

Response ID ANON-VEPG-2G7W-S

Submitted to Future Grant Support for Forestry
Submitted on 2023-04-30 12:03:17

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?

No

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Too narrowly focused. The name Scottish Forestry seems to refer to specific rural opportunities (existing 'registered woodland' and potential new woodland creation by rural landowners and farmers). Either change the name to reflect this or extend the scope to include woodland creation (formal and informal) across the board including urban areas

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.:

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.:

Extend support to smaller scale urban and peri-urban planting, including by voluntary sector

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.:

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.:

Widen scope beyond traditional rural, landownership focus to include modest support to encourage urban and periurban planting by community/voluntary sector actors

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?:

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.

Information on how current land use could continue with trees integrated throughout

Are there others not listed above?:

Widen scope beyond traditional rural, landownership focus to include modest support to encourage urban and periurban planting by community/voluntary sector actors

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.:

Ringfence modest funding and associated support to voluntary sector initiatives in urban/periurban areas to challenge the town:country dichotomy and extend even small scale planting more widely. Such an initiative would need to seek additional financial and other support from elsewhere but continuing to focus a forestry/woodland strategy solely on conventional rural 'woodland' as proposed here seems unduly narrow given the scale of climate challenge

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.:

At present we understand that forestry funding and other support excludes informal woodlands in urban and peri-urban areas; and thus current support for access to woodland is artificially restricted to existing registered 'woodland'. This is unduly narrow and reduces the need to encourage access and woodland appreciation in other environments. It also geographically favours existing forest estate and regions. this needs to be challenged

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.:

why only rural communities?

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.:

extend to urban communities where no current forest estate exists

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.:

set ceilings on grants to widen participation

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.:

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.:

Extend scope beyond registered defined 'forests' to include more informal woodland creation and development especially in urban areas

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?:

Small scale mixed land use?:

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

Please add your comments here.:

About you

What is your name?

Name:

[Redacted]

What is your email address?

Email:

secretary@clearfife.org

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

CLEAR Buckhaven & Methil

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?

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.

I consent