

TRAIL BIKE RIDING

VISITOR INFORMATION SHEET

INTRODUCTION

Forestry Plantations Queensland Pty Ltd (FPQ) is one of Australia's largest privately owned timber plantation companies, managing approximately 345,000 hectares (ha) of land including 210,000 ha of hardwood and softwood plantations located throughout Queensland. The majority of these lands can be found on State plantation forest which is managed by FPQ under a 99 year Plantation Licence granted by the Queensland Government.

State plantations forests comprising the Licence Area, are commercial forests and are primarily managed for the commercial growing, harvesting and protection of FPQ's plantation timber assets. The extensive network of existing roads throughout these forests not only serves a practical purpose, allowing for timber harvesting and fire management, but also provides recreational opportunities for trail bike riding.

WHERE TO RIDE

A network of roads and firebreaks criss-cross the State plantation forests. This network is made up of formed roads that are designed for vehicle traffic and are constructed with drainage structures such as a camber, table drains and whoa boys. The fire breaks are flat bladed tracks and are designed to assist in managing fire and not to sustain vehicle traffic. As such firebreaks are more susceptible to damage. Trail bike access is therefore restricted to the existing network of formed forest road with access to firebreaks prohibited.

Care should be taken as these forest roads are used by walkers, horse riders, cyclist and other vehicles including harvesting machinery and logging trucks. FPQ may close roads periodically for operational purposes (e.g. harvesting and establishment of plantations) or during periods of adverse weather conditions. Entry into areas closed for any reason is prohibited.

PERMITS

Individual riders do not generally need a permit to ride within the State plantation forests of Queensland, but must be licensed and operating registered vehicles as outlined below. Commercial activities, organised group activities (involving 5 or more vehicles) and competitive events will however require a permit. Commercial, group and competitive event permit application forms can be found on the FPQ website at www.fpq.net.au.

Roads within the State plantation forests are defined as roads under the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995* and as such all vehicles must be road worthy, fully road registered (use of conditionally registered vehicles for recreational use will not be permitted) and the driver must be appropriately licensed for the vehicle.



Photo courtesy of Department of Communities, Sport and Recreation Services.

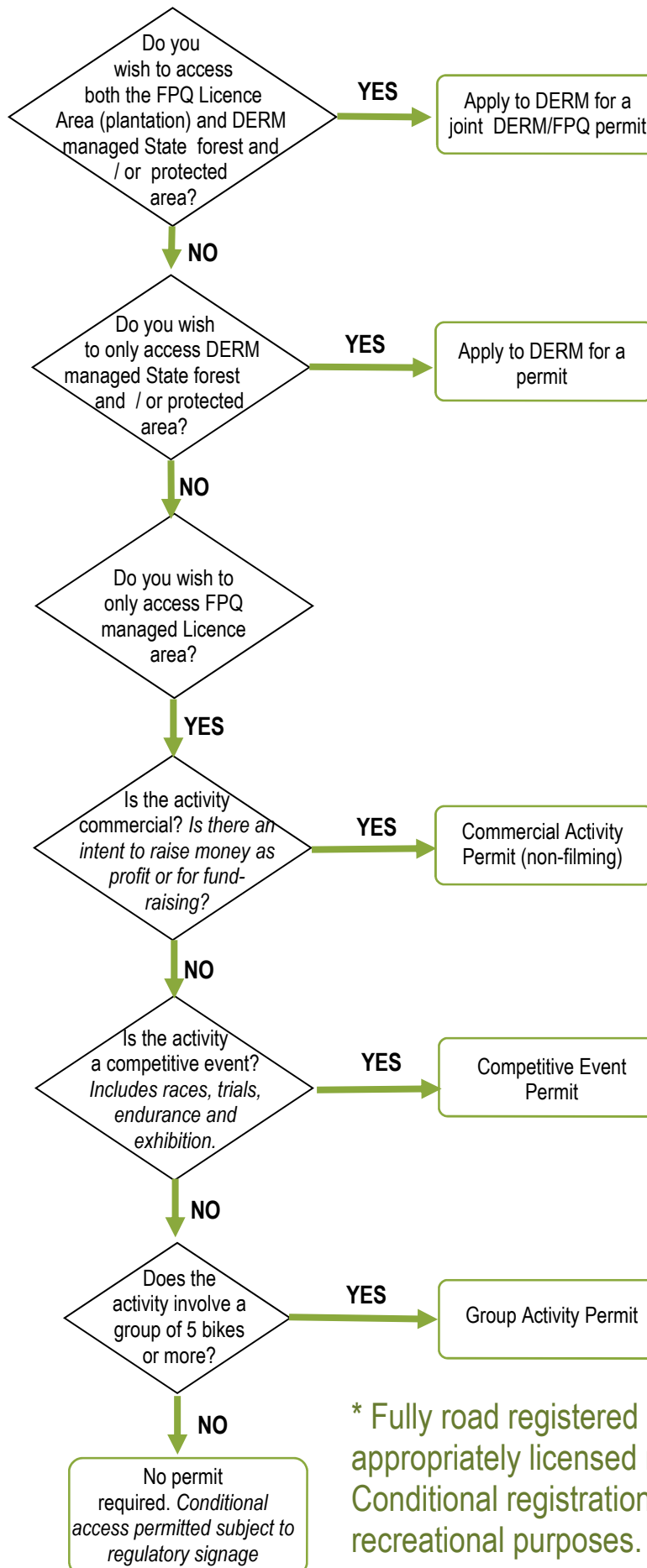
CARE AND SAFETY IN THE FOREST

Access to Plantation Licence Area managed by FPQ provides trail bike riders an opportunity to explore both natural and plantations forest landscape. With this authority come special responsibilities - please adhere to a minimal impact driving code and look after the forest you visit. Access to the Licence Area is also conditional on remaining on formed roads and as such trail bike challenges (steep and/or rough terrain or excessively wet conditions) are not considered appropriate use. To ensure safe driving with minimal impact, please observe the following:

- Ride only on formed management roads. Do not take shortcuts, ride on firebreaks or form new trails
- Obey all regulatory notices and signs and respect road closures.
- Obtain a permit before conducting a group, competitive or commercial activities.
- Prepare for the unexpected. Logging trucks and other traffic also use the roads.
- Make sure your vehicle is registered and in good condition
- Seek local advice on road conditions and avoid driving on roads during or after heavy rain.
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Do I need a permit and what permit do I need?



* Fully road registered bikes and appropriately licensed riders only .
 Conditional registration NOT accepted for recreational purposes.