

# Relationships: Landowners and Maps

Without permission from  
landowners, we can't make  
maps or use them.

# Politics and Land Use Are Local

- What I say may or may not apply to your problems.
- You may have better solutions than I have.
- I hope that you will be part of this conversation.
- I will give some information, you can comment and then we can try to pool ideas.

# Different Land Owners

- City Parks, State Parks, National Parks, Land Trusts, Private Landowners
- Different points of view.
- Different governing bodies.
- Different goals for their property

# Know Your Group


- If you want to get something from the group, find out what the group worries about and what they want to do and not do with their land.
- Do your research.
- Lots of resources.
- ...but not all will apply in your case.

# OUSA Resources

- Quite a few are available but they may not apply in your case – remember map issues are local.
- <http://www.us.orienteering.org/mappers/land-access>
- They range from links to IOF reports to ways that OUSA Member Clubs use to persuade landowners to allow us to use their land.

# Efforts by Our Clubs

- *But I was taught to always stay on the trail...* By Terry Farrah BAOC
  - Talks about easy way to prevent erosion is to “stay on trails”.
  - Piece talks about how orienteers are a “diffuse” use with many different routes unlike switchback cutting, etc.

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- **Environmental Policy Statement – DVOA**
  - Discusses how mappers, course setters and runners can protect the land and therefore get maps and keep maps.
  - Mappers – find out what is sensitive and what is not, etc.
  - Course setters – avoid sensitive areas, wetlands and plan start and finish areas
  - Don't leave stuff in the woods, etc.

