

**From:** [ECInfo](#)  
**To:** [Mailroom Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Long-Term Plan submission form [#123] EMAIL:05270871  
**Date:** Monday, 13 April 2015 3:39:28 p.m.  
**Importance:** Low

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** no-reply@wufoo.com  
**Received:** 13/04/2015 3:34 p.m.  
**To:** ECInfo; Environment Canterbury; Services Customer; Services Customer; Webmaster@ecan.govt.nz  
**Subject:** Long-Term Plan submission form [#123]

Your name \* James Stewart

Your organisation and role in it (if applicable) Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand

Address \*

Postcode

Contact phone number \*

Mobile number

Email

Date Monday 13 April 2015

Your submission

To whom it may concern

Federated Mountain Clubs is the National Body of Tramping and Climbing clubs, we represent 18,000 members nationwide, and have a long history in advocating for the protection and conservation of natural landscapes.

We are writing firstly in support of the Peninsula Tramping Clubs submission that community groups with a long term commitment to controlling wilding conifers should continue to be supported and secondly to emphasise the threat that wilding conifers pose to the Canterbury high country landscape, conservation and production values and the importance of Environment Canterbury remaining responsive to the changing dynamic of this problem.

In regards to the support of community groups. The Peninsula Tramping Club has submitted that:

“Wilding Tree days” have been running successfully for many years. It is a testament to the work of the volunteers that large parts of the upper Rakaia and Waimakariri catchments are free of dense infestations of conifers. Periodic re-visits every 3 to 4 years have checked the spread of the conifers beyond the fringes and each year, the volunteers have progressively worked back towards the source of the infestations.

In our view, the volunteer days do not represent a significant burden on Environment Canterbury’s budget. The donation of a nominal \$30 per person to each club represents particularly good value for 6 hours of pest control work. Typically, between 80 –100 people volunteer to work each day for an annual expenditure of between \$7,000 – \$10,000 plus staff

time and additional disbursements for the use of vehicles. "

We support this wholeheartedly, and ask you to ensure the long term plan is worded in such a way as to support rather than undermine such cost effective initiatives.

In regards to the wider problem, we ask Environment Canterbury to support as much as it is able the work undertaken by the Ministry for Primary Industries as represented on this website: <http://www.wildingconifers.org.nz/>. Taking particular heed of the conservation, recreational and economic cost of this problem should it not be appropriately addressed. Funding needs to be found to address this issue in partnership with DOC, central government and other landowners.

What do you want Environment Canterbury to do?

1. Support "Wilding Tree Days" as per the existing program.

2. Ensure that the philosophy of any new regional pest management plan recognises the need to address long established, widespread pests, such as wilding conifers, where they pose an increasing threat.

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