



## Irish Forestry Unit Trust

<b>Brosna MU</b>
Brosna, Co. Kerry
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
<b>2014 – 2033</b> <b>(Period 3: 2022 -2026)</b>

## 2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Brosna Management Unit (MU) comprises six properties totalling 276.4ha. This MU is based on geographical location as both blocks are in the same locality of northeast county Kerry, on the uplands and slopes of Mount Eagle to the east of Castleisland and near the village of Brosna on the Limerick/Kerry border. Most of this site was previously rough grazing land and cutaway blanket bog.

### **Forest properties being reviewed:**

1. Coollegrean, 101.4ha Established 1990
2. Reacaslagh, 11.3ha Established 1997

### **New property being added to the MU:**

3. Meenyvoughan, 27.84ha. Established 1992, 1994 and 2019. Acquired by IForUT 2019
4. Meenyvoughan 2, 19.47ha. Established 1999 and 2015. Acquired by IForUT 2019
5. Tooreennascarty, 6.31ha. Established 1995. Acquired by IForUT 2019
6. Coollegrean 2, 111.08ha. Established 1995. Acquired by IForUT 2019

### **Elevation**

133m to 355m

### **Statutory Land Designations**

Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA Site code 004161 cover all properties within this FMU. This is especially important for site operations where potential disturbance during the breeding season is a factor, and location in relation to nesting site (red zone) is advised by the NPWS. Generally all significant operations are not permitted during the breeding season 1<sup>st</sup> April to 15<sup>th</sup> August. All licenced/grant operations are subject to statutory consultation with the NPWS and any other significant operations will involve consultation with the local wildlife ranger. IForUTs current forest area along with surrounding grazing land, open bog and moorland, provides optimum habitat conditions for this protected bird. [Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA | National Parks & Wildlife Service \(npws.ie\)](https://www.npws.ie/stacks-to-mullaghareirk-mountains-west-limerick-hills-and-mount-eagle-spa)

### **Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:**

The Brosna MU is within the Feale River Catchment, Coolegrean being in the Breanagh sub basin and Reacaslagh in the Clydagh basin. The Feale is an important salmon and sea trout river downstream, it is designated as an SAC in the lower sections and is an important resource for local anglers.

The Lower River Shannon SAC Site code 002165 runs along the boundaries of Meenyvoughan and Tooreenascarty [Lower River Shannon SAC | National Parks & Wildlife Service \(npws.ie\)](http://npws.ie)

### **Margaritifera**

All sites are within Margaritifera sensitive areas: Catchments of other extant populations. Typically, this means there are minor populations of margaritifera which are outside the SAC but are not present in significant enough quantity to warrant a designation.

### **Old Woodland Sites (OWS):**

There is no OWS/potential OWS in the Brosna MU.

### **Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:**

There are no recorded or protected structures/monuments in the Brosna MU. As standard procedure, any old farmhouse/cottage or other buildings and stone walls/significant ditches are considered as more recent cultural heritage and are protected during harvesting and roading operations.

## **4. SOIL TYPES.**

The main soil types in the Brosna MU are high level virgin blanket peat and high level cut over blanket peat, with some pockets of gleys and podsols on the more low lying areas.

## **5. SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.**

### **Low Felling Impact with High Afforestation Sensitivity**

All forest blocks are classed as low felling impact on the IForUT system due partly to the extensive forested landscape and relatively small size of the IForUT holdings. Whenever felling licences are submitted the Forest Service will correspond with relevant local and statutory bodies to investigate any potential landscape sensitivities.

The Forest Service Moderate Landscape Sensitivity class, as defined for afforestation planning covers Coolegrean property which will require some sensitivity given to the restocking planning in this MU.

## 6. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES.

- 1) To maximise economic output from the forest at local and national level.
- 2) To manage FMU in accordance with the principals of the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) and international benchmarks of the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC).
- 3) To manage timber production in a sustainable way.
- 4) To maintain and enhance the landscape value of the forest.
- 5) To protect existing biodiversity and where opportunities arise enhance and further promote new biodiversity.
- 6) To manage forest activities with due regard to local, regional and national stakeholder interests.
- 7) To promote continuous professional development at management level.

## 14. Summary of silvicultural systems to be used.

System	Conifers	Broadleaves
Clear fell	✓	
Selective fell		
Thinning to MTI	✓	
Line thinning only		
Non thin regime	✓	
Non intervention		✓
Natural regeneration		✓
Replanting	✓	✓
Other		

**20. 5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. Brosna MU**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	None of the properties within the MU have been thinned due to a very low Yield Class.	There has been no economic return from these properties due to very low yield class and low productivity. It is being considered to carry out fertilization on Reacaslagh.
2	Certification Standards	Certification standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off FMM	Continue as before and update FMM as required.
3	Timber production	Timber production in this MU has not happened.	No timber production due to poor yield classes in properties in the MU. Some areas in Coolegreane are now approaching Clearfell and timber will be produced within the next plan period assuming no hold ups with licences and permissions. New access roads have been negotiated to facilitate this.
4	Landscape	Two new landscape layers added to designations GIS layer. Forest Service layer taken off National Development plan for new planting and Landscape Unit appraisals based on Coillte LUs.	New landscape layer added to Sensitivities Map in MP. All properties classified as having Low sensitivity according to LU classification and Coolegreane was classified as high in FS classification.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Biodiversity limited in this MU and opportunities to enhance have been limited.	<p>No opportunities to enhance biodiversity in this plan period as no operations have taken place. Open space and broadleaves will increase over the next rotation. IForUT have identified a failing pine crop in one of the new acquisitions which restoration to heath would be a more beneficial approach. IForUT have approached the Forest Service to gain permission to “restore” the area and discussions are underway about this project. The site is in the SPA for Hen Harrier and would be suitable for Hen Harrier foraging and possibly nesting also.</p> <p>Open space and biodiversity will increase over the next rotation due to changes in the required national standards. These standards will require increased broadleaves and open space alongside county roads and dwelling houses at restocking stage.</p>
6	Stakeholder	General quiet locality. Very little interactions with neighbours.	During plan review a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted. See Stakeholder files. New access routes have been negotiated

7	Professional Development	Managed.	Retendering of whole portfolio into regional management units in 2010 to simplify overall forest level management and FSC compliance. New centralised network server has been introduced for managing FMM and IForUT database.
8	Forward Planning	Continue with current standards and work practices and review on a continuous basis to implement industry best practice.	Carry out reviews of Forest Management Manual and updating of best practice.