



Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

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Greater Wellington Regional Council

Greater Wellington Parks Network Plan - Draft

Federated Mountain Clubs submission

Introduction

Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand is the national association of over 100 mountain clubs and represents over 13,000 individual members.

Our objectives are to promote:

- our clubs' activities
- training and safe use of the backcountry
- its preservation and sound management

We also work to protect rights of access to the countryside. Our member clubs range from single interest groups to large alpine and tramping clubs. Our members go tramping, mountaineering, skiing, canoeing, mountain-biking, hunting and walking. They are based in cities and small towns, from Whangarei to Invercargill. Clubs range in size from those with 15 - 20 members to clubs with over 1000 members.

Our members make extensive use of the Wellington Regional Park network, and value the work that the regional council has undertaken. We commend the work that has gone into the draft plan, and welcome the opportunity to comment.

1. Does Greater Wellington provide the right emphasis on conservation, heritage management and recreation in the park network?

We support the overall vision of the plan 'to enrich lives by connecting people with healthy natural places'. In particular, the guiding principles

1. To protect and care for ecosystems of important ecological value and,
2. Restore significant degraded ecosystems and to increase indigenous biodiversity, are the most important of all the principles and should take centre stage when making any significant decisions regarding park land.

Low impact recreational opportunities are of particular interest to Federated Mountain Clubs and the plan adequately provides for ongoing recreational access to the parks as expressed in the guiding principles 7 and 8.

Federated Mountain Clubs is also encouraged to see the guiding principle 10.

Connecting open spaces through recreation corridors and making access routes available.

This principle appears to harness the benefits of a regional plan in aiming to better integrate the recreational opportunities between the different parks managed by the regional council.

2. Are there any issues we have missed within the draft network plan?

Federated Mountain Clubs is particularly interested in seeing an ongoing focus in the following areas;

- Continued access to the parks for people seeking low impact recreational activities, such as walking, running, tramping etc
- Continued and improved pest control
- A continued focus on assisting with the re-growth of indigenous forests
- A continued focus on improving the parks indigenous biodiversity
- Maintaining the integrity of the remote areas within the regional park system
- A continuing focus on collaboration between local community groups and the Greater Wellington Regional Council in managing the parks system.

The draft plan satisfactorily addresses each of these areas and more and does not seem to have missed any particular issue.

3. If there is a specific park you are interested / involved in, does the plan adequately identify and protect its values? If not, why not?

Federated Mountain Clubs does not have a preference of one park over another, instead we place higher value on areas within any of the parks that retain indigenous forest and birds and areas that can offer remote experiences for our membership. For example the Gollans Valley remote area in the East Harbour Regional Park is particularly important given its high conservation values and wilderness recreational opportunities. The draft plan provides ongoing protection for these areas and is therefore supported by Federated Mountain Clubs.

4. Are there any particular parts of the draft plan that you wish to make a submission on?

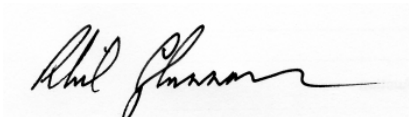
Federated Mountain Clubs does not feel it is necessary to comment on any particular part of the plan.

5. Do you have any other feedback about the Park Network Plan and its review?

The draft plan successfully manages to balance the numerous competing interests regarding the regional parks while at the same time keeping as on overarching goal the ongoing preservation of the parks in their natural states.

For these reasons FMC strongly supports the draft network plan.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Glasson', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Phil Glasson
Secretary