

RBU/RCM

Wing Day 80

FROM: CONSERVATOR NORTH (SCOTLAND)
TO: DISTRICT OFFICERS, AREA ENGINEERS, AREA LAND AGENTS, RECREATION PLANNING OFFICER, ACQUISITION OFFICER.
cc Mr Macbeath, Mr Mackay, Mr Woodburn, Mr Flynn, Mr Malcolmson, Mr Harrison -

Mrs Swanson Drawing Office -
REF: AD3/3

59th ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1.4.78 - 31.3.79

The Annual Report for the above period will follow the usual pattern as laid down by HQ. The standard headings are listed below and you should prepare a text for the headings appropriate to you using a separate sheet for each activity.

- a. Administration, staff, labour and training
- b. Acquisitions and disposal of surplus assets
- c. Nurseries and seed collection
- d. Forest Management
- e. Harvesting and Marketing
- f. Civil Engineering
- g. Mechanical Engineering
- h. Estate Management
- i. Conservation and Recreation
- j. Private forestry and control of felling
- k. Plant health
- l. Public relations
- m. Items of local interest which have arisen during the year

Please endeavour to let me have your reports by 12th April at the latest.

The short notice is regretted but we have only just received instructions from HQ on the completion of the report together with the requirement that Conservancy Annual Reports should be with HQ Heads of Department by the beginning of May.

R B Urquhart
for Conservator

27 March 1979

TO: CONSERVATOR (N)

FROM: DISTRICT OFFICE
DINGWALL

AD 3/3

59TH ANNUAL REPORT : PERIOD 1/4/78 TO 31/3/79
DINGWALL WEST DISTRICT

(a) Administration, Staff, Labour and Training:

No territorial changes took place within the District during the year.

No change in supervisory staff took place but Head Forester D MacDougall moved from Broadford to take occupancy of a new house in Portree during March 1979 and Forester H Reid moved from Dunvegan to fill the Broadford house. Thus they have in effect exchanged beats.

The labour situation remains fairly static except that Torrachilty gradually recruited to meet the FY 79/80 increase in budget, and South Strome is still unable to attract new men because of lack of housing. The solution at South Strome was to engage contractors.

Three long serving members of the Torrachilty squad retired during the year - W MacLennan (Horseman) in September, after 40 years service, Donald MacKenzie (Ganger) in March 1979 after 42 years service (both the foregoing had been in the Lael squad), and I Szmytkowski (Ranger) in April 1979 after 32 years service. In addition, at Torrachilty, the Clerkess retired to get married, her place being taken by a school leaver. It has been a feature of recent recruitment - at Achnashellach and Torrachilty - that it has been of young people, including school leavers. In all there have been at Torrachilty 8 new recruits in the face of 5 departures. In Skye, a young newly trained Ranger came in to replace A MacLeod who went to Invergarry.

Non Industrial Staff Training included the following attendances on courses:-

District Officer G Dey - Management of Harvesting Operation - Ae Centre
Achnashellach

Forester W Grant - Financial Control; Skidder/Forwarder Supervisor;
Occasional Speakers.

Forester K Mills - Winch Extraction for Supervisors.

South Strome

Head Forester A Forsyth - Financial Control.

Industrial Training was given as follows by Conservancy Training Staff:-

	Ranger (to Affric)	Chainsaw	HF Fencing	ULV Spraying	Skidder (Ae Centre)
Achnashellach	1	1	2		
Skye			4	4	
South Strome			2		
Torrachilty		2			1

(b) Acquisitions and Disposals:

The only case was at Achnashellach where an acquisition of 33 ha at Ardoch (Kishorn) was completed with entry from 16.10.78.

Some acquisition prospects are under review in Skye (Crossal, Hinnisdale, and Glen Brittle) and Achnashellach (Gairloch).

(c) Nurseries: Not applicable.

Seed Collection. Very little seed was collected due to a poor seed year.

At South Strome some 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ Hecto Litres of Sitka Spruce were collected from felled trees.

At Torrachilty the following were collected and dispatched to Central Seed Store:-

Betula Pendula	15 kg
Betula Pubescens	9 kg
Silver Fir	4.5 kg
Sorbus Aucuparia	11.35 kg
Gean, Black	2.27 kg
Gean, Red (Bird Cherry)	1.81 kg

(d) Forest Management:

The major factor which disturbed the smooth course of Forest Management was the weather.

