



Summary of Land Management Plan Proposals

Craik LMP brings together five neighbouring forest blocks into one composite plan: Gair, Grey Hill, Craikhope, Meadshaw and Crooked Loch. Craik Forest, along with Eskdalemuir Forest immediately to the south west, forms an extensive area of upland coniferous forest between Hawick and Moffat, totalling some several hundred square kilometres.

Management Objectives:

- Sequester carbon in woodland and timber products as well as designing a forest to be resilient to the effects of climate change.
- Produce large volumes of sawlogs for processing in the construction timber marketplace
- The primary objective for the plan area is to produce high quality timber from Sitka spruce, with an increased contribution from other conifer species.
- Design a forest that makes provision and space for important environmental factors including landscape, water and archaeology.
- Provide employment and contracting opportunities for the forest industry as well as business development in other industries using the forest e.g. Tourism
- Engage with communities and residents of Craik, Robertson and Ettrick and those further afield who have interests in the forest e.g. groups.
- Make the woodland a large outdoor area as recreational resource for a diverse range of visitors and informal recreation.
- Establish and maintain a range of different habitat types that will support species on a long term or permanent basis.

Total Plan Area	4251 ha
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Tree Species breakdown	2015	2030
Primary species: Sitka spruce (pure and in mixture with Lodgepole pine)	59%	53%
Secondary species: Other conifers	12%	15%
Native broadleaf	4%	5%
Open space (including 'felled')	25%	27%

Planned Operations	2015-2025 plan period
Felling	680 ha
Restock	558 ha

Significant Environment / Conservation Features	
Designated sites	Four scheduled ancient monuments - Meadowshaw (earthwork), Black Rig (linear earthwork), Wolfcleuchhead (enclosures) and Craik Cross Hill (Roman road)

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Managed for conservation / biodiversity	9% Minimum Intervention
Long Term Retention	5%
Natural Reserve	0.7%

Critical Success Factors

- Ongoing business model to secure income from timber and invest in restocking.
- With windblow being a significant threat in Craik and certainly being the main limiting factor on rotation length the success of this plan will depend on all operations aiming to achieve independent hill top coupes in the long term - to give resilience to extreme wind events.
- Limiting thinning to only suitable areas to avoid windblow.
- Ongoing deer management to allow successful restocking.
- Climate change is a risk but Forest Research models suggest Craik will remain a suitable location for Sitka Spruce.

Consultation and Further Information

During the development of this plan we have consulted publically including meetings with representatives of the local community and stakeholders known to have an interest in this plan area. For further information on the plan please contact: John Ogilvie, Planning Forester, Forest Enterprise Scotland on 0300 067 6756 or john.ogilvie@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.