


Land Management Plan Brief - West Region Strategic Plan: North Argyll Forests (Brecklet, Glenachulish, Duror, Bealach, Appin, Creran) Date: 20/11/19	 Forestry and Land Scotland Coilltearachd agus Fearann Alba
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Purpose

The purpose of the Strategic plan for the forests of North Argyll is:

- To provide an overview of the large contiguous area of forest and open hill land managed by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS)
- To set the development of the individual land management plans (LMP) in their wider landscape and management context
- To identify issues and themes that are common to several or all of the LMPs, set out the principles for managing these and where appropriate set out priorities for management between the different LMPs
- To prepare strategies for aspects of management that cover several or all the LMPs e.g. deer management and open habitat management

Introduction

Six forests in the northern part of the historic county of Argyllshire – Brecklet, Glenachulish, Duror, Bealach, Appin and Creran – comprise part of Scotland’s National Forests and Land (NFL) owned by Scottish Ministers on behalf of the Scottish people. Creran and Appin lie within Argyll and Bute, while the other forests are in the Highland Council administrative area.

The six forests are linked by a large expanse of open hill ground, most of which is NFL. A strategic approach has been adopted to address the many issues in common and the various factors that impact across the entire land holding. A Strategic Plan will be prepared, which will be underpinned by separate Land Management Plans (LMPs) for the individual forests, which are at different stages of approval and implementation, as well as deer management and open habitat management plans covering the area as a whole. The proposal is to rationalise the individual LMPs over the next few years, synchronising approvals timelines where required and including one LMP covering both Bealach and Duror, and possibly Appin, as the forested areas are contiguous and require integrated management.

Description

The land holding covers 9,760 ha and comprises hills (including two Munros) and five glens, orientated North, South and West facing, draining to coastal waters of significant importance, many with international designations (four of the forests have coastal frontage and five have rivers that drain directly into coastal waters).

Forest	Area (ha)	% of land holding in the area
Brecklet	543	6
Duror	3,113	32
Bealach	1,800	18
Glenachulish	1,121	11
Appin	700	7
Creran	2,483	25

The individual forests are linked by large extents of open land as well as the road (A828) which is the main link between Oban and Fort William and is a key route for travellers to North Lorn from the central belt. The forested areas in Bealach and Duror are contiguous and projected woodland expansion may eventually lead to native woodland habitat linking directly through from Appin to Bealach. Duror and Glenachulish forests also link through a strip of land in the coastal fringe that extends south from Glenachulish almost to the Duror forested area, as well as through the open ground at Lagnaha.

Social Factors:

Approximately 2,000 people reside in, and adjacent to, the NFL forests in this vicinity, in the settlements of Glencoe, Ballachulish, Duror, Appin and Glen Creran. The populations swell in summer with resident and transient tourists and the A828 and the A82, which it joins at Ballachulish, bring many travellers through the area. Visual amenity is particularly important for the forests that lie close to these arteries, i.e. Brecklet, Glenachulish, Appin and part of Duror forest (Lagnaha).

The forests are used, to varying degrees, by local communities and tourists:

Brecklet – has two core paths, linking to the Glencoe Orbital Route and the Oban to Glencoe Sustrans Route; the NTS Visitor Centre and campsite is located on the NE side of the forest and the surrounding woodlands and trails are popular with walkers and cyclists.

Glenachulish – walkers accessing the Munros and Fraochaidh (three hill paths, including one at St John's entrance; canyoning, canoeing (from the lower reaches of the River Laroach), informal mountain biking, forest walks and visitors to the Murder Cairn

Duror – forest walks; the core path from Duror – Ballachulish – Glen Creran; Sustran cycle/ all ability access trail at the edge of the forest

Bealach – cavers, exploring the network of caves, including the deepest pot hole in Scotland; local walkers and mountaineers accessing Fraochaidh

Appin – local residents

Glen Creran – people using the woodland trails; walkers accessing Fraochaidh and the right of way to Glenachulish; people attracted by the adjacent National Nature Reserve (NNR).

Environmental Factors:

The area is covered by a large number of international and UK designations, associated with both large land expanses and with specific sites. The Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA is common to all forests apart from Appin, as this covers virtually all of the open ground that links the forests, most of which is in the NFL estate. Other geographically large-scale designations are the Ben Nevis and Glencoe National Scenic Area (NSA), which includes Brecklet, Glenachulish and part of Creran forests; the Lynn of Lorn NSA, the NE boundary of which is adjacent to Appin forest and the Loch Etive Mountains Wild Land, which includes part of the hill ground above the Creran forest. Within these, various priority habitats and features may potentially be affected by forestry operations.

