

8/1/52



Forestry Commission
Scotland

Bailes of Bennachie
Birchbank
Burnhervie
Inverurie
Aberdeenshire
AB51 5JU

Silvan House
231 Corstorphine Road
Edinburgh
EH12 7AT

fcscotland@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
Tel: 0131 334 0303
Fax: 0131 314 6152

Director Scotland
Bob McIntosh

1 March 2004

Dear Sir/Madam

REVIEW OF LAND MANAGED BY FORESTRY COMMISSION SCOTLAND

Thank you for your response to the Consultation Paper on the Review of Land managed by Forestry Commission Scotland. Receipt of your response has been formally recorded and your comments will be analysed along with the others received when the consultation period is finished. A summary of stakeholder comments will be published on our website. Once again, thank you for taking the time to read and respond to the Paper.

Yours faithfully

Liz Kirk

pp

Kenneth A Murray
Secretary to the Review Working Group





Forestry Commission Scotland

Silvan House
231 Corstorphine Road
Edinburgh
EH12 7AT

fcscotland@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
Tel: 0131 334 0303
Fax: 0131 314 6152

Director Scotland
Bob McIntosh

Dear Consultee

CONSULTATION ON A REVIEW OF LAND MANAGED BY FORESTRY COMMISSION SCOTLAND

I enclose a copy of our Consultation Paper, "A Review of Land Managed by Forestry Commission Scotland". We are inviting written responses to this consultation paper, and these must be received by **27 February 2004**.

We have included some limited space in the document for responses to the questions outlined in the paper. However, if you need to insert additional pages, or if you are e-mailing a response, we would be grateful if you could clearly indicate which question(s) or part(s) of the consultation paper you are referring to, as this will aid our analysis of the responses received.

If you wish to access this consultation paper on the internet, it can be found at www.forestry.gov.uk/consultations. If you do not have private access to the internet, you can Freephone 0800 77 1234 to find out where your nearest public internet access point is. If you prefer to submit your response by e-mail, please send it to kenny.murray@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or by post to Kenny Murray, Forestry Commission Scotland, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT.

If you have any queries or comments on the conduct of this exercise, please contact Kenny Murray on 0131 314 6408 or via the e-mail or postal addresses above.

Access to consultation responses

Unless confidentiality is requested, we will make all responses available to the public, through Forestry Commission Scotland's National Office. All responses not marked confidential will be checked for any potentially defamatory material before being logged.

Yours sincerely

Dr Bob McIntosh
Director



8/1/84

SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS

Please express your views in the white boxes below.

NAME: BAILIES OF BENNACHIE

DAYTIME TEL: 01467- 643735

E-MAIL: ann.baillie @btopenworld.com

ADDRESS:

BIRCHBANK
BURNHERVIE
INVERURIE
AB51 5JU

Question 1: We propose a vision for Scotland's national forests. This is that they will benefit everyone in Scotland, promoting vibrant and healthy communities, enriching natural environments and creating opportunities for economic development. Do you agree with this proposed vision? If not, what changes should be made?

TO BENEFIT CITY RESIDENTS - SUGGEST
ACQUIRING SMALL AREA OF LAND ADJACENT
TO BUILT UP AREAS TO CREATE WOODLANDS
FOR AESTHETIC, RECREATIONAL +
EDUCATIONAL AS WELL AS HEALTH
REASONS

Question 2: Should Forestry Commission Scotland do more to encourage local community involvement in the management of national forests? If so, how?

NEED TO DEVELOP BETTER LIASON WITH
COMMUNITY COUNCILS + LOCAL
ENVIROMENTAL GROUPS

Question 3: Should local communities be able to purchase or lease woodland (or other national forest assets) that are not identified as "surplus"? If so, what criteria should apply?

PREFERABLY LEASE RATHER THAN
PURCHASE BUT ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE
MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE + FINANCES TO
MAINTAIN IT. + WHOLE COMMUNITY
BEING IN AGREEMENT

Question 4: Should Forestry Commission Scotland seek to provide new opportunities for recreation in national forests in and around towns and cities? If so, how should priorities be set?

THERE IS A PLACE FOR MARKETING
HIGH QUALITY RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES
BOTH FOR BENEFIT OF LOCAL
RESIDENTS AND TOURISM

Question 5: Should Forestry Commission Scotland undertake a number of large-scale, long-term environmental projects (such as forest landscape restoration, or water catchment or wilderness projects) on the national forest estate? If so, how should priorities be set?

IN CERTAIN AREAS PILOT SCHEMES
COULD BE TRIED OUT + IF SUCCESSFUL
EXTENDED TO OTHER AREAS

communities, enriching natural environments and creating opportunities for economic development. Do you agree with this proposed vision? If not, what changes should be made?

EDUCATIONAL IS ONE REASON

Question 2: Should Forestry Commission Scotland do more to encourage local community involvement in the management of national forests? If so, how?

NEED TO DEVELOP BETTER LINKS WITH COMMUNITY COUNCILS + LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS

Question 3: Should local communities be able to purchase or lease woodland (or other national forest assets) that are not identified as "surplus"? If so, what criteria should apply?

PREFERABLY LEASE RATHER THAN PURCHASE BUT ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE + FINANCES TO MAINTAIN IT + WHOLE COMMUNITY BEING IN AGREEMENT

Question 4: Should Forestry Commission Scotland seek to provide new opportunities for recreation in national forests in and around towns and cities? If so, how should priorities be set?

