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To: Woodland Initiatives
Rob Green, Countryside Agency (Steering Group member)
Richard Smith, Forestry & Timber Assoc. (Steering Group member)
John Morris, Small Woods Assoc. (Steering Group member)
FC England Management Board

Review of the Effectiveness of Woodland Initiatives

Please find attached a copy of the above report (which is in two parts) – this report will also be made available on the Forestry Commission website at (www.forestry.gov.uk/england). I also attach the Forestry Commission's response to the recommendations, which has been agreed by the Steering Group.

We very much welcome this report, which provides a valuable overview into the work carried out by this diverse range of organisations. The overwhelming message that we take from the report is that such work is making valuable contributions to woodland management, and to the enhancement of the social, environmental and economic value of woodlands.

We will therefore continue to support Woodland Initiatives where they contribute to the delivery of our national and regional priorities, as set out in the England Forestry Strategy. We intend to do this in three main ways:

- Providing direct support at the regional level
- Supporting national networking and the sharing of best practice between Initiatives
- Developing and testing pilot projects, tools and other support mechanisms at the national level

The value of this report is greater than simply the recommendations alone – and we will be drawing on the information in the report for a long time to come. However, the consultants made nine specific recommendations and we attach our responses to each of these.

If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Jo Ellis
Review Support Officer
24th January 2003