors into the forest and it is great to see all the different types of trees.
- It is really important to maintain the native species at the present level, I don't want to see an increase in exotic species of tree.
- It is the variety of tree species that makes the forest such an asset to Rotorua.
- It isn't the types of trees, but the fact I can go into a forest that I enjoy.
- It should be left alone.
- It should be preserved for the people of Rotorua and kept as natural as possible.
- It should stay as it is.
- It sucks if they touch the forest.
- It will definitely decrease the pleasure of walking in the forest once the variety was reduced by 50%.
- It would be a grave mistake to decrease the variety of tree species as it is an asset we couldn't replace.
- It would be a shame if it went to one or two species of trees only.
- It would be a shame to log the forest.
- It would be a shame to reduce the variety of tree species as it is one place where you get to see the different varieties.
- It would be nice to maintain the same level of variety of tree species.
- It would be pretty boring if it was just pine - there are plenty of pine forests all over the place
- It's good to see different trees. It should be left alone. I'd go walking there if I had my licence.
- It's not overgrown - does it need it? Don't believe in cutting down trees if not necessary, maybe some that are hazardous, but not generally.
- Just leave it alone.
- Just like as it is/lovely ferns.
- Keep it as it is.
- Leave it how it is, I like to see all the different species.
- Like to see different trees.
- Make it dumber because you are taking away the trees and it wouldn't be as nice to go there.
- More planting, not less. Rotorua's slogan, "Trees for Survival" applies to Rotorua and New Zealand.
- Need something other than pine trees.
- No comment as I'm vision impaired.

- No concern as long as there is tree cover, I want the forest to remain as dense as it is and I certainly don't want to see widespread felling of the trees.
- Object to any trees being taken out.
- One of the features of the forest is the variety of trees. They are mature trees. If they were cut down they would be gone forever. If replanted it would take 25 years for them to mature so a lot of people would miss seeing them. You can walk in a radiata pine forest anywhere.
- Rather it stop as it is. Don't want it to change. It's part of our heritage.
- Real shame/loss.
- Reduce by 25% is quite a lot and higher is worse.
- Reduce to 25% might start affecting the bird life so have to think of that.
- Reduce to 75% would be shocking. 95% would be worse.
- Retain some native varieties if you are going to decrease the species.
- Shame if that were to happen. I think it would detract from the beauty of the forest.
- Should be left as it is - it is a much used and much loved part of Rotorua.
- Should be left as it is (x2).
- Should keep as a lot - as many as possible of native trees.
- Should leave it alone - I'll kill them.
- Should take out some of the old pine trees that have fallen down not healthy trees.
- So important we keep the forest as it is because it is beautiful and serene.
- That's a hard question. It depends on what they are going to take out. I don't think it's a good idea unless it's something to do with the environment but if not leave it as it is.
- The different tree species won't last forever. They should be replaced or replanted/replanted with other species that the forest industry knows will thrive there. Old ones taken out and used for timber.
- The fact it is a forest means you want to see and wander through as many trees as possible. The forest is a Rotorua icon and should be presented as it is.
- The proposed reduction goes from terrible to bad to downright disgraceful. It is an important asset to Rotorua - the only forest we have access to - others are private and people are not allowed in for safety and various reasons. We need Whaka to remain as accessible and beautiful as it is.
- The Redwood trees are huge, but I prefer the native species.
- The thing is the big trees are close together/close to each other. Don't need to replant unless the old one falls down and there would be no room.
- The trees are the main part of the forest. You won't have a forest if you don't have trees and I like the variety.
- The variety of the trees is one of the most beautiful aspects of the forest.
- The variety of trees has always been a feature of the forest. Part of the attraction of the forest for tourists. I know they use the forest for production so I think only those trees should be cut down.
- The variety that is part of the beauty and appeal of the forest - seeing the different trees at different times of the year.
- The walks would become boring if the trees were all the same.
- They should just leave it alone.
- They should leave things as it is.
- They've been there a long time. I would worry that the felling of trees would alter the forest too much.
- This is such a difficult question - not enough information eg, would the trees be replaced - if so with what and which varieties would go and why? As long as there is no danger why change it? I like to see different varieties of trees.
- To decrease the tree species would definitely affect the atmosphere of the forest. It is lovely in the summer to have the shade and coolness. There are not many places in New Zealand where you can see a variety of trees.
- Very difficult to say - would it be selective? Can't imagine why they would want to take good trees out.
- We like our trees. With trees you get the bush growing underneath - and variety is very pleasant to be part of on long walks.
- We only use the Redwood Grove so as long as this isn't touched it won't worry us.

