

Implications for policy and action on wild land: 2010 and beyond

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What is it?

- experiential origins
- beyond recreation
 - ecological restoration?
 - regulatory services?
- alternatives or complements?
- resist the purely utilitarian – celebrate the intangible



The new dimensions?

- climate change mitigation : limited contribution
- water supply, etc : significant but not prescriptive
- species reintroduction : appealing to many but often not dependent on wildness
- conclusion : broader, more multi-functional concept
- rings the bells!



Where is it?

- wildness matter of perception
- wild land / wild places
- to map or not to map?
- evidence of erosion
- real world case for 'lines on map'
- understand the resource



Why does it matter?

- make the case : cannot take public support for granted
- provide evidence of utilitarian value
 - economic : distinctive Scottish resource
 - ecosystem services
- highlight cultural services element of ecosystem agenda
- retain but don't rely on ethical arguments



What to do?

- raise the profile
- improve the information base
- substantiate the supporting arguments
- sell the case to local communities
- explore new funding mechanisms
- work out how to integrate management objectives



To designate or not?

- existing designations inadequate
- how many/how much?
- end of road for designation – based conservation?
- political resistance
- any mechanism only as strong as public support



Another way?

- confirm mapping
- engage with ecosystem services agenda
- feed into Land Use Strategy and follow-up action
- refine management planning
- identify acceptable mix of objectives for individual areas, with zonation as needed
- work together

