

ANNEX A

A LIST OF THE THIRTY-TWO KEY POLICY STAKEHOLDERS INTERVIEWED

Name	Position	Organisation	Date of interview
Adam Smith	Senior Scientist	Game Conservancy Trust	26/6/02
Alan Kimber	Lochaber Access Group/West Coast Mountain Guides		5/6/02
Alan Mowle	CORPORATE PLANNING MANAGER	SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE	12/6/02
Alex Ferguson MSP	Member of Scottish Parliament for the South of Scotland. Convenor of the Rural Development Committee		11/7/02
Andrew Bielinski	Borders Area Officer	Scottish Natural Heritage	8/7/02
Andy Wightman	Independent consultant and researcher		20/6/02
Bill Band	NATIONAL STRATEGY MANAGER	SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE	15/7/02
Bob Aitken,	Chair	Scottish Countryside Activities Council	12/6/02
Bob Shannon	Head of Planning Policy and Europe	Highland Council	1/7/02
Dave Morris	Director	Ramblers Scotland	27/6/02
DAVID BALHARRY	TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	DEER COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND	10/7/02
Duncan Bryden	Independent Consultant		14/6/02
Frank Gaskell	HEAD OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, HIE. PRESIDENT, EUROMONTANA		5/7/02
Ian Ross	Highland Councillor, Chairman of Sustainable Development Select Committee		17/6/02
Jim Hunter	Chair	Highlands and Islands Enterprise	10/7/02
John Donohoe	Chair	Mountaineering Council of Scotland	11/6/02
John Mackay	National Strategy Manager	Scottish Natural Heritage	18/7/02
John Mayhew	Policy and planning adviser	National Trust for Scotland	3/7/02

Jonathan Hall	Rural policy adviser	Scottish Landowners Federation	28/5/02
Lloyd Austin	Head of policy operations	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	11/7/02
Michael Scott	PlantLife/Scottish Natural Heritage/Highland Birchwoods		17/6/02
Pip Tabor	Project Manager	Southern Upland Partnership	20/6/02
Richard Cooke	Factor, Dalhousie Estates. Secretary, Association of Deer Management Groups		12/7/02
Roger Owen	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency		13/7/02
Sandy Dear	Manager	Tourism and Environment Forum	14/6/02
Shane Rankin	Chief Executive	Crofters Commission	1/7/02
Simon Pepper	Director	WWF-Scotland	13/6/02
Stuart Black	Director, Strengthening Communities Group	Highlands and Islands Enterprise	5/7/02
Tony Fitzpatrick	European Rural Exchange/South of Scotland Alliance		8/7/02
Tony Grant	MANAGER SCOTLAND	SUSTRANS	2/7/02
Tony Waterhouse	Head of Hill and Mountain Research Centre	Scottish Agricultural College	26/6/02
Will Boyd-Wallis	Policy and Partnerships Manager	John Muir Trust	16/7/02

Annex C

Results of the two focus groups

1. Recreational User Focus Group

DATE: 7 June 2002

LOCATION: Mountaineering Council of Scotland Offices, Perth

PARTICIPANTS: Six members of Perth Mountaineering Club

A. Identification of positive attributes

QUESTION ONE: *DESCRIBE YOUR FAVOURITE MOUNTAIN – WHAT MAKES IT SO GOOD?*

Respondent	Adjectives/descriptions used
1	Dramatic Interesting Very different from anywhere else Presents awesome challenges
2	Very scenic
3	Accessible Range of recreation opportunities
4	Remote Wonderful corries (landscape features)
5	Different Spiky
6	In the most natural state possible Lack of organisation/planning Open air

Question two – *What attribute would cause you to choose a particular mountain range for recreation?*

Category	Adjectives/descriptions used
Recreation based	Setting your own personal challenge Physical exercise/challenge Collecting Munros – example of personal targets
Relaxation/escapism	Getting away from it all Being outside and away from everyday living pressures Sense of freedom Unregulated 'If you don't want to see anybody you can find a place, but it's getting harder'
Other	Variety – new places/routes – always something you haven't done High Relatively accessible

Adjectives and descriptions used in responses to questions guiding the discussion to certain attributes:

Wildness
Standing in a lovely remote corrie, nobody else about, no litter – just the beautiful surroundings, the plant life, the animal life and all the things you see there
I find it incredibly important to be able to get the wilderness experience
Challenge; complete adventure – could be at the North Pole
Don't have to be in traditional wild areas for the wilderness experience
It's so important to have that space to go away – it's destroyed by people having mobile phone conversations
You are in a natural environment with all the wildlife around – the fish, the birds and the rest – salmon in the river, deer on the hill, eagles and other wildlife all in one day – you're able to reconnect with what you think you have lost living in so-called civilisation. You feel that you are stepping back in time to something far more natural than this lifestyle we all lead at the moment - which is artificial in a way.
Scenery
I appreciate the extensiveness of the views you get in Scotland.....you can see from one side of the country to another on a clear day...that is fairly unique
Unique landscape is the coastline and hills close together in Scotland
I agree native forest is lovely but I'm so used to being on the open hill. I like the wide open spaces
I find that I'm very resistant to change – the scenery when I first came to Scotland is a baseline - I think of the effect of change.

