



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Mullaghboy Forest
By Blacklion, Co. Cavan
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2022 – 2041 (Period 2022-2026)

2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Mullaghboy MU consists of two properties consisting of 35.5ha. The general locality is highly scenic and mountainous. The local landscape is dominated by Cuilcagh Mountain which straddles counties Cavan and Fermanagh. This landscape has SAC and NHA designation, and is also a Geopark Reserve. The uniqueness of the area is the underlying limestone bedrock and associated habitats which include limestone grassland and montane habitats.

Prior to forest establishment land was enclosed marginal grazing. Neighbouring landuse hill farm and forestry.

Forest properties being reviewed:

1. Mullaghboy 25.1ha. Established in 1998. Acquired from [REDACTED] on the setting up of IForUT in 1994.

New property being added to the MU:

2. Gowlan 10.4ha. Established in 2009. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.

Elevation

Ranges between 110m to 168m

Statutory Land Designations

Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands SAC SITECODE 000584 lies within the Mullaghboy MU approximately 1km from the Mullaghboy property.

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

These properties lie within Shannon Upper_SC_010. The status of this waterbody is good according to EPA data, with macroinvertebrates and hydromorphology being the driving force behind this classification.

Margaritifera

There are no properties in the Mullaghboy MU within Margaritifera areas.

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

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

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There is no recorded archaeology within these properties. There are some non recorded features, stone ruins and an old farm dwelling. Refer to Map 4.

4. SOIL TYPES.

Mountain landscape on peaty gleys. All planting on mounded ground. Bedrock limestone and swallow hole noted on western boundary.

5. SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Low Felling Impact with Moderate Afforestation Sensitivity

Mullaghboy FMU sits on the lower slopes of the Cuilcagh Mountain, but out with the designated Geopark boundary. Direct neighbouring landuse is poor enclosed seasonal grazing. This leads onto open hill. General locality is sparsely populated. Stone walls, exposed bedrock, swallow holes and bog are dominant features of the landscape.

Natural landscape features within Mullaghboy comprise of the watercourse which forms a riparian corridor of willow, birch and rowan. No other natural features exist within the forest.

Three main felling coupes form the basis of the restructuring process with a further additional LTR west of the watercourse. The design of these coupes balances stability (windfirm edges) with age separation to mitigate potential landscape impacts. SP planting during restructuring process will create future LTR with a strong biodiversity and landscape value.

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®) FSC-STD-IRL-012012-Irish Forest Stewardship Standard-EN.
- 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 (potnl)	✓	
Line thinning only		
Non thin regime	✓	
Non intervention		✓
Natural regeneration		✓
Replanting	✓	✓
Other		

5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. Mullaghboy MU

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	No thin crop due to poor access and exposure. Crop growing above YC24. Forest roaded in 2002 with Forest Service grant funding.	Continue with current caretaking work. Carry out preventative measures as required.
2	Certification Standards	Certification standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off FMM	Certification standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off FMM. Continue as before and update FMM as required.
3	Timber production	No thin crop and standing volumes expected to exceed forecasting models.	No thinning carried out and no plans to thin in Mullaghboy. Gowlan is a much younger crop and may be thinned in 2022/2023. Continue with current approach. Review crop stability on ongoing basis with possible earlier clearfell date if markets and stability dictate. First clearfell in 2022 in Mullaghboy. This was originally planned for 2020 but it didn't go ahead. There are limited options in this MU to break up the felling any further due to the size of the MU and the northern section being the same plant year and yield class. There is a uniform planting year in both properties. The felling plan as it stands is as well spaced as possible.
4	Landscape	Two new landscape layers added to designations [REDACTED] layer - Forest Service landscape character classification and IForUT Landscape Unit designations based on Coillte LUs.	New landscape layer added to Sensitivities Map in MP. Landscape character classified as LOW while a moderate sensitivity for afforestation applies. Felling Plan (Map6) and Restructuring Plan (Map7) designed to mitigate future felling impacts.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	No biodiversity enhancement to date due to no thin regime.	Continue with current management practices over next plan period. There haven't been ample opportunities to increase and enhance biodiversity in this MU to date due to a lack of operations. Mullaghboy in particular, will be entering into a cycle of felling and restocking which will give opportunities to enhance biodiversity at restocking stage. 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.

6	Stakeholder	Quiet locality. No habited neighbouring dwellings. Full stakeholder consultation completed for plan review. One Response – See above	During plan review a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted compared to the 1st plan preparation process. Refer to stakeholder records. Some interaction with Neighbours in regards to hedgecutting during the last period. There is a regular schedule of hedgecutting taking place now which neighbours seem to be happy with.
7	Professional Development	managed.	Retendering of whole portfolio into regional management units was completed in late 2010. New centralised network server being used () coordinate and simplify the storage and access to FMM records. All managers are MSIF and members of various other forestry interest organisations.
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.