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Glen Croe Land Management Plan

M14: North Glen Croe Opportunities & Constraints

- Legend**
- North Glen Croe Management Zone
 - LMP area outwith Management Zone
 - Planned Forest Roads
 - Existing Forest Roads



Scale: 1:20,000 @ A3 September 2017

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Objective 2:
In the slope stabilisation area, re-shape the upper margin and NBL species distribution to reflect landform, subject to the overriding objective of slope stabilisation

Opportunity:
NBL woodland established via planting with associated natural regeneration should fit well with the landform and current vegetation pattern.

Constraints:
Deer fencing (essential) on the upper margin may create an abrupt upper margin unless deer control on the open hill is enhanced. SS regeneration may impact on long term woodland stability and require intervention. Younger conifer crops in the southern section of the management zone will remain as an abrupt margin with the NBL, scattered SS regen in the NBL area & restructuring in the longer term will address this issue.

Objective 1:
Increase transport infrastructure resilience by felling mature conifers on potentially unstable slopes, replacing with slope stability woodland type and extending this woodland above existing upper margins.

Opportunity:
High volume of quality timber on site contributes to reducing the cost of operations. Less sensitive areas have already been felled and restocked with NBL. Expand area of well linked NBL across altitudinal ecocline linking riparian woodland with montane shrubs. Explore possibility of modifying drainage patterns on the upper slopes to reduce slip risk in key areas.

Constraints:
Crop is becoming increasingly sensitive to windblow. Roding/harvesting operations and mitigation to limit impacts are very expensive. Every option has an associated risk, no simple right answer.

Objective 3:
Identify opportunities at the southern end of this zone to restructure the upper margin to better relate to landform.

Opportunities:
Restructuring offers the opportunity to enhance the upper margin. Utilise existing open ground features and link with past restocking on the lower slopes. Extensive mixed regeneration in this area is already enhancing the landscape & ecological fit of the forest.

Constraint:
Areas of slow growing crop on the upper margin can be uneconomic to harvest but create adverse landscape impacts (scale & dislocation) if retained. Upper limit for commercial harvesting and productive forest has been reached.

Objective 4:
Increase forest diversity on southern section of zone when viewed from the A83 and recreational facilities. Increase access options for hill access/descent.

Opportunity:
Increase structural and species diversity by building on diverse woodland at the glen entrance. Sheltered slopes with good soils offers potential for long term retentions, specimen trees & some CCF. Increase SS age class diversity along the upper glen slopes with more diverse conifers on the lower slopes. Open ground along burns and other features provide access to the hill & escape routes in heavy weather.

Constraint:
CCF options are constrained by current crop & slope. SS is the species best suited to the upper glen & higher slopes.

