

Rick Long
Chairman
Rural Services Committee
P O Box 41
Masterton
9th November 05.

WELLINGTON REGIONAL
COUNCIL

10 NOV 2005

RECEIVED

File Ref:	W	S	08	05	01	Date/Initial												
Doc No	304406																	
Other Ref.																		
Jtv. Mgt.																		
L&RO Mgt																		
P/Res Mgt																		
s/Serv Mgt																		
Bio Mgt																		
BUnit Mgt																		
Referred to:																		R. WRIGHT

Page 1 of 2

Dear Rick.

Re Application for Support for Long Term Pest Control of Montfort Trimble Estate.

As you may know the Montfort Trimble Foundation was established to administer the foundation assets in the Masterton District.

The foundation is governed by a group of elected or MDC appointed Trustees and works within the objectives of the Masterton District Council (Montfort Trimble Foundation) Act 2003 as listed below:

- (a) the production and care of timber for economic purposes
- (b) the maintenance of forests
- (c) providing a supply of timber for public wants
- (d) assisting the Masterton District Council to establish forests
- (e) providing for the conservation of native and commercial forests
- (f) amenity and protection planting and their maintenance

It views itself as **“An independent organisation dedicated to the growing of trees for the educational, economic and aesthetic benefit of the public”** and has a strong focus on promoting forestry and all the benefits (both tangible and intangible) and best practices associated with it,.

The foundation has two properties, the original Trimble Forest area at MikiMiki and Rewanui opposite the Riversdale turn off on the Masterton Castlepoint Road. Rewanui was purchased from the Masterton District Council last year.

Both properties, but especially Rewanui, have areas that have significant indigenous bush ecosystems on them and a history of pest control, mainly through the Bovine Tb vector control programme.

We recently discussed with Wayne O'Donnell, Manager Biosecurity the possibility of the GWRC providing long term pest control in partnership with the Foundation. The Foundation understand and appreciates that pest control budgets are tight. However, the Foundation would like to take a long term view and seek your support accordingly. Department of Conservation staff have completed flora and fauna surveys on both properties. Rewanui is listed as a Recommended Area for Protection (No.16 – Eastern Wairarapa Hill Ecological District). The information provided by these surveys supports the Biosecurity Departments prioritization process which indicates that Rewanui is in the top 100 ecological sites (private land) within the region. This would make Rewanui eligible for Key Native Ecosystem status, subject to certain criteria being met.

The foundation has a long term commitment to enhancing the ecosystem potential on its properties and has already:

- spent \$20,000 in 2004 on fencing to stock proof areas of indigenous vegetation at Rewanui;
- Ceased grazing to facilitate indigenous regeneration under the podocarp stands;
- Established parking areas, signage and track work to facilitate public access, use and enjoyment of the Rewanui block.
- Established reference photos within the blocks to monitor ecosystem improvement.

We are currently:

- Having a pest control plan developed to quantify what is required to maximize biodiversity gains;
- Developing an application to the DoC Biodiversity Condition Fund to help fund the initial pest control work required to establish a formal long term programme

Our hope is that with the DoC funding, support from GWRC and our own in kind and long term committed funding, we will be in a position to fast track a protection programme that mirrors best industry practices (and outcomes) within the next twelve months.

As our profile, public exposure and visits grows, we believe that the pest control planning and work carried out will be well profiled and provide an opportunity for the GWRC to show case and display/promote best practice to the wider community.

The Foundation asks that the Committee considers this important rural issue with the hope that a joint venture pest control programme can be realized for the benefit of the wider Wellington community.

Ian Campbell (Chairman of the Foundation) and I would be would be happy to explain our Rewanui proposals at your next Rural Services Committee meeting if you deemed that appropriate.

Yours sincerely,



Stuart Orme – Forest Manager

For Ian Campbell
Chairman
for Montfort Trimble Foundation

