



System and Characteristics of Forest Trail in South Korea

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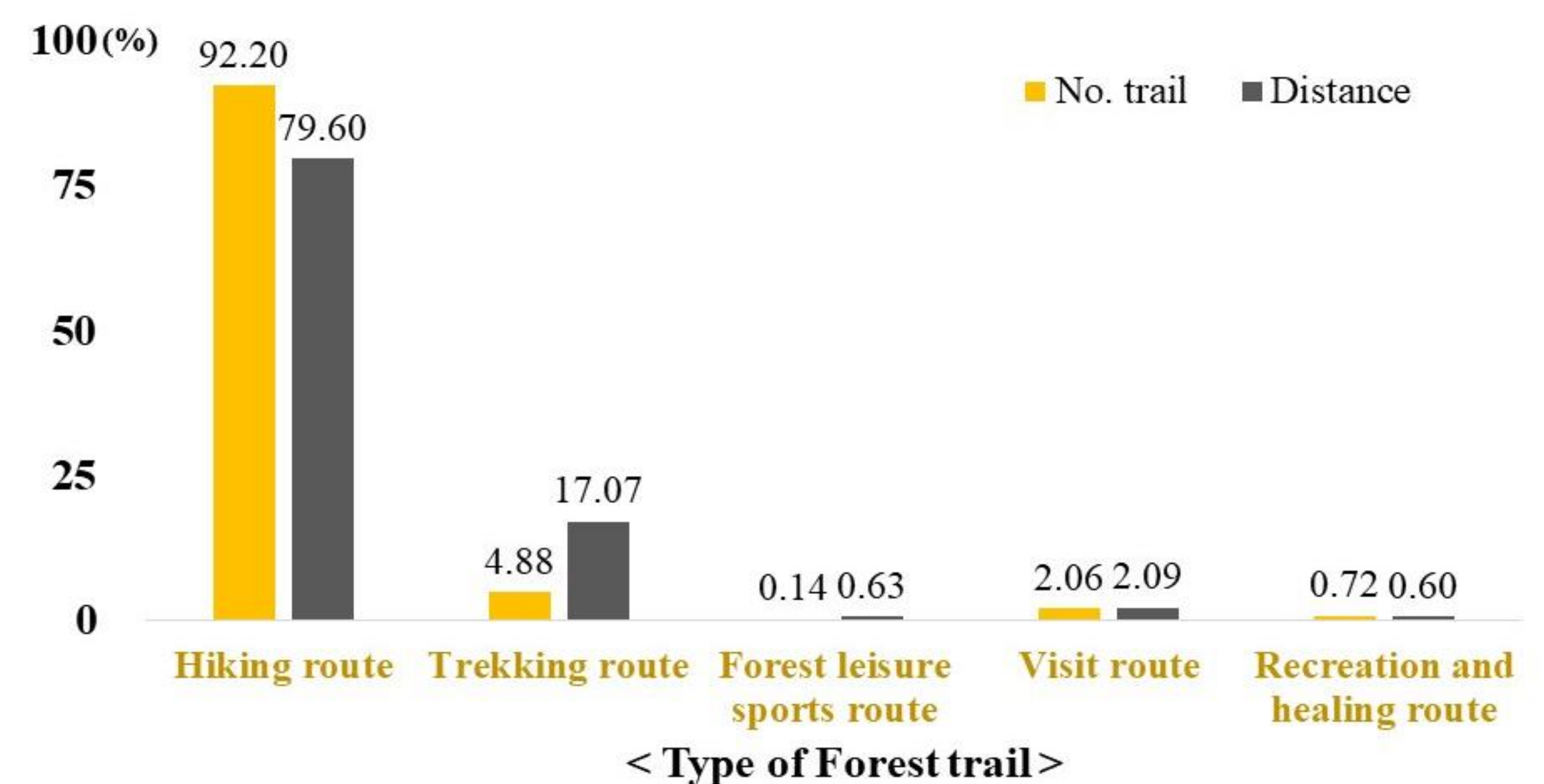
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Introduction

