



## Irish Forestry Unit Trust

<b>South Mayo MU</b>
South Mayo, Co. Mayo
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
<b>2022 – 2041</b> <b>(Period 1: 2022-2026)</b>

## 2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

South Mayo MU comprises three forest blocks totalling 37.7ha.

### Properties:

1. Carrowmore, 11.9ha. Established in 2021. Acquired by IForUT in 2021. [REDACTED]
2. Carrowmore 2, 9.4ha. Established in 1990. Acquired by IForUT in 2021 [REDACTED]
3. Ballyglass Lower, 16.5ha. Established in 2003. Acquired by IForUT in 2016 [REDACTED]

### Elevation

Ranges between 55m to 100m

### Statutory Land Designations

N/A

### Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

This MU lies within Clare River, Clew Bay, Conn, Corrib, Kilary Harbour, Mask and Suck water catchments. Refer to Map 9.

### Margaritifera

There are no properties in the South Mayo MU within Margaritifera areas.

### Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

There is a small area of potential old woodland in Carrowmore 2 of 0.35ha.

### Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There are enclosures in Carrowmore and Ballyglass Lower. Refer to Map 4.

## 4. SOIL TYPES.

Mountain landscape on peaty gleys.

## 5. SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

### Low Felling Impact with Low Afforestation Sensitivity Refer to Map 3.

All forest blocks are classed as low felling impact on the IForUT system due partly to the relatively small size of the IForUT holdings. Whenever felling licences are submitted to the Forest Service, they will correspond with relevant local and statutory bodies to investigate any potential landscape sensitivities. The Forest Service Moderate Landscape Sensitivity class, as defined for afforestation planning covers the three upland properties which will require some sensitivity given to the restocking planning in this MU.

To address the potential landscape impact issues caused by future clearfelling, the felling plan (Map 6) has applied a significant coupe restructuring plan to reduce clearfell size and introduce coupe separation. The long-term restructuring plan (Map 7) outlines future restructuring species which is limited to Sitka spruce based on soil types and management objectives. Biodiversity enhancement in Map 7 is focused on the creation of additional open ground and expansion of broadleaf planting. Species choice is specifically matched to soil type and exposure.

## 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)

## 14. 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. **South Mayo**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Generally decent productivity in the MU though there some areas of pine which are of low productivity	No economic return has been generated from the properties since IForUT came into ownership of them. The mature property at Carrowmore is managed on a no thin basis. There are plans to thin the property in Ballyglass next year and the young crop at Carrowmore will hopefully be thinned within this plan period. Thinning will improve the crop quality and growth going forward which will improve economic return in the future. Each property in the MU has been thinned or there are plans to thin in the future.
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	No timber production has taken place to date.	Continue with current approach. Review crop stability on ongoing basis, especially in relation to thinning. As mentioned above, the more mature crop in Carrowmore has been managed to date on a No thin basis due to poor access into the crop. This is planned for Clearfell in 2033. It is hoped that a first thinning will be carried out in Ballyglass in 2023 and the new crop at Carrowmore will hopefully be thinned towards the latter part of the current planning period. Felling coupes have been kept as small as possible whilst taking windblow risk, site topography and logistics into account. Felling coupes have also been seperated 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 winddamage as a result of delaying felling beyond a critical top height.
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. Felling Plan and Restructuring Plan designed to mitigate future felling impacts. Coupes have been kept as small as possible.

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Limited opportunities for biodiversity enhancement to date.	The main opportunity to enhance biodiversity will occur post clearfell. There are some positive areas in terms of biodiversity for example there is a plot of broadleaves in Carrowmore which is of poor quality and mix of species. Approx 0.35ha of this is potential Old Woodland. An ecologist has been engaged to carry out an assessment of this. This area will be retained as broadleaves going forward and the whole sub compartment will be managed for bio. There is a plot of Ash in Ballyglass lower. This is however badly infected with Ash Dieback. This will be removed at some point in the future. It is intended to replant this area with Mixed broadleaves after its removal. Open space and biodiversity will further increase over the next rotation, also due to changes in the required national standards. These standards will require increased broadleaves and openspace alongside county roads, rivers and dwelling houses at restocking stage.
6	Stakeholder	Generally Quiet locality.	Comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted. Some discussions with stakeholders in regards to ROW's
7	Professional Development	managed. 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 was completed in late 2010. New centralised network  is being used to coordinate and simplify the storage and access to FMM records.
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.