

Forestry and Heritage Review

Public Consultation

What is your vision for forestry in Ireland in the future?

On behalf of the Heritage Council, Woodlands of Ireland is co-ordinating a wide-ranging review of current Heritage Council forest policy. This review is being implemented to reflect the changing context of forestry and to provide a vision for the future development of forestry in Ireland, with a particular emphasis on the national heritage. The review has been contracted to a collaborative team, and we, the team members, are asking for your input.

We are looking for information, ideas and suggestions of a general nature (not site-specific) about forests and forestry in Ireland which will contribute to discussions amongst the team.

The review being carried out is of the existing Heritage Council policy (see the 1999 policy online at

<http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/publications/index.html> , as well as a 2002 follow-up document).

The context for this review is the Heritage Council's Strategic Plan 2007-2011.

Now is an excellent time for this review, as there are many new issues, challenges, and opportunities in Irish forest management today, including biodiversity, climate change, future markets, water quality, landscape and recreation.

We are very interested in hearing what you have to say about forestry in Ireland. We are especially interested in your vision for the future of Irish forestry. We are seeking submissions from all interested parties to contribute to this review: forest users (including all members of the public), land managers and forest owners, contractors, scientists whose research is relevant, people interested in heritage, landscape, and tourism issues, people who rely on water quality, recreational users, environmentally concerned people, people in the forest industry chain, and any other interested parties.

This review is being conducted by a team of six people with various expertises (Sasha Bosbeer, coordinator, Huw Denman, Jerry Hawe, David Hickie, Paddy Purser and Paddy Walsh).

We welcome comments on any aspects of forests and forestry, but particularly on the following topics:

- Forest policy, legislation, certification and incentives
- Species and site suitability
- Forest products
- Biodiversity
- Recreation, accessibility and enjoyment
- Silvicultural systems
- Protection of water and soil
- Climate change
- International trends and markets
- National trends and future forestry potential
- Forestry and the landscape
- Public perception and attitudes toward forestry
- Training and research needs

We are considering the national context, rather than any specific case.

Our main question is, what is your vision for forestry in Ireland in the future?

Please be concise with your comments to help us understand your main points. Bullet points or short paragraphs are welcome, and submissions under 3 pages in length would be appreciated.

If your recommendations can be supported by reference to factual or scientific documentation, so much the better, and especially if you are recommending targets.

This is the first part of consultation for members of the public. We plan a second phase of public consultation, which will be a meeting during which we will present the main findings of the report. You will have the opportunity to give us feedback during this meeting. Please check back at this website later in the year for the finalised date.

What will be done with your submission and input?

Your input will add to the process of developing the review. We will list all contributors to this call for input, so please indicate if you wish your contribution to remain anonymous in the final report to the Heritage Council (in any case, please include your name and return address and e-mail, so we can contact you with confirmation of receipt of your submission).

Please send your contribution regarding the future direction for forestry in Ireland by e-mail to **sasha.bosbeer@gmit.ie** and by post to **Sasha Bosbeer, Forest Management Group, GMIT, Dublin Road, Galway.**

Send your contribution in written (paper and electronic) format so we can keep track of the public input, and do include a return postal or electronic address so we can send confirmation of receipt (this may take a few weeks – please be patient but also keep a copy of what you contribute). **Please send your contributions and suggestions to arrive by 21 August 2007.**

Links

Heritage Council Website

<http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/>

Woodlands of Ireland website

<http://www.woodlandsofireland.com/>

Professional profiles: Forestry and Heritage Review Group

Sasha Bosbeer

Dr Sasha Bosbeer is both an ecologist and a forester. Her PhD examined the social attitudes towards and recreational use of forests around Galway city. Since 1998, she has taught modules such as forest ecology and soils, landscape, water quality, and recreation in the degree programme in Forest Management and Environment at GMIT. She has practical experience with the public's interest in forests, biodiversity, and management of urban forests through work on the Terryland Forest Park committee and the Go Wild in Galway initiative, as well as in facilitating a local branch of Crann for two years. In 2004, she trained with SmartWood to become a certification auditor using Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) principles. Sasha was team leader for the pilot native woodland survey for NPWS in Offaly in 2001, and she has also surveyed sites for the Native Woodland Scheme since its inception. She recently facilitated the collaborative management plan for Ballyannan Wood in Cork, pulling together input from commercial, recreational, and conservation interests. Sasha has served on the Woodlands of Ireland (Wol) Steering and Technical committees since 2001, and she currently serves on the Steering Committee of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM) Irish Section.