After the stormy winter of February/March 1978, the months of April and May were dry - especially in Skye where it extended well into June. Thereafter it deteriorated into a fairly cold and wet summer.

Planting thus became late, a fact exacerbated by the acute and prolonged fire season especially in Skye. Nevertheless, apart from some late re-planting of a burnt area with Larch in Skye, the take has been pretty good - reflecting the high incidence of those accommodating species SS and LP.

The winter of 1978/79 began early in November and continued virtually non-stop until the end of the Forest Year. In addition to regular periods of snowfall, there were long spells of frost which brought to a halt many operations such as fencing, planting and even ploughing.

The programmes of ploughing and planting finally achieved were as follows:-

	<u>Ploughing</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Replanting</u>
Achnashellach	56 ha	56 ha	9 ha
Skye	258 "	340 "	53 "
South Strone	Nil	19 "	Nil
Torrachilty	110 ha	84 "	6 ha
District Total	424 ha	499 ha	68 ha

The split in the 'P' Year (which still persists to plague us) makes comparison with a programme scarcely valid. Suffice to say ploughing for the 78/79 season (old P79) is completed at Torrachilty, being completed at Achnashellach and will be completed at Skye in time to allow completion of the planting programme.

The high restocking figure reflects the replanting of an area of over 50 ha destroyed by fire in Skye.

The principal species planted from a total exceeding 1400K were as follows:-

LP 70%; SS 18%; JL/HL 8%.

In addition a wide range of amenity species including Cypress and Broad-leaved were planted involving some 28K plants.

Again, a good deal of Double mouldboard ploughing (47%) was undertaken in Skye, leading to lower costs and this included a trial at Ose of the old Clarke shallow double mouldboard - whose use was also extended to provision of fire traces.

Fertilising of new plantings was undertaken as follows:-

	<u>By Hand</u>	<u>Aerial</u>
Achnashellach	Nil	60 ha
Skye	46 ha	320 "
South Strone	10 ha	Nil
Torrachilty	100 ha	Nil
District Total	156 ha	380 ha

(d) Contd

New Deer fencing was undertaken at Achnashellach (Grudie and Black Corrie - 3097 metres) and at Skye (Kylarhea - 1554 metres).

New Stock fencing continued at Glen Vicaskill, Skye, and the enclosure of the first half of that acquisition was nearly completed by the end of the Forest Year, having been held up by frost and snow. Some 8106 metres were in fact constructed.

Protection The outstanding event was the outbreak, in mid July, of Pine Beauty Moth, the caterpillars of which destroyed some 16 ha in the Strath-rannoch area of Torrachilty. The outbreak led to a massive pupal count throughout the District. However the results did not point to any expected spread next year except perhaps in the Garbat area of Torrachilty.

Another troublesome factor was the fierce and protracted fire season, especially on Skye, most of it attributable to insensitive muirburn.

Three fires lost us plantations, one of which was on Torrachilty (Dundonnell, 23 April when 3 ha were lost) and two on Skye (Kyle Farm, 19 April when 55 ha were destroyed, and Upper Tote on 27 April with the loss of 0.24 ha).

There were many more fires throughout Skye, and at Laide, Achnashellach which commanded attention and required movement of assisting squads between forests.

The lack of radio was keenly felt as was that of fire traces - the programme having been cut from the previous Forest Year's budget.

Weeding was not an onerous task and some use was made of granular fertilisers.

	<u>Hand Weeding</u>	<u>Chemical Weeding</u>
Achnashellach	14 ha	
Skye	153 "	
South Strone	Nil	21 ha
<u>Torrachilty</u>	<u>43 "</u>	
District Total	210 ha	21 ha

Fence maintenance continued everywhere but especially at Achnashellach (replacement of Deer fences) and Torrachilty (repair after the storm of February 1978).

The complement of Rangers was increased by one (at Achnashellach) The pressure of deer was felt at Torrachilty especially in the Glensgiach area.

Rabbits were observed to be on the increase especially in the Strathpeffer area of Torrachilty.

Despite this, we emerged suffering but little damage.

(d) Contd

In the Improvement activity, some remedial fertilisation was undertaken - all by helicopter - and a little calluna spraying using 2,4-D and ULV applicators.

	<u>Remedial Fertilising</u>		<u>Heather Kill</u>
	P	PK	
Achnashellach	Nil	55 ha	
Skye	200 ha	-	10 ha
<u>Torrachilty</u>	260 "	-	-
District Total	460 ha	55 ha	10 ha

(e) Harvesting and Marketing:

The year has not been an easy one in the Harvesting sector.

