

## South Loch Ness Land Management Plan Summary

South Loch Ness LMP was approved on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015 and runs for 10 years.

What's important in South Loch Ness?

- Productive forests
- Highly significant for biodiversity
- Prominent feature in the landscape; backdrop to Loch Ness
- Recreational use of South Loch Ness Trail

Vision

Our vision for the forest is to maintain the forest cover to provide diversity of habitat, sustainable timber production and recreational provision, whilst contributing to the health and well-being of the community in and around the forest and growing the value of tourism to the local economy.

South Loch Ness Land Management Plan objectives:

1. To maintain productive conifers and broadleaves in the more fertile areas.
2. Provision and Maintenance of facilities for visitors to improve their overall experience.
3. To strengthen ties with the local community and enhance the landscape of the Great Glen and Loch Ness.
4. To minimise risk posed to the B852 road through good design and practice.
5. To protect the water quality of the Ness catchment.
6. To promote resilience of the forest to the future challenges of climate change.

<b>Total Plan Area</b>	4,389 ha
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### Summary of Land Management Plan Proposals

Species Breakdown	2015 (current)	2025 (end of plan period)
Sitka spruce	21%	28%
Broadleaves	12%	20%
Scots pine	10%	11%
Lodgepole pine	9%	2%
Larch and other conifers	10%	8%
Open space	38%	31%

Planned Operations	2015 – 2025 plan period
Felling	1,055 ha
Thinning	105 ha
Restocking	1,055 ha
New planting	0 ha
Road construction	5,141 m
Road upgrades	400 m
PAWS restoration	210 ha
Peat bog restoration	15 ha

Significant Environment/Conservation Features	
Designated sites	SSSI 279 ha SPA 111 ha SAC 216 ha
Minimum Intervention Natural Reserve	17% of area 1% of area
Black Grouse Red Squirrel Juniper	All present within the plan area

### Critical Success Factors:

- Sustainable softwood timber production.
- Restructure even aged forest through phased clearfelling.
- Diversify species composition through restocking and natural regeneration following clearfell. Silvicultural mixtures will be favoured within the productive conifer forest and native woodland restoration will be matched to the site type.
- Close to the B852 fell mature conifer forest and re-establish with low input native woodland.
- Construct an In-Forest Timber Transport Link.
- Reduce inoculum levels and the potential for DNB to spread within the Plan area by targeting badly infected stands for felling in the next two phases and remove the majority of Lodgepole pine stands over the next 20 years.
- Develop detailed management prescriptions to preserve and enhance the special qualities of unique features such as the Dun Deardail Iron Age fort and the large trees around Farigaig.
- Continue the programme of visitor zone work along recreational facilities at Farigaig, and the South shore of Loch Ness.
- Gradually restore the FCS Landholding along the south shore of Loch Ness to native woodland over the next 50 years.
- Create a robust native woodland habitat network from Erchite Wood in the north to Dalcrag in the south, linking restored PAWS areas.
- Continue monitoring of key species present in the area, black grouse, red squirrel, juniper, goshawk, osprey and wood ant.
- Undertake field surveys to quantify montane scrub species on the open hill ground and build future management prescriptions.
- Improve habitat linkage and preserve water quality through long-term Riparian woodland restoration along the rivers Farigaig and Foyers.
- Develop forest habitat networks linking lochans and wetter areas in the Torr Dhonnachaidh section of the forest.
- Adapt & apply management techniques following, best practice, to improve habitat for vulnerable and protected species.

### **Consultation and Further Information:**

The villages of Foyers and Gorthleck are the main settlements in this area and they fall within the Aird and Loch Ness Ward 13 of Highland Council Region. This area is represented by 3 Community Councils; Stratherrick and Foyers, Dores and Essich and Strathnairn.

IRS Forest District hosted a Drop-In Session at Gorthleck Village Hall in June 2014 and presented draft proposals to Stratherrick and Foyers CC in January 2015. Several neighbours also took part 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](mailto:invernessrossskye@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)



## Location Map

