

By email to: angusglens@forestryandland.gov.scot

Sophie Cade
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Dear Ms Cade

Glen Prosen and Glen Doll Land Management Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the review of the LMP for Glen Prosen and Glen Doll.

Mountaineering Scotland supports activities that lead towards creating a richer and wilder environment which address both the climate crisis and biodiversity crisis, while also for the benefit of people. This includes native woodland management and expansion, and especially the regeneration of native woodlands and scrub where the land can naturally support them.

Mountaineering Scotland's interests lie generally with the effect of proposals on mountain landscapes, especially National Scenic Areas and Wild Land Areas, and along routes to mountain summits and climbing crags. We support the principles of Sustainable Forest Management.

We support multi-purpose forestry management that protects and maintains semi-natural habitats and wildlife and fits with landscape character, while meeting economic and public access objectives. This includes high-quality recreational access through woodlands and forestry plantations, for established paths and the facilitation of new routes to hilltops.

We advocate that infrastructure used for land management in the uplands, specifically fencing and tracks, be avoided where possible and be kept to a minimum where it is demonstrated to be necessary.

We note that you have identified the Munros, Meyer and Driesh, as Key Features on your Features Map. These are the main mountaineering summit destinations in the land under your management, along with Little Driesh. We would appreciate the routes to and between these summits to be maintained for hillwalkers and climbers, also for snowsports touring in winter.

Please note that although the main routes to the summits start in Glen Doll and follow the Corrie Fee path and Kilbo Path in the Shank of Drumfollow, there are alternative routes up from Glen Prosen following the Kilbo Path in Shank of Drumwhallow, a route over Lick and the Shank of Driesh, and over Hunt Hill to Little Driesh. There is also an alternative descent from Driesh down the north ridge above the edge of Winter Corrie and The Scorrie to the forest edge.

The Strava heatmap shows main routes used for public access and may help with the design of restocking forestry in the glens.

In addition, there are climbing locations, summer and winter, in the Corrie Fee NNR, along with Craig Rennet and Craig Maud, reached by the core paths E5 and E1. There is a further climbing location, Moulzie bloc – granite boulders used for recreational climbing at NO 284774.

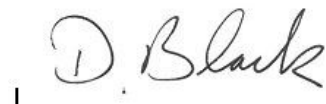
Landscape is important to many walkers and felling and restocking plans will have a significant effect on the look of the landscape. There are a number of options available for future land management; a spectrum of land use from dense commercial softwood plantation to rewilding, allowing natural regeneration to proceed, and a range of options in-between.

This is likely to be a focus for future discussion, but whatever management options are chosen, we request that the main access routes be kept open clear from commercial stocking densities adjacent to paths, and that sides and upper edges of any commercial plantation are softened to fit with the landscape, to give the appearance of a more natural distribution of trees.

We suggest management of deer to levels that allow for natural regeneration, over a longer timescale, would be preferable in landscape terms to extensive deer fencing in the glens where native woodland is the objective.

I hope that these comments are helpful in your consideration of the Land Management Plan for these well-frequented glens, and we would be pleased to discuss further with you about recreational opportunities that may be possible in the glens.

Yours sincerely



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