From the Marketing point of view although it was a relief to see a start to pulp deliveries again at the beginning of the Forest Year, it proved a slow start, and matters were further complicated by an inability to attract merchants to offer for Larch log sales - and to some extent DF.

These changes in plan had to be made - some of which were implemented at budget time - and some during the course of the year.

The main departures in plan were as follows:-

Achnashellach Only about 1/5 of the proposed thinning was carried out but was more than balanced by an increase in clear felling.

Skye A tentative start to pre-rotational felling was shelved in favour of an enhanced thinning programme. Some tidying up of windblow and ragged patches did take place and a certain amount of produce was gained from a roadline cut at Varrigill, Portree.

South Strome Here again all production accrued from clear felling, a small thinning programme being set aside. The proposed Larch sale too was abandoned for the time being. At one stage the location of felling was switched to facilitate log extraction direct to public road and thus maintain a supply.

Torrachilty Logs here too proved difficult to place and about 1000 m³ less than programme was eventually felled.

Throughout the year, illness amongst operators and machinery breakdowns continually interrupted the smooth running of the programmes, particularly at Achnashellach and Torrachilty.

At the turn of the year, the weather deteriorated and weeks passed when roads were impassable, or felling and extraction impossible.

To crown matters, a national lorry strike reduced the intakes of sawlogs and pulp alike.

At Achnashellach, South Strome and Torrachilty emphasis on skidder extraction at the expense of the Skyline undoubtedly led to a lowering of costs. By the end of the Forest Year the Falstones at South Strome and Achnashellach were complemented by a Falstone plus a Malvern at Torrachilty - where a back-up operator was trained.

To ease the labour situation at first South Strome and subsequently Achnashellach, contractors were engaged both to fell and extract.

The production situation over the year was as follows:-

	<u>Thinning</u>		<u>Felling</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	Programme m ³ (ha)	Actual m ³ (ha)	Programme m ³ (ha)	Actual m ³ (ha)	Programme m ³	Actual m ³
Achnashellach	1600 (56)	303 (10)	3000 (9.5)	4773 (12)	4600	5076
Skye	5400 (100)	5668 (110)	-	-	5400	5668
South Strome	500 (10)	-	4000 (9.0)	5492 (11.5)	4500	5492
Torrachilty	4850 (103)	3520 (72)	2450 (7.0)	1460 (2.5)	7300	4980
District Total	12350 (269)	9491 (192)	9450 (26.5)	11725 (26.0)	21800	21216

e. Contd

Produce dispatched was as follows:-

	<u>Scottish Pulp</u>		<u>Kilmallie Sawlogs</u>		<u>Other Sawlogs</u>	
	Programme (Tonnes)	Actual (Tonnes)	Programme m ³	Actual m ³	Programme m ³	Actual m ³
Achnashellach	1178	767	3000	2588	282	282
Skye	4350	4310	-	24	753	571
South Strome	1012	971	3750	3625	397	397
Torrachilty	3740	3375	-	-	1598	1279
District Total	10280	9423	6750	6237	3030	2529

The merchants concerned in 'Other Sawlog' sales included —

Achnashellach - Riddoch (including sub-standard logs)
 Skye - H Murray, Portree and 1 load to Riddoch, Kilmallie
 South Strome - Jones, Larbert
 Torrachilty - Riddoch (Larch and Sitka spruce); Gordons, Nairn (DP)

At the end of the Forest Year pulp stocks were substantial - over 1000 Tonnes at roadside and a further 1800 Tonnes awaiting extraction.

Similarly some 1240 m³ of Miscellaneous Sawlogs lay at roadside and 1940 m³ at stump.

In addition Skye exploited a limited fencing post and hay pole market, plus an order for pokers for the Fort William Aluminium works - in all involving some 50 m³.

The only Standing Sale in the District - that to Jones, Larbert at Slattadale fell behind schedule and by the end of the Forest Year some 2911 m³ of a 4181 m³ contract had been felled. This was wholly from clear felling.

f. Civil Engineering:

The huge "Upgrade Category 1A" exercise absorbed a good deal of the roads effort in the District and took precedence over one or two original plans.

Upgrading took place at Achnashellach (Stromecarronach and Slattadale), South Strome (Achmore Glen), Skye (Glen Eynort) and Torrachilty (Lael), principally with roads immediately involved in timber extraction.

