



## **Good Practice - Erholungsmanagement in süd- und westdeutschen Walderholungsgebieten**

**Abstract der Masterarbeit von FRIDERIKE BEYER**

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### **Abstract**

Forests are an integral part of recreational area use in Germany. They provide opportunities for enjoying a range of outdoor activities including sports like nordic walking and mountainbiking or pure nature experiences such as wildlife observation. Recreational forests therefore contribute to the well-being and quality of life. In addition they can stimulate the economic development of rural areas. The management of recreational forests is obliged to maintain these qualities. There is however a lack of information about good practice examples of recreational management in Germany. The objective of this research study was to fill this gap by collecting significant information, which can be used by any administration that is interested in implementing good practice.

The Master Thesis provides an overview of the existing good practice examples in recreational forests of south and west Germany. The strategies of national parks, biosphere reserves, nature parks and urban forests were analysed. By applying three different methods of empirical research, a webbased survey, an open survey and expert interviews, an extensive amount of primary data was obtained.

The data analysis identified the state-of-the-art in recreational management of forested areas. Subsequently all major findings of the surveys were discussed and compared with the expert interviews. The research uncovered a strong need for networks between recreational areas and provided evidence of the diverse frameworks and conditions of forested recreational areas. Within the scope of the study the rising importance of new management methods and the communication of good practice examples in the field of forest recreation management was revealed.