- Well from the point of view of it being a tranquil place, I like the variety of trees. It gives shade in the summer and you have a wonderful sense of the change of seasons.
- What are they doing? Born and bred here with Whakarewarewa being part of my heritage. It should be left as it is for the present and future generations to enjoy.
- What's this all about? Wouldn't have a clue.
- Which of the species? A bit of an ambiguous question. If it was all one species I would be most upset. All the different species add to the diversity of the forest and my pleasure in it.
- Would destroy the beauty.
- Would not affect me as I don't go there.
- Would not affect my enjoyment of the forest because I only go to the Redwood Grove.
- Would not be as special as it is if the variety of trees was not there. If 75% to 95% was taken away, you might as well go to the local park.
- Would not like it - wouldn't be so interesting - but would not reduce our usage even though it may not be as pleasant.
- Would not like the forest thinned out/it's part of atmosphere/and how long would it take new trees to grow/the whole forest is a Rotorua icon, let's keep it the way it is.
- Would not like to see a reduction. Got all those lovely larch trees along Long Mile Road. Reduce the beasts of the forest.
- Would not like to see any trees cut down.
- Would spoil it not to have the variety and it wouldn't be like it was - our Kohanga Reo used to be near there and it was wonderful to show the children all the different trees at different times of the year.
- Would spoil the beauty.
- Wouldn't be a forest if too many trees were taken out. Variety of species makes the forest more interesting.
- Wouldn't be as dense as it is now.
- Wouldn't like big chunks taken out of the forest.
- Wouldn't like to see any reduction in the variety in the forest - it's all part of its beauty.
- Wouldn't like to see the forest change.
- Wouldn't mind as long as the tracks weren't affected.
- You think it looks good.
- You will change the scenery a bit too much if you reduce it by more than 25%.

15. Please stop me when I reach your age group

	Number	Percent
Under 20	8	2.7%
20 to 29	21	7.0%
30 to 39	52	17.3%
40 to 49	77	25.7%
50 to 59	49	16.3%
60 and over	92	30.7%
Refused	0	0.0%
Not specified	1	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

16. Gender

	Number	Percent
Female	156	52.0%
Male	139	46.3%
Not specified	5	1.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

17. Which of the following ethnic groups do you mainly identify with?

	Number	Percent
New Zealand European/Pakeha	239	79.7%
New Zealand Maori	49	16.3%
Pacific Island	6	2.0%
Asian	6	2.0%
Other	8	2.7%
Refused	5	1.7%
<b>Sample</b>	<b>300</b>	

*Other specified:*

- African/European.
- Born in London.
- British (x2).
- European/Burmese.
- Irish (x2).
- Scottish.

18. Which of the following best describes where you live?

	Number	Percent
Rotorua city (central city area)	28	9.3%
Rotorua suburbs	178	59.3%
Ngongotaha	18	6.0%
Lakeside settlement	28	9.3%
Rural	46	15.3%
Not specified	2	0.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

19. Please stop me when I reach your gross household income (ie, income before tax)

	Number	Percent
\$20,000 or less	26	8.7%
\$20,001 - \$30,000	47	15.7%
\$30,001 - \$50,000	59	19.7%
\$50,001 - \$70,000	63	21.0%
\$70,001 - \$100,000	34	11.3%
\$100,001 or more	25	8.3%
Don't know	19	6.3%
Refused	19	6.3%
Not specified	8	2.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 20. What is your occupational grouping/status?

	Number	Percent
Manager	17	5.7%
Professional	46	15.3%
Technical/trades worker	26	8.7%
Community/professional service worker	17	5.7%
Clerical/administrative worker	22	7.3%
Sales worker	21	7.0%
Machinery operator/driver	5	1.7%
Labourer	15	5.0%
Unsure	0	0.0%
Retired	67	22.3%
Student	9	3.0%
Other not in employment	0	0.0%
Homemaker	18	6.0%
Beneficiary/Unemployed	8	2.7%
Refused	2	0.7%
Not specified	27	9.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 21. Do you have any final comments?

