

| Aspiration | | National Commitment | Moray & Aberdeenshire FD Commitment |
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| Healthy | Silviculture | We are committed to high quality silviculture and increasingly using alternatives to clearfelling | Moray & Aberdeenshire District already has a high proportion (30%) of woodland cover managed under low impact silvicultural systems, which is a figure we want to maintain as a minimum. |
| Healthy | Carbon | We are exploring how to best steward the carbon resources locked up in both the Estates trees and soils | The District will adopt a low impact silvicultural system where feasible to minimise the impact of ground preparation and felling, and follow Forest & Water Guidance and Forest Soils Guidance 2011. |
| | | | Moray & Aberdeenshire District will supply approximately 5,000 cubic metres annually for the domestic firewood market, and 10,000 cubic metres annually for biomass to reduce the requirement for hydrocarbons. |
| Healthy | Adaptation | We will help the Estate to adapt to climate change and become more resilient to pressure | The District will manage Dothistroma needle blight in lodgepole pine during the period of this plan and, by reducing inoculum levels, will seek to safeguard Scots pine and Corsican pine woodlands, particularly in Speyside/Deeside and on the Moray Coast at Culbin. |
| | | | We will continue to work with partners to reduce the risk of flooding due to a changing climate. Areas at risk include Dunnottar Wood, the Deveron and Fochabers Burn. |
| Healthy | Invasives | We are committed to dealing with invasive plants and animals that threaten habitats and biodiversity | We will continue to work with partners to destroy Japanese knotweed (especially in Spey catchment) and to help eradicate giant hogweed (in Deveron catchment). |
| | | | An active rhododendron control programme will be maintained with the aim of removing all mature bushes by 2015, and eradicating rhododendron completely by 2018. |
| Productive | Adding Value | We will market timber in ways that encourage value adding and additional jobs in | To optimise recovery and income streams, timber will be marketed to best match demand, including parcelling firewood and potential biomass material. |

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| | | manufacturing and processing, recognising the benefits of contribution to local economic activity, especially in the more fragile rural areas | A high proportion of timber production (70%) will be marketed within medium- or long-term contracts to ensure market stability and to encourage processors to invest in maintenance and upgrades. |
| Productive | Jobs | We will use our work programmes to promote the development of the forestry and land management sectors | The District will offer long- and medium-term contract work on an open and fair basis to encourage business development and investment through sustainable work programmes. Key to this will be direct contracts for approx. 110,000 cubic metres of timber production. |
| Productive | Renewables | We aim to realise the Estate's renewable energy potential whilst achieving a reasonable balance with other objectives | <p>The District will facilitate the development of windfarms that have planning consent.</p> <p>The District will consider community wind and hydro opportunities on the National Forest Estate.</p> |
| Productive | Woodland Creation | We will support the Scottish Government's woodland expansion policy | Through appropriate acquisitions, we will help deliver Scottish Government woodland expansion targets in accordance with the Woodland Expansion Advisory Group report. |
| Treasured | Communities | We want to encourage local people to get involved with using and managing local Estate woodlands so we will actively engage with local communities and be open to work in partnership | Land Management Plans will be developed in consultation with local communities, in accordance with our consultation strategy, to take into account local views that add value and provide benefits. |
| Treasured | Skills | We will continue to use the Estate as a place for volunteering and gaining employment skills | We will work with third sector organisations who provide development and recuperation opportunities for adults, and maintain a register of volunteers so suitable projects can be progressed as volunteering experiences. |
| Treasured | Special Places | We are committed to creating more uniquely special places across the Estate and to delivering benefits to an | Moray & Aberdeenshire District will promote our key sites at Bennachie, Culbin and Roseisle as special places, and maintain the highest standards of recreational management to maximise the opportunities for their responsible use. |

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| | | increasingly diverse range of Scotland's people | <p>Visitor experience plans explore how we may best interpret special places to add value to visitors' appreciation and understanding of these locations and their management. We will prepare management plans at Quarrel Wood, Blackhall (Scolty), and Culbin.</p> <p>The District will encouraging an inclusive approach to the enjoyment of the forest resources by continuing to work with partners such as Greenfingers and the Fieldfare Trust to ensure facilities are fit for purpose.</p> |
| Access | Health & Education | We will continue to encourage the use of the Estate for health benefits and outdoor learning | <p>We will continue to promote the use of the National Forest Estate for a wide range of events and activities, including competitive sports, leisure activities and learning opportunities. We will publish a newsletter, maintain our annual Christmas tree sale and develop our 'What's On' programme.</p> <p>We will also continue to improve our permission system, to reduce potential conflicts between different users and encourage healthy activity and sport on foot, bike and horseback (and by any other method consistent with rights afforded under Part One of the Land Reform Act 2003).</p> |
| Cared For | Ancient Woodland | We are restoring around 85% of areas on ancient woodland sites to largely native species. The remaining areas will be enhanced through our management | Moray & Aberdeenshire District will have 38% of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) in active restoration within the plan period, with an overall aim of achieving 53% of sites fully restored to native woodland. This is lower than the national target because a number of large sites (e.g., Blackhall and South Drumtochty) have conflicting objectives, including the management of sites for red squirrels, historical landscapes and high recreational use. |
| | Open Habitats | We are committed to maintaining the best open habitats in good ecological condition | <p>The District will contribute to the developing policy of sand dune habitat restoration where it is relevant to Culbin and Lossie forests, and will progress any agreed prescriptions during the plan period.</p> <p>We will pursue favourable condition status (where practicable) for designated open ground sites, including Culbin, Hill of Towanreef and Spey Bay, in accordance with plans agreed with Scottish Natural Heritage.</p> |

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| | | | <p>We will work to the Peat Policy and Lowland Raised Bog Strategy and look for opportunities to protect and enhance carbon-rich soils. We will continue reinstatement work at Gowmoss and the Moss of Cairnty while looking for further sites as forest plans are reviewed.</p> |
| | | | <p>We will ensure that all our Land Management Plans take into consideration the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.</p> |
| | Species | <p>We will identify particularly vulnerable species for which the National Forest Estate is important and take specific conservation action</p> | <p>Moray & Aberdeenshire District is one of only four with populations of capercaillie. We will manage the relevant forests in Deeside and Speyside in accordance with best practice guidance to minimising disruption and enhancing habitat where practicable.</p> |
| | | | <p>We will employ a best practice approach to ensure that raptors are safeguarded and enhanced by beneficial silvicultural management. There will be a particular emphasis on goshawks and red kites.</p> |
| Good Value | Best Value | <p>We will seek a diverse range of income sources to underpin the cost of managing the Estate, and we will continually look for ways to achieve best value in delivery of public benefits</p> | <p>Moray & Aberdeenshire District will work constructively with developers to secure renewable energy programmes which fit with other management objectives.</p> |
| | Emissions | <p>We will make progressive reductions in the emissions from our Estate management activities</p> | <p>Moray & Aberdeenshire District will continue to reduce energy consumption in the management of infrastructure through rationalisation and design. This will include a reconfiguration of our buildings at Durriss and a replacement for the current Craibstone offices linked to a review of our base at Bennachie.</p> <p>We will strive to secure a 5% reduction in carbon emissions associated with travel through the use of video conferencing and low emissions vehicles, and by the application of the evolving light vehicles policy.</p> |