Scottish Crofting Foundation

from past, to present, for future

NEWS RELEASE

Use: Immediate **Date: 30/3/07**

IMPORTANCE OF FOLLOWING MUIRBURN CODE HIGHLIGHTED

The Scottish Crofting Foundation reminded members today of the need to ensure that muirburn is carried out in accordance with the principles of the Muirburn Code.

SCF Director Donald MacDonald from Eynort said, "As crofters we are responsible for management of large areas of hill ground. Used well, muirburn can be a useful management tool but needs to be well-planned and well-controlled. Out of control, badly planned muirburn can cause a lot of damage to a hillside which can take many years to recover. There are a number of legal requirements for muirburn which we must all follow and a lot of guidance on good practice is available in the code. I would urge everyone to get hold of a copy of the code or find it online and make sure they are following it."

Legally, muirburn must not be left unattended or left burning at night and must be kept under control. Prior notification of a landlord and neighbours is also required and approval from SNH is required on SSSIs. Those carrying out muirburn have a responsibility to avoid damaging neighbours property, woodland or scheduled ancient monuments and should avoid nesting areas, areas of blanket bog and exposed peat.

Copies of the Code are available from SEERAD and Scottish Natural Heritage.

END

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Notes to editors

Picture can be found at: http://www.croftingfoundation.co.uk/contact.shtml