The number of designations and key linkages between forests are drivers for taking a strategic approach to the management of NFL forests in the area.

Key designations (*see map*):

SPA – Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA (designated for Golden eagles)

SAC – Creran Woods SAC (approx. 444.28 ha); also Loch Creran SAC (River Creran runs through Glen Creran forest and feeds into loch)

NSA –

Ben Nevis and Glencoe National Scenic Area – Glenachulish and Brecklet forests and some open ground, and part of Glen Creran open ground lie within the NSA

Appin forest lies adjacent to the Lynn of Lorn NSA

SSSI –

Kentallen SSSI (9.74ha) and St Johns Church (2.3ha) – geological – close to Glenachulish.

Carnach Wood (84ha) – biological SSSI lies adjacent to Brecklet

Creran Woods (109 ha and 508 ha) cover part of Creran forest

NNR – Glasdrum NNR (168ha) adjacent to part of Creran forest and Glencoe NNR (5625 ha) is adjacent to Brecklet

Wild land – Loch Etive Mountains – includes part of hill ground in Creran

Shellfish waters – Loch Leven, Loch Linnhe (parts), Loch Creran

Deer Management Group – Blackmount – all but Appin are covered by this DMG

The FLS land here supports large areas of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) or semi-natural woodland that has been established for a long time, as well as significant areas of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) which FLS has a policy nationally to restore 85% to native woodland. The most significant area of ASNW is in Creran (approximately 375 ha) most of which is designated as SSSI and SAC. Glenachulish supports the largest area of PAWS (approximately 301 ha) and around 22 ha of semi-natural woodland, some of which is ASNW. Appin supports about 183 ha of PAWS, as well as more than 40 ha of native woodland, most of which is thought to be ancient in origin. There is around 100 ha of PAWS in Duror, as well as more than 34 ha of semi-natural woodland in the recently acquired agricultural ground at Lagnaha, which shows potential for woodland expansion as grazing and browsing pressure is reduced.

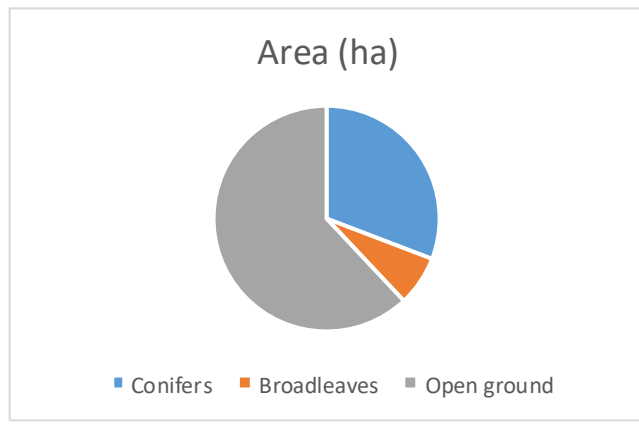
Much of the PAWS in these forests are medium quality, there is evidence of ancient woodland remnants and pockets of veteran trees along gullies, outcrops etc. These sites are often on steep, sometimes unstable, slopes; on fairly nutrient poor or wet ground; they are vulnerable to deer browsing and in some places there is extensive existing, or potential, natural regeneration of non-native species, including invasive species, into felled or open areas. These factors pose challenges in restoring PAWS and for technical, practical and economic reasons, it may not be possible to restore all of these sites immediately. It will therefore be necessary to prioritise the restoration programme, taking into account environmental and ecological issues and making decisions on the best way forward for each site.

Invasive non-native species present challenges across all the forests to varying degrees. Rhododendron has formed extensive canopy in parts of some forests, such as Appin, where it is found on the open hill as well as in wooded areas. Felled coupes in the southern part of the forest are also under threat from Rhododendron spreading from neighbouring ground. A partnership project underway to remove Rhododendron the Creran native woodland SSSI /SAC has had success but ongoing work is required to combat regeneration, which includes plants found on hillsides in the Coires. Western hemlock is spreading from mature trees within and adjacent to some of the forests. In PAWS and sensitive sites, the priority will

be to remove seed sources and clean any young regenerating trees from the stand. Where Western hemlock trees are remote from any ASNW, PAWS or sensitive sites, the priority will be to remove them at the earliest opportunity when the coupe is felled, or to thin them out to favour preferred species in areas managed for Continuous Cover Forestry.

