

The Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) and Forestry in North West England

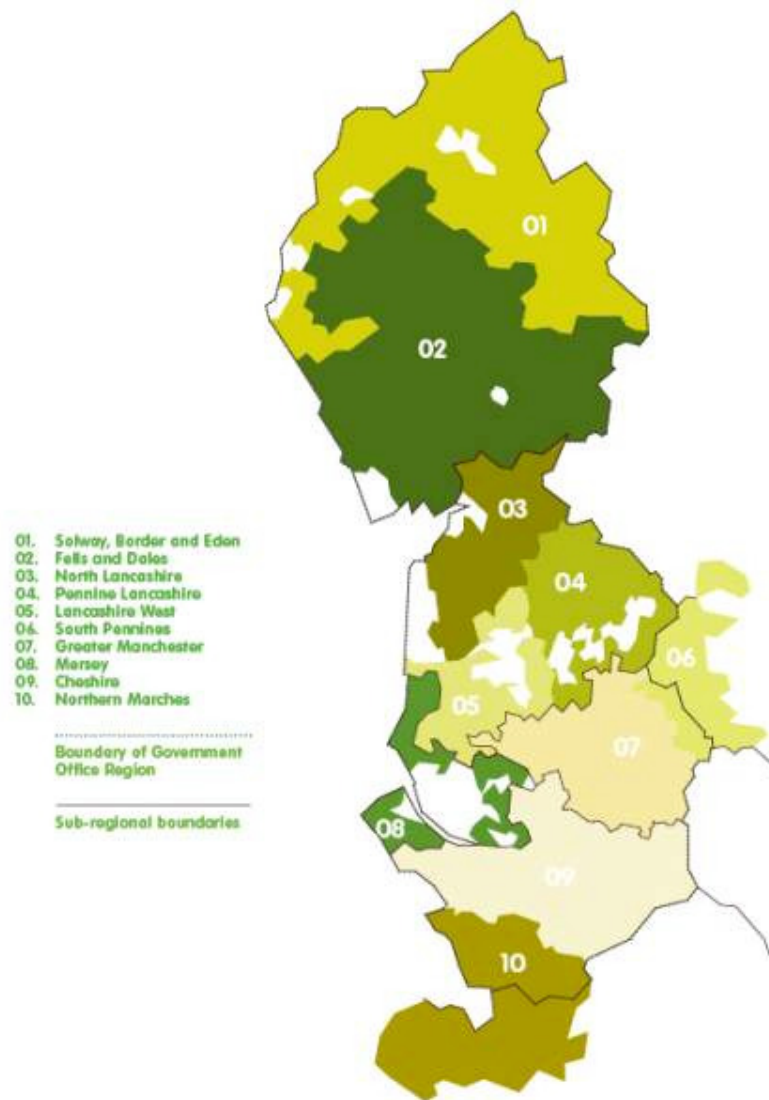
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- The region has about £374m for 2007-13 of which NWDA deliver £74m through economic and social measures
- 80% is delivered through Natural England and the Forestry Commission environmental schemes (Axis 2)
- Axis 1 (£38m) - competitiveness of agricultural and forestry sectors
- Axis 3 (£36m) – quality of life and diversification of the rural economy
- Delivery through Leader Axis 4 (Local Action Groups), direct by NWDA, by sub regional partners or through regional projects

- Forestry and Woodland 1 of 7 key issues for rural NW
- The Regional Forestry Framework one of policy drivers
- Theme 1 – Making agriculture and forestry more competitive and sustainable – new products, processes and markets, collaboration, woodfuel is a specific priority action
- Theme 2 – Conserving and enhancing the environment and countryside – woodland creation and management priority actions
- Theme 3 – Enhancing opportunity and quality of life – micro-enterprises, renewable energy and tourism
- Theme 4 – Developing skills, knowledge transfer and capacity building – improved skills in forestry sector
- Review of RIP this year

2 Main types of support;

- Training and advice
- Direct Grants



- 2 Local Action groups (LAGS) cover rural Cumbria, launched March 09
- Total Budget – £12.3m
- Majority of woodland in region is in Cumbria (2/3) – 64.5k ha
- Both LAGs have forestry priorities & measures
- Direct grants – over £300,000 committed with more in application stages
- Forestry Advisory Services – being procured
- Training – TNA identified need and have identified a forestry programme
- Projects – woodfuel/firewood, bandsaw, sawmill, furniture, festival, sculpture, joinery, tree/woodland management.

- 3 LAGs cover rural Lancashire launched September 09.
- Total budget £6.4m
- Woodland cover – 14k ha
- Main opportunities currently are through direct grants for adding value and micro-enterprises
- All have had Expressions of Interest – a few applications in system (about £100k)– firewood, woodfuel, timber extraction and processing, furniture, oak frames, wooden screens
- Further schemes in development including training support

- Mersey Rural LAG – launched January 09. Has £1.8m total budget
- 2.5k ha woodland cover
- 6 priorities – 1 is biomass
- Direct grants available but no forestry applications to date
- Forestry advisory services – woodfuel focused – currently being procured

- Direct grants available (since July 09)– no forestry related applications as yet
- Budget - £3m
- 4.5k ha woodland
- South Pennines LAG also has grant available focused on tourism, heritage, interpretation and recreation
- Training and skills package for agricultural and forestry sectors in final stages of procurement

- Direct grants available (since July 09)– approved 2 forestry grants totalling £23k so far for timber processing and firewood production
- Budget - £5.5m
- 10k ha of woodland
- Reaseheath College has recently been awarded the contract to deliver a skills package
- Northern Marches LAG has direct grants and training opportunities available

NWDA does manage some regional projects

- £4m Rural Carbon Challenge Fund – wood, wind and hydro

Rural Development Programme for England

Supporting forestry projects
in the Rural Northwest
March 2010

