



## Irish Forestry Unit Trust

<b>Ivreagh Peninsula MU</b>
Glencar, Co Kerry
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
<b>2022 – 2041</b>
<b>(Period 1: 2022 -2026)</b>

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

Ivreagh Management Unit (MU) comprises one property totalling 22.5 hectares. This MU is, in the Caragh River Catchment and is within a few km of Glencar village. Property is located on Knocknabrone Hill and overlooks Lough Acoose. Properties are at various elevations, on hill sides and lower slopes of neighbouring mountains. The site was previously rough grazing land and upland blanket bog.

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

1. Goulnacapply – 22.5ha. Established circa 1994. This site was acquired by IForUT (Irish Forestry Unit Trust) in 2019.

All forested land is owned by freehold title by the Irish Forestry Unit Trust (IForUT). Legal folios are held on file.

### **Elevation**

- Goulnacapply – 170 metres to 278 metres.

### **Statutory Land Designations**

There are NPWS designated areas with protected status which cover the entire property. Namely this site is the Killarney National Park, McGillicuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC. There are many qualifying interests in relation to the SAC due to the extensive area it covers and the variety of different habitats within that area. The most relevant interests in relation to this FMU would be in relation to water bodies. The Caragh catchment is very important to the Fresh Water Pearl Mussel amongst other species.

[\*\*Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC\(Site code 000365\)\*\*](#)

The site is also within a Proposed NHA.

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

The forest sites within the Kenmare MU are in the following catchment and sub catchment:

- Laune-Maine-Dingle Catchment
  - Caragh\_SC\_010 sub catchment

The ecological status of this is classified as poor and the main driver of this is Macroinvertebrates. The site would also be classed as acid sensitive which makes it doubly sensitive to fisheries.

#### **Margaritifera (Fresh Water Pearl Mussel)**

The property is in a Fresh Water Pearl Mussel area and it is within a catchment of SAC populations. It is also in the area of the [Kerry Life Project](#).

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

There are no OWS/potential OWS in this MU

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

There are no recorded monuments in the FMU. There are some cultural features of note. There is a stone mound on the mountain which appears to be relatively recent (does not appear on OSI 6 inch maps) and some remnants of field boundaries. There is also some old sheds on the property. These will all be protected during operations.

#### **4. SOIL TYPES.**

Peat is the primary soil type within the MU.

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

**Moderate Felling Impact with Moderate Afforestation Sensitivity** - Moderate felling impact on the IForUT system due to the presence on higher slopes in a scenic area, frequented by tourists and visitors, though it is located in a block with other forest properties under different ownerships. Felling coupes have been created to lessen the impact of large felling blocks and aid the age restructuring of the forests. Whenever felling licences are submitted, the Forest Service will correspond with relevant local and statutory bodies to investigate any potential landscape sensitivities.

To address the potential landscape impact issues caused by future clearfelling, the felling plan (Map 6) has applied a significant coupe restructuring plan to reduce clearfell size and introduce coupe separation. Long-term restructuring plan (Map 7) outlines future restructuring species which is limited to Sitka spruce based on soil types and management

objectives. Biodiversity enhancement in Map 7 is focused on the creation of additional open ground and expansion of broadleaf planting on the upper slopes of the property. Species choice being specifically matched to soil type and exposure.

## 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.

(IForUTs FSC licence code: FSC-C003194)

## 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. Ivreagh MU**

	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Was it achieved?</b>	<b>How was this information applied to 5-year Management Plan review?</b>
1	Economic Return	Property is fully roaded. No economic return has been generated from this property since it was acquired.	There have not been any chances for generating an economic return from this property since it was acquired. There is mixed productivity in the property. The lower lying sections are quite strong and have been thinned prior to IForUTs ownership. The crop at the upper slopes has been burned in the past and some of this has been replanted and some has been left as open mountain.
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	The best timber in the MU was is on the lower section by the forest road	<p>The best area of timber is on the lower slopes and is currently planned for clearfell in 2032. This will be reviewed in the coming years. The upper slopes are of poorer yield classes and will be felled later in the plan period. Felling coupes have been kept as small as possible whilst taking windblow risk, site topography and logistics into account.</p> <p>Felling coupes have also been seperated out as much as possible to allow for time delays between felling coupes and to try to ensure that there is not a glut of felling in any five year period. However, delaying felling or bringing felling forward any further would result in severe economic losses from either a too small tree size or winddamage as a result of delaying felling beyond a critical top height. Wind damage needs to be avoided on this site due to the water sensitivity.</p>
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.	<p><b>Moderate Felling Impact</b> with <b>Moderate Afforestation Sensitivity</b></p> <p>- Moderate felling impact on the IForUT system due to the presence on higher slopes in a scenic area, frequented by tourists and visitors, though it is located in a block with other forest properties under different ownerships</p>

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Biodiversity enhancement has been limited as no operations have been carried out.	<p>Maintain Biodiversity areas as is for the moment. Main opportunity for enhancing biodiversity will be post clearfell. The upper slopes of the mountain are planned to be left go back to open heath and will not be replanted and additional broadleaves will be planted at the property boundaries.</p> <p>It is important to note that there has been a change to national standards. These standards will require increased broadleaves and open space alongside county roads and dwelling houses at restocking stage. Note of those things are particularly relevant to this site.</p>
6	Stakeholder	Forests have low level stakeholder relationships.	During plan review, conducted a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been completed. Regional press/ local community groups and local statutory bodies consulted. See stakeholder folder
7	Professional Development	████████ managed. All managers are MSIF and members of various other forestry interest organisations	Retendering of whole portfolio into regional management units in 2010 to simplify overall forest level management and certification compliance. New centralised network server (████████) is being used 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 introduce manager training and updating of best practice.