Five of the forests are associated with rivers: the Laroch and the Creran rivers run along the boundaries of Brecklet and Creran forests; the Abhain Greadhain, Duror and Salachan rivers run through the middle of the Glenachulish, Duror and Bealach forests respectively. All the rivers support Salmonid species and drain into coastal waters of national importance. The Creran river drains into Loch Creran, which is designated as a marine SAC for its unique assemblage of bedrock and biogenic reefs. Forestry activities must avoid any potential negative impacts on qualifying features. There is a potential flood risk where the River Laroch runs through Ballachulish and drains into Loch Leven and a lesser risk where the Abhain Greadhain meets Loch Leven close to the Ballachulish Bridge. Forest management planning will take account of catchment sensitivity and the potential impact of forest operations to contribute to the mitigation of risk.

62% of the land holding is open ground (mostly hill ground) in contrast to Scotland's National Forest and Land estate as a whole, which comprises 33% open ground. This land links the forests and includes various open priority habitats, including calcareous grassland, wet flushes, bog pools and blanket bog, so the proposal is to prepare a management plan specifically for the open hill ground. This plan will not be part of the statutory process, so open land will also be included in the LMPs for each forest, focusing on elements where forestry impacts on the open ground, such as forest edge treatments and woodland expansion.



Priority habitats include:

- Western acidic oak woodlands
- Mixed woodland on base – rich soils associated with rocky slopes
- Upland birch woodland
- Montane scrub
- Montane heath
- Calcareous grassland
- Blanket bog
- Basic flushes and bog pools

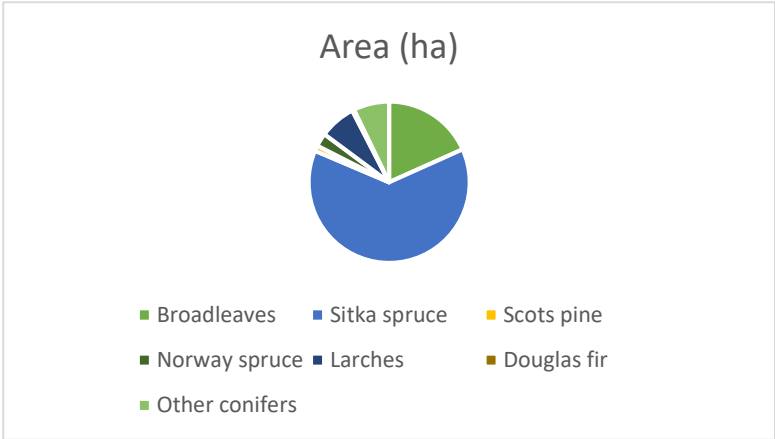
Priority species include:

- Golden eagle
- Black grouse

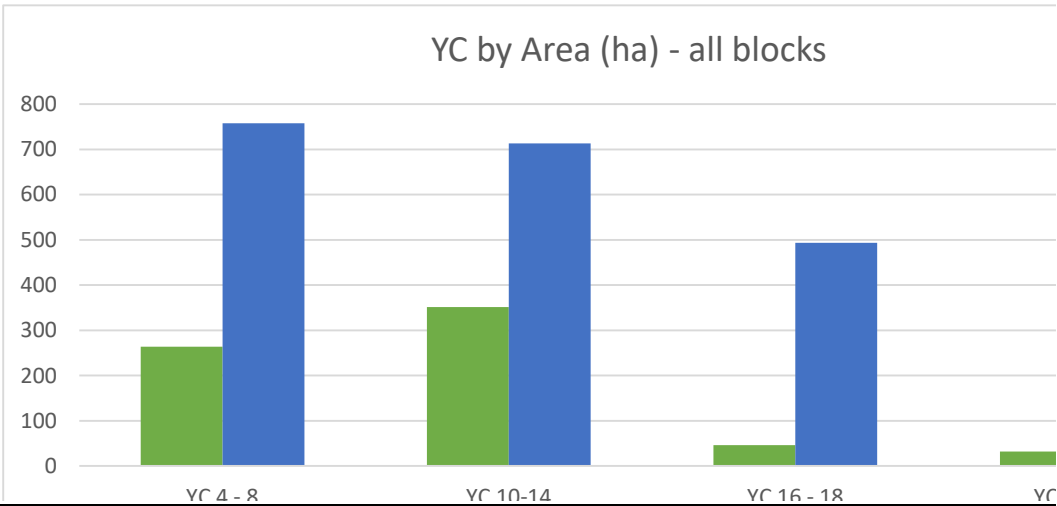
Red squirrel
 Juniper
 Pearl bordered fritillary
 Chequered skipper
 Sea eagle (White tailed eagle)
 Otter

