Robinson Forest Users Guide for Project Development and Implementation

Users of Robinson Forest must follow established guidelines to visit and conduct research at Robinson Forest.

Robinson Forest is available for use in research projects and demonstration and teaching projects. The following provides information to help facilitate effective and efficient use of Robinson Forest.

Summary

All projects conducted at Robinson Forest must ultimately be approved by the Robinson Forest Technical Committee prior to initiation. This approval ensures that projects are consistent with the forest plan and policies, UK's land grant mission and the Robinson Forest trust, and do not interfere with on-going projects. There is a Project Submission Form that is required to be submitted for approval. Scoping and information gathering at Robinson Forest in association with project proposal development does not need approval. The Management Forester provides assistance with scoping and general information on the resources available at the Forest. The Management Forester can provide information on lodging, other facilities and resources available and potential costs associated with use.

Scouting and Information

Scouting or evaluating sites in the Forest to determine their potential inclusion in a research project does not require approval. Contacting the Management Forester to arrange a visit (for the purposes of initially scoping a project or when visiting to work on an approved project) is required. This is to ensure an efficient and effective trip to the Forest. The Management Forester can be reached by office phone at 606-666-9995 or email at robinson.forest@uky.edu. Office hours are typically 8 to 4:30 Monday through Friday.

Typically users will park their vehicles at the main office facilities and appropriate vehicles and assistance will be provided for in-forest scoping and information gathering. No personal vehicles are allowed within the main block of the Forest. [Note: Projects that require the use of Robinson Forest vehicles and other resources may be required to incorporate costs into project proposals and the Management Forester can assist with estimating these costs.]

Directions to the Forest

http://www2.ca.uky.edu/forestry/rfdirections.pdf
Project Submission

Before ANY form of data collection is conducted (including strictly visual observations where data is being recorded) the project must receive approval from the Robinson Forest Technical Committee.

1. Contact Robinson.Forest@uky.edu to request an application. Complete the form and follow instructions to return the completed form. The form will be reviewed to determine if the project manager needs to be aware of any forest policies or other issues that will need to be addressed. The project manager will be notified if any issues arise from this evaluation. Allow 1-2 weeks (sometimes longer for more manipulative types of research) for the Robinson Forest Technical Committee to review the proposal and provide comments.

2. Once the committee has reviewed the application the user will then be notified that their project was approved as is, denied (including justification), or approved with contingencies. If projects are approved with contingencies the user will have an opportunity to amend their proposal to address the concerns for final approval.

Once the project is approved always notify the Management Forester or Robinson Forest staff in advance of your visit to ensure access to desired locations. If needing equipment, lodging, or an in forest vehicle notice is requested at least (1) week in advance. Please contact Chris Osborne (Management Forester) at chris.osborne@uky.edu or 606-666-9995. Please be mindful that availability of lodging, equipment, and vehicles may be limited at times and are reserved for those with earliest notification.

All users of Robinson Forest are required to sign-in at the Check-In Kiosk as they enter camp.

Non UK employees are required to sign the appropriate liability waivers located at the Check-In Kiosk and submit that form to the management forester.

All users are required to sign for and carry a radio on their person at all times when working away from a vehicle. Radios are available in the Management Forester’s office.

Approved users of Robinson Forest will be provided copies of applicable policies associated with doing work in Robinson Forest.