

## Appendix A

### Visitor/User Group and Track Requirements

(Informative)

Visitor groups (user groups) define the type of track or structure that will be used, by identifying the types of activities that are undertaken, and the level of acceptance of the type of track or structure. DOC uses the phrase 'visitor group' to broadly define the characteristics of the users of the facilities and places it manages. Other agencies may wish to use these visitor group names, but some may find it more helpful to use the user group numbers, or their own identifier, to distinguish track users.

The visitor groups/user groups identified and their corresponding track requirements are listed in the table below.

Table A1 – Visitor group and track requirements			
User group	DOC visitor group	Definition	Track requirements
1	Urban Resident (UR) ACC term not used by DOC	Visitors to urban parks usually in an urban setting. The majority of these visitors are usually local residents including unsupervised children, elderly people, people with disabilities and a wide range of fitness and physical ability. This group may visit for the recreational experience or to access other sites.	<b>Paths</b> (mostly in urban settings) Easy tracks catering for all ages and most walking abilities. Usually high standard of track surface and structures. Low risk tracks. Most will be accessible to people with disabilities.
2	Short Stop Traveller (SST)	Visitors, including both local and international, travelling either the main tourist highways and access roads or visiting places in their local area. They utilize the natural edge along these roads or in these local areas for visits of up to one hour return. The least mobile are commonly young families (parents with toddlers), younger age school parties, elderly people and, in some cases, people with disabilities.	<b>Short Walks</b> Tracks that take no longer than 1 hour return to walk. Easy tracks catering for all ages and most walking abilities. All watercourses bridged or culverted. Good track surface. Low risk track.

Table A1 – Visitor groups and track requirements (continued)

User group	DDC visitor group	Definition	Track requirements
3	Day Visitor (DV)	Visitors, including both domestic and international, and local community visitors seeking an experience in a natural setting with a sense of space. This is normally associated with a road-end situation or scenic attraction with recreational opportunities for up to a full day's duration. The least mobile are commonly families with young children, school parties and elderly people.	<p><b>Walking Tracks</b></p> <p>Tracks from a few minutes to a full day return.</p> <p>Relatively easy day walks.</p> <p>Tracks of a high standard that enable use by relatively inexperienced visitors with a low level of backcountry skill.</p> <p>Low level of risk with all but the smallest watercourses bridged or culverted and a reasonable track surface.</p>
4	Back Country Comfort Seeker (BCC)	<p>Visitors seeking a low risk, relatively comfortable experience in the backcountry. People who are generally inexperienced in a backcountry setting with a wide age range.</p> <p>They require easy access and want comfortable overnight accommodation. The least mobile are likely to be families and school parties with older children and teenagers, visitors who require guides and first-time trampers.</p>	<p><b>Easy Tramping Tracks and Great Walks</b></p> <p>Well constructed tramping tracks with a track surface and bridges across rivers and major streams.</p> <p>Low risk backcountry experience with facilities to ensure a relatively comfortable visit.</p>
5	Backcountry Adventurer (BCA)	Visitors, usually New Zealanders, with a reasonable level of backcountry skills and experience. They require only a basic track and access is largely on foot except where air or boat access is permitted.	<p><b>Tramping Tracks</b> These tracks generally follow the lie of the land and are commonly not formed. Includes day visits but ranging further into the backcountry and not requiring the standard of tracks for day visitors.</p> <p>Tracks have bridges at key river crossings. Visitors accept a degree of risk and discomfort.</p>

**Table A1 – Visitor groups and track requirements (continued)**

User group	DOC visitor group	Definition	Track requirements
6	Remoteness Seekers (RS)	<p>Visitors, usually New Zealanders, with a high level of backcountry skills and experience seeking a wilderness experience with limited interaction with other parties. Access is largely on foot except where air or boat access is permitted, and activities are carried out with a high degree of self-reliance.</p>	<p><b>Route</b> The route follows the lie of the land and is not formed. Few facilities</p>
7	Overnighters (ON)	<p>A group that includes both domestic and international visitors and local community visitors seeking an overnight experience in a predominantly natural setting. The setting is normally associated with road end or boat accessible sites. These visitors require high quality structures and services similar to those provided for Day Visitors.</p> <p>The overnighters group generally accepts conditions encountered on a track. For the purposes of this document this group has similar characteristics to DV, and the DV track requirements will apply to them.</p>	<p>Overnighters generally accept the specifications for walking tracks.</p>