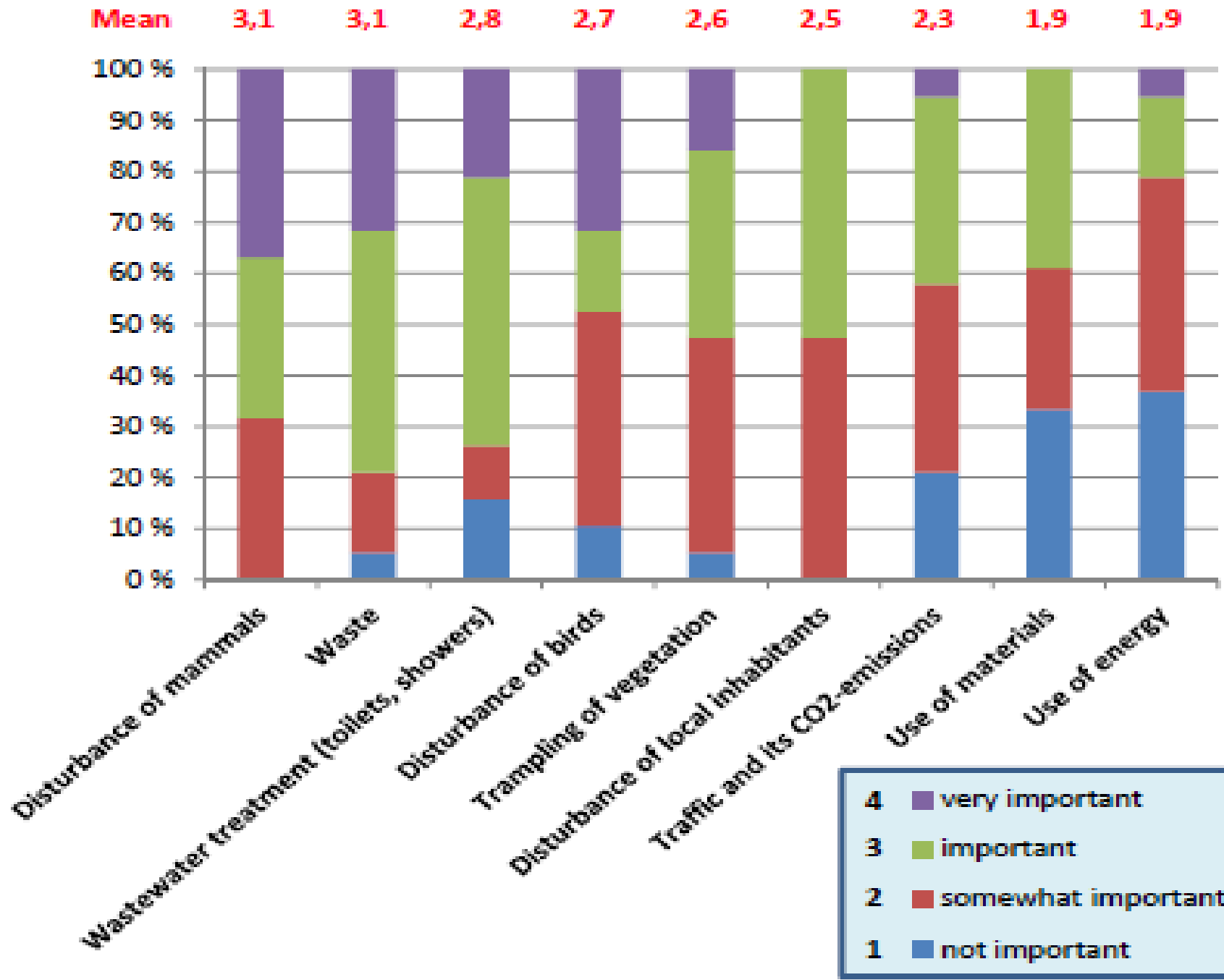
# Proper Use of Maps


- Always get permission from landowners, each and every time. One misstep could end the use of the map.
- All runners need to respect the land owner. Your possession of a map does not say that you can run on that land without permission.
- When in doubt, ask.



# Oh, the Research

- IOF has had a number of studies done about land use.
- They are available at <http://orienteering.org/resources/environment/>
- Some of the studies are a bit dense but they may be useful in helping to persuade landowners.



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- Traffic not seen a big problem although it has the biggest environmental impact.
  - Low use of energy & materials is one of orienteering's strengths.

# Land Owners

- Permission
- Discussion on land use and out-of-bounds areas
- Information
- VIP's in the competition

# Hunters

- Permission
- Information
- Discussion on the date of the competition
- Areas to avoid in course setting

# Environmental

- Permission
- Out-of-bounds areas
- Planning for waste management

# Health and Safety

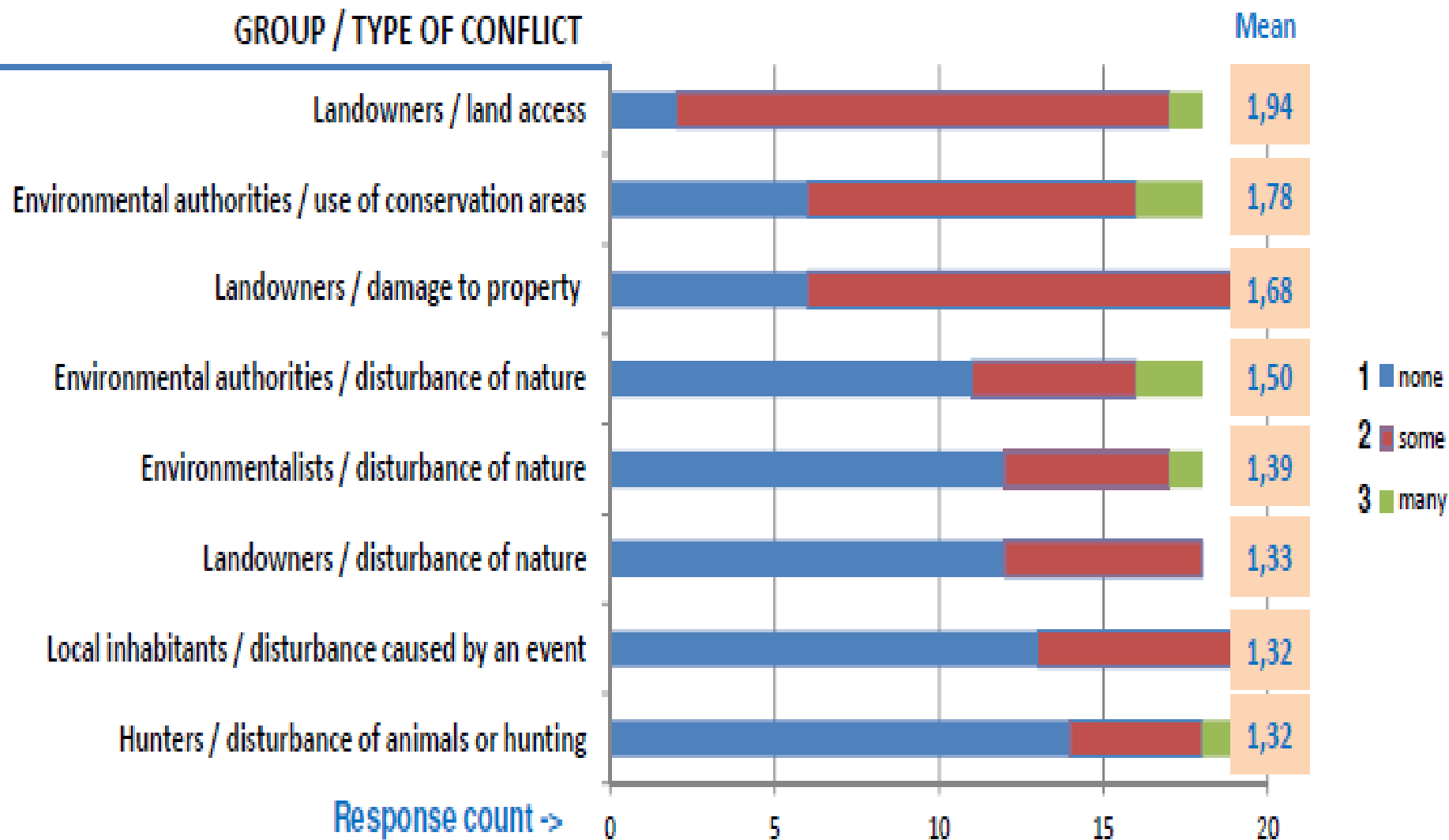
- Permission
- Written notice
- Safety plan
- Catering services (hygienic requirements)