One or two other projects continued. At Skye the production road through the Glen Varrigill plantation was formed and much of it surfaced. A start was made to a preplanting road plus bridging in Skye's Glenvicaskill acquisition.

A lower landing was formed at South Strome (Ardnarff) and some stacking/loading bays formed at Achnashellach (Slattadale), and Torrachilty (Achilty, Tarvie and Contin).

The winter weather interrupted much of the work and wash-outs due to blocked culverts were reported at South Strome, Achnashellach and Torrachilty.

g. Mechanical Engineering:

Mobile mechanics and the 'Longman' continued to give stout and prompt back-up maintenance and repair service.

One or two replacements took place - e g

Skye - Argo

Torrachilty - Land Rover and 7 cwt Van.

Achnashellaoh gave up a Skyline and Torrachilty gained a Falstone and latterly a Malvern - though both these latter were fairly mature machines and gave some trouble.

South Strome gained a grass cutter.

From time to time a Forwarder was borrowed, mainly from Farigaig, for tidy-up operations.

h. Estate Management:

The major event was the completion of a new house at Portree, Skye for the Head Forester who took occupancy during April.

Some renovation work was carried out at Torrachilty - to the Forest office and the Garve Keeper's Cottage. The Chief Forester's house was painted and had new windows installed.

i. Conservator and Recreation:

Perhaps the outstanding item was the completion and opening of the Balmacara limited facility caravan site at South Strome.

It was fairly well used and should become even more used in the future as it becomes known.

Camper nights totalled as follows:- Adults 4375 and children 1774 over a season extending from mid May to end of September.

Some £2514 was collected in dues and the part-time Warden cost £838. Local maintenance (but not sewage disposal by Council) involved £90.

Many had to be turned away - both caravaners and campers - because they lacked the necessary toilet capability and it is hoped that at some stage in the near future, consideration will be given for the provision of fairly simple toilets.

The emptying of the sewage pits gave rise to teething troubles as did the water supply.

New car park/picnic sites were laid down at Achnashellach (Grudie) and Skye (Corry, Broadford).

Further work was done by Forestry Commission and Conservation Corps consolidating walks etc at Skye (Storr and Corry) and Achnashellach (Slattadale Victoria Falls).

Good use was made by the touring public of all our facilities in Skye, Achnashellach, South Strome and Torrachilty.

(j) Private Forestry:

The revival of interest in Dedication continues and one or two schemes were approved, although for the most part such planting schemes as there were followed either existing plans or clear fellings.

So far there has been no overwhelming pressure for Small Woods Grant Schemes.

New Planting Grants were approved as follows:-

Brahan Estate	-	24 <u>acres</u>	(Dedication II)
" "	-	3 ha	(SWPG)
Coulin Estate	-	14.9 ha	(Dedication III)
Kylerhea Estate	-	37.0 ha	(Basis III)
Leekmelm Estate	-	3.3 ha	(SWPG)
Letterewe Estate	-	67 <u>acres</u>	(Approved)

Follow-up inspections made largely on P73 cases resulted in approval of the following:-

Applecross Estate	-	8.6 ha	(Approved)
Attadale Estate	-	61.0 ha	(Approved)
Fairburn Estate	-	6.8 ha	(IPG)
Fannich Estate	-	3.2 ha	(SWPG)
Inverewe Estate	-	4.0 ha	(SWPG)
Ledgowan Estate	-	19.6 ha	(IPG)
Letterewe Estate	-	65 <u>acres</u>	(Approved)
Scatwell Estate	-	50 <u>acres</u>	(Approved)

Felling Licences were inspected and approved at Coulin and Gairloch Estates.

Instruction in making pupal counts of Pine Beauty Moth was given to one or two Estates including Attadale, Coulin and Scatwell.

(k) Plant Health:

Pine Beauty Moth caterpillars destroyed about 16 or 17 ha Lodgepole pine in the Strathramnoch area of Torrachilty and precipitated a District wide pupal count. This revealed no build up other than at Torrachilty in the environs of Strathramnoch and Garbat.

Pine Sawfly was also widespread - being particularly bad in the Coulin Estate area.

Bronhorstia has been reported on Corsican pine in Skye.

Pine Weevil damage was noted on restocking in South Strome.

(1) Public Relations:

In Skye, a pavilion was erected at the Dunvegan Show and boards with photographs displayed covering many aspects of Forestry.

Two parties (Polmont Senior Citizens Club and Armadale Academy) visited Slattadale.

