

Summary of Ben Wyvis & Strathpeffer Woodlands Land Management Plan proposals

Ben Wyvis & Strathpeffer Woodlands LMP, approved by the Highlands & Islands Conservancy on the 9th of June 2017, contains management proposals for several forest blocks (previously covered by five separate Forest Design Plans - FDPs) situated in central part of Ross-shire, at the foothills of Ben Wyvis, between Dingwall, Contin, Strathpeffer & Garve. Majority of the Plan area is located along Black Water; with River Conon marking the southern boundary, and Loch Achanalt – the western one. The total Plan area is c. 9580 ha.

Our vision for the Plan area is to have well managed productive forests that are accessible and enjoyed by the public, contribute to local economy and complement the landscape around Ben Wyvis. Areas of native woodland and other rare habitats are linked with adjacent designated sites, support populations of protected species and contribute positively to the water quality within the River Conon and Cromarty Coastal catchments.

| Species breakdown | 2017 (current) | 2027 (end of plan period) |
|---|----------------|---------------------------|
| Conifers (mainly Sitka spruce, Scots pine and Lodgepole pine) | 48% | 45% |
| Broadleaves (mainly Downy and Silver birch) | 9% | 20% |
| Open (including agricultural and felled in fallow) | 43% | 35% |

| Planned operations | 2017 - 2027 |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Felling | 1917.56 ha |
| Restocking | 1488.15 ha |
| New planting | 55.27 ha |
| Road construction | 4460 m |
| Peatland restoration | |

| Significant Environment/Conservation Features | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Ben Wyvis NNR, SPA, SAC & SSSI | Strathpeffer Wildcat Priority Area |
| Glen Affric to Strathconon SPA | Comrie GCR |
| 3 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) | |

Critical Success Factors:

- Delivery of roading programme enabling a sustainable timber production supporting local timber market and wider timber industry;
- Creation of riparian and native woodland network;
- Positive contribution to water quality, with special attention to protection of watercourses supporting population salmonids;
- Maintaining access to forest and improving/maintaining visitor facilities, to ensure positive visitor experience.

Consultation and further information:

The Central Sutherland Land Management Plan was approved by the Highland & Islands Conservancy on the 9th of June 2017. During the development of this Plan we have consulted publicly, including meetings with local community representatives and stakeholders known to have interest in this plan area. For further information on the Plan please contact North Highland Forest District on **0300 067 6841** or northhighland.fd@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

