



## Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

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9 June 2010

[secretary@fmc.org.nz](mailto:secretary@fmc.org.nz)

Department of Conservation  
Private Bag 2  
Turangi 3353

Attention: Pauline Jenkins

Dear Pauline

### **Tongariro National Park Management Plan Discussion Document**

Thank you for opportunity to offer feedback on the proposed policy changes to be incorporated in the partial review of the Tongariro National Park Management Plan.

Federated Mountain Clubs comments as follows:

#### **Section 4.4.2.5 – Transport to the Tongariro Alpine Crossing**

We have no particular concerns with the proposal to cap people numbers on vehicles, rather than capping vehicle numbers. We are assuming this proposal relates to concessionaire transport operators only, and will not apply to recreational club activities or recreational club vehicles – we would not be in agreement with any move to limit numbers on club vehicles.

#### **Section 4.3.2.12 – Mountain biking**

We have no particular concerns about the proposal to allow concessionaire use of the Old Coach Road and the Pillars of Hercules track. The Old Coach Road is popular with walking groups, but it is relatively wide in parts and, as such, should not cause problems with user conflict. However, the section of track from the viaducts to Horopito is much more narrow and may not handle too many people at once without user conflict, especially if events were held on this section.

#### **Section 5.2.11 Vehicular Access on to Ski Areas**

The discussion document does not clarify what type of over-snow vehicle is likely to be used – snow groomer or skidoo? Clarification on this point could be useful when the partial review documents are publicly notified. In the meantime, we have no particular concerns about this proposal provided the vehicles remain confined strictly to the ski areas. We would not be in agreement with any move to increase over-snow vehicle activity outside the ski concession areas.

We note that the Tukino skifield request may have a trade-off in that they will be asked to waive rights to erect another tow, with its accompanying permanent structures. We believe this could have a positive environmental impact on the area, but we also note the skifield operators have acknowledged there may be refuelling problems with over-snow vehicles (Conservation Board minutes October 2009), which will need to be addressed from an environmental point of view should any application go ahead.

### **Section 6.1 Sole Winter Transport Operator on the Bruce Road**

We have no objection to this proposed change.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes

Yours sincerely

Phil Glasson  
Secretary