The Achnashellach Head Forester gave a talk to Lochcarron WRI.

Also in Skye the Chief Forester attended a Careers Convention in Portree School.

In South Strone, a party of overseas officials attending a HIDE Seminar was shown round the Forest — having been given an introductory talk to Forestry by the District Officer the previous evening.

A party from Gordonstoun School visited Lael and were shown round by the Head Forester.

Second year Agricultural students from Aberdeen University were taken to Strathconon to see various aspects of Forestry and Land Use as part of their field course from Tarradale.

Evening talks, illustrated by slides, were given by the District Officer at Broadford, Strathpeffer, Conon Bridge and Dingwall and shows of Forestry films were given twice in Strathpeffer and once in Ullapool.

(m) Items of Local Interest:

Lack of a follow-up order at Kishorn has led to a lull in oil platform work and a gross shedding of labour.

At Torrachilty, interest has been shown in possible ski-ing development interest on Ben Wyvis. Should this materialise, Forestry Commission property would inevitably be involved. Access would in some measure pass through our land and the ski-ing itself would be on parts of Wyvis owned by the Forestry Commission.

Investigations are continuing by interested parties which include the Civil Engineering firm, Faircloughs.

APPENDIX I - RAINFALL FIGURES

		<u>Achnashellach</u>	<u>Skye</u>	<u>South Strone</u>	<u>Torrachilty</u>
April	1978	55.3	24.2	34.1	45.4
May	"	63.2	24.9	45.7	6.3
June	"	92.4	64.4	61.4	51.3
July	"	89.7	88.6	83.3	19.2
August	"	91.9	95.4	83.7	56.2
September	"	369.8	238.4	234.0	89.0
October	"	365.9	243.2	227.9	95.0
November	"	426.3	298.0	294.8	140.5
December	"	59.3	58.4	33.1	69.0
January	1979	221.0	135.2	138.7	41.0
February	"	86.4	64.2	59.4	49.0
March	"	392.1	199.0	227.3	119.0
Totals		2313.3	1533.9	1523.4	780.9

Note: All above figures in millimetres.

Equivalent inches/annum:- 91 60.4 60. 30.7



ACHNASHELLACH.

MR. C. DEY,
DINGWALL (W.)

ANNUAL REPORT. F.Y. 78/79.

1. WEATHER.

April & May were mainly warm & dry, though the second & fourth week of April did have snow showers. There was a continual deterioration through June, July and August with a considerable amount of N, NE & E winds. There were only about twenty completely dry days & it was generally cool, though rainfall in total was light.

From September onwards rainfall was heavy and continuous through October and November. December opened fairly well, but by the end of the month heavy snow with frost has continued through the new year & is still affecting high ground, with occasional heavy falls, of short duration on low ground even unto the end of March.

Rainfall over the year is average at 80" plus.

2. STAFF

2.1. No change in Forest Officer grades.

W. GRANT, FOR. FINANCIAL CONTROL AND SUPER. SKIDDER-FOREWARD COURSE.
K. MILLS, FOR. SUPER. WINCH COURSE. AND OCC. SPEAKERS COURSE.

- 2.2. C. MURDOCH transferred to AFFRIC for Rangeland Training. B. GREEN successfully interviewed for Rangeland Training in June '79. S. KEENAN joined F.C. in September as prospective trainee rangeland. D. MACKENZIE joined F.C. in December & successfully completed chain saw course in January. B. GREEN & S. KEENAN successfully completed H.T.S.S. fencing course during December.



ACHNASKELLACH Annual Report (contd.)

2.3 RECRUITMENT.

In October '76 there were thirteen men in the squad plus one clerkess. Over the past two or a half ^{years} three men have left, by retiral, while six have been recruited. One of the six recruited came as a Ranger, and another of the six has gone for Ranger training. At the moment there is a net gain of two. However one of the two is due to go for Ranger training this June, and we will lose one man next February on retiral. There is therefore a continual need for replacement.

3. ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSALS.

3.1 ARDOCH Acq. completed. Entry form 16.10.78.
No disposals

3.2 N.S.H.E.B negotiating wireless site Strathdon and access to Creag an Eilean via the Golden Valley.

4. NURSERY AND SEED.

4.1 No seed collections were made.

5. FOREST MANAGEMENT.

5.1 Ploughing tractors arrived just before Xmas as weather broke. Virtually no ploughing done, re-started ploughing 5th March in difficult conditions.
Final programme completed F.Y. 78/79 56 ha.