*Comments specified:*

- As long as they don't take too many trees away I'll be happy.
- Don't fell the forest, leave it as it is.
- Don't like the way bikes can come up on you on the walking tracks.
- Glad you rang me. Would hate to see anything happen to it.
- Great loss to Rotorua if public access was decreased. The forest is respected by people who go there. No litter, no vandalism.
- Health professional, but on sick leave recovering from a stroke.
- I appreciate being able to use the forest.
- I enjoy the forest and I wouldn't like to see it changed in any way. "If it is not broken, don't fix it."
- I hope it remains much as it is now.
- I hope the council will act in a responsible manner for the needs of the people and not for a monetary gain.
- I hope the public continue to have access to the forest.
- I hope they don't do anything to the forest or change it.
- I love the fact that dogs can use the forest as well. We enjoy the mountain bike tracks and hope to take part in some of the organised events once our children are older.
- I love using the forest and hope it will continue to be open to the public.
- I really enjoy having the forest available to use.
- I think that it should be looked after and it should continue to be free for the public to access.
- I think the forest is a wonderful asset for all the people of Rotorua to enjoy.
- I think they should look after the forest, it is one of Rotorua's best assets.
- I won't go there on my own because I don't feel safe anymore. I do a lot of marathon training and don't like to see unsavoury characters amongst the trees - there for no reason - not exercising or anything - just sitting there smoking pot.
- I would be concerned that the felling of trees would disrupt the walks. How much equipment would have to be brought in? Would the existing tracks be damaged?
- I would hate to see the forest depleted.
- I would like to see it owned by the Rotorua District Council and the Energy Trust as it is, is so valuable to the Rotorua District and I would hate to see it lost.
- I would like to see it stay available to the public.
- I would like to see more access for horse riders - now overrun by mountain bikers.

- I would not like to see the public lose access to the forest.
- I wouldn't like any major changes to happen.
- I'd hate to see any real changes to the forest and I want public access to the forest to continue.
- I'd hate to see anything happen to the forest.
- I'd hate to see the forest go. We always enjoy our visits there.
- I'd hate to think anything was going to change with the forest.
- I'd hate to think there were going to be any changes to the forest.
- I'd like the flying fox brought back. Maybe some animals?
- I'd like to see some tracks where you could ride a trail bike.
- I'd like to see some up-grading of the Waipa carpark and a café would be wonderful.
- If they are going to replant they should go away from radiata pine and plant redwood or even kauri.
- I'm very passionate about the forest. I'd like to see a group set up so locals could volunteer their time to help maintain tracks etc. I'd like to see a few rubbish bins placed along tracks. It would be wonderful to have a café at the visitor information centre. I don't like the intrusive behaviour of the Asian tours, they take over the tracks making it hard to get past and talk loudly. I notice the grass on the fire-break along Tarawera Road often gets very long, becoming a fire hazard itself.
- It is a community gathering place and unique to Rotorua.
- It is a fantastic asset for Rotorua. I'd like to see more facilities at Waipa for the mountain bikers eg, decent toilets and showers, a fixed information centre where you could get information, maps and hot/cold drinks.
- It is a financial and economic asset for the region. I hope access to the public remains, as it draws a number of people to the region.
- It is a great asset for Rotorua. I have only recently realised what a great asset it is.
- It is a great asset to Rotorua, we are so lucky to have it close by.
- It is a lovely place and it is good for the kids.
- It is absolutely critical for the character - the health - the confidence - and the economy of Rotorua that the forest is reserved in perpetuity for free public access to wander at will and for a range of activities such as mountain biking, tramping.
- It is beautiful and wonderful that it is free. We have a number of overseas visitors and we take them into the forest.
- It is part of Rotorua's culture. I'd hate to see anything happen to change the forest or any restrictions to access placed on its use.
- It is so enjoyable to be able to go into the forest.
- It is very important that the forest remains available, free of charge to as many people as possible.
- It would be great to have some eco friendly loos along the tracks as it is a long way to return to the ones at the carpark.
- Leave it as it is.
- Leave it how it is, it is great.
- Leave the forest alone, don't mess with it and don't change the management structure.
- Leave the forest as it is, it is a beautiful place to visit.
- Leave the forest as it is.
- Must go back soon.
- My only concern regarding the forest is vehicles getting broken into while you are in the forest.
- My only disappointment is the lack of bird song when you go in.
- Part of the forest's charm is that it is not just native species, but exotic trees as well. It should be left alone. I would hate to see areas felled.
- Please don't let them destroy the forest. Don't let one sport dominate over other activities in the forest.
- Put something "fir" back into it like the Flying Fox and horse riding.
- Should leave it the way it is. It is a draw card for Rotorua.
- The council should buy the forest and safeguard its recreational use forever.
- The forest is a great asset for Rotorua and it would be a shame to see it change in any way.

