

Submitted to Future Grant Support for Forestry
Submitted on 2023-05-02 11:57:35

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?

Yes

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Support for Forestry should only be in Forestry Scheme. RDC proved it is difficult to run a Forestry scheme with in a wider support network for rural issues.

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.:

Better support for high-cost shelter belts, which leads to better animal husbandry and animal welfare.

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.:

Not sure what this means. Why do we need Forestry to be net zero and what does net zero mean. Humans are only responsible for 3% of all CO2 emissions, the other 97% come from natural causes. Think is anything we should be concentrating on Forestry being plastic free, and using reusable fencing such as Clipex. Putting up deer fencing all over the country and leaving it there is more of a danger than any CO2 emission.

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,

Yes

Please explain you answer in the text box.:

Public funding should be balanced against carbon income, whilst carbon income lasts. No doubt the scam of carbon schemes will come out eventually.

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.:

increased costs.
more flexible costs.
perhaps a return to the SFGS list model, where the more silviculturally difficult operations get more funding.

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?:

Think there should be a cap on 30% on one species.

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, Intervention level, Support with cashflow, Information on how current land use could continue with trees integrated throughout

Are there others not listed above?:

Woodland Officers that understand farming.

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.:

Woodland Officers that understand farming.
an acceptance that shelterbelts are costly.

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.:

WIAT scheme is already there. Not sure of the demand for these woodlands.

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.:

What community wealth building. Local communities have owned land and areas of woodland for over 20 years. How many of these have been successful. We have seen CALL (Coigach & Assynt Living Landscape) need ing to be bailed out by Ander Polsen, so hardly a wealth building exercise. Overall the markets arent there and the expertise isnt there.

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.:

Consultation already exists, not sure what else needs done.

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.:

As above, consultation is carry out, perhaps what could be better would be more public meetings with agents and Scottish Forestry, these would need to be funded by Scottish Forestry, or at least the grant scheme should have funding in place to aid with better engagement and transparency. Perhaps Scottish Forestry should hold a serious on seminars to educate the public on the different types of forestry. IE native isnt SS and ploughing.

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?:

Not seen numbers to show the success of this.

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

Funding towards forestry education, but should that be Scottish Forestry's undertaking?

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.:

If the application process was easier, and not so bureaucratic more training may happen. But a lot of companies are put off employing inexperienced staff due to the difficulties in getting approvals for woodland creation and management.

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.:

There should be better support for regeneration and existing woodland management. I have had clients that are not managing areas of AWI as it is too expensive. This is resulting in areas of woodland disappearing through over grazing and these areas not expanding, due to the lack of management.

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?:

Rather than pay for fencing, pay for proper deer control, the pittance that is offered at present is a joke. Allow owners to work out how much a fence would cost at per metre cost, then pay that to them to control deer.

Small scale mixed land use?:

As above, pay for proper deer control, this may mean paying for deer control on open ground.

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

Please add your comments here.:

We need to reduce fencing or encourage the use of reusable fencing (<https://mcveighparker.com/clipec-deer-standard-post-3-0m>).

We need to increase how money we pay to reduce deer numbers. Under WGS, SFGS, RDC, and FGS we have been playing at it.

About you

What is your name?

Name:

[redacted]

What is your email address?

Email:

[redacted]

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Individual

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

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

Publish response only (without name)

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?

Yes

I confirm that I have read the privacy policy and consent to the data I provide being used as set out in the policy.

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