

Response ID ANON-VEPG-2G1N-A

Submitted to Future Grant Support for Forestry
Submitted on 2023-05-16 08:58:59

Ministerial Foreword - Forestry in Scotland is a sector that we can be justly proud of.

1 - Introduction and Rationale for Providing Grant Support for Forestry

1. Do you agree that grant support for forestry should continue to be improved and developed as a discrete scheme within the overall package of land support?

Yes

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Support for integrated agro-forestry.

~~My experience having planted 30,000 trees on my Croft grazings in 6 phases and managing 160 acres of ancient woodland owned by a local crofters trust.~~

2. Are there any changes that would allow for better complementarity between the forestry and agriculture funding options?

Yes

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

strongly support integrated woodland/agriculture schemes. Farms have to provide an IACS form annually to claim subsidy. Again ,complex, I use the SAC.

2 - Forests Delivering for Scotland's Climate Change Plan

3. How can the support package for forestry evolve to help tackle the climate emergency, to achieve net zero, and to ensure that our woodlands and forests are resilient to the future climate?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

4. Private investment through natural capital and carbon schemes can make a valuable contribution to climate change. Do you agree that the grant support mechanism should have more flexibility to maximise the opportunities to blend private and public finance to support woodland creation,

Not sure

Please explain you answer in the text box.:

Carbon credits - only available to owners ie NOT available by tenant crofters and tenant farmers or leased woodlands unless a deal is done with the owner!

5. How could the current funding package be improved to stimulate woodland expansion and better management across a wide range of woodland types, including native and productive woodlands?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

6. Do you agree that it should be a requirement of grant support that woodlands are managed to ensure that they become more resilient to the impacts of climate change and pests and disease?

Not Answered

How can the grant scheme support this?:

3 - Integrating Woodlands on Farms and Crofts

7. Which of the following measures would help reduce the barriers for crofters and farmers wanting to include woodland as part of their farming business? Please select all that apply.

Are there others not listed above?:

strongly support integrated woodland/agriculture schemes. Farms have to provide an IACS form annually to claim subsidy. Again ,complex, I use the SAC.

8. Establishing small woodlands can have higher costs. What specific mechanisms would better support small scale woodlands and woodland ownership?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Woodland creation:

The current FGS system is very complex and protracted and it requires an agent.

Capital costs for fencing should be 100% reimbursed. Current rates of grant barely cover the materials, let alone erection. Probably 50% of the total. The annual grant is essential for regular "besting up".

1600 native trees per hectare is excessive to create a woodland within a deer fence.

Variations required if a change in fence line on a hillside, changes to gates, change of trees etc.

Applicants should be encouraged to reuse existing stock fences within the grant scheme.

When replacing fences, a condition of grant aid should be the removal of old fence materials.

Why not just a simple plan on a map, a lower stocking density, 100% reimbursement of fencing and sapling costs (correct Provenance) and a realistic rate for inverted mounding, planting fertiliser etc. keep it simple as in the small woodland option within the old LMO.

Strongly support a woodland development officer, I used the WT .

Costs as commented above.

4 - Forests Delivering for People and Communities

9. How can forestry grants better support an increase in easily accessible, sustainably managed woodlands in urban and peri-urban areas?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Access for paths grant aid should include rural paths. Why the fixation with Urban by SF and FLS

10. How can grant support for forestry better enable rural communities to realise greater benefits from woodland to support community wealth building?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

11. How can the forest regulatory and grant processes evolve to provide greater opportunities for communities to be involved in the development of forestry proposals?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

12. How can the forestry regulatory and grant processes evolve to ensure that there is greater transparency about proposals and the decisions that have been made on them?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

13. Forestry grants have been used to stimulate rural forestry businesses by providing support with capital costs. Do you agree that this has been an effective measure to stimulate rural business?

Not Answered

a. How could this approach be used to support further forestry businesses?:

b. How could this approach be used to support further skills development?:

14. How could the FGS processes and rules be developed to encourage more companies and organisations to provide training positions within the forestry sector?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

5 - Forests Delivering for Biodiversity and the Environment

15. The primary purpose of FGS is to encourage forestry expansion and sustainable forest management, of which a key benefit is the realisation of environmental benefits. How can future grant support better help to address biodiversity loss in Scotland including the regeneration and expansion of native woodlands?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

There is much talk of safeguarding the rain forest, yet the WTS agent and I have now spent 3 years trying to access grant funding from FS to fence, regenerate and reconnect patches of Ancient oak and birch woodlands amounting to 160 acres.

16. Herbivore browsing and damage can have a significant impact on biodiversity loss and restrict regeneration. How could forestry grant support mechanisms evolve to ensure effective management of deer populations at:

Landscape scale?:

DMGs need to be held publicly to account for their actions and culls. Still dominated by the "Lairds".

Small scale mixed land use?:

If you wish to make any other relevant comments, please do so in the text box below.

Please add your comments here.:

My experience having planted 30,000 trees on my Croft grazings in 6 phases and managing 160 acres of ancient woodland owned by a local crofters trust.

the bureaucracy is how the regulations were managed in Scotland not by the EU. We drown in process.

About you

What is your name?

Name:

[Redact]

What is your email address?

Email:

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Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Individual

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Scottish Forestry would like your permission to publish your response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

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We may share your response internally with other Scottish Forestry policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Forestry to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

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