



Gairloch Land Management Plan Summary

Gairloch Forest lies at the South western end of Loch Lochy, close to the Caledonian Canal. It lies 9 miles North east of Fort William and overlooks the village of Gairloch. It is accessed by a minor public road, and it is visible from the minor public road and the Caledonian Canal and towpath to the East. A short section of the Great Glen Way passes through the forest which is popular with walkers and cyclists. Although it is a small forest, it is flanked on three sides by private woodland, thus giving an impression of scale in the landscape. The geology and soils are quite variable with upland brown earths and surface water gleys. Aspect has quite steep South east facing slopes. The climate is mild, wet and windy, but sheltered and better soils on the lower slopes offer a greater degree of species diversity. The land use is dominated by conifer species, with 31% of the area as open ground habitat and 1% as broadleaf species.

Gairloch LMP was approved on 28/01/2009 and runs for 10 years. The main aims of this plan are:

- Concentrate timber production on the lower more accessible areas where conditions are most suited
- Expand and enhance open ground habitat, creating new transitional habitat between forest and open ground.
- Restore PAWS areas through a mix of natural regeneration and supplementary planting following clearfelling.
- Establish new areas of native woodland habitat, linking existing areas of good habitat.
- Diversify the species and age-class of the conifer crop
- Establish a natural reserve, managed by minimal intervention
- The experience of users of the Great Glen Way which passes through the lower part of the forest, will be maintained and enhanced.
- The landscape value of the forest, particularly as a backdrop to the Caledonian Canal, will be maintained.

The primary objectives for the plan area are:

- To produce 8,600m³ of timber during the lifetime of the plan
- To construct 790m of new forest road to facilitate the delivery of the key elements of the forest plan
- To establish 4.8 ha of broadleaved woodland following clearfelling of conifers
- To create 13 ha of mainly open ground habitat, broken up with patches of spruce, pine and regenerating broadleaves.
- To restock 5.4 ha of mixed conifers, including some Douglas fir, Scots pine and Larch species.
- To designate 4.6 ha of the woodland as a natural reserve
- To designate 24.4 ha as long term retention, managed for both landscape and biodiversity.



| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Total Plan Area | 125 hectares (ha) |
|------------------------|-------------------|

Summary of Land Management Plan Proposals

| Species Breakdown | (current) | (end of plan period) |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sitka spruce | 40 ha | 26.6 |
| Birch and other broadleaves | 1 ha | 1 |
| Scots pine | 11 ha | 7 |
| Lodgepole pine | 1 ha | 0.3 |
| Larch and other conifers | 33 ha | 19.1 |
| Open space | 39 ha | 71 |

| Planned Operations | 2009– 2019 plan period |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Felling | 23.2 ha |
| Restocking: | |
| Conifer | 5.4 ha |
| Broadleaf | 4.8 ha |
| Road construction | 790 metres |
| Significant Environment / Conservation Features | |
| Designated sites | None |
| Natural Reserve | 4.6 ha |
| Priority Habitat 1 | Upland ash woodland |
| Priority Habitat 2 | Upland Birch woodland |
| Priority Species 1 | Bryophyte assemblages |
| Priority Species 2 | Bat |



Critical Success Factors:

- Construction of 790 metres of new forest road is critical to the delivery of all the key elements of the Forest Plan

Consultation and Further Information:

Council area: Highland Council

Community Council: Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry C.C.

Consultation:

Statutory Consultees:

SEPA – 04/07/2008 – 10/10/2008

SNH – 04/07/2008 – 10/10/2008

Highland Council – Forestry Officer – 04/07/2008 – 10/10/2008

Highland Council – local Councillors – 04/07/2008 – 10/10/2008

Scottish Water – 04/07/2008

Other Consultees:

Deer Commission Scotland – 04/07/2008 – 10/10/2008

SSEN – 04/07/2008 – 10/10/2008

Great Glen Way Ranger Service – 04/07/2008 – 10/10/2008

British Waterways – 04/07/2008 – 10/10/2008

Public Consultees:

Gairloch Residents – 04/07/2008 – 10/10/2008

Achnacarry, Bunarkaig & Clunes Community – 04/07/2008 – 10/10/2008

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge & Achnacarry Community Council – 04/07/2008 – 10/10/2008

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