

Summary of Proposals

Timber production

There is a strong focus on timber production due to good conifer growth. In this plan, there is an increase in productive area brought through reducing the scale of open ground in some low elevation coupes. Another significant change is to reclassify two natural reserve coupes into clearfell on account of low biodiversity value and landscape impact. On the forests northern boundary, windblow has occurred on a large enough scale and necessitated inclusion within the clearfell programme.

Conservation & heritage

The main conservation interest at Glen Prosen is developing riparian corridors to enhance water quality and create more diverse habitat. This is being achieved through planned clearfelling and subsequent restocking with a combination of mixed broadleaves and open space. Areas of heathland will be kept as minimal intervention zones.

Heritage features will be maintained and protected following FC Practice Guide “Identifying the historic environment in Scotland’s forests and woodlands” (2010) and again ensuring operator awareness during any forest works.

Recreation

The amount of public use at Glen Prosen is low and is mainly focused on walkers accessing near by mountains via internal tracks which lead on to open ground. To enhance the visitor experience, opportunities to apply visitor zone principles should be applied at entrances and strategic points within the forest.

Landscape

While Glen Prosen is locally prominent, on a wider scale its presence is not significant when viewed from the nearest population centre which is Kirriemuir. Specific attention has been made in plan review to redesigning of the forests south eastern boundary which is clearly visible from the glens public road.