

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.:

This question does not enable me to distinguish what you mean by 'forestry' there is huge difference between monocultures of invasive exotic planation's e.g. Sitka Spruce destined for clear felling with the resultant horrendous soil degradation and mixed specific planting integrated into landscapes.

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

Not sure

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

The muddled thinking of this consultation with ill defined term 'forestry' makes it impossible to answer this question

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.:

The support package should ensure that no new 'forest' is created without significant fire break areas - this will ensure more continued employment in rural areas as the 'forests' would be integrated with other land uses ensure resilient landscapes and associated social communities

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,

No

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

although it sounds attractive as it may save public funds - private finance sucks money out of the system

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.:

The lack of flexibility for future generations means many farmers fear trees as they clearly no longer have the flexibility afforded as land owners to make decisions on future land use.

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?

Not sure

How can the grant scheme support this?:

I do not understand exactly the implications of this question - I understand the words but it sounds as if there will just be another set of rules made up by well meaning individuals with academic training and minimal practical experience.

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, Knowing where to get reliable advice, 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?:

I do not understand the option - Intervention level.

The right tree in the right place can only be achieved when 'the place' is considered in its entirety. Greater integration of government agency staff and farmers as happened after the war would be a step in the right direction.

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.:

Less grant for large schemes - such that taken over a whole farm is no longer economically attractive to non-agricultural businessmen. Hopefully a policy which limited huge payments would result in less farms totally lost to food production for ever.

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.:

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.:

Restrict largescale forestry which forces people off the land as there is no employment

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.:

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.:

Ensure grants given to only named individuals (not companies)

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?:

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

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.:

Make it a condition of the grants

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.:

Stop all grants for exotic invasive species such as Sitka spruce

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?:

Make it a condition of all grants that fencing is not allowed - it restricts human and biodiversity access. This likely to result in better management of herbivories. It is time to be bold as the previous policy's have clearly failed spectacularly !

Small scale mixed land use?:

Same solution as for large scale - - deer management is currently uneconomical therefore change is needed.

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

Please add your comments here.:

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What is your organisation?

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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?

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