Wildlife – positive
Enjoy seeing deer
Good if you see the odd rare thing like an eagle or a wild cat
People are interested in wildlife – it's important to retain the natural heritage
It's important to me that whales are safeguarded even though I've only seen whales once. If we step back from that within our own patch then what right have we got to suggest that we safeguard rarities elsewhere?
You'd feel guilty [about lost wildlife]
Wildlife - negative
Preserved for the sake of it – if they're a rarity it means they shouldn't be there – we spend so much time conserving all these rarities to the extent that we limit everybody's access.
Unless you are a bird spotter or a botanist there isn't actually a lot for you. The wildlife thing is over-hyped for the average person.
Recreation
One aspect people find quite exciting and which is in danger of being swamped is the risk factor – when you're out in the wilderness on your own you're entirely dependent on your own resources and reactions
The days you remember are the risky ones
Sanitisation of the mountains is a problem
Path construction – regular smooth path on Stac Pollaidh – just transferring urban walkway to a mountain situation (inappropriate)
Path construction is inevitable, better than bad erosion
Bolted climbing routes – we should be removing paraphernalia not putting in new ones
Cultural heritage
Walking through places, able to be slightly more in touch with the cultural heritage and the history
If you meet a really nice stalker who loves the hills that can really enrich your day.....his whole lifetime experience and family tradition
The whole of Scotland has evolved through men working the land – I don't think you can return it back to a wilderness state by taking all the people out
Forests
It's good to see diversity with regeneration of woodlands
One of the things that really does excite me is regenerating woodlands that aren't constrained by deer fences, that are regenerating because of sensible management
Native forests are superior to horrible plantations of Sitka spruce, which are more unnatural, don't fit in with the mountain. Mix of birch scrub; heather; willow; scots pine – part of the hill.
Wonderful regeneration – you feel it is natural
You need exotic plantations in some areas – depends on where.

B. Opinions on payment vehicle for study

- It has to come out of general taxation
- Paying for entry cuts across traditions and is unfair
- Why not charge local taxes on tourists? – e.g. hotel taxes
- Existing money is wasted, not targeted well enough

C. Opinions expressed on management and conflicts in the mountain environment

Wind power: ‘Intrusive’

Hydro reservoirs: More acceptable as older – attitudes change over time

Access:

- ‘Generally not a problem’
- Indiscriminate deer fencing without stiles is a problem for access
- Difficulty is in accessing hills through farmland etc, but once on the hills access is generally fine
- Responsible access is accepted – ‘you don’t go out in the deer stalking season in September’ – but there is a lot more access in this season than there used to be (Hillphone helps)
- Open access to the hills is a very important aspect of Scottish mountaineering – there are very few countries where you can simply drive to a car, get out and start walking without any restrictions whatsoever.

Land ownership: ‘I don’t think land ownership should automatically give the landowner a carte blanche to make decisions and just crash in and do what the hell he likes to make something more commercially viable – they need to be more sensitive.’

2. Local Residents Focus Group

DATE: 10 June 2002
LOCATION: Monadliath Hotel, Laggan
PARTICIPANTS: Six residents of Laggan

This focus group was primarily concerned with piloting questionnaires, but some interesting local opinions of the mountain environment and the issues for residents in mountainous areas were obtained.

Opinions of the mountain environment
People who live here don't notice the hills – unless you're into hill-walking they're just there
If you go away from [the hills] you miss them
There are no trees, you can see out and see the open spaces
Good to live in an inhospitable environment because it means the community is small, safe and close-knit
It's the wildness I really like
Landscape
There are no trees, you can see out and see the open spaces
With too much native forest planting you lose the openness of landscape
Wildlife
I have no time to stand and stare [at wildlife]
You don't care [about wildlife] if you're working damned hard
You notice an eagle going overhead, you notice a pine marten in the woods
Recreation
You can go for a long walk and you're very unlikely to see anybody at all – I really like that
Not many residents do it [mountain recreation]
I only go to the hills because that's where I'm working, and I wouldn't go one yard past where I'm working'

Key issues for mountain residents:

Immigration of 'incomers' from outside the area
'We are all incomers of a sort'
It is a new phenomenon – incomers come for quality of life reasons not for a job
Good for keeping school running etc
Lots of incomers are educated people who have been well used in the village
Community life
'Like a huge family'
Catalysed by fights with external agencies – over television reception and community ownership of a local forest
Community spirit is very important

Employment
Biggest problem is holding onto the youth – jobs are key
There are virtually no <i>employed</i> agricultural workers now – it's not viable to employ people any more – people use contract labour/machinery
All seven kids that left school last year have gone – it used to be just the academic ones that left. It depends on land ownership – they will come back if they get the family farm
We have to diversify to leisure, tourism and other income sources, 'or we die'.
People live hand to mouth – never expect to buy their own house
Hard to get a job – scabble, take anything going, live off scraps
Housing
Rents are far too high – they are based on a Scottish average but people here are on low incomes
'Of the houses up for sale in the last five years almost all have been sold for holiday houses – that's really very scary'
Rural skills and traditions
Rural skills are being lost – for example shepherds, with the associated traditions of clipping (shearing) and sheepdog trials