

Analysis:-
Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed are present along the Spey and in particular in the planted ancient woodland site in Culriach. Western Hemlock is prolific for regenerating adjacent to gullies, and elsewhere rhododendron, gorse and other weeds are regenerating on the more nutritious soils.

Concept:-
Invasive species within planted ancient woodland area of Culriach should be removed in order to allow natural regeneration of native species. Elsewhere invasive species should be removed dependent on resources and other priorities.

Analysis:-
The forest has a number of areas associated with flooding such as the Spey and Fochabers burn.

Concept:-
Smaller coupes or low impact silvicultural systems which favour native woodland in areas associated with flooding, will be beneficial to flood and catchment management,

Analysis:-
The forest is a hub for recreation with an already established path network.

Concept:-
Maintain Spey Mouth as a focal point for recreation within the forest district.

Analysis:-
Pine is ideally suited to the large area of poor soils, however overdependence could reduce the resilience of the forest to disease and climate change.

Concept:-
In order to create a robust forest utilise the ecological site classification to establish Scots Pine as the main species on the most appropriate sites, but elsewhere where conditions allow take opportunities to create species diversity.

Analysis:-
Steep gully systems are found on fragile soils which are difficult to access.

Concept:-
Deep gullies will be managed to minimise soil damage.

Analysis:-
This is an important forest for producing timber for local markets.

Concept:-
Continue to manage the forest using good silviculture to improve timber quality and optimise production.

Analysis:-
There are different categories of Dophistroma infected crop within the forest.

Concept:-
Prioritise diseased crop for removal in order to maximise timber value and reduce inoculum levels.

Analysis:-
The forest is in proximity to river Spey SSSI, SAC, SPA and RAMSAR designated areas.

Concept:-
Naturalise designated areas to increase biodiversity value.

Analysis:-
Some areas of Deer Park are associated with better soils.

Concept:-
Establish high quality commercial timber on suitable sites.

Analysis:-
The forest has been identified as a red squirrel stronghold.

Concept:-
Forest management to favour red squirrels over grey squirrels as per Forestry Commission Practice Note2- Managing Forests as Red Squirrel Strongholds.

Analysis:-
Significant area of forest is suitable for low impact silvicultural systems.

Concept:-
Where possible manage forest as LISS for biodiversity, environment and recreation benefits.

Analysis:-
The main deep peat areas are associated with Moss of Cairnty and Gow Moss. Elsewhere peat areas are not priority sites as they are fragmented and more suitable for planting woodland.

Concept:-
Priority areas at Gow Moss and Moss of Cairnty will be restored following FCS Peatland guidance, UK Forestry Standard and the Scottish government's policy on control of woodland removal.

Analysis:-
Mulderie is more visible and sensitive within the landscape. Elsewhere the forest is seen as a plateau backdrop between Fochabers and Keith, where internal or short views from roadsides are generally more important than distant views of forest hillsides. There are powerlines located within the forest.

Concept:-
For the forest to tie in with the landscape character its shape, scale and diversity should relate to dominant characteristics of the landscape. This is of particular relevance to Mulderie. There is limited scope for improvement of powerlines within the forest without the loss of productive land.

- Legend**
- Spey Mouth boundary
 - Scheduled ancient monument
 - water courses
 - Recreation Route
 - Rich soils
 - Planted ancient woodland site
 - OH powerlines
 - Speyside way
 - Forest Roads
 - Peat
 - Infected Trees
 - River Spey designated areas
 - Gullies
 - Potential LISS
 - Red Squirrel Stronghold



Moray & Aberdeenshire Forest District

Spey Mouth Land Management Plan
Map 4: Analysis & Concept (print at A1 Portrait)
Scale: 1:10,000
Date: April 2016