# Local People

- Information through the media in advance
- Direct contact with those who might be affected.



# Environmental Conflicts



# Case Study – WCOC Trout Brook

- Great A-Meet
- Billygoat
- Local meets
- Horseback riders wanted access
- Claimed orienteers caused more damage
- Orienteers excluded
- Horses excluded

# Damage real and envisioned

- Can see the damage to trails from horse hooves.
- Damage to woods is imagined. Some would see it as much worse than horses and “everywhere”.
- Need evidence/science to convince non-orienteers about actual damage to woods.

# So How Do We Convince?

Data is not easy to derive but is available, mostly from the IOF.

Studies of physical impact to the land, long term and short.

Analysis of different kinds of use and impact on the land.

# Letterboxing and Orienteering

- In England, letterboxing is basically a geo-caching activity.
- You have a waterproof container that you put a letter in addressed to yourself. You tell people where it is. They go find it and put a letter addressed to themselves in the box and then send you your letter.
- Some people have over 1000 of these letters.....
- How does the impact of letterboxing compare to orienteering?

# Letterboxing

- Individuals find site but then have to find the box, which can take upwards of 5 minutes.
- Letterboxes stay in one place and do not move.
- Letterboxes are semi-permanent points that are visited throughout the year, often by many dozens of people.

# Orienteering – compared

- Orienteers see an obvious flag at the control site and go to it quickly.
- They may look at their map for a period of time after they punch at the control but they move in and move out.
- Controls are not permanent and are different for every meet. (This is not true for permanent courses but those can be designed by course setters rather than random people putting out boxes.)

# Dartmoor National Park Britain

Activity	Total off-track hours	Ecological impact	Intrusiveness
Letterboxing	2,240,000	Moderate	Moderate
Rambling	1,600,000	Low	Moderate
Bird-watching	800,000	Low	Low
Mountain Marathon Ten Tors	216,000	High	High
Riding to hounds	16,000	High	High
Pony trekking	16,000	High	Moderate
Mountain biking	6,000	Low	Moderate
Rock climbing	2,700	Low	Low
Hashing	1,200	Low	Moderate
Orienteering*	800	Low	Low
Beagling	375	Moderate	Moderate
Hang gliding	100	Low	Moderate



# Cows vs. Orienteers

- Braunton Burrows Biosphere Reserve, Great Britain
- Orienteers to be excluded, cows let in area.
- Analysis of foot loading, and number of foot-falls per cow and per orienteer in a year.
- One cow for a year equaled 15,000 orienteers in the area. - By calculation....

# Swedish Event Study

- The competitions varied in size from large to very large, with 1300, 2920 and 9276 competitors
- Surveys immediately following the competitions showed, for **the largest** event, clear trails made by the orienteers for some 50-100m into and out of the controls.
- Around the worst affected control points the vegetation within an area of  $10\text{m}^2$  (equivalent to 1.75m radius) suffered 50-75% damage. Similar damage was reported for the start and finish areas - exacerbated by the wet conditions of the event.

# Recovery

- The vegetation of the largest event showed rapid recovery. After 1.5 to 2 growing seasons, the vegetation cover at 90% of the sampled areas had recovered to Damage Class 1 which represents zero to slight damage.
- “Slight damage” means that a person unaware that a competition had taken place and not focusing on specific sites would not register vegetation damage in the terrain.
- The more severe damage category, Damage Class 3, with vegetation completely worn away, would be expected to apply to some of the control sites. At this large event no control site remained in the Class 3 category after the two seasons recovery period.

# Trampling of lichen and fungi on decaying spruce logs in Sweden

- The coverage of bark and mosses was measured on 2m sections of the logs before and after the event.
- A total of 102 competitors passed through the control site.
- For each competitor the number, route across the logs and which, if any, sections of log were stepped on were noted.

