

**West Argyll Forest District  
East Loch Awe:  
Land Management Plan**

**M5 Opportunities  
& Constraints**

**Legend**

- Land Management Plan Area
- Forest Roads
- Water supply
- Powerlines
- Hydro Penstock

**Current Primary Species**

- Mixed Broadleaves MB
- Douglas Fir DF
- Larch L
- Lodgepole Pine LP
- Mixed Conifer MC
- Noble Fir NF
- Norway Spruce NS
- Southern Beech RAN
- Western Red Cedar RC
- Sessile Oak SOK
- Scots Pine SP
- Sitka Spruce SS
- Western Hemlock WH

Scale: 1:70,000 @ A3



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**Water:**  
See map M11

The water resources on site contribute to renewable energy provision, fisheries & public/private drinking water supplies. The delivery of these resources is often enhanced by forest cover and following good practice. Wider landscape & biodiversity benefits are often delivered synergistically by improvements to the riparian zones.

Conifers can increase acidification in some circumstances. Past forestry practice has sometimes resulted in forestry practice impacting negatively on the riparian zone. Clearfells and forestry operations may impact adversely on water quality.

**Production:**  
See Maps M7 Slope, M8 Roads, M13 LISS assessment.

Growth rates on the lower slopes are good with adequate growing conditions for a range of species. An extensive road network exists across most of the forest with good transport links to markets. Significant volumes of timber make marketing and harvesting cost effective. Second rotations may achieve enhanced yields. Potential for LISS on lower slopes.

Growth rates on the upper slopes are poor in places. Sitka spruce tends to dominate the species mix. Exposure may limit rotation length. Form & quality is variable. Areas of slope constrain harvesting options in areas that often have a high visual impact.

**Community:**

The local community has strong historical links with the development of Forestry in Argyll. The FCS is open to exploring ways to meet Community aspirations for renewable energy, land acquisition or joint ventures. Recreational improvements across the forest, good liaison with operational foresters and targeted often low key activities can all enhance the benefit the community derives from living close to the forest. Communities may be able to source additional funding for provision of recreational infrastructure.

Many of the houses in the area are holiday or second homes. The primary school at Kames has closed. The LMP area covers two geographically distinct communities. Relatively low populations close to the forest can make reaching a critical mass in terms of members & funding difficult.

**Resilience to climate and disease impacts:**

The site has areas where a wide range of species could be grown commercially. The scale of the forest enables meaningful linkages to be established. The altitude range of the forest area may enable more species to be accommodated, or the treeline adjusted if conditions change. The good road network facilitates monitoring & control.

Parts of the site are exposed & vulnerable to wind damage. Sitka spruce is the only viable timber species across much of the site. LP & L are both restricted by disease impacts. Road construction, renewable infrastructure and adjustments to powerline routes can all increase the risk of storm damage.

**Recreation:**  
See map M9 Recreation.

Forest road network and the forest drive facilitate access for a wide range of abilities. Existing PROWS create good long distance linkages between places of interest & heritage. Auchindrain & Scheduled ancient monuments on Loch Awe create points of interest. Lochans create opportunity for fishing & hiking. Open ground creates access routes and viewpoints within the forest. The matrix of open ground and forest creates a habitat that supports a wide range of iconic Scottish species and increases the chances of observing wildlife. Inveraray is a very popular tourist destination.

Path linkages to Inveraray are very limited. Long distances and fairly light use of paths reduces the viability of investment in path infrastructure. Timber harvesting and haulage operations may interact adversely with recreational routes. Recreational access may impact on schedule 1 species during critical nesting periods.

**Biodiversity:**  
See map M10 Biodiversity.

The matrix of open ground and varied forest cover creates a very varied habitat mix which supports a wide range of significant species including golden eagles, sea eagles, hen harriers, ospreys, black grouse & red squirrels. Much of the open ground is well linked and of a scale to contribute to ecological diversity. The shape and varied structure of much of the forest margin optimises the edge effect in many places. The range of lochans, riparian zones and ancient woodland fragments greatly increase the biodiversity of the site.

The preponderance of SS across the site reduces diversity, although shorter rotations & a wide range of coupe phases can reduce the negative impacts. Enhancing biodiversity may reduce productivity.

**Other Landuses:**  
See maps M9 Recreation, M12 Renewable energy, M14 Open Ground Management & Adjacent Landuse.

Scope for woodland creation on lost ground. The establishment of significant renewable energy capacity across the forest has had a very limited impact on forest cover & productivity. The forest provides a good water source for private/public water supplies & fisheries. Maintaining moderate to low deer numbers is an objective common to most neighbours. The powerline upgrade may open up scope for woodland creation if the route changes.

Maintaining a functional boundary fence is expensive. Sheep trespass affected initial establishment and continues to be a problem for all parties due to the scale of the forest. Renewable energy infrastructure and access requirements require consideration in operational & planning management. The powerline wayleave may result in deforestation & crop instability.