Economic Factors:

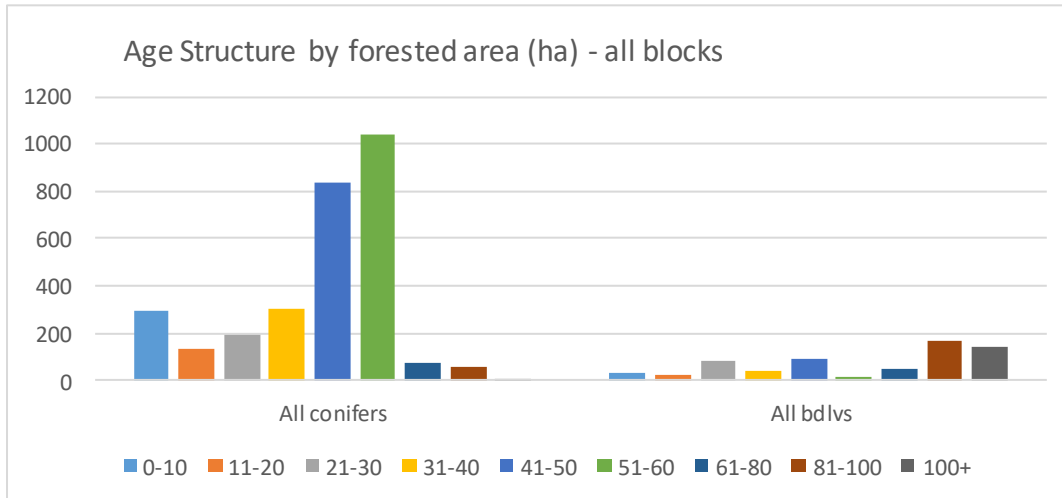
Species:
 Of the forested ground, 81% is under conifers, predominantly Sitka Spruce and 19% broadleaves



Yield Class:
 Average Yield Classes (all conifers) are 13 -14 but there is significant variation across the area and within forests. Around 21% of the conifer area is YC 20 or above, while 25% is YC 8 or below.

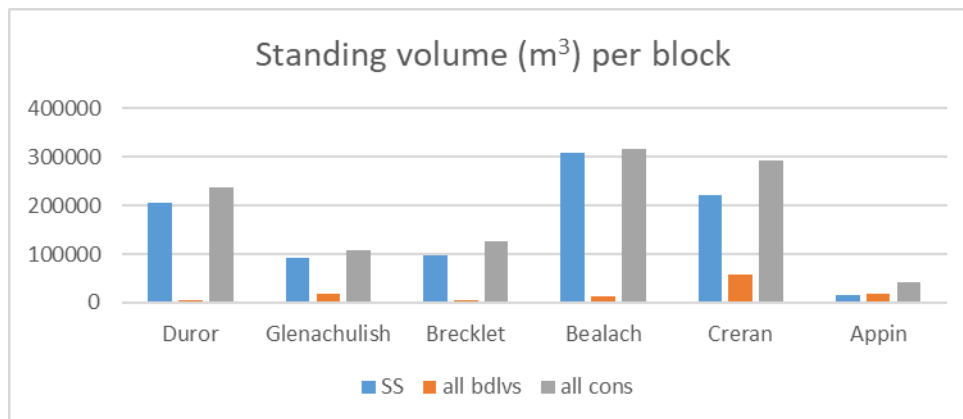


Age structure:
 The 40 – 60 year age classes predominate, so addressing diversity in terms of age structure as well as species, will be a priority, although this will be achieved over a long time period.



Standing volume:

Current standing volume across all forests is 1.28M m³, dominated by conifers (1.56M m³) and by the larger forests.

