**Minginish Peninsula Land Management Plan Summary**

Minginish Peninsula Woodlands LMP was approved on the 7th December 2017 and runs for 10 years

What’s important in Minginish Peninsula Forest?

* SPA for Golden Eagles
* Known nesting and roosting habitat for White Tail Eagles
* Sustainable timber production, high quality timber on first rotation stands
* Highly visible from the Cuillins National Scenic Area
* High visitor numbers due to the fairy pools and well used recreation trails
* Archaeological features on the Kraiknish Peninsula includes Kraiknish Dun
* Geological SSSI in the Kraiknish peninsula agricultural tenancy

**Vision**

A forest that enhances the landscape in the Cuillin National Scenic Area. A forest that continues to produce good quality timber and suitable land is commercially restocked where it is economically viable. Open habitats will be restored where site conditions are suitable. Open habitat will be maintained and increased for Golden Eagle hunting and nesting habitat, mature stands known to be used for nesting and roosting will be retained as minimum intervention to continue to provide habitat for Sea Eagles.

Minginish Peninsula Land Management Plan objectives:

* **Timber production**: maintain timber production in stands that are showing wind damage whilst delaying felling of wind firm stands to create a constant production in the future at a national scale.
* **Biodiversity:** improve habitats for Golden and Sea Eagles and improve existing open habitats and riparian zones and increase deadwood habitats.
* **Resilience**: diversify the range of productive tree species and restructure even aged blocks.
* **People**: manage visitors to the fairy pools using the FES car park.
* **Landscape**: Improve the visual impact of the forest, especially on the east face.

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| **Total Plan Area** | 3500 ha |

**Summary of Land Management Plan Proposals**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Species Breakdown** | **2017 (current)** | **2027 (end of plan period)** |
| Sitka spruceLodgepole pineNative BroadleavesLarchOther Conifers | 74% 17% 4% 4% 1%  | 47%19%19%2%12% |

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| --- | --- |
| **Planned Operations** | **2016 – 2026 plan period** |
| FellingRestockingNatural regenerationRoad constructionRoad upgrades | 70 ha66 ha75 ha0 m14128 m |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Significant Environment/Conservation Features** |  |
| Designated sitesMinimum Intervention | SPA 2066.2 haSSSI 1.5 ha1.7 % of area |

**Critical Success Factors:**

* Implementation of the LMP felling & restocking proposals, designed in liaison with the FCS landscape architect.
* Retain windfirm crops beyond normal rotation age in order to maintain a constant level of timber production in to the future.
* Manage the deer population at a level allowing successful establishment of restock crops.
* Maintain the SPA in favourable condition by maintaining open ground and monitoring natural regeneration within it.
* Expand riparian zones in Glen Brittle and in gullies within the forest.
* Maintain mature crops as minimum intervention to encourage white tail eagle nesting and roosting.
* Restore peatland areas in the centre of the forest where deep peat is present.
* Diversify species to reduce reliance on sitka spruce whilst still maintaining productive conifer stands.
* Work with the community to find a solution to the high visitor numbers in the fairy pool car park.

**Consultation and Further Information:**

The small communities of Glen Brittle and Carbost are the main settlements in this area and they fall within the Eilean a' Chèo Ward 10 of Highland Council Region. This area is represented by Minginish Community Council.

IRS Forest District held a drop in session in April 2017 in Minginish Community Hall and offered neighbours and the Community Councils an opportunity to participate in the consultation process.

For further information on the Plan, please contact Inverness, Ross and Skye Forest District on 0300 0676100 or invernessrossskye@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

**Location Map**

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