

West Midlands Region

EWGS Update

March 2009

If you haven't already done so, have a look at our regional webpages (www.forestry.gov.uk/westmidlands), which contain up to date information on all aspects of the Forestry Commission's work in the West Midlands.

Grant Availability.

As shown on our website at www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infid-7f4dzj, we are still open for RDPE grant applications.

Offers of grant are subject to:

- the proposals meeting the rules of the scheme and particular grant applied for
- the proposals meeting wider environmental standards including the UK Forestry Standard and associated guidelines
- appropriate consultation having been completed
- availability of funds

Funds will be closed when they are fully subscribed or at the closing date, whichever is reached first. For more information please contact your local office

www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infid-7cmcgw

We are particularly interested in receiving applications for Woodland Improvement Grant and will still consider Regeneration Grant applications. We will not be closing for RDPE grants until the end of March or when funds are used up. If you have proposals, please contact your Woodland Officer and we will do our best to help.

Changes to EWGS.

Many of you will already be aware of the announcement of 27th of February detailing significant changes to EWGS. For those who do not know what has changed, the link below will take you to the EWGS page on the FC website. Find EWGS News on the right hand side and click on "read the latest one". Any queries should be directed to me, Bob Evans on 01584 877544 or 07815 871142.

www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forestry.nsf/byunique/infid-6dccn

The EWGS WIG calculator and instructions on how to use it are now on the EWGS website. This will replace the current form EWGS 5 and we will announce a cut off date from which the calculator must be used for all WIG applications. The link is: www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs-wig. Instructions on the left hand tab at the bottom.

New Woodland Officer joins West Midlands

Following Ewan's promotion we are pleased to welcome Paul Webster as the Woodland Officer for Warwickshire, West Midlands Metropolitan and the Forest of Mercia. Paul joins us from our Technical Development Branch and he has a particular expertise in the area of woodfuel.



Not Claiming?

With the current difficulties in the timber market and the economic climate in general, some of you may have grant offers that you are unable to take up. Please let your Woodland Officer know if this is the case. Woodland Officers will be contacting those with larger value schemes, but if you already know you will not be claiming, please do not wait until then. We may be able to reschedule work if this is in line with our rescheduling policy (operations note 007)

www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forestry.nsf/byunique/infd-6kxfq5

Reminder to claim!

As we fast approach the end of the financial year, please send in your claims for work completed for the 08/09 claim year as soon as possible. This enables us to inspect those claims pre-selected by National Office and to get all claims paid promptly.

Your Woodland Officers are:

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| Worcestershire | Wayne Barnes 01905 532200 |
| East Herefordshire | Wayne Barnes 01905 532200 |
| South Shropshire | Nick Smith 01584 877544 |
| West Herefordshire | Nick Smith 01584 877544 |
| North Shropshire | John Winterbourne 01584 877544 |
| Staffordshire | John Winterbourne 01584 877544 |
| Telford & Wrekin. | John Winterbourne 01584 877544 |
| Warwickshire | Paul Webster 01905 532208 |
| West Midlands Metropolitan | Paul Webster 01905 532208 |

Bob Evans
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