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Trecia Smith  
Greater Wellington Regional Council  
Wakefield Street

30 September 2004

Trecia

***Draft Forest Lands Management Plan***

We value Greater Wellington as an affiliate of Tread Lightly!, and are supportive of the draft plan.

The only area we would like to comment concerns the availability of recreational opportunities for motorised recreation.

Greater Wellington is held up as a flag-ship to other territorial and regional authorities as the leader in this field. No other Authority gives so much to so many as does GW.

This is a recreational industry that is growing at an exponential rate, and the cost of participation is also falling – fuelling an ever increasing demand for recreational opportunities.

Far too many authorities respond by closing rather than enhancing facilities. This has the effect of concentrating more and more vehicles into smaller and smaller areas. The nett effect is that serious environmental impacts occur, and the incidence of illicit activity increases dramatically.

We would urge Greater Wellington to continue its flag-ship status, and perhaps even consider the opportunities that exist to expand even further the available track network for 4WDs, Quads and Trail Bikes.

It would also be useful if such considerations could encompass some form of “fluidity” to allow for changing conditions to see areas brought into, or taken out of play.

Thank you for this opportunity to make a submission, and congratulations on a superb work.

We do not wish to make verbal submissions, rather, we will allow other groups more locally involved to make the various representations. However, if you have any further questions regarding our submission, or would like us to speak to Council, we would be only too willing to remain actively involved.

Andy Cockroft  
Chairman