

Submitted to Future Grant Support for Forestry
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Ministerial Foreword - Forestry in Scotland is a sector that we can be justly proud of.

1 - Introduction and Rationale for Providing Grant Support for Forestry

1. Do you agree that grant support for forestry should continue to be improved and developed as a discrete scheme within the overall package of land support?

Not sure

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

2. Are there any changes that would allow for better complementarity between the forestry and agriculture funding options?

Yes

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Needs to be proper funding for integrated woodlands where small areas of trees in corners etc can be fully grant funded. There is NOTHING available at present and this is disgraceful.

2 - Forests Delivering for Scotland's Climate Change Plan

3. How can the support package for forestry evolve to help tackle the climate emergency, to achieve net zero, and to ensure that our woodlands and forests are resilient to the future climate?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Need native trees to maximize the capture of carbon. and create more open meadow land areas where grasses can grow and photosynthesize all year.

4. Private investment through natural capital and carbon schemes can make a valuable contribution to climate change. Do you agree that the grant support mechanism should have more flexibility to maximise the opportunities to blend private and public finance to support woodland creation,

Not sure

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

There is a danger that more green-washing would occur. This should be banned. Why should air companies etc plant a few areas of trees and carry on doing all the polluting that they always did, but claim to be net zero [redacted]

5. How could the current funding package be improved to stimulate woodland expansion and better management across a wide range of woodland types, including native and productive woodlands?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Smaller areas of trees need to be funded. Most farms have areas in many fields where half a dozen trees could be planted/ Also, all urban areas should plant more trees instead of concrete gardens ! Planning regs should stipulate that any future urban housing plans are not recommended unless they undertake to plant

specific areas of trees in the gardens or communal areas around the housing.

Secondly, the trees damaged during recent storms need to be cleared and replanting work undertaken. There should be incentives (not the current felling regulations which are like sticks - no pun intended) to replant and remove debris.

6. Do you agree that it should be a requirement of grant support that woodlands are managed to ensure that they become more resilient to the impacts of climate change and pests and disease?

Yes

How can the grant scheme support this?:

Management grant as well as initial capital grant for planting. Species should be considered and varied within each area so that mono culture and therefore disease outbreaks do not cause carnage.

3 - Integrating Woodlands on Farms and Crofts

7. Which of the following measures would help reduce the barriers for crofters and farmers wanting to include woodland as part of their farming business? Please select all that apply.

Better integration of support for woodland creation with farm support mechanisms, Clearer guidance on grant options, Flexibility within options, Support with cashflow, Information on how current land use could continue with trees integrated throughout

Are there others not listed above?:

8. Establishing small woodlands can have higher costs. What specific mechanisms would better support small scale woodlands and woodland ownership?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

It is the Govt responsibility to deal with this themselves, am afraid. This is a badly thought out plan with ambitious targets, and no real understanding by civil servants that the land mass can only accommodate specific practical production. Govt wants to increase food production, increase exports , increase rewilding, increase biodiversity, increase trees.....all on a declining area of land !!!!! This is bad management by our Govt, so they need to support this internally, am afraid.

4 - Forests Delivering for People and Communities

9. How can forestry grants better support an increase in easily accessible, sustainably managed woodlands in urban and peri-urban areas?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Ensure communities will actually use and look after the areas. That is a big ask as urban communities take and take and take without investing.

10. How can grant support for forestry better enable rural communities to realise greater benefits from woodland to support community wealth building?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

They need to actually use and look after their green spaces, and use this for better physical and mental exercise / health..... If this happened, it may also help reduce stress upon NHS !

11. How can the forest regulatory and grant processes evolve to provide greater opportunities for communities to be involved in the development of forestry proposals?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Educate the public about land management ! Get farmers and foresters to help by teaching school teachers to teach pupils about the land. Get rural science back on the school curriculum ! Urban Kids and parents and teachers hardly understand anything about soils and land.

12. How can the forestry regulatory and grant processes evolve to ensure that there is greater transparency about proposals and the decisions that have been made on them?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

13. Forestry grants have been used to stimulate rural forestry businesses by providing support with capital costs. Do you agree that this has been an effective measure to stimulate rural business?

Not sure

a. How could this approach be used to support further forestry businesses?:

Needs to be greater and there needs to be management grants added to ensure the trees are properly maintained.

b. How could this approach be used to support further skills development?:

Teach Schools so that there is an appetite for understanding and perhaps a better and greater labour force available in future generations

14. How could the FGS processes and rules be developed to encourage more companies and organisations to provide training positions within the forestry sector?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Simplify and take the lead from those who know- foresters and farmers, and not civil servants.

5 - Forests Delivering for Biodiversity and the Environment

15. The primary purpose of FGS is to encourage forestry expansion and sustainable forest management, of which a key benefit is the realisation of environmental benefits. How can future grant support better help to address biodiversity loss in Scotland including the regeneration and expansion of native woodlands?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Enforce species management, such as deer culls and badger and beaver culls, as all of these destroy tree habitats.

16. Herbivore browsing and damage can have a significant impact on biodiversity loss and restrict regeneration. How could forestry grant support mechanisms evolve to ensure effective management of deer populations at:

Landscape scale?:

As above

Small scale mixed land use?:

As above

If you wish to make any other relevant comments, please do so in the text box below.

Please add your comments here.:

Why is this Govt introducing BEAVERS which cause tree and flooding damage.....? It is UNBELIEVABLE !

About you

What is your name?

Name:

What is your email address?

Email:

[redacted]

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Individual

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Scottish Forestry would like your permission to publish your response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

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We may share your response internally with other Scottish Forestry policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Forestry to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

No

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