

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?

Yes

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Because afforestation puts land permanently into forestry and pure forestry provides a longer-term solution to carbon capture and habitat creation. Agro-forestry and integrated land management are very important also but should exist alongside forestry-specific projects.

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.:

Research/data on improvement to yields to sell to farmers. FGS funding for smaller blocks <2ha. More options for planting non-native broadleaved.

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.:

More training/CPD for forest managers on implications of climate scenarios for UK forestry.

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.:

Definitely agree that both public and private finance are important. It feels as though the carbon code is not yet fully realised and still trying to adjust to fit with reality of forestry projects on the ground. Also there is a lot of uncertainty about how these contracts will be managed when new woodlands reach maturity in decades to come.

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.:

More funding for management of existing woodlands to ensure the forest resource we already have is in good condition.

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?:

This would need to be determined by using measurable indicators and within a specific timescale

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, Flexibility within options, Information on how current land use could continue with trees integrated throughout

Are there others not listed above?:

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.:

A short form application process for eg. woodlands <2ha

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.:

Include some element of funding for pathwork/interpretation, signage, boardwalks etc.

Many locations would fit with this description but fall outside of WIAT areas so perhaps review of eligible areas.

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.:

Projects over a certain size could include provision of community benefit eg. Training or recreational facility.

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.:

Maybe some awareness-raising strategy using digital platforms/social media in specific geographical locations similar to public health marketing etc.

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.:

Ability to follow progress of applications through Scottish Forestry system.

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?

Yes

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

Support for management of existing woodlands, especially permanent semi-natural woodlands.

More willingness to fund non-native broadleaf species- beech, sycamore, eucalyptus

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.:

Requirement for provision of training opportunities related to scale of the project eg. Scheme of <100ha must provide X hrs of training.

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.:

Funding support for natural regeneration, including ground prep and maintenance.

Support for seed collection to improve availability of native seed sources for nurseries.

Funding to manage spread eg. Gorse and broom as part of maintenance so it can be maintained for bird habitat while allowing trees to establish.

Overhaul of bracken control funding. Bracken management without chemicals is very expensive and bracken is very prevalent in areas where native woodland expansion is viable.

Control of invasive species, especially rhododendron needs to be ramped up to improve condition of mature native woodlands.

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?:

Requirement to cull number of deer relative to size of project formalised.

Small scale mixed land use?:

Support for fencing restocks

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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Name:

[redacted]

What is your email address?

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Individual

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

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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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