

Introduction to the Grampian Regional Forestry Forum Action Plan

5th May 2007

The GRFF Action Plan is the product of meetings, discussions and presentations attended by Forum members during the last 3 years. One of the Forum's roles is to advise FCS on the regional implementation of the Scottish Forestry Strategy and to provide a regional perspective on the Strategy's future development. The Forum believes that the Action Plan is a helpful tool to achieve this.

The Process

The Forum decided that as a first step it would be helpful to identify dimensions that are special to Grampian:

- ❖ The 4 forested areas with distinctive management regimes:
 - The Grampian Forest
 - Forests in Moray
 - The Deeside Forest
 - Forestry in the Cairngorm National Park
- ❖ The high proportion of forestry owned by private forestry owners
- ❖ The GRFF link to the Health Sector in Grampian through member Jim Royan, Chairman of NHS Grampian
- ❖ The interface of moorland and forestry in Grampian and in neighbouring Highland region
- ❖ The importance of the production and processing of timber to the economy
- ❖ The high percentage of Scots Pine in the region, particularly in Moray
- ❖ The strong links to farming in the region
- ❖ The proximity of woodland to a large number of communities

The Forum proceeded to link the regional dimensions to the themes of the SFS, to identify priorities, to identify tasks that would contribute to the delivery of these priorities and to identify who would deliver them and how this would be helpful.

The role of the Forum for each priority and theme is not always the same and so sub groups have been formed for most of the Themes. A sub group may have a monitoring role, a communication role or an informative role. The intention is to add value, contribute to the quality of the management of forestry in Grampian and to make links between all in Grampian to whom forestry is important. That's probably all of us.