

Closing forest areas – Acceptable for the visitors?

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Access to the forest - a policy issue in Denmark



NGO-arguments for decreased recreational forest access

- **More diverse wildlife in private forests compared to forest in public ownership (birds of prey)**
- **Reason: Restricted access to private forests => MORE restrictions**



Access Rules

	Færdsel og ophold fra kl. 7 til solnedgang	Færdsel og ophold om natten	Må man gå og opholde sig udenfor veje og stier	Må man cykle	Afstand til beboelse ved ophold	Er ridning tilladt	Færdsel med (el)-kørestole, barnevogne, trækken med cykler	Motor-kørsel/ knallert	Hunde i snor	Løse hunde - men under førers kontrol	Må man tænde bål	Støj, affald, telte	Må man samle bær, svampe, mos, blomster m.v. til eget brug
PRIVATE SKOVE	L § 23 ○	L § 23 △	L § 23 △	Kun på skovveje og befæstede stier L § 23 ○	+ driftsbygninger 150 m L § 23 □	L § 23 △	+ handicap-knallert B § 4 ○	L § 23 △	L § 23 ○	L § 23 △	B § 26 △	L § 28 B § 28 △	Kun fravej og sti B § 28 ○ △ L § 23
OFFENTLIGE SKOVE	L § 23 ○	L § 23 ○	B § 8 ○	Kun på skovveje og stier B § 9 ○	50 m B § 8 □	Særlige regler B § 11-15 ○	+ handicap-knallert B § 4 ○	L § 23 △	L § 23 ○	Kun tilladt i hundeskove ○ △ L § 23	B § 26 △	L § 28 B § 28 △	B § 28 ○
STRANDE	Kortvarigt ophold L § 22 ○		L § 22 ○	L § 22 △	Private strande: 50 m L § 22 □	L § 22 △	B § 2 ○	L § 22 △	L § 22 ○	Kun fra 1. 10. til 31. 03. L § 22 ○ △ L § 22	Ofte forbudt efter andre love ○	L § 28 B § 28 △	B § 28 ○
KLITFREDEDE AREALER	Kortvarigt ophold L § 25 ○		L § 25 ○	Kun på veje og befæstede stier L § 26 ○ △ L § 25	Private arealer: 50 m L § 25 □	L § 25 △	B § 2 ○	L § 25 △	L § 25 ○	L § 25 △	Kun på strandbredder ○ △ Bevoksede arealer B § 26	L § 28 B § 28 △	B § 28 ○
OFFENTLIGE UDYRKEDE AREALER	L § 24 ○	L § 24 ○	L § 24 ○	Kun på veje og befæstede stier L § 26 ○ △ L § 24	L § 24 ○	L § 24 △	B § 18 ○	L § 24 △	L § 24 ○	L § 24 △	B § 26 △	L § 28 B § 28 △	B § 28 ○
PRIVATE UDYRKEDE AREALER	L § 24 ○ △ Hegnede arealer L § 24	L § 24 △	L § 24 ○ △ Hegnede arealer L § 24	Kun på veje og befæstede stier L § 26 ○ △ L § 24	+ driftsbygninger 150 m L § 24 □	L § 24 △	B § 18 ○ △ Hegnede arealer L § 24	L § 24 △	L § 24 ○	L § 24 △	B § 26 △	L § 28 B § 28 △	B § 28 ○ △ Hegnede arealer L § 24
BRÆMMER LANGS VANDLØB OG SØER	L § 24 △	L § 24 △	L § 24 △	L § 24 △	L § 24 △	L § 24 △	L § 24 △	L § 24 △	L § 24 △	L § 24 △	L § 24 △	L § 28 B § 28 △	Kun fra vandsiden B § 28 ○ △ L § 24
ANLAGTE VEJE OG BEFÆSTEDE STIER I DET ÅBNE LAND	Ikke ophold L § 26 ○	Ikke ophold L § 26 ○	L § 26 △	L § 26 ○	L § 26 △	L § 26 △	+ handicap-knallert B § 24 ○	L § 26 △	B § 23 ○	Private fællesveje ○ △ B § 23	L § 26 △	L § 28 B § 28 △	B § 28 ○



TILLADT



OBS! VÆR OPMÆRKSOM



IKKE TILLADT



DELVIS TILLADT



Access regulation

- Private forests: Only on roads and trails from 6 am to sunset



NGO's in tune with the population?

1. NGO's (managers') versus the visitors/general populations' preferences/attitudes → discrepancy
2. Lack of knowledge → management by:
"the squeaking wheel principle"



.... **SO**

- There is a need of knowledge regarding the preferences/attitudes of different population/visitor groups - to expand the decision basis regarding...

... **access restrictions**



Research Programme 2003-2008

- **Danish Outdoor Council**
- **Danish Centre for Forest Landscape and Planning
+ National Environmental Research Institute**
- ***“Integrative Science for Integrative Management”***



Research Programme 2003-2008

- **The visitors' attitudes to access restrictions**
- **The influence on wildlife by restricting access to specific forest sites**



Data collection



- Interviews 7 summer week-ends at main entrance point (2005: $n=148$; 2006: $n=193$)

- Automatic counting stations



Results



Attitudes – in general (Hestehaven)

”Closing (**by fencing**) of smaller areas in the breeding season to improve the conditions for certain bird species”

<i>Very good idea</i>	<i>Good idea</i>	<i>Neither/nor</i>	<i>Bad idea</i>	<i>Very bad idea</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
33	52	5	6	0	4

”Closing (**by signs/information**) of smaller areas in the breeding season to improve the conditions for certain bird species”

<i>Very good idea</i>	<i>Good idea</i>	<i>Neither/nor</i>	<i>Bad idea</i>	<i>Very bad idea</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
27	42	9	16	2	4



