

## 1.0 Summary

### 1.1 Introduction

The Crianlarich Land Management Plan area consists of two forest blocks to the south and east of the village. The northern and western boundaries are defined by the A82 and A85 trunk roads, while the south and east is open land rising to several peaks over 3000 feet elevation. The total area is 1379ha of which 653ha (47%) is woodland. The woodlands are dominated by commercial Sitka spruce plantation and all other species amount to only 25% of the area of that species. A process of restructuring aimed at increasing both age and species diversity has been ongoing for the past 10 to 15 years and a key objective of the new plan is to continue this process: in particular to restore ancient woodland sites that have been planted with non-native conifer.

Timber production using non-native species will remain an important part of management in Crianlarich but there are a number of other key issues that will be addressed. These include taking into account the visibility and landscape setting of the woodlands, protection and possible expansion of key habitats and designated sites and protection of heritage features.

### 1.2 Objectives

- Continue the process of restructuring aiming to create a diverse, resilient forest delivering a range of ecosystem services.
- Establish a definitive ancient woodland restoration area, using this as a framework for restocking proposals.
- Seek to expand native woodlands and integrate these into wider habitat networks.
- Outside the habitat networks maximise production using Sitka spruce as the predominant species in a clearfell management system.
- Establish a coupe structure that takes account of windblow risk on steep slopes, clearfelling before this becomes unacceptable.
- Use climate, site and operational constraints to inform species choice, avoiding productive forestry on sites that might give poor economic returns or are potentially unstable.
- Manage ground within black grouse lek zones to favour that species.
- Manage Benmore SSSI as per updated management plan and keep invasion by SS to within acceptable tolerances.
- Maintain perimeter deer fence and establish a system of deer control appropriate to the species to be established.
- Seek to soften landscape impacts where these are obtrusive.

## 1.3 Key proposals

<b>Total Plan Area</b>	1379 (ha)
<b>Planned operations</b>	
Felling	310.8ha.; 152350m <sup>3</sup>
Thinning	140.0ha; 7000m <sup>3</sup>
Restock	175.0ha of conifer; 135.7ha of broadleaf.
New planting	0ha
Roads and tracks	2875m road; 26500m track; 75 ramps; 14975m road upgrade
Public access	

## 1.4 Species diversity

<b>Species group</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2040</b>
<b>Sitka spruce</b>	43.9%	37.1%	34.8%
<b>Other conifers</b>	5.2%	3.3%	2.9%
<b>Scots pine</b>	1.0%	2.1%	2.4%
<b>Native broadleaves</b>	9.0%	14.7%	16.4%
<b>Open space</b>	40.9%	42.8%	43.5%

## 1.5 Major issues

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Description/mitigation</b>
Issue 1	Mature trees on steep slopes in eastern part of Benmore block with no access. Build road, fell early in plan period to minimise wind risk.
Issue 2	Extensive areas of plantation on ancient woodland sites. Establish extent of ancient woodland and restore.
Issue 3	
Issue 4	

## 1.6 Critical success factors

The following are critical to success of the plan:

- Timely construction of new, or upgrading of existing, roads, and roads/tracks to access approved felling coupes.
- Adequate deer control measures for protection of broadleaved species and soft conifers.

## 1.7 Standards and guidelines

This plan takes account of Scottish Government and Forestry and Land Scotland policy and strategy. It has been developed in accord with the latest UKFS Guidelines and is audited under the UK Woodland Assurance Standard. Guidance in Planting in Caledonian pinewoods: reducing risks from Dothistroma Needle Blight (2017) will be followed when establishing native woodland in the vicinity of Glen Falloch SSSI. Guidance on Seed Sources for Planting Native Trees and Shrubs in Scotland will be followed

when restoring Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites to native woodland. Forestry and Land Scotland Woodlands are certified as being sustainable by both FSC and PEFC.

## 1.8 Consultation

During the development of this plan we have consulted with stakeholders known to have an interest in this plan area. A list of stakeholders and their response can be found in Appendix I.

## 1.9 Contacts and further information

For further information on this or any other land management plan please contact:

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