



Grants and Regulations National Email Alert - 22 July 2013

RDPE and EWGS transitional arrangements

Last week Defra Ministers indicated what they intend to offer during the 2014 transition year, prior to the start of the next Rural Development Programme. Ministers want to offer a package of Rural Development Programme support in the transition between programmes in 2014 that reflects the likely need to target funding more in the new programme and that avoids building up excessive commitments now.

The detailed rules have yet to be agreed at the EU level that will determine the actions we will be able to support in 2014. However, subject to that, for EWGS we are now planning towards being able to accept in 2014 new applications for:

- Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG)
- Woodland Planning Grant (WPG)
- Woodland Assessment Grant (WAG)
- Woodland Regeneration Grant (WRG)
- Woodfuel WIG

We are unable to plan to offer any new Woodland Creation Grant (WCG) or Woodland Management Grant (WMG) during 2014. However there will be a higher level of budget available for WIG for one-off investments to recognise the unavailability of WMG.

The implications of this for application submission, approval and receipt of claims are indicated in the chart below. For maximum assurance of receiving a grant award you should continue to plan on basis of submitting applications to us by 30 August 2013. However, on the assumption that EU/Defra agreement

will allow the above plans to proceed we will be giving priority to the approval of Woodland Creation Grants until 31 December 2013.

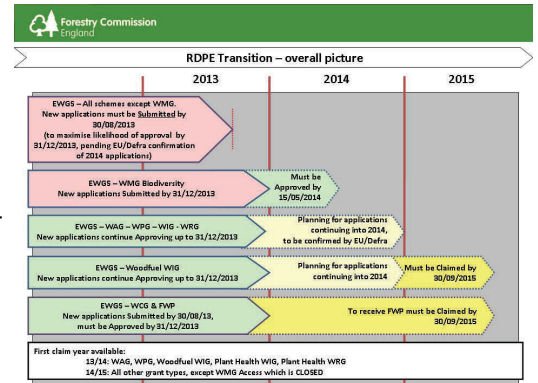
WMG Access CLOSED

This grant is closed to new applications. Existing applications already received by the Forestry Commission will be processed to approval. This grant is state aided via Forestry Commission exchequer funds. The expected funds available for 14/15 have been fully allocated. Future availability of an equivalent grant will be subject to the design of the next Rural Development Programme and revised EU State Aid Guidelines expected in 2014. Investments in improved access facilities may be eligible under WIG.

EWGS first available claim years

Applications received from July 2013 will be subject to first claim years as follows:

- 13/14 - WAG, WPG, Woodfuel WIG, Plant Health WIG, Plant Health WRG
- 14/15 - All other grant types except WMG Access which is closed



See page 2 for full size version of image

A reminder - Great News! Farm Woodland Payment claim date has been extended!

As outlined in a previous e-Alert the deadline by which you must claim WCG in order to qualify for FWP has been **extended to 30 September 2015**.

You therefore have two full winter planting seasons in order to undertake your WCG planting (2013/14 and 2014/15) if you wish to claim FWP as well.



RDPE Transition – overall picture

