

Response ID ANON-VEPG-2GYP-M

Submitted to Future Grant Support for Forestry
Submitted on 2023-03-14 20:17:11

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.:

It is a capital giveaway of public funds to absentee investors,

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.:

Currently, forestry is quadruple funded in direct comparison to continued farming of the same land:

Capital grant upfront for planting,
Continued claim of BPS
Carbon credits sold
No tax paid on timber sales.

By direct comparison, would you provide all capital investment for a new farm steading up front, pay bps, allow a farms true soil carbon sequestration to be reflected (not the flawed calculator from sruc) and the farmer may be relieved of an obligation to pay income tax on the sale of their produce??

THAT would be "complimentarity" = a level playing field

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 govt business - this is a forester's risk.

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 Answered

Please explain you 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.:

Fully fund biosecurity enhancing, wildlife corridor buffer strips on farms, and associated fencing capital cost, no more than 10 metres wide.

You get trees, farmer gets amenity, landscape gets visual appeal. Simples.

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?:

Yes. This is a joke also - the shocking levels of pest erosion, and abandoned windblow in current forestry practice is heinous. You should have GAEC equivalent conditions (at least) on foresters the same you impose on your farmers.

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.

Intervention level

Are there others not listed above?:

Fully fund the biosecurity, wildlife corridor buffer strips previously proposed. You could even direct your FLS staff to undertake this work on private land, by invitation of the owners.

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.:

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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.:

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.:

As an example - neighbouring land occupiers are not consulted with hynyour govt department when it comes to forest plans/felling licenses. So forest gets chopped, fences are a mess because no forester ever wants to play their part in being neighbourly and contribute to march fencing repair obligations, and then they complain when livestock come onto their replant. If they had the wit and decency to engage with neighbours, all those problems could be avoided.

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.:

This must be a joke - your blanket plantations of non native Sitka are the worst example of biodiversity loss Scotland has ever seen.

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?:

Deer browsing Sitka is a biodiversity gain.

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:

[Redacted]

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Individual

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

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

Publish response with 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?

No

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