- The forest is a valuable resource to the Rotorua district.
- The forest is an awesome place, I appreciate the fact that it is free and there are so many activities you can do in there. It is so family friendly and we also got married there.
- The forest is beautiful, Rotorua is so lucky to have such an asset on our doorstep.
- The forest is the most wonderful place in Rotorua, it is great that it is free and accessible.
- The forest needs to be well managed. It would be very disappointing if the commercial use of the forest meant a reduction in public use of the forest. The mountain bike tracks bring a huge number of people to the district. The forest is a huge asset to the Rotorua community and has been part of the community for so long.
- The forest needs to stay.
- The one thing that spoils my enjoyment of the forest is the large number of Asian tour parties using the forest. They have no respect for other people and block the tracks.
- The only thing I think is lacking in the forest is some mountain bike tracks for children, as it isn't very safe for children to be on the mountain bike tracks that the adults use.
- The Redwoods are unique to Rotorua and I'd hate to see the public lose access to any part of Whakarewarewa Forest.
- There are enough forests around to take trees from if they want them. For the scenic beauty of Whaka to be retained the trees should stay there.
- There used to be flying foxes in the forest. They were taken away (think someone had an accident). Would love to see them brought back as they were great fun for the children.
- They should leave the forest as it is. Should get park manager, not forest manager, to manage the forest. At Hamurana they had forest managers who raped and pillaged the Redwoods (know the Redwoods aren't included in the survey).
- Understand difficulty of having a commercial project combined with a tourist attraction. Council missed the opportunity to buy the whole forest many years ago.
- We are lucky to have it for Rotorua and should keep it the way it is for everyone now and in the future to enjoy.
- We are lucky to have such a unique forest on our doorstep.
- We are lucky to have the forest so close by.
- We have a number overseas visitors and they all enjoy visiting the forest as much as we do.
- We have moved to the Mamaku's, but still visit
- We need to get on board a broad representation of people before they make decisions on the future of Whakarewarewa Forest.
- We need to hold on to our native forests and also replant native species.
- Whaka forest is know to people throughout New Zealand - should keep it the way it is.
- Whakarewarewa Forest is a great asset. It is a place I go to refresh my spirit.
- Would like to see the Old Taupo Road entrance reopened.
- Would like to see the restriction on dogs repealed. It is a shame dogs aren't allowed to run free.
-

## APPENDIX FOUR: KEY RECREATION STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESULTS

Q1 Is Whakarewarewa Forest important to the activities of your organisation?

	Number	Percent
Yes	9	100.0%
No	0	0.0%
Not specified	0	0.0%
Total	9	100.0%

[go to Q11]

Q2 Can you describe why Whakarewarewa Forest is important to the activities of your organisation?

*Comments specified:*

- Critical. Important because the aim of the Mountain Bike Club Charter is to foster mountain biking. We have been conducting events for the past 12 to 14 years. We have worked hard at maintaining excellent relationships. We are very active in trail development and have spent \$80,000 (of Charitable Trust money) to employ people to set up and maintain the trails. There are also monthly working bees to help development and maintain the trails. There are junior events. All this is because of access to the forest and down to the energy of the committee.
- We are responsible for managing the space. The Crown Forest License makes us responsible for the management of the land. We have had a close association with Whakarewarewa. Overlaps considerably.
- If there is to be development there is the opportunity for us to market Rotorua as New Zealand's mountain biking capital.
- Essential. We organise two events a year.
- Key role in the recreational use by staff and the general activity during the day. From a business point of view, we supply the trees. The screening process is important because we are screened off from the public.
- Tramping, mountain biking.
- The forest is crucial to the walks undertaken on Saturday which are extensively enjoyed by local, domestic and international visitors to Rotorua. The forest is internationally recognised and provides an exceptional walking environment.
- My business wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the forest and I wouldn't be living in Rotorua. If the forest changed significantly I would cease to operate here.
- Training - all members train there. They come to Rotorua to live because of the forest and the lakes. The forest is a draw card. Lots of events that members take part in.