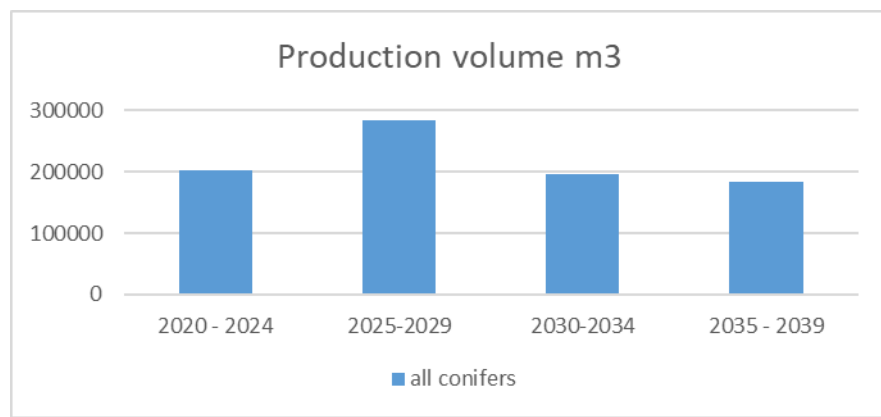


The current potential volume production per hectare indicates that the smaller forests are potentially very productive, possibly due to better growing conditions and because conifer production is focused on the better ground in these forests. Current standing volume per ha for each forest:

	All conifers m ³ /ha	SS m ³ /ha
Duror	353	355
Glenachulish	334	363
Brecklet	522	557
Bealach	472	548
Creran	475	539
Appin	489	517

Production volume:

Estimated volume production (m³ /year overbark standing) – based on current Land Management Plans – shows production peaking in 2025-2029, indicating a predominance of over-mature conifer crops across these forests:



There is approximately 255 ha of larch across the forests (calculated by component) but a larger area would need to be felled to access the larch. Two of the forests (Glenachulish and Appin) have been subject to Statutory Plant Health Notices (SPHN) for *Phytophthora ramorum* on *Rhododendron*, which required associated larch in the vicinity to also be removed. Following the FLS Larch Strategy, plans will be prepared for the management of larch across the forests, to remove larch early in the felling programme where this is viable economically and practically; by planning and constructing access to larch trees so that they can be felled quickly if necessary, with a focus on the areas most at risk and by preparing detailed work plans for coupes that are most complex or sensitive and would be costly and difficult to fell quickly in the event of infection.

Roads:

Between 13 km and 16 km of roads construction is potentially required to harvest the current standing timber, depending on final routes and road lines, 75% of which are in Bealach, with 16% in Brecklet, 7% in Creran and 3 % in Duror. Opportunities to minimise the length of new roads required, through use of forwarder tracks and appropriate equipment, will be reviewed.

The rugged terrain creates significant challenges in all the forests – across virtually the whole forest in some cases and specific parts of the forest in others. Steep slopes dominate in Glenachulish and create difficult working conditions for road construction and maintenance, harvesting and restocking. The Appin landform is a series of ledges and ridges that create access issues and obstacles for safe working. All the forests currently require an element of steep ground working and they are bisected by large numbers of watercourses and gullies, which are difficult and costly to cross with machinery. Many of the watercourses have features such as veteran broadleaved trees or rare bryophytes that must be protected during operations. Large areas of bog or wet ground involve environmental, economic, technical or safety implications.

Deer pressure and fencing:

Large numbers of deer moving between the forests and open ground create high levels of grazing and browsing pressure on young planted and naturally regenerating trees, also impacting some priority open ground habitats. A strategic deer fence runs from Brecklet in the North, down to the

South- Eastern boundary of Glen Creran. While this fence helps to facilitate deer management across a wide range, culling is also required and recent breaches in the fence at Creran have led to increased deer incursion onto FLS land. Intensive deer control will be required, to achieve sustainable population levels that allow successful tree restocking but this needs to be complemented by carefully located and designed deer fencing, outwith the forested areas. Requirements for fencing will be reviewed, particularly at Creran, to protect native woodland development and expansion as well as commercial restocking; also at Appin, where potential woodland creation will need additional protection from browsing animals.

Achieving national priorities locally

The management of Scotland's National Forests and Land is guided by Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019 – 2029 and the organisation's Corporate Plan and is informed by strategies on a range of topics, including land use, economy, climate change, biodiversity and the historic environment.

Scotland's Forestry Strategy sets out a 50 year vision:

"In 2070, Scotland will have more forests and woodland, sustainably managed and better integrated with other land uses. These will provide a more resilient adaptable resource with greater natural capital value that supports a strong economy, a thriving environment and health and flourishing communities."

To support the 50 year vision, the Scottish Government has identified three objectives to deliver over the next 10 years:

- Increase the contribution of forests and woodland to Scotland's sustainable and inclusive economic growth
- Improve the resilience of Scotland's forests and woodland and increase their contribution to a healthy and high quality environment
- Increase the use of Scotland's forest and woodland resources to enable more people to improve their health, wellbeing and life chances

This strategic plan will help deliver on these objectives, in line with FLS corporate outcomes, to ensure clear linkages through the planning framework and implementation of national and regional priorities.

