



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Firoda MU
Castecomer, Co. Kilkenny
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2009 – 2028 (Period 4: 2021 -2025)

2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Firoda Forest MU comprises of 6 separate forest blocks totalling 67.37ha. This forest MU is based on geographical location. Firoda, Firoda Upper and Lower are found approx. 4km NW of Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny.

Forest properties being reviewed:

1. Firoda 6.67ha. Established in 1997 by [REDACTED]
2. Firoda Upper 20.93ha. Established in 1990 by [REDACTED]

New properties being added to the MU:

3. Killoshulan 9.93ha. Established in 1992.
4. Firoda Lower 3.92ha. Established in 1994.
5. Lisdowney 14.86ha. Established in 1992.
6. Crutt 11.03ha. Established in 1995.

4. SOIL TYPES.

Due to the geographical distribution there are several soil types. Derived from mainly non-calcareous parent materials which can be categorised as surface water gleys, ground water gleys, (Crutt & Killoshulan) Gley & Lithosols, Regosols (Lisdowney) Grey Brown Podzolics, Brown Earths (medium-high base status)

5. SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Low Felling Impact with High Afforestation Sensitivity - Refer to Map 3.

Moderate landscape value due to its raised position on generally open flat heavily forested topography/ plateau. Felling plan in Map 6 is designed to reduce coupe size and diversify age class to mitigate impact on the landscape.

All existing broadleaf trees and hedgerows within the forest sites will be retained in the interests of protecting the character of the landscape and the protection of the environment, in particular, habitats for flora and fauna. Restock designs (Map7) will mitigate against this.

6. 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)

16. Felling.

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

20. 5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. Firoda & Firoda Upper

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Both Properties are fully roaded. And both have been thinned, the most recent thinning in 2016.	Storm Darwin in 2014 has created a small pocket of WB in Firoda upper which was cleared in 2016. Further windblow has occurred since that time in the poorer sections of the crop. Thus decision made to not thin in this property any further. Firoda lower is down for another thinning in 2020
2	FSC Standards	FSC standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off FMM	Continue as before and update FMM as required.
3	Timber production	Thinning and clearfelling in the planning period	No further thinning in Firoda Upper due to Windblow. Felling will commence of the most recent windblow in 2019. The remainder of the crop will follow a couple of years after this as it is reaching a critical top height. Firoda Lower is smaller coupe and a more uniform crop and will be removed in 2031
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 Medium. By and large the MU is surrounded by farmed land but this part of Co. Kilkenny is a more heavily forested part of the county.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Biodiversity enhancement has been limited	Continue with current management practices.
6	Stakeholder	No Stakeholder issues. Neighbour with adjacent forestry was asked if he wanted IForUT to arrange for contractor to thin his block and he was obliged. [REDACTED] is the gentleman that uses the ROW	During plan review a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted. See stakeholder files on system
7	Professional Development		New centralised network server [REDACTED] 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 annual reviews of Forest Management Manual and introduce annual manager training and updating of best practice.