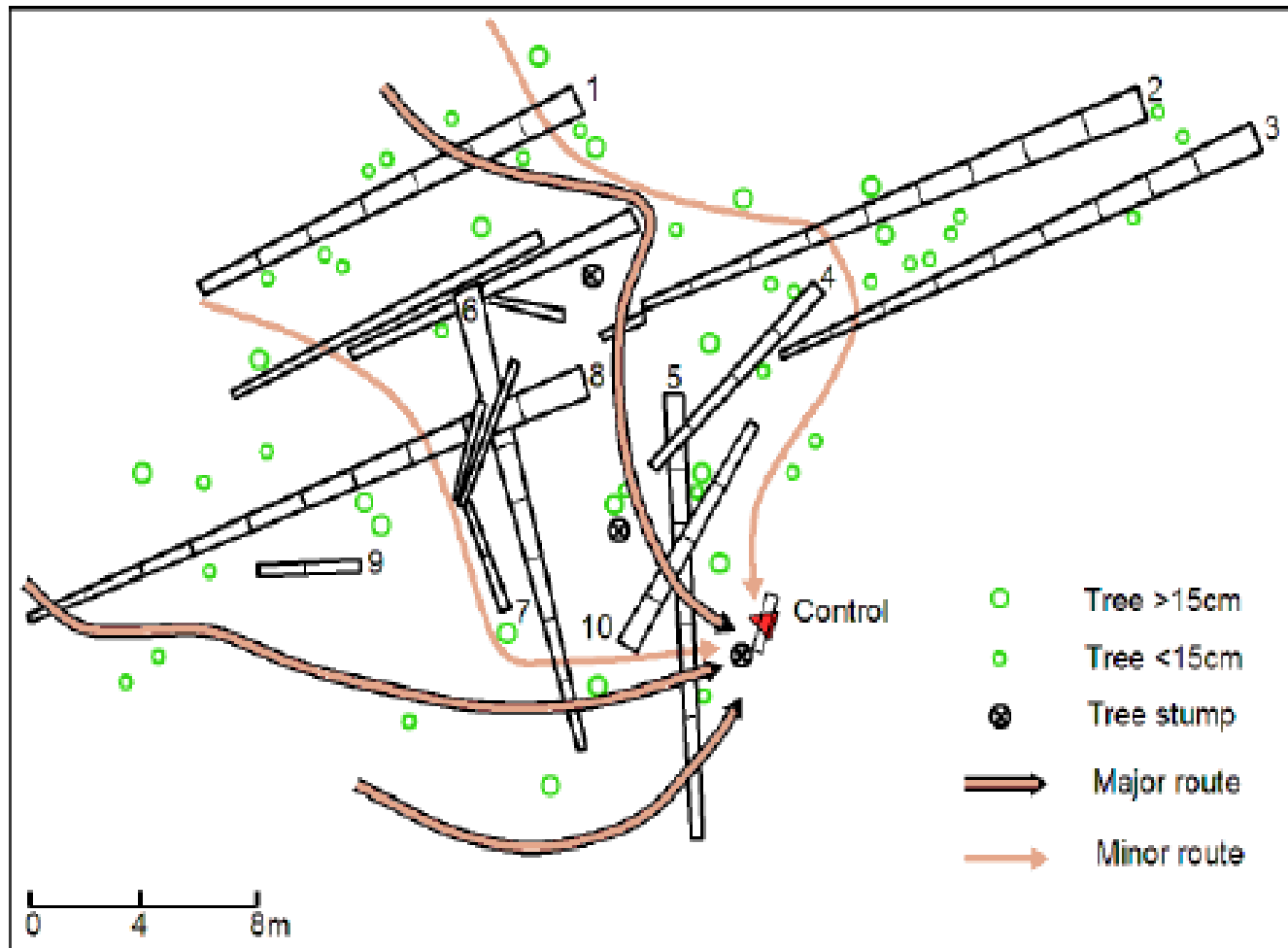


Figure 1 Routes taken by orienteering competitors through a cluster of downed spruce logs at an event in Northern Sweden. The map is simplified from the original (Bader et al. 1999).

# Result

- The study concluded that the 102 runners caused only minor damage to the logs and none to the stumps and this “must be considered as almost negligible from a nature and conservation point of view.

# More Studies

- Other studies indicate the same thing.
- Orienteering is not a problem for the environment.
- The runners take different routes, don't spend much time at the controls and after a growing season or two, it is hard to see any changes to the control sites.

# In Conclusion

- Questions
- Comments
- How you deal with this issue?