



NEWS RELEASE

Use: Immediate

Date: 26/11/12

SCF CALL ON MINISTERS TO MAKE LAND AVAILABLE FOR CROFTS

At their Woodland Crofts workshop held in Gairloch last Thursday, The Scottish Crofting Federation met support for their call to the Scottish Government to make land available for woodland crofts.

Patrick Krause, the SCF's chief executive who introduced the workshop, said "The Crofting Reform Act 2007 gives the power to create new crofts. As a bill introduced by the Scottish Government and passed by Parliament, the existence of this Act indicates that the Scottish Government is enthusiastic about the creation of new crofts. As one of the largest land-owners in Scotland, surely the ministers should therefore be creating new crofts? Land held under the management of Forestry Commission Scotland, which includes woodland and open land, would be ideal for the creation of woodland crofts."

The well-attended workshop heard presentations by Jamie McIntyre, woodland croft consultant, Janet Miles, General Manger of GALE social enterprise, and Derek Flynn, chair of the SCF and crofting consultant.

The national forest estate is the largest single public land resource held by the Scottish Government, comprising over 660 thousand hectares and over 35% of Scotland's woodlands. Mr Krause concluded "whilst the National Forest Land Scheme is a very helpful initiative, it seems to be being left to community bodies to do the work of trying to raise the money, buy the land and then to set up woodland crofts. Why doesn't the Scottish Government simply set up woodland crofts?"

END

Contact:

Derek Flynn, Chair

01463 782 944 / 07979 875 188

Patrick Krause, Chief Executive

07739 941 199

Notes to editors

- The National Forest Land Scheme (NFLS) gives communities, housing bodies and Non-Governmental Organisations a preferential opportunity to acquire surplus property before it is offered for sale on the open market.
- Pictures can be found at: <http://www.crofting.org>