

TO: MR. G. DEY

FROM: TORRACHILTY

63rd ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 1982 - 31 MARCH 1983

- (a) No recruitment during period. Two young, high output harvesting operators resigned.
- (b) 126 ha. of North Hill were acquired.
- (c) EL cones were collected from the clear felling of the registered seed stand at Faebait.
- (d) All budgetted work was completed on time. Excess work was undertaken on drain and fence maintenance, plus cleaning in the established blocks to thereby employ H & M industrials during the pulpwood recession.
- (e) Bidding for Log sales was very poor. Difficulties were experienced in getting the purchaser of the small logs to uplift his quota.
- (f) Extention of Longart road carried out but not completed. North Hill access to acquisition ground commenced and now passable. Lael roads had improvements undertaken.
- (g) Good service received from the mechanical workshop staff.
- (h) The last FC House in Strathconon was sold, as so were crofts at Gorstan and the Cats' Back.
- (i) All facilities were maintained. A start was made to a car park and walk at Strathconon.
- (j) Nil.
- (k) Nursery stock received was good. Severe attacks by Sawfly and Zaeraphera Diniana were noted in younger LP blocks.
- (l) Nil.
- (m) Wyvis scheme still on the move.

J W Taylor
J W TAYLOR
Chief Forester
Torrachilty
26 April 1983



ANNUAL REPORT 1982

Achna Sheelaach

A) ADMINISTRATION : South Strone and Achna Sheelaach amalgamated, moved to new office in April.

Staff departed - A. Jowett - May
W. Grant - August.

in - S. Beaton - July.
- H. Bowers - August.

Labour Two squads one based at Slattadale and one at Achna Sheelaach. The one forest worker at South Strone has been absorbed into the Achna Sheelaach squad and South Strone worked by a flying squad. Total labour force is 15 plus one part-time camp warden.

Training Training was given on helicopters, great spruce bark beetle and the Huntly application.

B) ACQUISITIONS & DISPOSALS : Nil acquired. Sold A. Jowett's house and No. 1 Braemar.

C) NURSERIES AND SEED COLLECTION : Nil.

D) FOREST MANAGEMENT : with the stopping of F.C. harvesting the squad time is almost wholly on management work.

Ploughing at Strathbion and Ardoch the ploughing was D.T. double furrow and left more problems than it solved. Freddie was ploughed with a single furrow mouldboard line and gave satisfactory results.

ing more time is being spent on hand draining before planting.



Weeding

Bracken areas are being sprayed with Glyphosate. Grass areas were done with a grass hook in one hand to help find the plant and a "pepper pot" with Herbin, Regnum in the other. The huntly application was not a success due to the amount of searching.

Fire Protection

At Avenish the heather was very rank and had not been burnt since before the ~~last~~ last war, the swipe was brought in to prepare a face, four runs were done with the swipe around the perimeter of the area to be burnt plus one run up and down the middle of the face to break the area up in manageable sizes, burning was then done over two days and the tactics proved very safe.

Rangers

Sika deer were allowed to get out of control at Gredie and made a mess. With the help of the keepers from Achnashellach and two from Jorachilly they were brought back under control.

E) HARVESTING Forestry Commission working was stopped and all harvesting is being done by standing sales. There is no thinning just clear fell. Riddochs have a long term contract at South Strone, Jones have a contract at Slattadale, Munro completed a contract at Stron Carronach and the last sale at Slattadale was won by Catto.

F) CIVIL ENGINEERING: We have two superintendants of work - J. Ross and S. McAlloch. Roads for the immediate clear fell areas at South Strone were brought up to Cat 1 standard. A road side drain and essential repairs were done to the road at Riddoch, the cattle grid at Lehanashie was put in and the office car park was completed.



G) MECHANICAL ENGINEERING : There was a three month review of light vehicles.

The Forestry van at Slattadale has been changed to a motor van with two seats in the back, and the Gehra Shellach Squad van is a Super Crew Bus.

The boat at Slattadale has finally sunk and is not to be replaced.

H) ESTATE MANAGEMENT. The new forest office at Rai was completed and the old office dismantled.

Major repair works were done to the F.W.H. house at Slattadale and the F.W.H. Steading at Craig.

The forest admin complex at South Strome has been retained and a decision on its future will be taken after the re-organisation.

I) Conservation - nil.

Recreation - There was a 4% rise in the numbers using the Balmain Camp site. Caravans are the main users of the site with tents and motor vans only minor users. The ratio of adults to children remains at 85% adults to 15% children.

A meeting was held with Mr. H. Bell and a report ~~made~~ prepared with a view to improving the profitability of the Camp site.

All picnic tables were taken in during the winter and stored out and refinished with preservative.

J) PRIVATE FORESTRY - Forestry Society have now a foot hold in the area.

K) PLANT HEALTH - There is die back and death of Sitka Spruce in the Corlago and Kirkton blocks due to frost, in places trees 12 ft to 15 ft high have been killed.

L) PUBLIC RELATIONS - Contact with the public is mainly through the Rock Canyon Community Council and relations on the whole are good. No talks were given.



4

m) ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST - Though May, June and July were dry months the remainder of the year was very wet giving a total rainfall for the year ending December of 2516 m.m. - 99 inches.

D.A. Beaton.

24th April 83.