



Morvern Land Management Plan Summary

Morvern forest extends across 5,946 ha at the NW end of the Morvern peninsular and comprises three blocks: Barr, Lochaline North and Lochaline South. The forest was established pre 1940, as a largely commercial timber- producing forest but has been extensively restructured over a number of years and now has a wide range of age classes. Planted species are dominated by Sitka spruce but restructuring has expanded the area of diverse conifers and the proportion of native broadleaves has increased through natural regeneration, particularly in Barr forest, where native woodland expansion will consolidate and link areas of Semi Natural Woodland (SNW) and restored PAWS. There are various renewable energy developments across the forest.

Although the main focus is commercial timber production, the forest provides for informal recreation and supports a number of heritage sites, notably the cleared township at Inniemore (Loch Doire nan Mart) which is a scheduled monument and the wishing stone at Clach na Criche (the remains of an igneous dyke used as a boundary marker, wishing stone and resting place during funeral processions). Various protected species are found in the area, including otter, Pine marten, Black grouse, Golden eagle and Sea eagle and a variety of habitats, including wetland / bog habitat, stands of gorse with successional broadleaved woodland and traditional hay meadows at the mouth of the Savary River.

The longer term vision is to continue to optimize sustainable timber production while restructuring the forest and increasing resilience through greater species diversity, redesign of upper margins to fit the large scale, open landscape and managing appropriate areas of Continuous Cover Forestry. The area under broadleaves will expand, building on the existing areas of SNW and PAWS and strengthening the broadleaved riparian woodland to link native woodland areas.

Morvern LMP was approved from 16/05/2014 and runs for 10 years.

The primary objectives for the plan area are

- Redesign of upper margins to enhance the landscape and improve raptor habitat, while maintaining productivity
- Consolidate PAWS and establish native woodland to link PAWS/SNW fragments
- Review LISS area to manage crops suitable for CCF
- Increase the resilience of the forest to climate change, pests and disease through design and species choice, increasing tree species diversity where site conditions are suitable
- Increase economic diversity of forest industries through marketing a wide range of products to a wider range of end users
- Increase productivity using site appropriate species and management techniques, coupe and access design, and timing of harvesting
- Manage deer populations to allow the successful establishment of planted and naturally regenerating trees and to maintain priority open ground habitats in favourable condition



Total Plan Area	5,946 hectares (ha)
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Summary of Land Management Plan Proposals

Species Breakdown	(current)	(end of plan period)
Sitka spruce	2997 (51%)	2326 (39%)
Birch and other broadleaves	185 (3%)	813 (14%)
Lodgepole pine	328 (6%)	0
Other conifers	298 (5%)	948 (16%)
Open space	2089 (35%)	1809 (31%)

Planned Operations	2014– 2024 plan period
Felling Thinning Restocking New planting Road construction Access tracks	919 517 322 ha (CON), 597 ha (BL) 12 km 38 km
Significant Environment / Conservation Features	
Designated sites	Sunart SAC, Sunart SSSI, Morvern Woods SAC and Drimnin to Killundine Woods SSSI lie in the vicinity. A small area (ca 12 ha) of northern part of Barr forest extends into the Sunart SAC.
Minimum Intervention	0.75
Priority Species	Golden eagle Black grouse Otter



Critical Success Factors:

- Deer control – minimize browsing pressure to protect young planted and naturally regenerating trees
- Implementation of thinning programme to ensure that thinning / shelter wood felling is done timeously to retain long term continuous cover forestry
- Early / not delayed harvesting of areas that are vulnerable to windblow, to reduce timber degrade and loss of annual increment
- Construction of planned roads to enable felling programme

Consultation and Further Information:

Council area and Community Council: Highland Council; Morvern Community Council
Consultation took place during July – September 2013. Consultees included Morvern CC, SNH, SEPA, Morvern Community Development Company, RSPB, neighbouring estates.
Public discussion took place during a Morvern CC meeting on 05/09/13.

For further information on the Plan, please contact:

Planning (North)
West Region
Torlundy
Fort William
PH 33 6SW

enquiries.west@forestryandland.gov.scot



Location map

