

A design brief for Scree LMP

The Scree Land Management Unit comprises the Scree, Potterland and Doach forest blocks. The management unit covers 569 ha and is located approximately 2 km to the west of Palnackie, South Scotland. It is part of Scotland's national forests and land, owned by Scottish Ministers on behalf of the people of Scotland, and managed by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS).

The Scree Land Management Plan (LMP) will define the management prescription for the next ten years (2021-2031), and present the vision for the long-term management of the area. The main management objectives in this plan focus on landscape, quality timber products, and native woodland.

Two maps have been produced to complement this design brief. A 'Features, Issues and Challenges' map highlights significant considerations, and a 'Concept' map presents the suggested approach to delivering the objectives of the plan.

The concept for the LMP focuses on delivering relevant national policy and has been developed around the following key drivers:

- Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029
- Forestry and Land Scotland Corporate Plan 2019-2022

The plan will contribute to the first three outcomes of the Forestry and Land Scotland Corporate Plan (Outcomes 4 and 5 relate to the organisational structure and business performance of FLS) as shown in the following table (operational actions not relevant to this plan have been greyed out):

| Outcomes from the FLS corporate plan | Operational Actions for delivery under Outcomes include: | LMP Actions / Prescriptions |
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| Outcome 1: Supporting a sustainable rural economy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing the national forests and land in accordance with the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) to ensure that timber and other products produced by FLS are guaranteed to be from a sustainably managed resource Developing our forest planning processes to ensure long-term sustainable productivity of the national forests and land Providing a sustainable supply of timber to Scotland's timber processing sector Implementing the Restocking Strategy for the national forests and land and develop a new plant and seed supply strategy Supporting Scottish tourism and the visitor economy through the provision of visitor attractions Supporting commercial activity on the national forests and land including agricultural management, rural housing and renewable energy opportunities, all of which help to sustain rural communities Support the venison processing sector through our deer management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design a land management plan for Screel which meets the UK Forestry Standard and UKWAS requirements and (where feasible) guidelines. Meet production forecast commitment through revised felling and thinning plans. Enhance the productive yield by selecting the correct species for site type restocking in line with regional goals for diversity, especially in larch restock sites. Increase use of natural regeneration in our restocking. Increase areas for thinning to enhance stand stability, improve timber quality and provide a wider range of products. Adopt principles of low impact silviculture and continuous cover forestry to yield high quality timber products, and to minimise landscape impacts. Continue deer management as per FLS regional strategy. Recognise the importance of these sites in the local landscape, and the value of this for attracting visitors to this scenic part of Scotland. |
| Outcome 2: Looking after Scotland's national forests and land | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing the national forests and land to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity Maintaining and enhancing our work on peatland restoration Collaborating with partners on integrated landscape scale approaches to habitat management and restoration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore Ancient Woodland sites and expand native woodland, strengthening connectivity with the wider habitat network Continue with <i>P. Ramorum</i> management as per FLS Larch Strategy guidance. Manage watercourses and buffers around drinking water supplies to maintain and improve water quality. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking specific conservation actions for vulnerable priority species (e.g. red squirrel, capercaillie, black grouse) • Delivering an increased contribution towards the Scottish Government's renewable energy targets • Supporting policy development and research and act as a testbed for new and innovative approaches to forestry and land management • Developing an asset management approach to the historic environment within Scotland's forests and land • Working with neighbouring land managers to undertake landscape-scale control of rhododendron to conserve ground flora and improve habitats • Continue to implement the Larch Strategy in order to reduce the rate of expansion of Phytophthora ramorum | |
| Outcome 3: National forests and land for visitors and communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining walking and biking trails to promote fun in the outdoors, focussing on improving entry level experiences for everyone to enjoy and gain health benefits • Continuing to remove barriers to ensure that people from all backgrounds can and do access the full range of benefits of the national forests and land • Enabling outdoor learning and encouraging schools and community groups to make use of the national forests and land • Facilitating renewable energy opportunities in order to encourage community benefits • Incentivising renewable developers to offer community ownership opportunities in renewable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with Dumfries and Galloway Council to provide a high standard of visitor experience on the Screel Hill path. • Continue to offer a formal waymarked trail in Doach woodland for locals and visitors to use. • Consult with local communities and stakeholders through the Land Management Plan review process. • Consider the aspirations of the local community, and how the LMP can support them. • Maintain a working partnership with South West Community Woodlands Trust for the benefit of both parties. |

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| | <p>energy developments on the national forests and land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to engage communities in decisions relating to the management of the national forests and land • Continuing to support community empowerment by enabling communities to make use of the national forests and land to benefit their communities | |
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