**Beauly Woodlands Land Management Plan Summary**

Beauly Woodlands LMP was approved on the 20th November 2017 and runs for 10 years

**What’s important in Beauly Woodlands?**

• Extensive windblow in Boblainy and Battan, which has dictated management of the forest in the central area of the woodland, including establishment of a new crop.

• Haulage routes into Boblainy and Battan are established, but some routes are more accepted by the local population than others. A re-visit and ongoing discussion with the council regarding the zoning of timber haulage will be required.

• Timber haulage in Auchmore and Clash Wood is restricted to one route; the ownership of this route or elements of thereof needs to be clear in order to guarantee hauling.

• The newly improved access into Rheindown needs to be confirmed

• Loch Battan is a designated SSSI because it became recognized as an historical breeding location for Slavonian Grebe;

• The forest straddles two river catchments for the river Conon and Beauly which are both of high quality according to SEPA records.

• There is good public access across the whole planning area, all the majority of the forest blocks are popular locations for informal recreation. As a result, publish consultation needs to target a broad population base.

**Vision**

To retain timber productivity in Beauly Woodlands, whilst restoring and maintaining a sustainable woodland ecosystem that contains a mixture of native and non-native trees.

 **Beauly Woodlands Land Management Plan objectives:**

• Healthy: Reduce risk to people and the environment through sustainable forest management, whilst building resilience for a changing climate.

• Productive: Optimise the productive potential of the existing forest and develop native timber production over the long term.

• Treasured: Provide opportunities for sustainable rural development through wood fuel production.

• Access: Help visitors to experience and enjoy the outdoor environment, encourage use of the estate for health benefits and outdoor learning.

• Cared for: Restoration and maintenance of ancient woodland, open habitat and natural reserves within Beauly Woodlands.

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| **Total Plan Area** | 1845 ha |

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| **Species Breakdown** | **2016 (current)** | **2026 (end of plan period)** |
| ConifersBroadleavesOpen | 63.97% 7.25% 28.79%  | 62.82%16.07%21.11% |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Planned Operations** | **2016 – 2026 plan period** |
| FellingThinningRestockingNatural regenerationNew plantingRoad constructionRoad upgrades | 177 ha305 ha442 ha0 ha0 ha900 m2000 m |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Significant Environment/Conservation Features** |  |
| Designated sitesMinimum InterventionNatural Reserve | SSSI 27 ha10% of area3% of area |

**Critical Success Factors:**

* Implementation of the LMP felling & restocking proposals, designed in liaison with the FCS landscape architect.
* Manage the deer population at a level allowing successful establishment of restock crops.
* Bring Battan SSSI into a favourable condition and continue the restoration of PAWS.
* Expand the planted area of alternative conifer species in the next rotation.
* Improve the overall age structure of the forest to a more balanced distribution.
* Deliver the Visitor Experience and maintain the level of access to the forest blocks for the public.

**Consultation and Further Information:**

The communities of Beauly and Muir of Ord are the main settlements in this area, represented by Kiltarlity and Muir of Ord Community Councils.

IRS Forest District held two drop in sessions in April 2017 and offered neighbours and the Community Councils and Trusts an opportunity to participate in the consultation process.

For further information on the Plan, please contact Inverness, Ross and Skye Forest District on 0300 0676100 or invernessrossskye@forestry.gsi.gov.uk