

Summary of Proposals:

Timber production

The primary objective for Keillour is timber production on account of good conifer growth rates and proximity to transport routes and markets. There will be a more targeted approach to forest thinnings by placing unsuitable coupes into non-thin regimes where access, drainage and exposure constraints are present. The remaining coupes including broadleaves will remain under either LISS or thinning to final crop in order to maximise timber value.

Conservation & heritage

Despite the apparent demise of the local capercaillie population there is still benefit to be had from maintaining the current network of habitats and species present in Keillour and Murray's Hill. This will be achieved by following FC Guidance on habitats and also through appropriate timing of operations and ensuring that there is operator awareness of any issues or features present in the works area.

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

Informal recreation will continue within the forest areas with walkers, riders and permitted husky dog teams using the existing forest road network and the continued lease of Loch Horn to the local angling club.

Landscape

On account of the low visibility of the forest from major conurbations and road networks, the forest's presence in the landscape will remain largely unchanged during the period of this plan.