5.2 Planting. Unable to start Spring planting because of weather & unable to get plants from nursery.
Programme completed F.Y. 78/79 56 ha.



Achmadshellach Annual Report (contd.)

- 5.3 Restocking. Programme not completed due to weather & unable to get plants. Restocking completed 9 ha.
- 5.4 Xmas trees planted & fenced at river side, soon got another 2,000 anytime.
- 5.5 Fire. A bad year during April and May. Much indiscriminate mud-burn. Fortunately no damage to plantations as fires were extinguished on neighbouring land.
- 5.6 New fences completed at Goudie and Black Corrie. Fence maintenance continued on Achmadshellach & Strathbran blocks. This maintenance is a continual and important task which must be kept in mind at all times.
- 5.7 Wildlife control. New policy of fencing & shooting, dependent on priority, beginning to reduce damage in Achmadshellach block, though Case Bhairaviah Riverside still gives grave cause for concern over Spring wood stripping. A continual check must be kept on Strathbran to control Sika numbers & access to new plantings.
- 5.8 Improvement. Drains maintenance, by programme mainly in felling/restocking areas. However quite a bit extra has been done in P60 areas of Achmadshellach as alternative wood in bad weather. PK fertilising 55 ha at Kishorn & Riverside Achmadshellach programme completed.



ACHANSHALLACH ANNUAL REPORT (contd)

6. H. + M.

Generally a slow start to the year with pulp production lagging seriously. Considerable illness in production squad threw-out timing. Although three contractors started work in November the weather was by then so adverse that little impression could be made on the backlog.

Much of the backlog has now been made up + the log programme is quite healthy although bad access because of deteriorating roads make despatches difficult.

Log programme achieved 2,700 m³
Pulp will be below programme mainly because of slow start, bad weather + resulting poor access.
Pulp programme achieved 803 m³.

6.2 Standing sales, Skattadale were well behind in finishing + so the current sale is behind because of a late start. Hopefully it should be completed by July '79.

7. CIVIL ENGINEERING

A late start in adverse weather conditions forced the upgrading at Skattadale to cease though the bulk of the programme was completed. Some tidying-up left to do. Strathie Carrmach road improvements completed. Strathnan being done now. Helicopter site at Kinkedune still to be done.

8. MECH. ENG. N.T.R.

9. ESTATE. MAN. N.T.R.

10. CONS. AND RECREATION.

Bridge crossing vic. Falls completed + walk should be signposted + open by May. Picnic site at Grude Bridge



ACHNASHEEN AREA ANNUAL REPORT (Contd)

10. Conservation (Contd)

Completed. Signposting & tables will be laid out for Easter 79.

11. Private Forestry ETC.

Two private estates, Conlin & Aitdale were instructed in the use of P.B. Moth survey techniques & carried out surveys. No resulting proposal.

12. Public Relations.

Two visits were made to the SNATTADALE area, one by the Forrester Senior Citizens Club (this is an annual event) and a visit by ARMADALE ACADEMY PUPILS. The H.F. also gave a talk to the LOECARROD W.R.I. on Natural Forests in Scotland.

13. LOCAL INTEREST.

HOWARD DODD oil construction yard started limited working during February on a drilling template. This resulted in some locals being taken on. So far this has not affected our labour force. There is as yet no firm indication as to the future of this yard.

R.K. Murchie

6.4.79.



Annual Report F.Y. 78/79

(A) ADMINISTRATION STAFF LABOUR & TRAINING

No non-industrial changes during the report period except that D.A. MacDougall moved to Portree & H.R. Reid transferred to Blaven, leaving Dunvegan with Jange D.J. Maclean as the senior F.C. representative in the area. No Foresters attended courses during the year. Industrial employees had two courses, one was H.T. Stock Fencing the other on UHV application of 24D to heather.

(B) ACQUISITIONS & DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS ASSETS

F.C. Staff looked at various possible acquisitions with MR MUNRO, included were Fairy Bridge, Glenhinnisdale, Glenbrittle, & Gossal, no firm decisions on acquisition have yet been taken. As far as disposals are concerned the possible sale of the Dunvegan Forester's House was discussed, if it is decided to sell, the sale will probably take place during F.Y. 79/80.

(C) NURSERIES & SEED COLLECTION

No seed collection carried out except a few grams for amenity at Portree.