Q3 Has the importance of the forest changed over the past 5 years?

	Number	Percent
Yes	6	66.7%
No	3	33.3%
Not specified	0	0.0%
Total	9	100.0%

If yes, please specify how it may have changed?

*Comments for respondents who specified yes:*

- Growing popularity of mountain biking. Development of tracks with the forest has improved considerably. Number of people using it for those activities has increased.
- More heavy use. More widely known.
- Mountain biking has assumed a higher profile. It is a growing pursuit. The Mountain Biking World Champs gave the mountain biking profile a huge boost. The website alone had 350 hits a day from overseas. Lots of people looking at Rotorua. People referred to Rotorua. The

Xterra triathlon raises the profile and has a participation of 3,000 and the numbers keep growing.

- New owners opened Red Stag four years ago. Land was seen as industrial prior to this but the focus has shifted towards potential tourism operations which wouldn't have been considered in the past. Maximum use of recreational usage.
- The forest has changed to a certain degree. More events on offer which encourage people to get fit ie, Push Play. Forest is more important. Streets are getting busier and the forest provides a safe environment. Rotorua is competing with other towns and Whakarewarewa is one of the drawcards.
- The volume of usage has increased. Awareness of the forest has increased through a combination of events and the World Mountain Biking Champs. You can see larger numbers - quite visible.

*Comments for respondents who specified no:*

- Always been essential.
- It continues to be as important as it was when we commenced the walking event 14 years ago.

Q4 Does your organisation organise events in the forest or assist in any events (eg, volunteers on the day)?

	Number	Percent
Yes	9	100.0%
No	0	0.0% [go to Q11]
Not specified	0	0.0%
Total	9	100.0%

Q5 If yes please indicate the types of events you organised or assisted?

	Number	Percent
Walking	5	55.6%
Running	4	44.4%
Mountain biking	5	55.6%
Duathlon	3	33.3%
Multisport	5	55.6%
Other	5	55.6%
Sample	9	100.0%

*Other specified:*

- Cross country, downhill, weekly mountain bike racing and summer and weekly club time trails. We assist with the Xterra and Sparc Get To Go event.
- Events and passive organisation.
- Our organisational is involved more on the promotional side but we do organise incentive groups which dine under the Redwood Sails.
- We organise the CatEye Moonride which is the largest 24 hour event in New Zealand and has 2000 competitors. We have just taken over the contract for the Rotorua Half Marathon and 10km event which has 15000 competitors.
- We sponsor events and are one of the biggest contributors. The forest is owned by Red Stag.

Q6 What time of the year do you prefer to stage events in Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
Spring	0	0.0%
Winter	3	33.3%
Summer	0	0.0%
Autumn	2	22.2%
All year round	5	55.6%
Sample	9	100.0%

Q7 For how many years have you been using Whakarewarewa Forest for events?

Sample	7
Minimum number of years	5
Maximum number of years	27
Total number of years	100
<b>Average number of years</b>	<b>14.3</b>

Q8 Over the past 12 months, how many events have you organised (ie, public events – excludes normal club activities) in Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
None	0	0.0% [go to Q11]
One to five	4	44.4%
Six to nine	2	22.2%
Ten or more	2	22.2%
Not specified	1	11.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Q9 Please indicate the approximate total number of people that have participated in these events over the past 12 months?

Sample	8
Minimum number of participants	8
Maximum number of participants	7,500
Total number of participants	16,683
<b>Average number of participants</b>	<b>2,085</b>

Q10 What are the three most important qualities that your organisation values about Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Sample	Score	Rank
<b>Proximity/ease of access</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>
Publicly accessible	4	11	2
<b>Variety of tracks</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>
Range of activities	2	3	4
Facilities	1	3	4
Size/variety of trees	2	2	6
Natural environment	1	1	7
Views/scenery	1	1	7
Signage	1	1	7
Clean/no pollution	0	0	10
Atmosphere	0	0	10
Safety	0	0	10
Cool/fresh air	0	0	10
Away from it all/privacy	0	0	10
Caters for families	0	0	10
Meeting other people	0	0	10
Caters for pets	0	0	10
Track surfaces	0	0	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>55</b>	

Q11 What values does your organisation associate with Whakarewarewa Forest?

