



Dalbuie Land Management Plan Summary

Dalbuie LMP was approved on 24-4-2020 and runs for 10 years.

Vision

Dalbuie Land Management Plan (LMP) area comprises a landscape scale unit of 1,893Ha (See Map 1). The forest is located five miles south of Campbeltown on the Kintyre Peninsula. While Sitka Spruce is the dominant productive species due to site constraints, opportunities do exist to diversify both species and age structure. The forest has a comprehensive road network which has enabled restructuring to be carried out across most of the mature forest area. Large areas of the LMP have been significantly windblown in recent years. An additional area (20ha) on the western boundary purchased from Pennygown farm is also allocated for woodland creation during the plan period.

Much of the forest area comprises of predominantly similarly aged Sitka Spruce which has been significantly impacted on by windblow over the past 20 years. Given the amount of felling to harvest much of this windblow a number of 2nd rotation crops are now successfully establishing, though it may require another rotation to fully implement a more robust and resilient coupe and age structure. Species diversity is a priority as is improving the linkage and connectivity between riparian corridors and open ground across the forest where it contributes to bio-diversity and landscape. The LMP area also contributes to meeting the District's timber production targets. An additional 1180m of new roading will be required to implement this next phase of the Land Management Plan.

The forest area is predominantly surrounded by agriculture with areas of private commercial forest on the southern boundaries. Agricultural enterprises are mainly sheep farming. This offers some limited interaction between forestry and agriculture. Stock fencing and sheep trespass will remain important factors within the LMP area in relation to the success of restock establishment. Proposals for areas of additional private woodland creation on the north eastern and south western boundaries are currently going through the consultation and approval process.

The primary objectives for the plan area are

- Sustainable timber production
- Increase average management coupe size
- Reduction in road construction to reduce costs
- Diversification of species structure
- Diversification of age class structure
- Increased forest resilience in terms of mitigating the effects of climate change including pests and diseases.
- Expansion of priority habitats (Native woodland and Open space)



Total Plan Area	1,893 hectares (ha)
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Summary of Land Management Plan Proposals

Species Group	Current - 2019		Year 10 - 2028	
	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%
Sitka Spruce	1266.6	85	944	76
Norway Spruce	33.6	1	32.1	2
Larches	14.3	1	0	0
Mixed Conifers	116.7	8	180.8	15
Mixed Broadleaves	10.9	1	25.3	2
Native Broadleaves	54.2	4	57.3	5
	1496.3	100	1239.5	100

Planned Operations	2019– 2028 plan period
Felling	427ha
Thinning	0ha
Restocking	312ha
New planting	20ha
Road construction	1180m
Road upgrades	1300m
	5000m
Significant Environment / Conservation Features	
Designated sites (See Map 4)	Numerous Unscheduled Monuments (USM)
Minimum Intervention (See Map 9)	2 minimum intervention coupes
Natural Reserve (See Map 9)	2 NR areas; coupes 41094 & 41101
Caledonian Pine Wood	



Critical Success Factors:

- Maintain the timber producing productive capacity of the forest while balancing other factors.
- Improve the forest landscape and its impact along the Kintyre Way.
- Continue current levels of deer control which have enabled regeneration to occur in many areas. Consider increasing deer control and/or fencing to facilitate the regeneration of softer conifers and native broadleaves.
- Clear accessible windblow and poorer less productive crops.
- Diversify the current species structure where site conditions allow to improve future forest resilience in relation to climate change, pests and diseases.
- Diversify the current age structure to improve future forest resilience in relation to climate change.
- Maintain external stock fences in partnership with neighbours and control sheep trespass.
- Monitor invasive species within the plan area in particular Rhododendron. Japanese Knotweed proves to be less of an issue however this will be monitored and controlled as required.
- Identify peatland restoration opportunities during post felling operational planning. Future opportunities would be identified based on the FC Practice Guide “Deciding future management options for afforested deep peatland” & supplementary guidance.
- Record and protect public & private water supplies within the forest.
- Monitor disease impacts in particular Dothistroma Needle Blight (DNB) and Phythophthora ramorum
- Seek to improve the water quality status of water bodies by ensuring full compliance with Forest & Water Guidelines and best industry practice.
- Protect and enhance the setting of the unscheduled archaeological monuments during forest operations.

Consultation and Further Information:

Council area: Argyll & Bute Council

Community council: Southend Community Council

Consultation: Public consultation May 2017

For further information on the Plan, please contact:

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Forestry and
Land Scotland
Coilltearachd agus
Fearann Alba

Location Map

