Forestry and Land Scotland | Coilltearachd agus Fearann Alba

West Region

Taynuilt Land Management Plan

M10a: Design Concept Fearnoch North

Legend

- Taynuilt Roads
- Taynuilt Plan Area

Current Main Species

- Mixed Broadleaves
- Douglas Fir
- Larch
- Grand Fir
- Lawson Cypress
- Lodegpole Pine
- Mixed Conifer
- Mountain Pine
- Noble Fir
- Norway Spruce
- Western Red Cedar
- Scots Pine
- Sitka Spruce
- Western Hemlock

Note: red text boxes relate to felling design concepts and green text boxes to restocking design concepts.

N

Scale: 1:15,000 @ A3

17/09/2019

Clearfelling has some advantages over continuous cover forestry (CCF) where the intention is to change species composition, for example with PAWS restoration. Clearfells remove potential invasive species seed sources, offer more scope for active management, and more rapid establishment where planting occurs. Conversely opening a site rapidly via clearfelling can be detrimental to epiphytes and other species requiring shade and shelter, and may encourage competitive and problematic weed growth that can be detrimental to woodland regeneration. On balance PAWS restoration will be achieved largely by clearfelling the existing conifer crops, some of which will be felled before their economic optimum felling age.

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Restoration of the PAWS areas and the buffer area adjacent to the designated sites would ideally be by natural regeneration, however natural regeneration can be a complex and unpredictable silvicultural method, with uncertain outcomes and potentially high management costs over a prolonged time period. Planting local seed provenances of appropriate native broadleaves offers the potential to restore woodland rapidly, to control invasive species and aggressive weed competition, and to provide a potentially valuable timber and woodfuel crop that could be managed as CCF to achieve multiple objectives. Clearly accepting NBL natural regeneration would enrich the planted areas and reduce beating up costs.

Following advice from both SNH and Richard Thompson (FES Native Woodland Ecologist) and extensive internal consultation it is proposed to convert the whole of the north part of North Fearnoch to NBL. This conversion will include pockets of non-PAWS areas in order to create a landscape scale NBL linkage between the designated sites. The site has good potential for productive broadleaves and the development of these areas could mitigate the significant loss of productive area arising from the conversion process.

Given the aim of PAWS restoration, NBL regeneration and CCF of sensitive species then deer control is essential. The area would be sensitive to deer impacts for many years. The shape of the core PAWS area and the terrain would appear to lend itself to a strategic deer fence, with the conifer CCF area and productive broadleaves potentially playing a key role in making the economic case for this long term and significant investment. A strategic deer fence with good deer control internally may be a more cost effective option than numerous smaller fenced blocks, and could have lower recreational impacts. Deer fencing is likely to have an impact on the adjacent designated sites.

The felling proposal features large scale coupes along the upper slopes with smaller scale coupes closer to the lower margin. Crop features, past felling and windfirm edges determine coupe design. Felling Phasing is linked to crop growth, age, past management and to the objective of creating a more diverse age class structure.

Ardnaskie Wood

Fearnoch Forest

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Creag Ruisgte

Scotland's National Forest Estate is responsibly managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard