

# **Scottish Forestry Forum**

**15th November 2004**

**Bob McIntosh, Director Scotland**

# Outline of presentation



- follow up to the issues raised by the forum last year (priorities for new planting)



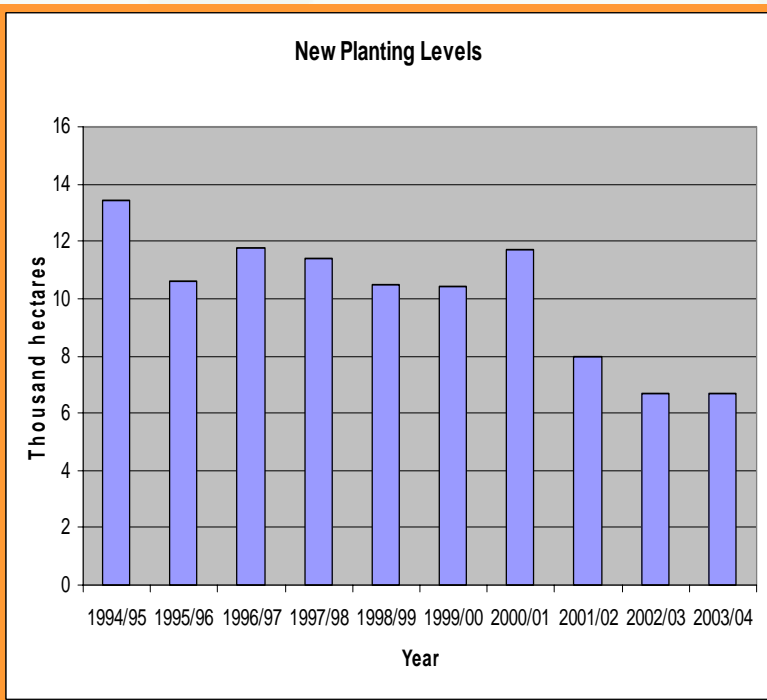
- this year's theme (rural development)



- next year (review of SFS)

- falling planting levels
- effect of mid term review of the CAP
- balance between native and non - native specie
- role of Forest Enterprise Scotland in woodland creation
- development of Indicative Forestry Strategies and Local Forestry Frameworks
- administration of incentive schemes

## *Issue*



## *Background*

- high level of uncertainty due to Foot and Mouth and CAP reform.
- lower take up of approved schemes
- wrong time to judge true underlying interest in woodland creation

## *Actions Taken*

- working closely with SEERAD colleagues to mitigate impact of CAP reform
- announcement of 'stacking' option for next two seasons
- increase in area eligible for Farmland Premium
- increase in Locational Premium budget

## *Issue*

What should the balance be between:-

- use of native and non - native species
- productive woodlands and new native woodlands

## *Background*

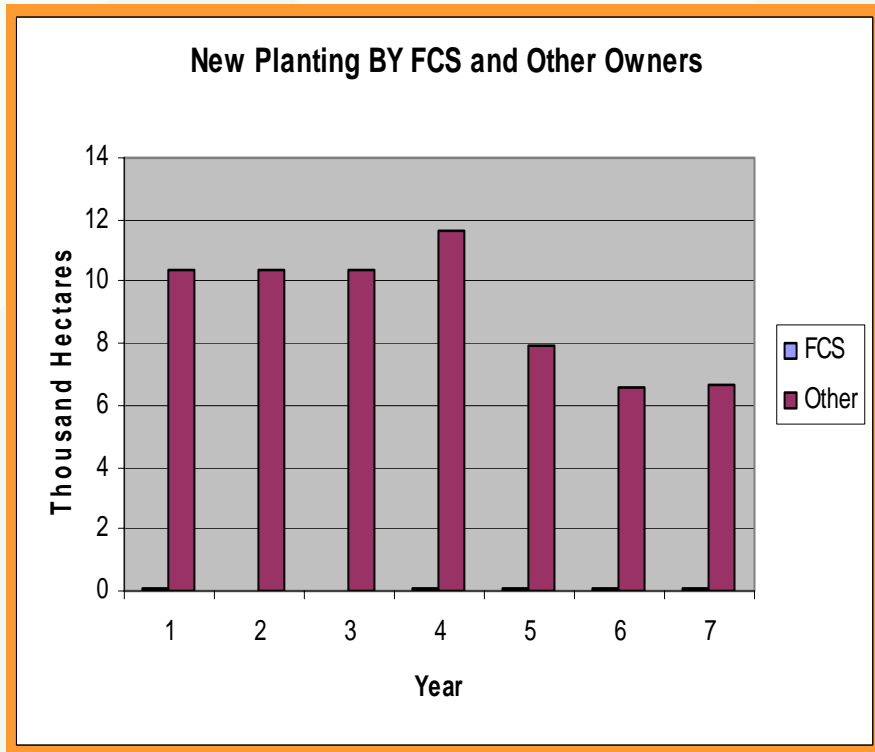
- 25% of Scotland's woodland area composed of native species
- high level of support for new native woodland creation in last WGS
- SFGS shifts balance towards other woodland types

## *Actions Taken*

- New native woodland inventory instituted as a precursor to new targets for restoration and enhancement of native woodlands
- continue to encourage diversity of woodland types
- reject idea at this stage of specific targets for native species



## *Issue*



## *Background*

- seek best value for money
- land is expensive, public private partnership is cost effective
- use state sector primarily where there is market failure or external funding

## *Actions taken*

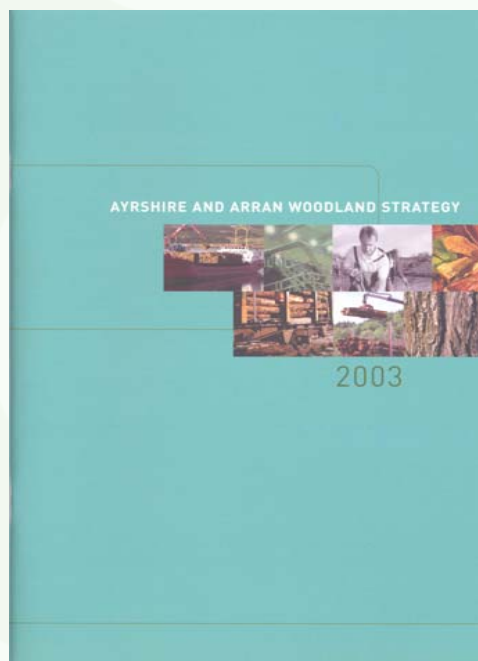
- FES engaging in new native woodland creation through the Scottish Forestry Alliance
- develop role for FES in the WIAT initiative
- continue to encourage/incentivise private sector to create new woodlands

## *Issue*

Ensuring that new woodlands are of the right type in the right place

## *Background*

Indicative Forestry Strategies, or Local Forestry Frameworks, in place or planned for a significant part of Scotland



## *Actions Taken*

- utilisation of locational premiums
- development of regional forestry forums
- encouragement of more IFS exercises

## *Issue*

are the administrative procedures surrounding the SFGS too complex and beaurocratic?



## *Background*

- world is a more complex place- more consultation, more regulation
- want to work with applicants to minimise the administrative cost and complexity
- interim stage between WGS and SFGS systems

## *Actions taken*

- new e-based application and management package being introduced next year
- user group established to provide feedback
- new Forest Plans scheme being developed

*Input*



Forests

*Activities  
&  
Outputs*



Timber



Recreational facilities



Conservation of rare species

**Development of  
the rural economy**

**Improved health  
& well-being for  
rural communities**

**Improving the  
rural  
environment**

*Outcomes*

***Rural Development***

- difficult issue
- few good quantitative studies
- new studies in progress
  - evaluation of the Grampian and Central Scotland Challenge funds nearing completion
  - major regional evaluation of forestry's contribution just begun in Moray

- Mid term review of CAP
  - new support mechanisms for agriculture
  - increased rates of modulation
  - opportunities for new forestry support mechanisms
- New Rural Development Regulation
  - implemented in 2007
  - generally positive moves towards supporting rural development
  - possible problems with support levels for woodland creation

# Review of the Scottish Forestry Strategy



‘Scotland will be renowned as a land of fine trees, woods and forests which strengthen the economy, which enrich the natural heritage and which people enjoy and value’

- Maximise the value of the wood resource
- create a diverse forest resource for the future
- make a positive contribution to the environment
- create more opportunities for people to enjoy trees, woods and forests
- help communities to benefit from woods and forests