

Actual condition and problem of visitor use in Jozankei National Forest, Japan

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Jozankei National Forest is located in the mountainous area about 30 km south from the central Sapporo. The forest is managed by selective cutting based on high-density forest road network. Visitors can therefore access easier than other surrounding forests. From spring to autumn in 2003, we monitored visitor flows at two entrances of the forest road network using Trail Traffic Counter, and consequently observed more than 20,000 counts in total. There was a remarkable visitor concentration in spring and visitor behavior was different between the points. We considered that could be explained by the purposes of visits and characteristics of forests along the road. In addition we conducted interviews to foresters and discussed the controversial feature of visitor use in Jozankei National Forest.