

Carr, Philip

From: Ciaran Hughes [ciaran_hughes@yahoo.co.uk]

Sent: 20 December 2005 12:07

To: Carr, Philip

Subject: Submission on Behalf of Woodland League for the review of the Forestry Bill 2001: 1

The Woodland League, c/o Ciarán Hughes, Caherawoneen, Kinvara, Co. Galway.
20th December 2005.

www.woodlandleague.org

Philip, a chara,

We would like the following noted for the review of the Forestry Acts (Draft Forestry Bill 2001):

1. The Draft Forestry Bill 2001 does not contain the full wording of the Helsinki Process' definition of Sustainable Forest Management. This should be inserted in the Act.
2. Clarification of Coillte/Forest Services' relationship with the Dept. of Marine and Natural Resources and the Dept. of Agriculture is a necessity
3. Need clarification as to whether Coillte are a public or a private entity – EU recently ruled that Coillte are a public entity wholly owned by the state, yet Coillte continue to claim that they are a private entity.
4. Since 1984 (pre-Coillte) there has been the issue of the privatisation of the Forest Service/Coillte (accelerated after 1989). What is the story regarding this at this point in time?
5. Under the new bill, statutory protection of all trees over 10 years old is removed – protection is placed at the whim of the minister. Statutory protection must be reinstated.
6. There is no reference made in the bill to the reality that is climate change. This must be insterted.
7. In the draft bill, old, decaying and dead trees are removed from protection. Considering the number of habitats decaying and dead wood make, it is a necessity that these are given statutory protection.
8. England and Wales have 7,500 Tree Wardens that work in partnership with the Forestry Commission. It should become statutory that such a system is established in the Republic, with a scaled number of 500 wardens as a minimum.

Is mise le meas,
Ciarán Hughes
Secretary of the Woodland League