	Number	Percent
Existence value (ie, knowing the forest is there)	7	77.8%
Aesthetic value (ie, the natural beauty fo the forest)	7	77.8%
Recreational value (ie, use of the forest for recreational activities)	8	88.9%
Other	5	55.6%
Don't know	0	0.0%
<b>Sample</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Q12 If the variety of tree species in the Whakarewarewa Forest (excluding the Redwood Grove) was reduced from present levels to one of the following, would this a) increase your organisations value of the forest, b) decrease your organisations value of the forest or c) not affect your organisations value of the forest? *Note, no reduction in forest size*

Reduced to 75% of current levels	Number	Percent
Increase	0	0.0%
Decrease	4	44.4%
No effect	5	55.6%
Not specified	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Reduced to 50% of current levels	Number	Percent
Increase	0	0.0%
Decrease	7	77.8%
No effect	2	22.2%
Not specified	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Reduced to 25% of current levels	Number	Percent
Increase	0	0.0%
Decrease	8	88.9%
No effect	1	11.1%
Not specified	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Reduced to 5% of current levels	Number	Percent
Increase	0	0.0%
Decrease	8	88.9%
No effect	1	11.1%
Not specified	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Q13 Do you have any specific comments you would like to make about this?

*Comments specified:*

- Doesn't affect us as long as we have trails and facilities. If Whakarewarewa lost some of its aesthetic values/appeals and the species were reduced significantly this would affect us. A small change would be fine. A medium change wouldn't affect us.
- If there was a change in species the forest would lose its uniqueness and become the same as other forests. May see a decrease in usage.
- Leading question. Not a fair question. Not well designed.
- Like it all to stay the same.
- Only a change in the size of the trees would affect us.
- Some issues with forest management. There has been a committee meeting to discuss the rationale of the tree species. We have had some success with the negotiations and a new harvesting plan has been drawn up over 10 years. The eucalypts, Douglas fir, pines and experimental crops will vanish. Redwoods will be replaced with Redwoods. A couple of examples will be left. Negotiations are ongoing. We want to negotiate a way forward with the forest managers and recognise the importance of the timber industry. In terms of plantation acreage it is quite a small area. It won't break the industry but will have a huge affect on the aesthetic view and city in terms of visitors.
- The variety is a strong plus for the forest. If reduced (variety), it would be very detrimental.
- Whakarewarewa Forest qualities were a major reason for establishing our walking event there. We would be concerned about any loss of quality values that would reduce walkers' appreciation of the forest.

Q14 In terms of Rotorua as an attractive place for residents and visitors, how important is the forest for recreation on a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 is not important and 10 is of extreme importance?

a) For residents

a) Residents	Number	Percent
1 (not important)	0	0.0%
2	0	0.0%
3	0	0.0%
4	0	0.0%
5	0	0.0%
6	0	0.0%
7	0	0.0%
8	1	11.1%
9	5	55.6%
10 (extreme importance)	3	33.3%
Not specified	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

b) For visitors

b) Visitors	Number	Percent
1 (not important)	0	0.0%
2	0	0.0%
3	0	0.0%
4	0	0.0%
5	0	0.0%
6	0	0.0%
7	2	22.2%
8	3	33.3%
9	3	33.3%
10 (extreme importance)	1	11.1%
Not specified	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Q15 Do you have any specific comments you would like to make about this?

*Comments specified:*

- No reduction in Redwoods or natives anywhere. Already evidence of felling Redwoods.
- Public, free, unimpeded access.
- Questions are leading. Can't see rationale.
- Rotorua needs to realise that without Whakarewarewa Rotorua would be another Tokoroa.
- The Redwoods have attracted business which is directly associated with what happens in the forest ie, bike shop, on-line bike shop, mountain bike skills courses. These people mentioned, including a graphic designer (designed logo for World Champs) and someone who does first aid and risk management, have moved to Rotorua solely because of the mountain biking.
- The special qualities of the forest seem to have become more appreciated by residents and visitors alike in recent years. We have been grateful for the support of Kaingaroa Timberlands and RDC for access and use of the forest for our event.



**DESTINATION**

**ROT@RUA**

**ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**