The brief is also guided by the National Spatial Overview, which has identified the broad focus of effort and investment challenges for this area.

Key contributions that Brecklet, Glenachulish, Duror, Bealach, Appin and Creran forests make to our Priorities, Aims and Objectives are:

- Ecosystem services and additional public benefits – scenic quality and visitor attractions contribute to tourism income; sustainable timber production
- Other national commitments – PAWS restoration; rhododendron control; a number of partnership projects contribute to land management, including habitat management for chequered skipper butterfly; the management of red squirrel habitat and dealing with the potential impact of *P ramorum* on larch
- Contribution to financial sustainability – range of softwood; hydro schemes

The focus of effort and investment challenges for this area include:

- Addressing difficult coupes, such as steep and unstable slopes, challenging topography and ground conditions, gullies, wet ground, areas adjacent to/surrounded by priority habitat etc. to achieve financially and logistically efficient woodland management that respects landscape, environmental and recreational sensitivities and the availability of a suitable skilled contractor base
- Birch/native woodland management to develop markets and maximise productive capacity from broadleaved woodlands
- Native woodland restoration
- Woodland expansion opportunities, extending woodland cover to the natural tree line by natural colonisation and expanding commercially productive woodland, where feasible
- Working with neighbours and other partners to control deer grazing and browsing pressure, to improve open habitats and protect restocking (planting and natural regeneration)
- Management of riparian areas to protect watercourses; develop open canopied riparian broadleaved woodland and managing operations in a way that minimises negative impacts in catchments that are vulnerable to acidification or flooding
- Efficient future timber production
- Management of open habitat
- Control of invasive non-native species

Strategic Plan Priorities and Objectives

The forests are linked by a large expanse of open hill that creates 9,760 ha of contiguous land under FLS management. Taking a strategic approach will co-ordinate management across the forests and enable effective use of resources to achieve agreed objectives. The Strategic Plan will address key themes and issues, or outline aspects of management, which are common to, or cover, several or all of these linked forests.

Deer management needs to be planned across the whole area, to minimise grazing / browsing pressure to levels that enable successful establishment of trees through natural regeneration and planting. Deer cover a huge range and deer control in one forest block may have repercussions for deer activity in other blocks, so it is important to take an overview approach that factors in deer movement and behaviour across all blocks, as well as working closely with neighbours and the Deer Management Group. Taking this approach also factors cognisance of features that are particularly vulnerable to deer pressure, such as native broadleaved woodland restoration or some priority open habitats.

A Deer Management Plan will be prepared at a strategic level, to provide a bridge between Land Management Plans and the wider plan agreed by the Deer Management Group. Consideration will be given to extending the strategic deer fence along the southern boundary at Glen Creran as well as fencing large- scale areas for woodland expansion at Creran and Appin.

Expansion of the total forested area will be primarily achieved through natural regeneration of native broadleaved species along gullies and on upper slopes, allowing expansion closer to the natural tree line. Some planting may be required where there are no suitable seed sources. Native species of local provenance will be used in these situations. Potential areas identified for some significant native

woodland expansion include gullies and upper slopes in Glen Creran, land North of Appin forest and some sites at Lagnaha, between Duror and Glenachulish, with some small areas of expansion in other forests.

The large expanse of open ground supports a range of priority habitats under different levels of sensitivity, vulnerability or threat. An overview approach is required to select management options for key sites, to protect important open habitats and to identify areas where woodland expansion would be appropriate and develop suitable approaches for promoting tree colonisation in these areas. A separate open habitat management plan will be prepared, to underpin the Strategic Plan.

Further opportunities exist to plan and manage recreational provision to accommodate an anticipated increase in visitor numbers to the forests and land in this area, integrating visitor use with timber production and other benefits but avoiding sensitive or vulnerable habitats.

While plans for restoration of PAWS sites need to be prepared for each forest as part of the Land Management Plan process, a strategic approach can be taken insofar as to deploy available resources to maximum effect across the forests, prioritising sites of highest ecological quality or those under particular threat first, then identifying appropriate timeframes for medium to low quality sites that are subject to identified challenges.

Although it will be addressed primarily across the scale of Lochaber, there is the opportunity to take a wider perspective on volume production and operational activity across the group of forests, to optimise sustainable timber production and improve resilience through felling, restocking and other management. It may be possible to focus production activity on the most appropriate sites while pulling back from operationally suboptimal and difficult areas to maintain, or even increase, overall production levels. Cost/benefit can increase while improving safety and enhancing environmental features. Resilience can be improved through selecting a diversity of site- suitable species for a changing climate and by having plans in place to address potential tree pests and diseases.