THERE IS A PLACE FOR MARKETING + HIGH QUALITY RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES BOTH FOR BENEFIT OF LOCAL RESIDENTS AND TOURISM

Question 5: Should Forestry Commission Scotland undertake a number of large-scale, long-term environmental projects (such as forest landscape restoration, or water catchment or wilderness projects) on the national forest estate? If so, how should priorities be set?

IN CERTAIN AREAS PILOT SCHEMES COULD BE TRIED OUT + IF SUCCESSFUL EXTENDED TO OTHER AREAS

Question 6: Should Forestry Commission Scotland become more ambitious in its environmental work on the national forest estate, including – in particular – delivery against Biodiversity Action Plans, improving the biodiversity of conifer forests and enhancing the contribution that national forests make to Scotland's landscapes? If so, how should priorities be set?

IN THEORY VERY DESIRABLE + QUITE A LOT IS BEING DONE CURRENTLY BUT EMPHASISING THIS ASPECT COULD HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR REVENUE FROM TIMBER SALES

Question 7: Should Forestry Commission Scotland do more to recognise and conserve the cultural heritage value of the national forest estate? If so, how should priorities be set?

ENCOURAGE GREATER EMPHASIS IN GROWTH OF NATIVE SPECIES + INVESTIGATE POTENTIAL NEW USES FROM SUCH CROPS

Question 8: What emphasis should be given to the strategic role of national forests in the supply of timber to Scotland's wood-processing industries? What are the priorities?

IN AREAS WHERE LANDSCAPED AMENITIES ARE NOT SO IMPORTANT THE MAX EMPHASIS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO PRODUCING TIMBER FOR THE VARIOUS WOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES MORE IN THE WAY OF WOOD PROCESSING PLANTS ARE REQUIRED.

Question 9: Should sustaining and developing local economies be a key objective for the management of national forests? If so, how should this be done?

WE DO NOT THINK THAT F.C. CAN AFFORD TO TAKE ON THIS RESPONSIBILITY IN SATE OF ITS DESIRABILITY

Question 10(a): Should there be a more dynamic approach to the size and distribution of the national forest estate?

NOT CLEAR WHAT QUESTION IS GETTING AT

Question 10(b): In what circumstances should land be added to the national forest estate? What criteria might be applied?

LAND WHICH IS NOT BEING MANAGED PROPERLY OR FULLY UTILISED + WHICH HAS A MUCH GREATER POTENTIAL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL / RECREATIONAL BENEFIT

<p>Question 10(c): In what circumstances should national forest estate land be sold? What criteria might be applied?</p>	<p>IF IT CAN BE ASSURED THAT THE PURCHASER WILL MANAGE THE LAND EFFECTIVELY IF RECREATIONAL + ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT + NOT FOR SHORT TERM FINANCIAL OR PERSONAL GAIN. AND IF RESOLD FIRST REFUSAL TO F.C. AT MARKET VALUE</p>
<p>Question 11: In what circumstances should there be a radical re-appraisal of management options in national forests, for example, in relation to wood production objectives?</p>	<p>NO COMMENT</p>
<p>Question 12(a): Do you have any views on the creation of a challenge fund for special projects aimed at significantly increasing public benefits from the national forest estate?</p>	<p>THE AIM IS LAUDABLE BUT NOT CLEAR ABOUT CHALLENGE FUNDING.</p>
<p>Question 12(b): Should this be funded in part by any ring-fenced income derived from the sale of national forest estate assets?</p>	<p>IF VERY GOOD PROJECTS ARE IDENTIFIED THEY COULD BE FUNDED BY SUCH SALE</p>
<p>Question 13: How should Forestry Commission Scotland take forward its approaches to working in partnership in order further to develop the national forest estate?</p>	<p>WE ARE SURE THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MUCH MORE BEING DONE IN THIS WAY OF PARTNERSHIPS</p>
<p>Question 14: How should the national forest estate be used to take forward wider Executive priorities, for example in relation to renewable energy, rural housing, health and tourism?</p>	<p>MORE RESEARCH TO BE DONE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY FROM FOREST PRODUCTS. PILOT SCHEMES TO BE SET UP WITH REGARD TO DESIGN + CONSTRUCTION OF LOW COST HOUSING LARGELY TIMBER BUILT FOREST TRAILS WITH NUMBER OF LOCATIONS WITH BASIC APPARATUS CONSTRUCTED FROM WOOD FOR VARIOUS FORMS OF PHYSICAL EXERCISE. DRIVE THROUGH COUNTRY PARK IDEA DEVELOPED.</p>
<p>Question 15: How should we ensure that everyone is aware of what Scotland's national forests have to offer?</p>	<p>PROMOTING ADVERTISING MARKETING EDUCATION</p>

Question 16: Given the long-term nature of forestry, the proposed vision will largely be delivered through gradual, evolutionary change. Is there a need for a more rapid approach to bring about some elements of the vision and, if so, what are they?

NO COMMENT

Question 17: Is it useful to try to express the proposed vision in more detail, perhaps quantifying the size, mapping the geographic distribution and describing the nature of Scotland's national forests at some date in the future (say 2025, or 2050)? If so, how should this be done?

NO COMMENT

Question 18: What approaches might be adopted to strike a balance between local and national interests?

LOCAL FORESTERS BEING BETTER KNOWN TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH SCHOOL VISITS AS OPPOSED TO RANGER.

Any additional comments:

WE HAVE A VERY GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH F.C. AND FEEL THAT OUR FORESTS ARE BEING VERY WELL LOOKED AFTER FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF RECREATION, CONSERVATION AND TIMBER PRODUCTION