



## Irish Forestry Unit Trust

<b>Barnesmore</b>
Loch Eske, Co. Donegal
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
<b>2023 – 2042</b> <b>(Period 1: 2023-2027)</b>

## GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Barnesmore is a small 11.1ha forest overlooking Loch Eske, 5 miles north of Donegal town. On the hill side from the forest down to the Loch is native woodland, and on the hillside behind is coniferous Coillte forestry. Previous land use prior to forestry would have been poor enclosed grazing.

The public road forms part of the Loch Eske drive and with high tourist traffic during holiday and weekend periods.

The forest was acquired by [REDACTED] in 1984 from [REDACTED], through [REDACTED].

### **Elevation**

Ranges between 80m and 100cm

### **Statutory Land Designations**

Barnesmore bounds the Loch Eske and Ardnamona Wood NHA and SAC.

### **Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:**

Barnesmore MU lies within the water catchments of Crana, Donegal Bay, Finn/Derg/Boyle, Gweebarra Bay, Leannan/Clady/Owencarrow/Glaskeelan, Lough Foyle, Lough Swilly West, Mulroy Bay/Sheephaven, Owenea, Ray, Rossan Point, Swilly and West Inishowen.

### **Margaritifera**

Barnesmore lies within Catchments of SAC populations listed in S.I. 296 of 2009.

### **Old Woodland Sites (OWS):**

There is OWS/potential OWS in the Barnesmore MU. An old woodland report has been carried out in 2023. The report states 'Given the lack of ancient woodland indicators and the recording of rough pasture and furze or whins across the majority of the site on the 6 Inch Map Last Edition Black & White, 25 Inch Map and 6 Inch Map First Edition Black & White, it would appear that this is not an old woodland.

### **Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:**

There are no archaeology features in properties within the Barnesmore MU.

## SOIL TYPES.

Soil type peaty gley on slopes and deep peat on flats.

## SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

**High Landscape Sensitivity.** Loch Eske has high scenic value from a tourism perspective and two national designations relating to wildlife protection exist on the lower slopes running down to Loch Eske. The back drop to the landscape is the Blue Stacks Mountains. The Loch Eske area is moderately populated by one off housing. Views from this forest are limited from the far side of Loch Eske.

Due to age structure and size all of Sub 2 & 3 were felled in 2007. The presence of early windblow clearance replanted 1999, neighbouring LP and birch scrub, the felling impact has been greatly mitigated. This felling has also opened up views from the public and neighbouring dwelling across Loch Eske. Replanting has also allowed restocking to be held further back from the road edge and ESB wayleave to further protect these views.

## 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 (potnl)	✓	
Line thinning only		
Non thin regime	✓	
Non intervention		✓
Natural regeneration		✓
Replanting	✓	✓
Other		

## 5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. **Barnesmore**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Main clearfell made depletion charge. Measurement of 4481m <sup>3</sup> against actual of 4534ms.	Good commercial species site and site to be managed for timber production over next rotation. No thinning until 2027
2	Certification Standards	Certification Standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off FMM	Certification standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off FMM. Continue as before and update FMM as required.
3	Timber production	Small forest block with one main clearfell. Timber production high off felled area.	Crop was thinned once early and then left to clearfell. Produced high standing volume and wind firm crop. Restock site is showing high levels of broadleaf natural regen which could become detrimental to the commercial element. Although good restocking stocking levels, possibly should have planted at a higher level.
4	Landscape	Minimum impact in a sensitive landscape. For future planning two new landscape layers have been added to designations GIS layer. Forest Service layer taken off National Development plan for new planting and Landscape Unit appraisals based on Coillte LUs.	IForUT Lu classifies as high, FS land sensitivity classifies as low. New landscape layer added to Sensitivities Map. Good viewing point created across Lough Eske.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Good deadwood and natural regen. Good habitat retention and development created post felling.	Greater % of area developing naturally as biodiversity habitat. Strong nat. regen. Under power line. Forward planning will see planting of Scots pine for habitat diversity. An OWS report states that given the lack of ancient woodland indicators and the recording of rough pasture and furze or whins across the majority of the site on old maps, it would appear that this is not an old woodland.
6	Stakeholder	Maintained good relationship with neighbour and CoCo during harvesting operation.	During plan review a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted.
7	Professional Development	██████ managed.	Retendering of whole portfolio into regional management units in 2010 to simplify overall forest level management and FSC 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 updating of best practice.