Critical Success Factors

Adequate deer control will be a critical success factor for the management of commercial forestry; for woodland expansion and for maintaining priority habitats in good ecological condition. This will be done through a combination of deer/ stock fencing (strategic fences and limited use of fenced exclosures around forested areas where necessary) and deer culling. A reduction in deer pressure can only be achieved through close working with neighbours and partners, operating through the Deer Management Group.

Access is also a critical factor, which will define Land Management Plan delivery over the next 10 years. Harvesting, restocking, native woodland management, deer control and other essential operations all depend on the construction of roads and tracks across difficult terrain. There will be a challenge to programme construction phases to optimise costs /benefits, taking into account requirements for sustainable production volumes; PAWS restoration; deer control; removal of invasive species; disease control and visitor access.

Appendix

LMP contributions to delivery of FLS aims and objectives

Corporate plan outcomes and priorities	Key Corporate Actions	LMP priorities
<p>Outcome:</p> <p>“FLS supports sustainable rural economy by managing the national forests and land in a way that encourages business growth, development opportunities, jobs and investments.”</p> <p>Priority:</p> <p>Provide sustainable economic benefits from the national forests and land</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure a sustainable balance between the resilience and productivity of the national forests and land ➤ Provide a sustainable supply of timber ➤ Implement the national restocking strategy ➤ Support Scottish tourism and the visitor economy through provision of visitor attractions ➤ Work to release value from rural development opportunities for reinvestment in the national forests and land ➤ Support commercial activity on the national forest estate which help to sustain rural communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce grazing/browsing pressure by deer through maintenance of strategic deer fence and deer control as part of DMG • Manage tree health – including removal of larch through forests as per the larch strategy • Consider harvesting programmes and volume production across all sites to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ balance sustainable volume production with economics, dealing with even age structure ○ consider options for stands where MAI exceeded ○ identify opportunities to diversify forest species and structure while optimising production across complex geology and variety of soil types ○ optimise harvesting volumes and timing appropriate for haulage along narrow public road from forest through Glen Creran (to head of loch) and along minor roads through Duror village, from Duror and northern part of Bealach ○ synchronise road construction with production across all forests ○ take into account workability of sites – steep slopes (Glenachulish), topography, landform and profile (rock and bog) – decision on continued production on steep sites • Consider steep slopes and other difficult sites- restock or pull back – taking into account environmental, economics and safety issues

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at opportunities to maximise production on better ground, zoning productive conifers (Sitka); productive conifers (alternative species); productive broadleaves; native broadleaves – considering cost / benefit of focusing production to key areas (economics and volume) but maximising adaptability and flexibility • Review balance of conifers vs broadleaves • Investigate options to limit new road construction by redesigning coupes and use of forwarder tracks. • Consider opportunities for managing productive crops, particularly productive broadleaves, on some PAWS • Consider opportunities for new acquisitions • Investigate opportunities to enhance visitor experience and accommodate increasing visitor numbers
<p>Outcome:</p> <p>“Scotland’s national forests and land are looked after; Biodiversity is protected and enhanced More environmental services are provided to people”</p> <p>Priority:</p> <p>Ensure forests and woodland are sustainably managed – by woodland expansion, increasing adaptability and resilience, and enhancing environmental benefits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Manage the forests and land to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity ➤ Collaborate with partners on integrated landscape-scale approaches to habitat management and restoration ➤ Protect and enhance priority species ➤ Contribute to renewable energy targets ➤ Supporting forest research ➤ Manage the historic environment assets ➤ Work with neighbouring landowners to control non-native invasive species, e.g. Rhododendron ➤ Improve the resilience of forests and land to impacts of climate change and tree health threats e.g. Phytophthora ramorum ➤ Contribute to Scotland’s national woodland creation targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan fell / restock and roads construction around key features/habitats, designations and priority species, to minimise impact of designations on forestry operations and ongoing commitment to maintaining qualifying features in acceptable condition • Features to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Priority species ○ Designated sites ○ Priority habitats, including deep peat and other open priority habitats ○ Archaeological / historical features ○ Recreation interest • Identify key riparian areas where riparian woodland will be expanded and strengthened • Identify PAWS areas to prioritise for restoration and others where restoration may take longer and where continuing to grow non- native conifers would be justified in the short term • Review flood risks and plan operations to minimise forestry impact on key risks - where there is steep ground, relatively small catchments, fast flowing watercourses with potential for flooding - flood risk (Brecklet); peak flow (Glenachulish, Duror,

