

# **Native Woodland Creation and Enhancement**

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# ***BACKGROUND***

- **Currently, there is considerable focus and resources directed at native woodlands**
- **Progress as a result of cross sectoral support via a partnership approach**
- **Co-incides with the formation of Woodlands of Ireland in 1998**
- **Initiatives include the Native Woodland Scheme, the National Native Woodland Survey and the People's Millennium Forests Project**



# *The Native Woodland Scheme (NWS)*

- **Operated by the Forest Service since 2001**
- **Primary Objective: To protect and expand native woodlands**
- **Conservation/biodiversity the primary goal; wood production may be pursued, where appropriate**
- **Private and Public sectors eligible for Scheme**



# *NWS: Primary Components*

Two main Elements:

- **Native Woodland Conservation**

Targets existing woodlands, e.g. Scrub, designated and non-designated woods, etc.

- **Native Woodland Establishment**

The creation of new woodlands on greenfield sites, e.g. adjacent a wood, riparian zones



# *NWS: Grants and Key Conditions*

- **Element 1:** Up to €4,444/ha and a premium of €120/ha/yr indefinitely
- **Element 2:** Up to €6,349/ha and a premium of €442/ha/yr for 20 years; €120/ha/yr thereafter

**NOTE:** Native planting stock only; source identified, collected via registered collectors

Natural regeneration (NR) encouraged; timeframe extended from 5 to 8 years



# ***NWS: Management Plan***

- **Management Plan devised by accredited forester and ecologist**
- **Ecological Survey and Management Plan Framework Document**
- **Native Woodland Manual**
- **Consultation imperative: owner, contractor, NPWS, Fisheries...**
- **Five year timeframe re implementation of plan**



# ***NWS: Ecological input***

- **Ecologist obliged to carry out a detailed survey, to achieve the following:**
  - **walkover botanical survey: using DAFOR**
  - **classification: identify (appropriate) native woodland type**
  - **outline ecological priorities**
  - **incorporate priorities into management recommendations**



# *NWS: Key operations*

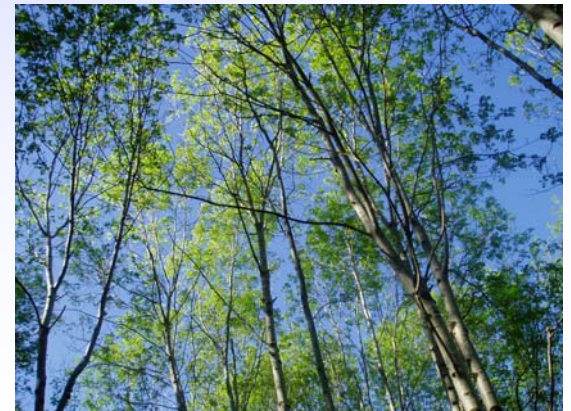
- **Existing woodlands:** Survey, fencing, control/clearance of exotic/invasive species, enhancement planting, NR, enhancing species and structural diversity (restructuring) and thinning (where appropriate)
- **New woodlands:** Survey, fencing, establishment, maintenance and thinning (where appropriate)



## *NWS: Wider impacts*

- Production of native planting stock for other initiatives
- Technical input to other initiatives, e.g. NRA: A Guide to Landscape Treatments for National Road Schemes (available on <http://www.nra.ie/Environment/EnvironmentalPlanningGuidelines/>)

⇒ Experience and information transfer: key role of Woodlands of Ireland!



# Contact Details

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