



Camisky Land Management Plan Summary

Camisky Forest lies on the southern extent of the Great Glen, between the river Lochy and the A82, about 9 km north of Fort William. Known formerly as the Great Glen Cattle Ranch forest, the LMP area comprises five separate woodlands. It is primarily a conifer woodland, with the felling of the first rotational crop underway along with associated restocking. Wind damage on the remaining crop is significant and *Dothistroma* affects some stands of LP. The four smaller woodland areas have been offered for sale. The forest is viewed from the A82, Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge and from Nevis Range upper gondola station.

Camisky LMP was approved on 5th June 2018 and runs for 10 years.

Summary:

- Fell 251 ha of conifer crops, much of which is windblown, requiring new roading to facilitate harvesting and haulage
- Emphasis on planting fast growing, wind firm conifer species and establishing windfirm edges for resilience in a changing climate.
- Protect, maintain and expand native Oak and Birch woodland at Coille a' Cham Uisge.
- Identify opportunities for management of broadleaf woodland for wood production.
- Utilise native woodland through expansion to enhance the riparian zones for fishery protection.
- Manage deer numbers throughout the forest, particularly in areas of broadleaf woodland establishment and management.
- Review the deep peat areas of the forest to optimize the potential of both soil and trees to lock carbon.
- Recognise the wider landscape context of the forest design by ensuring future coupes fit the landscape from key viewpoints.
- Consult and work with local communities and stakeholders through the planning consultation process.
- No new planting over the next 10 years.

The primary objectives for the plan area are:

- Retain a strong core of commercial conifers suitable for the site to support local forest and timber industry. Ensure that resilience to climate change, in particular increasing storm events and pest and disease attack is tested through the planning process.
- Maintain and expand the native Oak and Birch woodland of Coille a' Cham Uisge. Identify opportunities to manage some of the broadleaf woodland for wood production. Use native woodland expansion to



enhance the riparian zones for fishery protection.

- Review the deep peat areas of the forest to optimize the potential of both the soil and the trees to lock carbon following the FCS guidance on peatland management.
- Recognising the wider landscape context of the forest design, the future coupes to fit with the landscape as seen from key viewpoints.
- Consult and work with local communities and stakeholders.

Total Plan Area	980 hectares (ha)
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Summary of Land Management Plan Proposals

Species Breakdown	Current (ha)	End of plan period (ha)
Sitka spruce	327	301
Broadleaves	103	207
Scots pine	9	43
Lodgepole pine	327	181
Larch	95	0
Other conifers	0	129
Open space	118	118



Planned Operations	2018– 2028 plan period
Felling	251 ha
Restocking	331 ha
Road construction	1370 metres
Significant Environment / Conservation Features	
Designated sites	Parallel Roads of Lochaber SSSI
Ancient Woodland	40.2 ha
Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	35 ha
Upland flush fen	Scattered open ground
Bog restoration area	30 ha
Priority Species 1	Badger
Priority Species 2	Dragonfly and Damselfly communities
Priority Species 3	Goldeneye, teal, greater Canada goose
Priority Species 4	Red Squirrel in nearby forests
Priority Species 5	Black grouse core area. Black grouse lek adjacent to LMP area



Critical Success Factors:

- **Restocking** –The restructuring requires larger rides and the creation of windfirm edges to reduce potential wind blow damage in future crops. The success of restocking depends on a rapid establishment of a faster growing crop, which will require assessment of soil fertility; application of suitable ground preparation techniques and selection of site suitable species and correct mixtures. A cost-benefit of supplementary fertiliser application against increasing timber quality will also be necessary during the restock process, to optimise cost effectiveness and quality
- **PAWS/AWS** – Protection and expansion of existing riparian zones must be continued. Improving landscape connectivity of these zones will be addressed by linking currently isolated riparian areas throughout the forest, achieving expansion largely through natural regeneration. Buffer zones will be established between broadleaf and conifer coupes to minimise future conifer regeneration onto PAWS/AWS designations. Supplementary planting of native broadleaves will also be undertaken on suitable sites to improve diversity. The successful establishment of these softer species requires robust protection and continued control of deer numbers
- **Deer Control** – It is vital for the success of this plan that current control measures are maintained and improved. Deer need to be controlled to limit damage to restock, natural regeneration and vegetation within the forest boundaries
- **Wayleaves** – Although a minor issue in relation to future operations, we should seek to further reduce future liabilities. The establishment of low structure scrub species through natural regeneration has to be encouraged and opportunities taken to establish non-intervention species in these areas. Close working relationships with SSE, Highland Council and Transport Scotland in relation to powerline and road side operations are essential
- **Disease/ Pest Resilience** – Monitoring of tree diseases such as Dothistroma Needle Blight (DNB), in pine crops is vital. Raising awareness of potential disease and a swift reaction to any discovery of pathogens within Camisky forest will be enabled through continuing monitoring. A more diverse species range and intimate crop mixtures will help reduce the scale of any future disease impacts within Camisky Forest.

Consultation and Further Information:

Council area: Highland Council

Community Council: Torlundy Community Council

Consultation: events / consultees:



Torlundy Community Council – contact on 07/02/2016 and ongoing, related to a possible Community Asset Transfer (CAT).

Wider Public Consultation – achieved through advertising in Lochaber Life (01/05/2016 – 31/05/2016), no issues raised.

Internal Consultation – various internal scoping meetings; internal operations and environment team meetings and site meetings with planning and environment teams held between 05/04/2016 to 24/05/2016, outcomes incorporated into LMP.

FCS – contact on 24/05/2016, regarding potential for reinstatement of raised bog at Dalvennvie under Peatland Action Fund but proposal is to sell the small woodland areas.

For further information on the Plan, please contact:

Planning team,
Forestry and Land Scotland,
West Region,
Torlundy,
Fort William,
PH33 6SW

0300 067 6870

Enquiries.west@forestryandland.gov.scot