<p>provided by forests and woodland</p>		<p>Bealach, Creran)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review acidification risks (parts of Bealach and Duror catchments) and impact on fell/restock programmes • Develop plans for woodland expansion or contraction, including expansion of native woodland into open ground – consider impact on open ground and priority species; review agricultural land vs new planting • Control invasives, including Rhododendron, on forest estate and neighbouring ground, working in partnership with neighbours • When constructing / improving roads and trails, take into account issue of increasing access by bikes etc. to more remote locations and potential impact on priority habitats or wild land • Improve / maximise visual amenity at key points, particularly Glenachulish, Brecklet, Appin and Lagnaha at Duror • Support existing and planned renewable energy projects (e.g. Allt-Eilidh Hydro at Creran; community hydro project at Glenachulish) • Develop plans to remove larch, through prioritising in felling programme where feasible and by creating access for early removal if this is required • Ensure that deer management is sufficient to protect key habitats, as well as protecting commercial crops
<p>Outcome:</p> <p>“Everyone can visit and enjoy Scotland’s national forest and land to connect with nature, have fun, benefit their health and wellbeing and have the opportunity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain walking and biking trails, for everyone to enjoy and gain health and other benefits ➤ Engage communities in decisions on management of forest and land ➤ Help facilitate local communities make use of the forest to benefit their communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and where necessary/possible, improve access to long distance routes, including routes to access Munros; trail through Creran to Glenachulish; Sustrans route • Investigate options to improve tourism/ visitor access and amenity linked to A828 • Review impacts and opportunities of larger events such as 6 day trial, which potentially affect several forests as well as visitors moving along the A828 corridor • Identify opportunities to facilitate links to tourism provision locally – chalets, campsites, canyoning, canoeing, cycling,

<p>to engage in our community decision making</p> <p>Priority:</p> <p>Engage more people and communities in the use and management of forests and woodlands.</p>		<p>walking, shooting, slow tourism etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review opportunities to expand / improve and promote local trails and easy access routes • Establish / consolidate opportunities for local residents and stakeholders to feedback and engage with forest planning
<p>Outcome:</p> <p>“FLS is a supportive, safe and inclusive organisation....”</p> <p>Priority:</p> <p>Sustain a safe working environment for people working in, and using our forests and promote healthier lifestyles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure health and safety of forestry workers and users underpin all forest planning and operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identify current steep ground working requirements and review opportunities to minimise steep ground working and remove sites where there are safety concerns ➤ Identify preferred routes for power lines /cables – e.g. for renewables projects and pre - plan felling programmes to incorporate where possible ➤ Identify options for improving accessibility across the forests and where resources would be best used
<p>Outcome:</p> <p>“FLS is recognised as a high performing, efficient and effective, financially sustainable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Meet statutory duties as an executive agency ➤ Maintain UKWAS certification ➤ Align with Scottish Government targets on carbon emissions, waste, water and chemical use ➤ Working collaboratively, openly and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All forestry operations will conform to UK Forest Standards and other industry best practice guidance • The LMP will ensure the forest is designed to and able to maintain the UK Woodland Assurance Standard • Participate in partnership projects where possible • Use HMSS system and other tools to minimise need for chemical use

<p>organisation that continues to transform and adapt.”</p> <p>Priority:</p> <p>Deliver best value in the effective and efficient delivery of public service</p>	<p>responsibly with partners and others to improve the management of forest estate</p> <p>➤ Enable and deliver continuous improvement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimise production on better sites where possible, to minimise need for fertiliser use • Communicate with neighbours and stakeholders and collaborate on management issues where relevant / possible
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Stakeholders & consultation:

Scottish Forestry Conservancies: Perth and Argyll / Highland
 SNH: South Highland / Argyll and Outer Hebrides Area Offices
 SEPA
 Highland Council
 Argyll and Bute Council
 Confor
 Mountaineering Scotland
 Ramblers Association
 Scottish Rights of way Society
 VisitScotland
 Argyll and the Isles Coast Countryside Trust
 Lochaber DSFB
 Argyll DSFB
 Argyll Fisheries Trust
 Appin Community Council
 Duror Community Council
 Ballachulish Community Council
 Glencoe and Glen Etive Community Council
 Neighbouring landowners