(D) FOREST MANAGEMENT

The first part of the Forest year i.e. the months of April & May, were dominated by the weather, very dry cold & sunny weather kept growth back, & this together with a "mad" period of lightning murrumbidgee by droppers meant that planting was delayed, as all labour was being used for fire protection, most of this after the official murrumbidgee termination date. We had a disastrous plantation fire at Kyleakin in May & numerous other near misses. Despite the interruption the planting was completed with a good degree of success, LARCH suffered because it was flushed at planting. The fire area was restocked but because it was late & conditions so dry we had heavy losses,



2.

we had to beat up the whole area again during the early winter months. Fencing of the first half of Glenivaskill was carried out. The F.C. part of the programme was completed on time, weather & over-commitment of work delayed our Contractor section but by only 2 weeks into the new Forest year. At the time of writing the Kinloch area ploughing is almost completed, we have just begun ploughing in Glenivaskill. Helicopter Fertilising - 320 ha of initial fertilising done, around half of this at Kinloch & the remainder in the new enclosure at Glenivaskill N.E. of the farm. 200 ha of checked SS were top-dressed with 0/10 at 1 square mile E/B. Mechanical x-draining - all the areas planted were covered with the Humpty Plough. Protection Fire - we used a shallow double-head plough to cultivate the perimeter of many of the isolated blocks in North Skye. Protection-otter - A change of Range at South Skye. A. MacLeod moved to Glenagarry & J. Ross took over at Kinloch. Progress of J. Ross at Blaven to date only 'fair'. There has been pressure on fences from red-deer in the South of Skye but no trouble in the North where numbers are being kept to a minimum. Rangers have been all out killing rabbits during the F.Y. the large numbers have now been reduced. Foxes well controlled as before, there has been a considerable reduction in snoring & more use made of spot-lights shattering at night. Clearing & Bracken - a good deal done on Raasay where there is little outlet for other operations.

(e) HARVESTING & MARKETING

Budgeted programme was completed. The F.C. trained man who left us & returned as a Contractor has made all the difference to Extraction of Pulp. As far as Health & Safety at Work is concerned we have a trained man working the Contractor at which

(f) CIVIL ENGINEERING

Half of the formation on the Glenivaskill forest road has now been surfaced, thinning can now



3.

begin during F.Y. 79/80 in the Portree area. Work at Glenivaskill on the preplanting road is now well advanced, this road will greatly assist the felling & planting of the area.

(g) MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

The replacement ARGO we received for Skye is a considerable improvement on the old machine, it has given valuable assistance in planting & fencing where men would otherwise have to walk.

(h) ESTATE MANAGEMENT.

Portree New Forests House has now been occupied. Now that the site has been landscaped it looks much better than at first envisaged.

(i) CONSERVATION & RECREATION

New Walk with Sea Park constructed at Broadford, to the North of the village. The Conservation Corps did valuable work on this project. The Sea Park was done by the Roads Branch.

(j) PRIVATE FORESTRY & CONTROL OF FELLING

Very quiet on this front. H.F. assisted D.O. on inspection of SCALPAY

(k) PLANT HEALTH

No Beauty Moth found after survey. Sawfly quite widespread. Broncostia on Corsican Pine.

(l) PUBLIC RELATIONS

Met Stornoway Trust on Lewis visit with D.O. Attended lecture given by D.O. at Broadford to Conservation Corps. Took part in Forestry Convention at Portree School in October.

(m) F.C. provided a 'stand' DUNVEGAN show with success.

South Strome

4/4/79.

Annual Report FY78/79.

Weather

Rainfall figures:-

April	34.1	July	83.3	Oct.	227.9	Jan.	138.7
May	45.7	August	83.7	Nov.	294.8	Feb.	59.4
June	61.4	September	234.0	Dec.	33.1	March	227.3

Total for the year. 1523 mm.

The main features of the weather during the year April and May was very dry, September, October and November were extremely wet with the last four months having almost continual winter conditions.

A. Administration

As the number of industrial employees remained below the level required contractors were employed to help with the H&M

Non-Industrial Staff:- 1 Head Forester
1 Forester.

Industrial Staff:- 3 Forest Workers
1 Forest Ranger. 1 Clerk.

Training 2 men received a Fence Maintenance course.

Abc F - Financial Control (can?)

B.

Acquisition None during the year.

C. Seed Collection.

6½ Hecto-litres of SS cones were collected and despatched to the Seed Store.

D.
Forest
Management.

During the year 19 ha. were planted no restocking took place due to the weather towards the end of the F.Y.

