

Submitted to Future Grant Support for Forestry
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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?

No

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

As the first new croft in moray area and a woodland Croft at that we have found it difficult to find and then access any level of funding . I believe the discrete nature of any scheme shrouds it in mystery for all except those with deep enough pockets to pay a professional to navigate the grant process.

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.:

One clear and consistent place to go and apply or a hub/search engine where one can enter their details , plans and aspirations and gain feedback directly to what is available.

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.:

I believe natural regeneration and "no go zones" are the answer as Scotland's landscape was almost entirely ancient woodland which developed naturally before it was cleared to raise sheep.

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 your answer in the text box.:

Offsetting carbon seems to be no more than a political tool.
To make numbers look good on sprawling construction projects such as HS2.
These projects should not be afforded an easy out.
Meanwhile we should be regenerating
Our woodland in spite of offsets.

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.:

I believe 100% funding covering all aspects of the regeneration of any piece of land into native woodland should be at least considered.
Fencing, planting, stewardship,
Even purchasing pockets of land under the correct circumstances.

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?

Yes

How can the grant scheme support this?:

By supporting stewardship of land being reforested and stewardship of existing forests.

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.

Better integration of support for woodland creation with farm support mechanisms, Knowing where to get reliable advice, Clearer guidance on grant options, Flexibility within options, Support with cashflow, Information on how current land use could continue with trees integrated throughout

Are there others not listed above?:

The support directly to the crofter is key as well as transparency in what's available and a streamlined approach to achieving the end goal of more trees and more stewards to look after said trees.

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.:

Empower the crofter to do it themselves. Enable and obligate the crofter to care for the woodland until it can be considered self sustaining, Legislate to bring to the fore revenue streams suited to small woodland owners.
Firewood , sawmilling, tree nursery's mushrooms cultivation, biomass,
Tourism ,
Streamline planning process to allow folk to take up low impact residence on the land they are responsible for.

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.:

No longer allow developers to hack and slash to build. "The tree in the way" should take priority.
Build round about it. After all we can stick up a house in a month. Some of the trees I've seen devastated to make room for a driveway are upwards of 150 years old and a parent tree to countless others.

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.:

Legislate to prioritise revenue streams
From small landowners.
With the focus on allowing local produce to serve local communities.
If nothing traveled more than 20 miles the carbon footprint would be slashed as an effect instead of a cause or offset.

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.:

Help the ordinary person become steward of an area.
By means of ownership primarily.

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.:

By means of mandatory reporting and public consultation well in advance and widely publicised

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?

No

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

Support the small guy . Grants are currently as I see it , convoluted and complicated , favouring the wealthy landowner with already deep pockets.

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

By diluting the ownership there would be far more opportunities for family's and extended groups to gain employment and direct experience and then with the correct support take that experience and move on to a venture of their own. The effect should snowball.

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.:

Minimum standards,
More training specific funding,
And manpower to convey the opportunity's and handle formality's

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.:

In a word , stewardship.
Lots of people have the desire to enter the lifestyle of land /woodland stewardship.
The potential applicants outstrip opportunities 1000-1 . support every family that want to become stewards of a woodland Croft or section of woodland .
Get them on the land , empower them with the training and in some cases equipment to sustainably coexist with flora and fauna and make a living from a permaculture perspective.

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?:

Deer management is important,
Numbers and Their access To young trees should be controlled through culling and fencing.
The problem of ticks and tick Bourne disease comes directly from a free roaming ruminant population.

Small scale mixed land use?:

In the small scale fencing would be my preferred control

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

Please add your comments here.:

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What is your name?

Name:

[Redacted]

What is your email address?

Email:

[Redacted]

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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Yes

I confirm that I have read the privacy policy and consent to the data I provide being used as set out in the policy.

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