

## **Carr Ban Wind Farm Cluster Forestry Summary**

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Although put together quite well and stating some facts and describing current timber practices and guidance there are some areas left open and of concern.

### **National Legislation and Policies**

15.12 to 15.17 They have only clearly answered 2 out of 11 of the points raised with question marks over the remaining 80%.

15.18 Forest will go through a change of use to Industrial therefore will not be part of Forestry any more.

### **Regional Policy.**

15.19 The Highland Council "Forest and Woodland Strategy" which key themes are:-

Measures to increase community benefits from forest = none.

Enhancement of regions attractiveness for tourism and recreation = **No**.

Expansion of native woodland = No (conifer and spruce).

Expansion of productive forestry = No (decrease).

Improvement of the infrastructure for forestry and local processing = None

15.20 "However the reference to the "expansion of productive forest" and the "expansion of native woodland" implies that the loss of woodland arising from the development such as wind farms or other types of development will be contrary to policy."

### **Forestry Study Area.**

15.25 Why no current Forest Plan available for both Carr Ban and lower screening forestry?

### **Forest Plans.**

15.28 No consultation has been carried out!

15.29 How did they get a felling licence if no baseline forest plans in place???

15.33 Further felling (on top of that already specified) may be required. Plan?

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15.43 No landowner data available???

15.54 The largest portion of the forest comprises 49.01% of Lodgepole Pine, which will probably be affected by Red Band Needle Blight and may have to be harvested soon removing a large portion of screening .

15.57 Utilizing floatation tracks is described as being “lazy forestry” and not best practice as local ground conditions and use of brash mats in localised areas should be planned.

15.65 “The woodlands will be protected from fire”. How?

15.70 If the Wind Farm Cluster does not comply with Government Policy why is there not a plan for Compensation Planting in place?

In conclusion the Forestry section of the Environmental Statement has been hastily put together with current forest plan/landowner data missing from the report, with an admission that the Wind Farm Cluster does not comply with Government or Regional Policy with nothing in place to mitigate this, as well as no mention of the management of Red band Needle Blight and the probable removal of nearly 50% of all the trees due to this and the effects this would have on screening.