Forestry and Land Scotland
Coilltearachd agus Fearann Alba

Glenelg Peninsula Land Management Plan 2024 – 2034

Annotations on Map 3 Analysis and Concept

There are eight text boxes on this map, each making some general points about particular Themes in the Plan – so no arrows pointing to specific areas of the map. To make this information accessible to people using screen reading technology, the exact content of each of text box is given here - in no particular order of significance. Each theme firstly describes key Analysis comments followed by Concept comments.

1. **Water Quality (*protection*):** ANALYSIS: Felled/fallow ground has increased surface run-off, sedimentation risk and peaks/troughs of water temperature and flow. Windthrow on steep slopes increases sedimentation risk and potential slope instability. Small scale remediation difficult. Windthrow can increase incrementally if left unchecked. CONCEPT: Timely re-establishment of woodland - favour natural regeneration or minimal soil disturbance in restock ground prep. Prioritise felling/restructuring of woodland on most vulnerable slopes - reducing instability risk. protecting lifeline roads.
2. **Water Quality (*controls*):** CONCEPT: Enforce UKFS Forests & Water guidance in all forestry/civil engineering operations. Use FLS Work Plan system to plan and deliver forest operations - ensuring cognisance of all sensitivities, constraints and mitigation required. Routine third party monitoring of waterbodies (river/sea lochs) – indirect assessment of possible causal links between forest management and downstream water quality. Manage minimum 50 m minimum intervention semi-natural habitat around private water supply intakes.
3. **Water Quality (*improvement*):** ANALYSIS: Watercourses in afforested conifer woodland lack natural riparian woodland (or have only vestigial remnants). CONCEPT: Incorporate native riparian planting as integral component of follow-on productive woodland design. Increase extent of existing riparian woodland – accommodating broad regeneration zones in post-fell forest design.

4. **Resilience**: ANALYSIS: Maturing conifer forest on vulnerable steep slopes increasingly susceptible to windthrow. Productive forest employs small range of species and contains several tree health issues and species at imminent health risk. Permanent watercourses in afforested areas have limited, if any, riparian woodland. Watercourses on open ground and clearfell sites vulnerable to (increasing) climatic extremes and have little ecological complexity. CONCEPT: Prioritise, sequential removal of mature conifer crops. Use natural topography and in-forest windfirm edges to define resilient coupe shapes. Remove susceptible non-native tree species to reduce future disease risk and/or spread. Initiate extensive 'framework' of riparian woodlands: promoting ecological function and buffering climatic impacts on water and ecotone. Expand native woodland by regeneration where practical, else restock with local provenance transplants – preserving site-acclimatised gene pool, species and age diversity in native woodlands. Restore peatland where historic afforestation has compromised integrity and restoration offers biodiversity and/or carbon gains. Restoration improves resilience to climate change.
5. **Scenic Value**: ANALYSIS: Extensive conifer woodland on conspicuous slopes blankets (i.e. masks) complex terrain variation and natural character within NSA. Large-scale clearfells compromise landscape character and aesthetic appeal (interior/external perspective) and can leave incongruous trees. Native woodland establishment by nat regen: comparatively slow, dominated by pioneer species and vulnerable to browsing for longer. CONCEPT: Accept (short- to medium term) compromise in landscape character: long term forest design is for more varied, visually sympathetic woodland composition better integrated with terrain (watercourses, treelines, plateaus/summits, coastal/settlement hinterland). Ensure felling contracts remove all extraneous non-native trees to coupe boundaries - avoiding visual incongruity of remnant trees. Control tree regeneration on open ground habitats where integrity will be compromised and visual character permanently, adversely affected.
6. **Productive Woodland** (consolidate): ANALYSIS: Soils/local conditions well suited to productive coniferous forestry – particularly Sitka spruce. Over reliance on a single/few species has resilience risk. Sufficient variation in forest soils, topography and micro-climate to broaden species choice in productive restocking including high density broadleaf trials. Growing

awareness/experience of slope instability and likely contributory factors e.g. shallow rooting, large stature conifers. Some afforested upland plateaus with checked and blighted pine or (better) spruce suffering extensive (and ongoing) windthrow. CONCEPT: Internal roads offer good access for productive forest management (Moyle and Ardintoul). Consolidate future timber production on accessible, robust terrain with species appropriate to soils/situation. Increasing use & confidence in innovative skyline harvesting methods – allowing forest restructuring on difficult-to-access slopes, bluffs and (PAWS) ravines. Establish robust riparian woodland framework - affording new 'green edges' for adjacent conifers so greater resilience and flexibility in future management/harvesting.

7. **Public Access**: ANALYSIS: Roads/trails: habitual use for informal recreation (locals, visitors, outdoor enthusiasts). Local running club hosts popular annual hill running event/weekend. Some habitat/species sensitive to disturbance from frequent/repetitive access & vulnerable to potential misuse. Very steep terrain limits development of new routes to enhance route options and increased road/trail connectivity. Local feedback Totaig-Ardintoul trail issues (condition/way marking). CONCEPT: Maintain access in accordance with SOAC implementing diversions during forest ops. Respond and support (where practical) local interest in trail upkeep and development. Routinely monitor site use/misuse & safety. Implement timely corrective actions.
8. **Native Woodland (conservation/expansion)**: ANALYSIS: Good native regen/establishment on some fallowing sites (proof of principle). Predictably dominated by pioneer species and non-native (seedbed) conifers. Evidence of localised browsing 'hot spots' in remoter native woodland restocks and some PAWS semi-natural remnants. Invasive non-native shrubs and non-native conifer regeneration are competitive threat to native woodland regeneration. CONCEPT: Use PAWS monitoring, regeneration surveying and stocking density assessment to discern patterns of browsing impact and focus cull effort accordingly. Maintain perimeter deer fence - minimising incursion of new deer as forests undergoing large scale restructuring and increased reliance on establishing more palatable, slower growing trees. Favour natural regeneration in native woodland expansion. Implement timely 'cleaning' of non-native regen to secure integrity of establishing native woodland.