

Priorities and Objectives for Dyfi Forest

- Increase diversification of the forest tree species composition from what is currently spruce dominated, in order to increase resilience to pests and disease whilst improving resilience to climate change.
- Look at all opportunities to increase structural diversity within stands through utilising a variety Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS) where appropriate. The type of silvicultural system will be constrained in large areas due to steep ground, lack of previous thinning and exposure on the highest ground.
- Maximise thinning, particularly ensuring first-thinning is done on time and frequently thereafter. This will improve ecological diversity and increase options for future management including possible use of LISS.
- Improve age diversity through clear-felling programmes which will continue to maximise age diversity both within catchments and across the wider forest area.
- Create a diverse permanent forest structure and ecosystem that includes riparian and native woodland, natural reserves, long-term retentions, successional woodland and a mosaic of open habitats including forest roads and rides. Allow for a variety of woodland management regimes where natural processes only take place. This will not only benefit forest structure but will also provide important permanent habitat for a variety of fauna and flora such as Goshawk nest sites and lichen habitats.
- Increase the use of natural regeneration in establishment of new crops where appropriate, particularly native broadleaf species but also conifers on LISS sites
- Continue to be a highly productive forest for timber production, utilising as much as possible a diversity of tree species that will flourish both now and into the future according to climate change predictions and should continue to maintain a regular sustainable supply of quality timber products.
- Continue to explore the potential for any renewable energy projects within the forest area, which includes ongoing support for Hydro schemes in Pantperthog.
- Look for opportunities for supporting local business's, local marketing of timber and for increased employment directly or indirectly both in timber production and other activities/businesses related to activities within the forest.
- Invest in a permanent infrastructure of roading and tracks to develop

access to areas where it does not exist and to help develop internal infrastructure for future LISS sites to ensure long-term management of the whole forest.

- Utilise the watercourses, existing native woodland habitats, upland open habitats as the basis of a permanent forest structure, creating larger habitat networks with improved linkages with ancient woodland, such as the Coed Maes Mawr SSSI. Also link open habitats such as Fron Felen and the heathland habitat above the forest. This linked network of riparian and native woodland will improve water quality and enhance biodiversity.
- Protect and enhance microclimatic conditions for Lichens in Cwm Gleswych, Cwm Ceirig and Cwm Llecoediog. Management and prioritising areas for Lichens habitat improvement should be linked to the improvements in riparian, ancient woodland and new native woodland.
- Develop a prioritised programme of removal of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) from riparian zones, native woodland habitats and all other parts of Dyfi Forest.
- Urgent removal of mature Western hemlock to be prioritised through clear-felling programmes. Younger Western hemlock removal must also form part of riparian improvement work and restock site preparation, cleaning and respacing programs.
- Protect and enhance the ecological condition and features of the Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland. Improve the condition of all Planted Ancient Woodland Sites with linkages between ancient woodland, existing and new native woodland, to improve habitat networks.
- Protect and enhance the condition of the Coed Maes Mawr SSSI, improve its connectivity to the wider native woodland habitats within and surrounding Dyfi Forest.
- Create an appropriate plan to protect and manage the Cadair Idris SAC / SSSI heathland habitat which includes, the removal of planted conifers within the SAC/SSSI, the creation of an upland native woodland habitat, new open space linked to deep peat restoration and removal of non native species from the designated areas between forest and heathland.
- Create or enhance open space in other areas of recently identified for deep peat restoration, possibly linking with open upland habitat and the Cadair Idris SAC.
- Increase the opportunities for deadwood habitat through identifying Long-term Retentions, Natural Reserves and by changing operational habits. Leaving deadwood in situ supports a diverse biota within the forest

ecosystem.

- Improve habitats for the range of important fauna currently within Dyfi. This includes, Otters, recently introduced Pine Martins, Goshawk and bats. Dyfi Forest is particularly noted for its Dormice population, management activities should look to improve and expand Dormice habitat.
- Reduce the potential for flood risk by riparian habitat improvement, maintaining woodland cover and expansion of the native woodland area. By managing the extent of clear-fells within catchments and thinning crops whilst maximising the use of LISS, this will minimise the impact on peak water flows and also critical loads in acid sensitive catchments.
- Minimise the potential adverse effects of acidification through maintaining good and improved water quality through improved riparian habitat and linkages, increased area of native woodland and improved habitat networks based on the riparian infrastructure.
- Improve the visual diversity of the forest by increasing the structural diversity and species diversity within and between stands and increased native woodland and riparian habitats
- Protect and enhance the numerous important historical features which include abandoned slate quarries, old farmsteads, and slate fencing, either with open space or native woodland expansion. Link them with recreational routes or other habitat networks where possible.
- Maintain existing recreational facilities to a high standard and look to develop appropriate recreational opportunities in the forest.
- Maintain Public Rights of Way and ensure they are taken into account during operational activities and any blockages are reinstated as necessary.
- Maintain and improve current links with local communities to ensure current levels of access and usage are in line with local needs as well as other activities such as motor rallies, enduros and horse events.
- Protect and improve access along the walking trails that link up to the Tarren Hendre long distance route running from Corris to Tywyn, with links from Abergynolwyn, Pennal, Corris and Dolgoch.