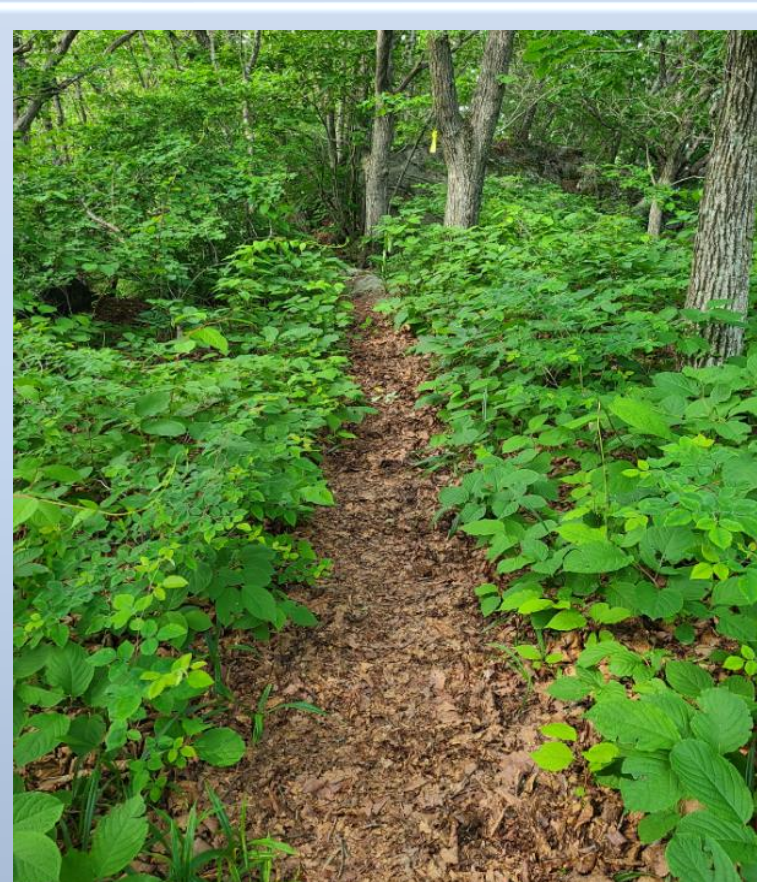
- As an improvement in the national income and leisure time drives more people to visit **the forest trail for the purpose of recreation**. One of the representative characteristics of establishment of forest trail in South Korea is that it focuses on the Baekdudaegan, which is the ridgelines of Korean Peninsula and ranges from Mt. Baekdu to Mt. Jiri, and Jeongmaek which is the continuous ridgelines of Baekdudaegan over 100 km.
- In the past, the most of Korean forest trail provided the basic vertical hiking culture based on Baekdudaegan mountain system. However, as the increase in recreational activities and needs for different activities in forest trail raised recently, the use type of forest trail has ranged from enjoying the surrounding area of mountain to leisure sports, healing and enjoying the scenery.
- The purpose of this study is to introduce the characteristics of forest trails and present guidance by comparing the definition of each type of forest trail and the existing forest trails.

Result

'Forest cultural recreation Act' defines the Korean forest trail as a walkway established on the forest for the activities such as hiking, tracking, leisure sports, visit or recreation, healing. Based on the change in the use type of forest trail, **in 2011**, the Act specified the concepts of forest trail into 6 types such as trails for hiking, tracking, forest leisure sports, visit or recreation, healing. **10 thousand forest trails** in total are currently established in Korea and their length sum up to **41 thousand km**. 92.2% of these trails are for hiking route and they occupy 79.68% of the total length of all forest trail in South Korea.



Hiking route



- Legal definition: train mind and body while hiking a mountain
- Concept definition: A pedestrians trail, mainly located in the forest

Tracking route(Dullegil, trail)



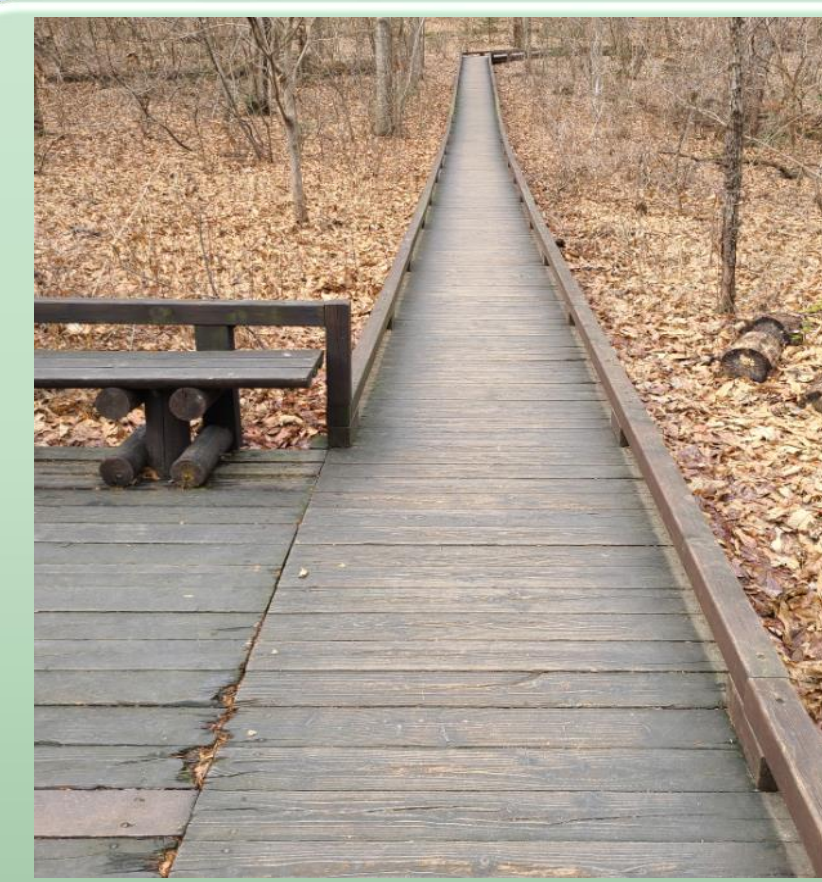
- Legal definition: to experience the history and culture of the region, to enjoy the scenery, and to enhance health
 - Dullegil: to connect its start and its end around mountain.
 - Trail: not to connect its start and its end
- Concept definition: An easily graded trail, unlike hiking routes, connecting local resources with relatively medium or long distance(200km or more)

