

Submission on
Proposal to dispose conservation land at Spring Grove, Nelson
from
Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand

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Introduction

1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit on this proposal to dispose of conservation land at Spring Grove, Nelson.
2. Federated Mountain Clubs – “FMC” represents 22,000 members of the outdoor community in over 100 clubs across New Zealand.
3. FMC has a duty to advocate these members interests in the natural environment of New Zealand.
4. New Zealand’s biodiversity remains in crisis. In the Motueka Ecological District, alluvial forest is extremely rare, with most of it having been cleared for agricultural and human settlement many years ago. It seems counter productive to recommend the disposal of the Spring Grove land given its rarity. I note the submission of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society that outlines the rarity of the ecosystem.
5. This land, whilst currently under grazing concession, may also provide for access to the river in the future.
6. I also note that the Conservation General Policy 2005 provides direction on how to dispose public conservation land. In this case, I do not believe that the criteria has been followed by the Department in its recommendation to dispose.
7. FMC is thus opposed to the disposal.
8. FMC would like to be heard on the matter.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit

Peter Wilson
FMC Executive