

Update on Increased funding for Woodland Creation and details of a new Harvesting and Processing round

This note provides updates on Woodland Creation and the increased 2019 funding, a new Harvesting and Processing round in 2019 and the budget situation/threshold scores for FGS applications.

1. Following the publication of the Scottish Government's plan for [Protecting Scotland's Future: The Government's Programme for Scotland 2019-20](#), funding for woodland creation has been increased by £5m to £45m in 2019.

- In 2018-19 we exceeded the annual planting target of 10,000 hectares by planting 11,200 hectares. In 2019-2020 we are now seeking to plant 12,000 hectares. To support this, an additional £5 million has been made available for woodland creation because of its contribution to tackling climate change.

2. Woodland Creation

There continues to be a high demand for woodland creation grants; with the current woodland creation situation shown in the table below.

Woodland Creation ha	2019/2020	2020/2021
Pre-application	2738	7051
Submitted not yet approved	1325	3677
Approved projects	9273	4868
Max Potential Area	13,336	15,596

With additional funding secured for this financial year we are keen that applicants maximise planting in 2019, in particular by bringing forward applications that are ready to be submitted. Conservancy teams will be prioritising 2019 applications in order to minimise any delays.

In addition we would ask contract holders to identify any already approved new-planting projects or parts of projects that can be realistically brought forward from 2020 to a 2019 claim year – applicants should speak with their local Conservancy Office.

Demand for woodland creation grants in claim year 2020 is high. Bringing forward projects will help maximise the use of the additional grant funding.

3. Option Guidance Update – Harvesting and Processing

An additional application round has added for 2019 to make use of the unallocated 2019 budget. Applications must be submitted by the 31st October 2019 to be assessed and contracts issued in time for projects to be completed by the end of March 2020.

4. Budget Availability and Threshold Scores

Table 1 has been updated to show the current budget availability and minimum score thresholds. Changes include:

- **Woodland Creation Budget** – this has been updated to reflect the additional £5m of funding.

If you have any queries then please contact your local Conservancy or our National Office.

Grants and Regulations, National Office, Scottish Forestry, Tel: 0131 370 5250
Email: scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot

Table 1 Forestry Grant Scheme: Clearing and Budget Categories with Threshold Scores – September 2019

Grant Category	Clearing categories	Frequency of Clearing	Indicative 2019 Budget £m	Claim Years available for first year of contract	Number of Claim Years available	Indicative Headroom 2019	Indicative Headroom 2020	Threshold Score(Max)
Woodland Creation	WC with CSGNC	Monthly	£9.0m	2019 & 2020	N+2			10 (31)
	WC High Cost* (>£6k/ha)		£3.0m	2019 & 2020				10 (31)
	WC with Nat Regen		£0.25m	2019 & 2020				2 (6)
	WC Other		£32.65m	2019 & 2020				10 (31)
Woodland Improvement Grants	Restructuring Regeneration	Monthly	£2.0	2020	N+2			3 (6)
	Planning options		£0.35	2019 & 2020	N+2			2 (6)
	Habitats & species/Liss		£0.80	2020	N+2			4 (6)
	WIAT		£0.85	2020***	N+2			9 (16)
Sustainable Management of Forests	Native Woodlands/ LISS/ livestock/Grazing	Monthly	£0.72	2020	N+1	N/A		2 (6)
	Squirrels/Predators/Deer		£0.36		N+1	N/A		2 (6)
	WIAT		£0.30		N+1	N/A		6 (16)
	Rural Access		£0.15		N+1	N/A		2 (6)
Tree Health		Monthly	£0.44	2019 & 2020	N+1			2 (6)
Forest Infrastructure**		Monthly	£0.3	2019 & 2020	N			3 (6)
Agroforestry		Monthly	£0.1	2019 & 2020	N+2			2 (6)
Harvesting and Processing**		Annual	£0.3	2019	N		N/A	2 (6)
Co-operation		Monthly	£0.1	2019	N+1		N/A	3 (16)
Total			£ 51.7					

Notes: *Projects with average cost is £6,000/ha or higher **Projects must be completed and paid in the approved claim year. *** Projects limited up to £100k/BRN. N = current calendar year

Indicative Headroom Colour Key:

There is currently good availability of funds within this FGS clearing category and we will be able to support most good quality application

It is likely the demand for funds within this FGS Clearing Category will exceed the available budget and there will be strong competition for funds

There are no longer any funds available within this FGS clearing category

Claim Years Available - Our approach to claim years is set out in Table 1 and depends on the grant type. This has been structured to ensure applications go through the competitive clearing process whilst at the same time manage the grant budget without a long forward booking of projects.

Please note that for an application proposal with multiple claim years, the application score must meet the higher of the threshold scores for each claim year to obtain full approval.

Woodland Creation - capital such as fencing and initial planting - up to 3 claim years (ie within N+2, where N = the current calendar year at time of application submission) with work having to start in the first 2 years eg one option is to apply in 2019, start work in year 2019 and complete in 2020. Another option is to apply in 2019, start work in 2020 and complete work in claim year 2021.

Woodland Improvement Grant - up to 3 year claim years (within N+2, where N = the current calendar year at time of application submission) with work having to start in the first 2 years except for WIG Restructuring Regeneration where a delay until year 3 is acceptable to meet species diversity rules.

Sustainable Management of Forests – next claim year is available as the first annual management claim year.

Agroforestry –as for woodland creation up to 3 claim years (within N+2, where N = the current calendar year at time of application submission) with work having to start in the first 2 years.

Tree health – current & next year claim year (within N+1 where N = the current calendar year at time of application submission)

Forest Infrastructure – one claim year available (within N, where N = the calendar year of available claim year)

Harvesting & Processing – one claim year available (within N, where N = the calendar year of the application round)

Co-operation – current and next claim year available (within N +1, where N = the calendar year of the application round)