



## Rannoch Forest and the Blackwood Objectives

<b>PRIMARY OBJECTIVES</b>	
<p><b>Environment – protect Caledonian pinewood which is a SAC / SSSI</b></p> <p>1) Plantation Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) restoration</p> <p>2) Identify opportunities for long-term environmental benefit</p>	<p>Protect and buffer the Blackwood of Rannoch - reduce the risk of non-native species and species undesirable to SSSI condition (primarily Sitka spruce and Western hemlock regen).</p> <p>PAWS restoration - review thinning / clearfell options to promote and increase native woodland species.</p> <p>Red squirrel stronghold – choose appropriate restock and timing of operations.</p> <p>Biodiversity – improved management of wider forest to protect Blackwood of Rannoch and to create habitat connectivity.</p> <p>Ancient Woodland (Talladh-a-Bheithe)– review current management (bracken control required).</p> <p>European Protected Species.</p> <p>Review and assess priority open habitats and future management (Rannoch Lodge).</p>
<p><b>Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF)</b></p>	<p>Review previous interventions and future management options of shelterwoods.</p> <p>Assess current thinning cycle and review to prioritise the targeted removal of undesirable species such as Western hemlock and Sitka spruce.</p> <p>Assess Douglas fir – is it reaching terminal MMAI? (recent windblow).</p> <p>Target thinning to enhance PAWS.</p>
<p><b>Maintain production of quality timber</b></p>	<p>Design felling and thinning coupes to secure sustainable financial returns.</p>

	<p>Review current felling phases.</p> <p>Identify poorly performing crops and management interventions.</p> <p>Look at planting more benign restock species to protect Blackwood of Rannoch SSSI/SAC and PAWS areas.</p> <p>Review thinning programme at the block level as Wind Hazard Class can be high.</p> <p>Review potential for productive broadleaves.</p> <p>Review pockets of windblow.</p>
<b>Climate change: respond to predicted impacts of climate emergency</b>	<p>Carbon sequestration underpinned with appropriate restock species.</p> <p>Sensitive management of peat soils.</p> <p>Suitable tree species selection for 2nd rotation tree-planting.</p>
<b>Peatland restoration</b>	<p>Assess scope for further peatland restoration in the forest: Camghouran 1 &amp; 2 have been restored and Camghouran 3 imminently being worked.</p> <p>Identify and assess additional new areas for potential peat restoration in the forest.</p>
<b>Riparian enhancement</b>	<p>Create and enhance habitat connectivity along watercourses and assess habitat connectivity potential.</p>
<b>National Scenic Area (NSA)</b>	<p>Felling and restock proposals – design coupes to reflect Loch Rannoch &amp; Glen Lyon Landscape Character and sensitivities.</p>
<b>Recreation and Access</b>	<p>Assess current recreation use and opportunities.</p> <p>Design felling and thinning coupes with consideration to the current FLS recreational offer in South Rannoch.</p> <p>Consider prompt restocking adjacent to Stay the Night locations.</p>

<b>Tree Health</b>	<p>Review options for proactive removal of larch to reduce local Phytophthora ramorum risk.</p> <p>Maintain thinning regime to reduce Dothistroma Needle Blight (DNB) risk.</p>
<b>Forest road infrastructure</b>	<p>New road required to access western area of block in Talladh-a-Bheithe, potentially over peat soils.</p> <p>Difficult larch coupes – some stands of larch currently inaccessible for SPHN response in Talladh-a-Bheithe.</p> <p>The upgrade of some forest roads will be required and assess timber stacking options.</p> <p>Review roadside regen management and plan removal.</p>
<b>Restock areas where the Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) designation has restricted operations</b>	<p>Finalise and sign-off a safe approach to ground preparation and restocking in these areas.</p>

<b>SECONDARY OBJECTIVES</b>	
<b>Private Water supplies</b>	<p>Review the catchment for these and restock with appropriate species.</p>
<b>Assess forest road infrastructure</b>	<p>The upgrade of some forest roads will be required.</p> <p>Review timber stacking options.</p>
<b>Archaeology – some sites in productive conifer stands</b>	<p>High concentration in Ancient Woodland area.</p>
<b>Small-scale utility expansion</b>	<p>Plan to facilitate this around hydro power wayleaves and telecommunications.</p>