



East Loch Awe Land Management Plan Summary

East Loch Awe LMP was approved on 27-6-12017 and runs for 10 years.

Vision

The Land Management Plan (LMP) for East Loch Awe covers 9697Ha, with the following forest areas: Ardchonnell (524Ha), Brenchoillie (4335Ha) & Eredine (4838Ha). The LMP area stretches from Loch Awe in the west to the slopes above Loch Fyne in the east. While Sitka Spruce is the dominant productive species due to site constraints, the area has some diversity in terms of tree species, age structure & silvicultural systems. The long history of forest management across the LMP area has facilitated the creation of extensive restructured areas and areas of Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) (also referred to as Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS)). The forest has a good road network which has enabled restructuring to be carried out across most of the mature forest. There are areas of slower growing crop that area currently unroaded, and these areas will perform a role as a strategic timber reserve in order to stabilise future supply/demand projections. A Strategic Timber Transport Scheme haul route passes through the forest. The forest area comprises a mix of ages & species with well-established second rotation crops & continuous cover forestry adding to diversity. Mixed conifers and broadleaves are widespread on the lower slopes with Sitka Spruce being the dominant species on the upper slopes. There is intimate matrix of well linked open ground across the forest that contributes to biodiversity and landscape. The LMP area contributes significantly to meeting the District's timber production targets. The forest is well roaded with limited slope constraints. There are limited interactions with adjacent agricultural enterprises, although march stock fencing and sheep trespass are a consideration. The An Suidhe windfarm is located within the forest above the treeline and contributes to renewable energy generation. A number of hydro schemes are operational or under construction in and around the forest as map M12 – Renewable Energy details. The open ground matrix, Lochans, ancient woodland fragments and mature mixed conifers managed under low impact silvicultural systems (LISS) all contribute to the ecological diversity of the site which supports a wide range of significant species from golden plover to red squirrel. Eredine & Brenchoillie are designated as Red Squirrel strongholds. Peat bog restoration has been undertaken across areas of Brenchoillie, with further restoration planned for targeted areas of checked crops on deep peat that contribute to habitat networks.

The primary objectives for the plan area are:

- Active management of Continuous Cover areas particularly where stand stability is becoming a critical issue. This may involve small clearfells and/or clearfells with seed trees in order to salvage timber from unstable stands and achieve regeneration. Regeneration of many species on the lower slopes is generally good, with deer impacts being focussed on the upper slopes & Brenchoillie.
- Retain the productive capacity of the forest while balancing other factors.
- Improve the forest landscape and its impact on key tourist routes along Loch Fyne, Loch Awe and along key forest roads.



- Continue current levels of deer control which have enabled regeneration to occur in many areas. Consider increasing deer control and/or strategic fencing to facilitate the regeneration of softer conifers under Continuous Cover and Birch/Rowan on the upper margins. Work with Argyll Estates on a joint management approach compatible with objectives.
- Clear accessible windblow.
- Retain current species diversity on the lower slopes and expand this on the upper margins where appropriate using predominantly Birch woodland with a wider range of broadleaved species in riparian linkages.
- Maintain external stock fences in partnership with neighbours and control sheep trespass.
- Continue to work with partners to enhance the riparian environments for water quality and fish ecology.
- Monitor invasive species along Loch Awe, in particular Rhododendron & Japanese Knotweed and control as required.
- Utilise Western Hemlock in Continuous Cover areas, but monitor and control this element in broadleaved areas as resources allow.
- Monitor current peat restoration work and identify future opportunities during post felling operational planning. Future opportunities would be identified based on the FC Practice Guide “Deciding future management options for afforested deep peatland” & supplementary guidance.
- Protect public & private water supplies within the forest.
- Monitor disease impacts in particular Dothistroma Needle Blight (DNB) in the Ardchnonnel area.



Total Plan Area	9697 hectares (ha)
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Summary of Land Management Plan Proposals

	Current 2017		Projected 2036	
SPECIES	AREA (ha)	%	AREA (ha)	%
Primary species: Sitka spruce	5430.32	56	4460.62	46
Secondary species: Other conifer	581.82	6	1066.6	11
Native Broadleaves	193.94	2	581.82	6
Open space	1648.49	17	1648.4	17
Other land	1842.43	19	1939.4	20
TOTALS	9697	100	9697	100

Planned Operations	2017– 2026 plan period
Felling Restocking Thinning	629ha 974ha 214ha
Significant Environment / Conservation Features	
Designated sites (see map) Minimum Intervention (see map) PAWs restoration	Various areas 317.04ha Continuation of works



Forestry and
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Coilltearachd agus
Fearann Alba

Critical Success Factors:

- 629ha Felling
- 974ha Restocking
- 214ha Thinning
- Continuation of work undertaken under the previous plan & focused on riparian areas with Eredine containing the most significant areas.
- Enhance riparian linkages, focusing on Douglas Water & Abhainn a' Bhealaich
- Clear accessible windblow.

Consultation and Further Information:

Council area: Argyll & Bute council

Community council: Furnace Community Council, Glen Orchy & Innishail Community Council, Inveraray Community Council, South Loch Awe Community Council, West Loch Fyne Community Council

Consultation: Public consultation June 2015

For further information on the Plan, please contact:

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Location Map

