



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Slievealoughaun MU
Connelly, Co. Clare
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2023 – 2042 (Period 1: 2023 -2027)

GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Slievealoughaun Forest MU comprises of sixteen separate forest blocks totalling 485.7ha. This forest MU is based on geographical location. Legal folios are held on file. Prior to forest establishment land provided marginal farm land. Neighbouring landuse mature private forestry and impoverish grazing.

1. Bealcragga, 21.1ha. Established in 1991. Acquired in 2018.
2. Cloonbooly, 11.3ha. Established in 1992. Acquired in 2018.
3. Cloongowna, 24.2ha. Established in 1992. Acquired in 2018.
4. Cloonmacken, 28.8ha. Established in 1989.
5. Derryharriv, 29.1ha. Established in 1986, 1994 & 2011.
6. Derrynacarragh, 16.3ha. Established in 1992. Acquired in 2018.
7. Doonsallagh, 17.3ha. Established in 1994. Acquired in 2016.
8. Feighroe, 24.9ha. Established in 1993. Acquired in 2018.
9. Garrynagry, 11.4ha. Established in 1992. Acquired in 2018.
10. Kinturk, 36.9ha. Established 1986.
11. Knockalassa, 37.2ha. Established 1990 by [REDACTED].
12. Knockogonnell, 21.5ha. Established in 1992, 1993 & 1994. Acquired in 2018.
13. Reanagishagh, 18.6ha. Established in 1992 & Acquired in 2018.
14. Shanawella, 9.2ha. Established in 1986.
15. Slaghbooly, 38.6 ha. Established 1990, 92, 94 by [REDACTED].
16. Slievealoughaun 135.9ha. Established in early 1990s by [REDACTED].

Elevation

Elevation ranges from 80m to 350m

Statutory Land Designations

There are no Statutory Land Designations in the Slievealoughane MU.

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

The MU is within the Fergus and Inagh subcatments.

Margaritifera

Slievealoughane is within Margaritifera sensitive areas - Catchments of other extant populations.

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

There is no OWS/potential OWS in the Slievealoughane MU.

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There is an enclosure in Reanagishagh.

SOIL TYPES.

Two soil types following closely to topography. Surface water gleys/ peaty gleys on any sloping land and with intermixed localised areas of deeper peat in unflushed hollows. On lower lying valley basin at the bottom of Slievealoughaun deep peat is present.

SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Low Felling Impact with Moderate Afforestation Sensitivity - From a felling perspective the only elevated forestry is Knockalassa which is surrounded by neighbouring forestry of similar age. The general locality is sparsely populated with no significant transport routes through the valley. The MU is characterised by open topography which forms the headwaters of the River Inagh catchment. The landscape is historically heavily grazed with very little natural woodland cover or even individual specimen/ hedgerow trees. Mountcallen forms the backdrop to the west and is heavily forested with Sitka spruce. The emphasis of natural features in the restructuring process is therefore limited.

To address the potential landscape impact issues the felling plan has applied a significant coupe restructuring sequence to introduce greater crop age structure. It also outlines species which is limited to Sitka spruce based on site conditions and management objectives. Restock design is focused on open ground and broadleaf expansion. Future LTR of Scots pine also play a significant role.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES.

- 1) To maximise economic output from the forest at local and national level.
- 2) To manage FMU in accordance with the principals of the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) and international benchmarks of the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC).
- 3) To manage timber production in a sustainable way.
- 4) To maintain and enhance the landscape value of the forest.
- 5) To protect existing biodiversity and where opportunities arise enhance and further promote new biodiversity.
- 6) To manage forest activities with due regard to local, regional and national stakeholder interests.
- 7) To promote continuous professional development at management level.

(IForUTs FSC licence code: FSC-C003194)

Summary of silvicultural systems to be used.

System	Conifers	Broadleaves
Clear fell	✓	
Selective fell		
Thinning to MTI	✓	
Line thinning only		
Non thin regime	✓	
Non intervention		✓
Natural regeneration		✓
Replanting	✓	✓
Other		

5 Year Monitoring Report Summary.

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Large FMU with stands of varying yield classes. Several forests have been thinned while others or parts of properties, are managed on a no thin basis. Some properties were damaged by the storm in 2014 and these areas were cleared over the following years.	There have been several clearfells which took place in some of the more mature properties in the FMU such as Slaghbooly, Reanagisagh and Slievealoughaun. In general they have made a good rate of return. Only one property has been thinned during the previous number of years. It is unlikely that there will any thinning taking place over the next 5 year period due to the exposed nature of some of the sites in the FMU and as properties are maturing and getting beyond further thinning.
2	Certification Standards	Certification standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off FMM	Continue as before and update FMM as required.
3	Timber production	As mentioned above, there will not be very much thinning over the next five year period. There will be a cycle of clearfells upcoming	<p>Clearfells have been brought forward in this plan to some windblow creep. There will be clearfells occurring nearly every year over the next five year period with the exception of 2026.</p> <p>Felling coupes have been kept as small as possible whilst taking windblow risk, site topography and logistics into account.</p> <p>Felling coupes have been separated out as much as possible to allow for time delays between felling coupes and to try to ensure that there is not a glut of felling in any five year period. However, delaying felling or bringing felling forward any further would result in severe economic losses from either a too small tree size or wind-damage as a result of delaying felling beyond a critical top height.</p>
4	Landscape	Two new landscape layers added to designations GIS layer. Forest Service layer taken off National Development plan for new planting and Landscape Unit appraisals based on Coillte LUs.	New landscape layer added to Sensitivities Map in MP. Landscape character classified as LOW with the exception of Cloonmacken which is moderately sensitive due to its proximity to Inagh Village.

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	There was some biodiversity enhancement during the past five years which the cycle of felling and restocking is supporting.	The primary way that biodiversity will be improved will be post felling. Areas of open space and mixed broadleaves will be created along country roads. UP will also be increased. Examples of this have occurred at Slaghbooly where increased amounts of broadleaves have been introduced along the county road boundary and unplanted ground has been left along internal watercourses. Some properties in the FMU are adjacent to the river Inagh where there is an ongoing improvement project. IForUT will be implementing setbacks in relation to this river and talks are ongoing with local stakeholders in ensuring replanting is sympathetic to the project objectives. Open space and biodiversity will further increase over the next rotation due to changes in the required national standards. These standards will require increased broadleaves and openspace alongside county roads and dwelling houses at restocking stage. Areas of ash in the FMU have been affected by Ash Dieback. In general it is planned to remove these areas over time though some areas may be suitable for retention. The current plan is to restock with broadleaves. Sparrowhawk, badger and red squirrel have been spotted on various sites in the FMU over the last number of years.
6	Stakeholder	No issues with stakeholders.	During plan review completed full stakeholder consultation - advert in local papers, local community groups, and local based statutory bodies. Some work done in Cloonmacken on the request of local stakeholders
7	Professional Development	managed. Ongoing development of the IForUT FMM and database over the period. Forest Managers are members of SIF and attend lectures and field days as part of continuous professional development.	Retendering of whole portfolio into regional management units in 2010 to simplify overall forest level management and Certification compliance. New centralised network server() has been introduced for managing FMM and IForUT database.
8	Forward Planning	Continue with current standards and work practices and review on a continuous basis to implement industry best practice	Carry out reviews of Forest Management Manual and training with forest managers.