



## THE MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND

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2/11/09

Dear Gail and John

Please accept these comments on behalf of MCoFS with reference to the FDPs for Starthyre East and Milton.

### **Milton Forest Design Plan Brief**

The MCoFS welcomes the native woodland restoration through removal of non-natives and replacement with natives. We agree that native woodland can be a great asset as a replacement for non-native forest blocks, however this depends upon the native woodland developing or being planted in a block without hard edges, varied age structure and multi-species. The MCoFS support depends upon these criteria.

### **Strathyre East Forest Design Plan Brief**

#### **Landscape**

The MCoFS welcomes the consideration of landscape and the issues addressed in this paragraph. We would also suggest that open areas within the block are included in the plans to encourage a diversity of woodland and woodland edge species dependent upon woodland habitat.

#### **Water Quality**

The MCoFS welcomes the consideration of riparian zones buffering to protect water quality, but also it should be recognised and planned for to benefit habitat diversity in the riparian zone.

#### **Conservation**

The MCoFS supports the FDPs support for biodiversity, but would suggest the full range of biodiversity be equally considered rather than concentration on macrofauna. Deadwood, both lying and standing should be planned for within the FDP.

#### **Recreation**

Consideration should be given to not only beneficial recreation within the forest plan area, but also any routes used by those enjoying recreation where the intended destination requires crossing the forest areas. In terms of mountaineering, we are unaware of any known routes that are difficult in these areas.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss these issues further.

Yours sincerely

Hebe Carus  
Access & Conservation Officer