Huw Denman

Huw Denman is an independent forest manager and forestry consultant based in Wales, specialising in integrated management of private land (integrating the economic, environmental and social functions of forestry). His background is in forest management and in harvesting and marketing. He manages over 1,800 hectares of forest land in Wales, Ireland and England. He is director of SelectFor Ltd, a company which provides forest management, advice, consultancy and training in continuous cover forestry and irregular silviculture. Huw has wide experience and knowledge of FSC certification and third party auditing, having audited many state and private forestry organisations in Ireland, United Kingdom and on the continent since 1995. He has also studied the application of FSC certification and CCF principles in Europe and North America. In addition, Huw is experienced in the use of Participatory Rural Appraisal as a means of consultation in forest-based communities and has been a member of the National Assembly of Wales Forestry Advisory Panel since 2002.

Jerry Hawe

Jerry Hawe is a consulting forester and a technical member of the Society of Ireland Foresters. He has been involved with woodland restoration and environmental forestry since 1987 and was one of the co-winners of the Royal Dublin Society Forestry Award in the category Bio-diverse Woodlands for work in Brackloon. Jerry is currently managing some of the foremost native woodlands in Ireland, as well as woodlands under the NeighbourWood, Woodland Improvement, and Forestry Environment Protection Schemes. He is very involved in European forestry development research and has experience in countries as diverse as Britain, Finland, and Slovakia. He has cooperated on international projects on timber use, small roundwood, and wood energy. Jerry also is experienced as a Woodmark auditor, using FSC principles, and he has served on the Woodlands of Ireland Technical Committee since 1998 as well as the Steering Group since 2005.

David Hickie

David Hickie is an environmental scientist who has worked on a number of projects on forestry and environment, including a review of Heritage Council forestry policy in 2002, preparation of a methodology for the assessment of indicative forestry strategies, for the Heritage Council, in 2003, and the preparation of a national research programme on forestry and the environment, for the EPA, in 2000. He has many years experience in working with the State and private forestry sectors, was a past member of Coford, and has worked abroad on forestry and environmental projects and policy issues.

David has also written a number of publications on forestry and the environment, including:

- *Native Trees and Forests of Ireland. Gill and MacMillan (2002)*
- *Irish Hedgerows: Networks for Nature. Networks for Nature (2004).*
- *Co-author of Impacts of current forestry policy on aspects of Ireland's heritage. Heritage Council (1999).*
- *Co-author of manual Trees, Hedges and Water. Solagro, Toulouse (2000).*

Paddy Purser

Paddy Purser is a forester trained at UCD and International Centre for Research in Agroforestry. In 1995, he co-founded Purser Tarleton Russell Ltd., a firm of consultant, management and research foresters providing services throughout the Irish forest industry. Paddy is currently managing over 2000 ha of commercial forest, much of which is being converted from clearfell to close-to-nature systems. He has worked on numerous research teams funded by COFORD and other agencies, researching topics such as tree yield, inventory, markets, and practical implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM). Paddy has experience with forest certification, peer review of certification audits, and reforestation in various parts of the world. He is a founding member and committee member of Pro Silva Ireland, as well as being a founding member of the Society of Irish Foresters (SIF) consultant foresters group and serving on the SIF Council.

Patrick Walsh

Dr Paddy Walsh is a forest ecologist with 20 years' experience in forest assessment and forest health and protection all over the temperate zone. He has worked in countries as diverse as New Zealand, the United States, Britain, and Slovakia, as well as Ireland. Paddy has been teaching forest management, including sustainable forest management, timber utilisation, and carbon sequestration and forestry, at GMIT since 2000. He has also been a senior researcher on a number of projects in forest management, including biological control of the pine weevil, remote sensing of archaeological sites in forestry, *Phytophthora ramorum*, foliage production, and use of woody biomass for fuel. He has published over 100 refereed scientific and reports as well as co-authoring a book on Indicator species for the New Zealand Department of Conservation Science Series.