Wildlife numbers controlled:-

Roe Deer (Bucks)	12	Red Deer (Stags)	11	Fox (Dog)	4
" (Does)	33	" " (Hinds)	1	" (Cubs)	14.
				" (Cubs)	14.

E.

H & M.

Production at the forest was all from clear felling.

Felled = 5,492 m³

Pulpwood supplied 1068 m³

Saw logs " 4026 m³

Total supplied 5094 m³.

F. Roads. The lower road round Strath Ussie was up graded also approximately 1000" of new road constructed in bonft 35. Some damage to roads took place in November due to the high rainfall ie) Landslide on the Carr na Breige road. Culvert washed out above Ardnaiff.

G.
Mechanical

The holding of V.M.E. :- 2 Transits, 1 Landrover

1 Talstone Shilder

1 Tractor with skyline cable bone

Delivery of a grass cutting machine took place in March which has not been tried out yet.

H. Estate. There were no new estate projects during the year

I

Conservation The Batmasara Campsite was open for the first full
& Recreation season and functioned very successfully.

Campers night ~~Adults~~ 4375

Children 1774

Total 6149

I expect an increased demand in the coming season as the people with touring caravans become more aware of the existence of the site.

The Stromewood Picnic Site and Forest Walk were used fairly well by the public during the year.

Nothing to report.

The restocking of felled SS areas do have problems where brash is excessive it is difficult to get a high quality job of planting. Also we have had losses caused by weevil damage. Damage is also extensive by Roe Deer browsing.

Public A visit by a party of overseas officials took
Relative place on 13th July 1978 arranged by the H.I.D.B.

TO: MR. G. DEY

FROM: TORRACHILTY

REF: AD 3/3

59th ANNUAL REPORT

a. Administration Staff etc :-

8 New industrials were employed during the year - 6 to become power saw operators, one 16 year old for the F.M. squad and one 16 year old girl to become the unit clerkess.

Retireals - Resignations

One Clerkess, 2 P/Saw operators, 1 Ranger, 1 Horse Man.

Training

2 New starts were trained as P/Saw operators and one man retrained as a skidder operator.

b. Acquisitions and disposal of surplus assets - NIL.

c. Nurseries and seed collection

Collection on this unit and transfer to Central Seed store.

B. Pendula	15 kg
B. Pubescens	9 kg
Silver Fir	4.5 kg
S. Aucuparia	11.35 kg
Gean - Black	2.27 kg
Gean - Red	1.81 kg

Plants received from Conservancy Nursery were all of a high quality.

d. Forest Management

Ploughing programme of 100 ha was completed and 110 ha actually ploughed.

Planting only 84 ha of the 100 ha programme were undertaken in the year. Weather conditions in February and March making competition impossible.

All the remaining budgetted programmes were undertaken satisfactorily. Far greater lengths of fence maintenance had to be undertaken than anticipated due to snow break in spring of 1978.

e. Harvesting and MarketingThinning3520 m³ 72 haC/Felling1460 m³ ha

Volume down 23% on programme due to poor demand for Sawlogs.

Another skidder (Malvern) was introduced for extraction bringing the total to 2. But due to breakdowns and very bad weather full benefit of the second machine was not felt.

Sales :-Pulpwood 3712 m³Sawlogs 1279 m³f. Civil Engineering

The lower roads in Lael Glen were brought up to the new Cat. I. standard and so too, was the one behind the forest garden.

Hard standings and turning places were also made at Torrachilty main to facilitate extraction.

g. Mechanical Engineering

Both the Torrachilty main Land Rover and 7 cwt Van were replaced with new versions of the same model of vehicle.

h. Estate Management

Renovation work was carried out on the following properties:-

Garve Keepers cottage modernised.

Torrachilty Office renovated.

Chief Foresters House painted and new windows at rear of house.

i. Conservation and Recreation

No change in facilities. The general public appear to be using the walks and picnic areas in ever increasing numbers.

j. Private Forestry - NIL

3.

k. Plant Health

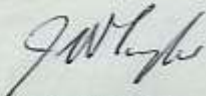
260 ha of mainly L.P. at Garbat section were remedially top dressed with "p".

16 ha of L.P. were almost wiped out in July due to Pine Beauty Moth.

l. Public Relations with neighbours and visitors has been excellent.

m. Items of Local interest

Possible ski developement in forest area.



J W TAYLOR
Chief Forester
Torrachilty
6 April 1979