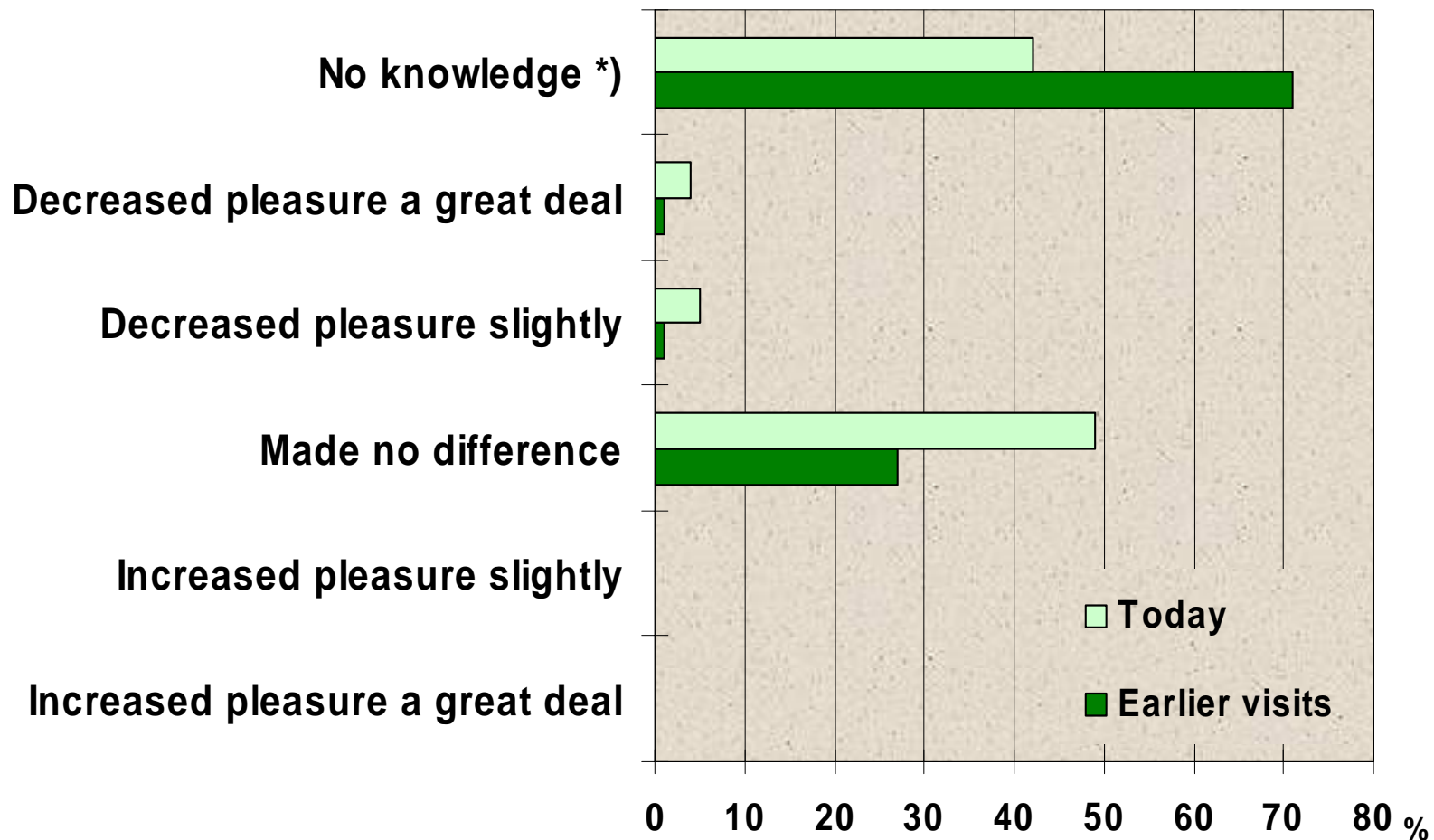
ACTUAL closing of the innersection of Hestehave Forest from 1. May to 1. October



A relative simple closing



Closing: Impact on pleasure?



*) : "Not seen/known" / "first visit"



Why decreased pleasure?

- *“Had to change plans”*
- *“Couldn’t reach the planned goal”*
- *“Not able to visit the burial mound/cromlech”*



Help to minimize decreasing pleasure

- “*Earlier information (at the entrance)*”
- “*Missing information on “WHY”*”



”This part of Hestehave Forest is closed from 1. May to 1. October”

Denne del af Hestehave Skov er lukket
fra 1. maj til 1. oktober



Skov- og Naturstyrelsen
Fussingø Statskovdistrikt
Tlf: 86 45 45 00 • Mail: kfe@sns.dk



Skov & Landskab

”To protect vegetation and wildlife, this....”

For at beskytte plante- og dyreliv er denne del af Hestehave Skov lukket fra 1. maj til 1. oktober



Skov- og Naturstyrelsen
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Skov & Landskab

**”To protect vegetation and wildlife, this....
.... It will enrich the nature – also for the visitors”**



Information

A fence around some young trees *to protect them from the deer* (30)

A fence *around some young trees* (44)

A fence (62)



Preliminary Conclusions

- **(Unexpected) positive attitudes for closing specific areas**
- **(Unexpected) positive attitudes for fencing compared to information/signs**
- **(Probably) especially when the visitors are informed WHY and at the right PLACE**



Hestehave Forest 2007-datacollection

- Questions regarding preferences for different information levels
- Check how well the restriction is respected (automatic counting in the closed area)



.... and we must remember

”The average camper [visitor] who doesn’t exist”

(Shafer 1969)



Hestehave Forest 2007 Wildlife analysis

- The National Environmental Research Institute

(Not ready yet, but expect the time horizon
– 3 years – to be too short)