Forest leisure sports route



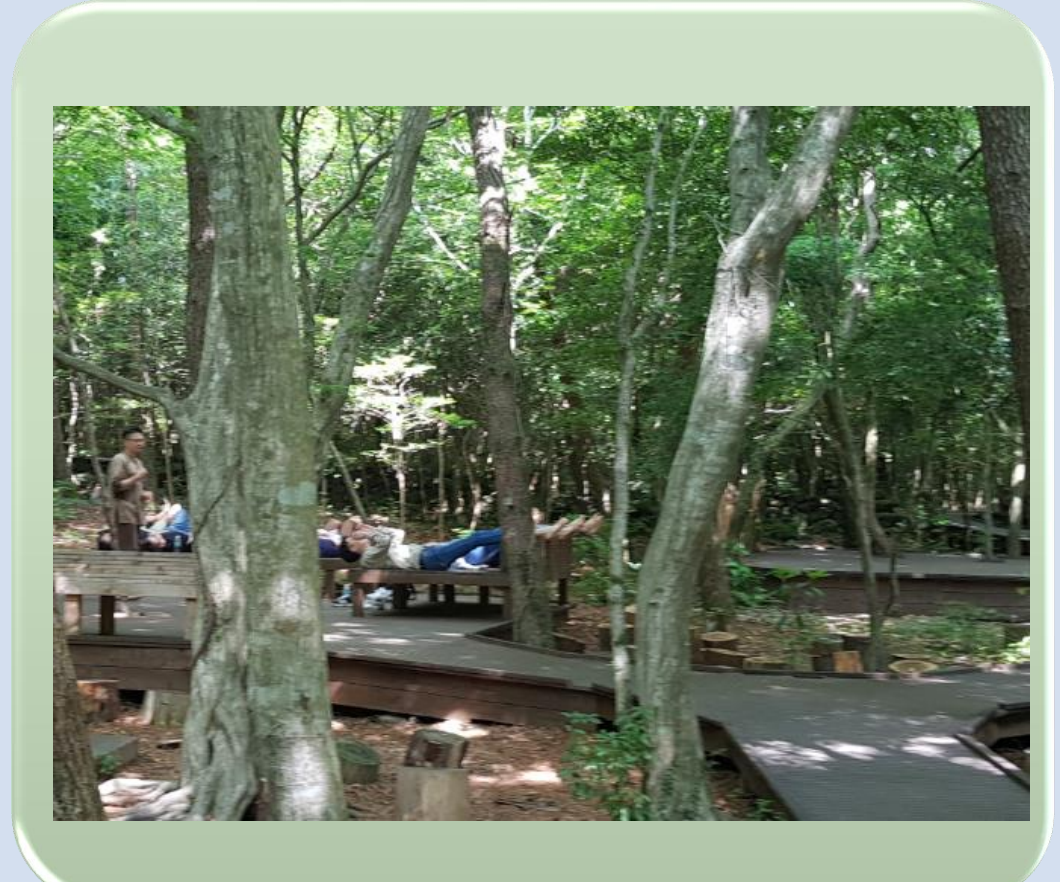
- Legal definition: for entertainment and sports activities in the forest
- Concept definition: designed to train a body, to engage in activities for health, and to compete with others using physical strength and skills

Visit route



- Legal definition: to experience, learn, or observe forest ecology
- Concept definition: to experience certain forest objects connected with related events with an emphasis on a specific purpose, regardless of length

Recreation and healing route



- Legal definition: to enhance health, to heal, or to do recreational activities in the forest
- Concept definition
 - for recreational and health activities
 - created in the forest for recreational purposes for those who want to relax their mind and body

*Korea Forest Service, 2016. Manual for construction and management of forest trail

Conclusion

Forest trails have recently gained popularity as a refuge away from problems such as COVID-19 and fine dust, so it is demanded to expand the forest recreational trails (0.63%, 254km) and recreational-healing forest trails (0.6%, 240km) maintaining its naturalness and practical functions. In addition, various types of forest trails and leisure activities on the trails are planned to be uploaded on the website. In particular, a new system was established to designate forest trails with high ecological, historical and cultural values as national forest trails. As a result, national forest trails are expected to become a prominent forest trail brand in Korea through systematic and intensive management effort.