An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Forestry and Mitigation

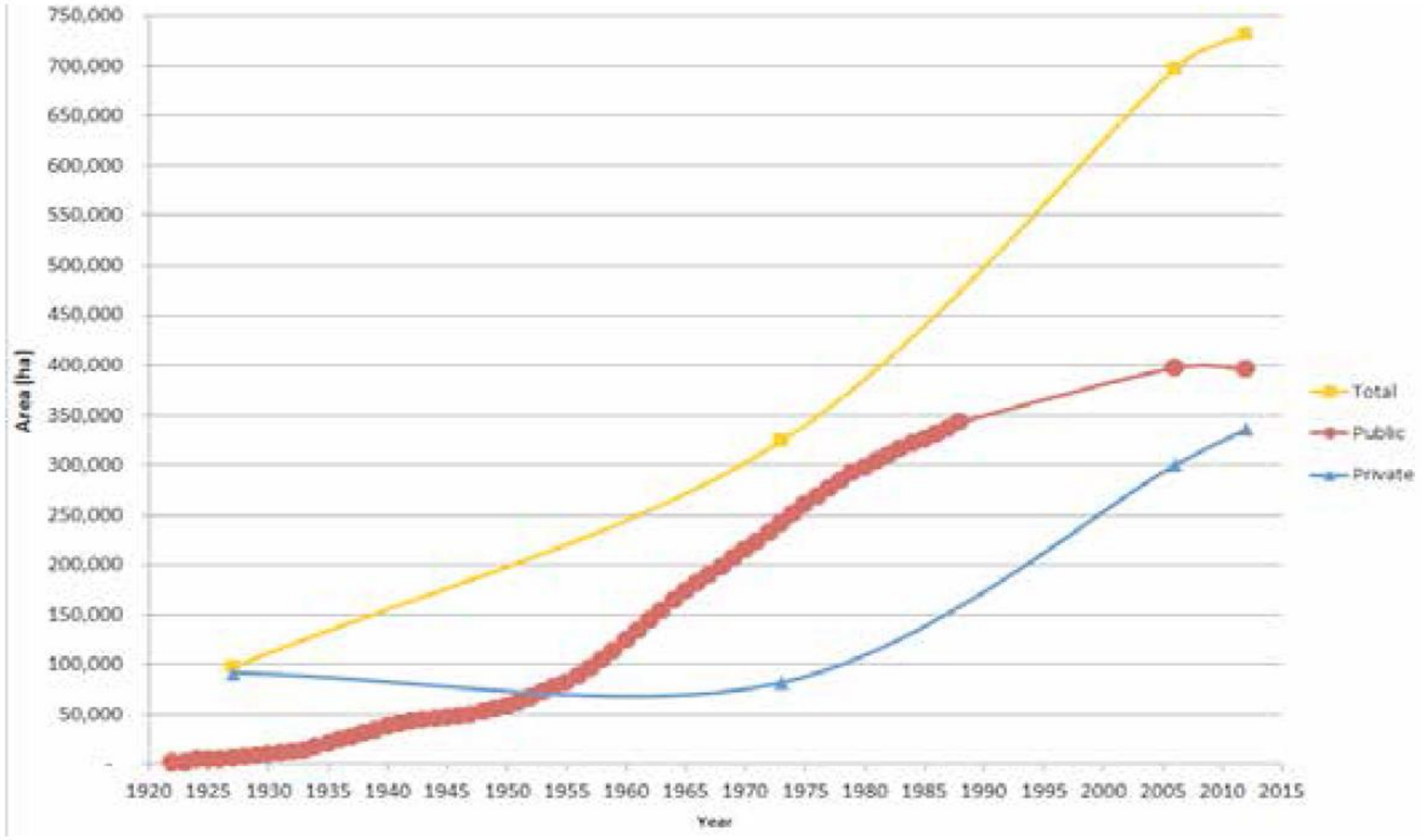
past, present and future

Katharine Duff

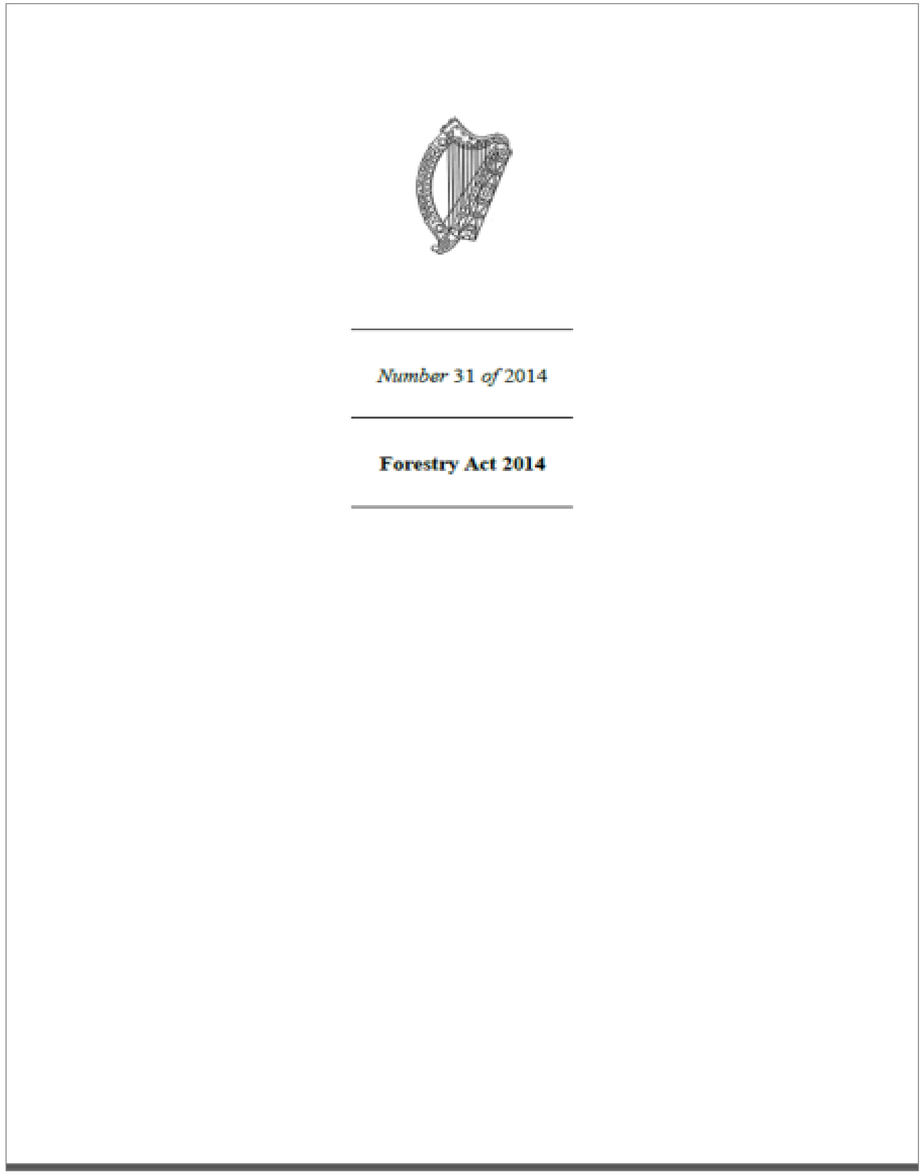
26th April 2018

Background to Forestry in Ireland

- **1900**: 1.5% woodland/forest cover in Ireland
- Post **1922** national afforestation program-
- **2018:** 10.5% woodland/forest cover

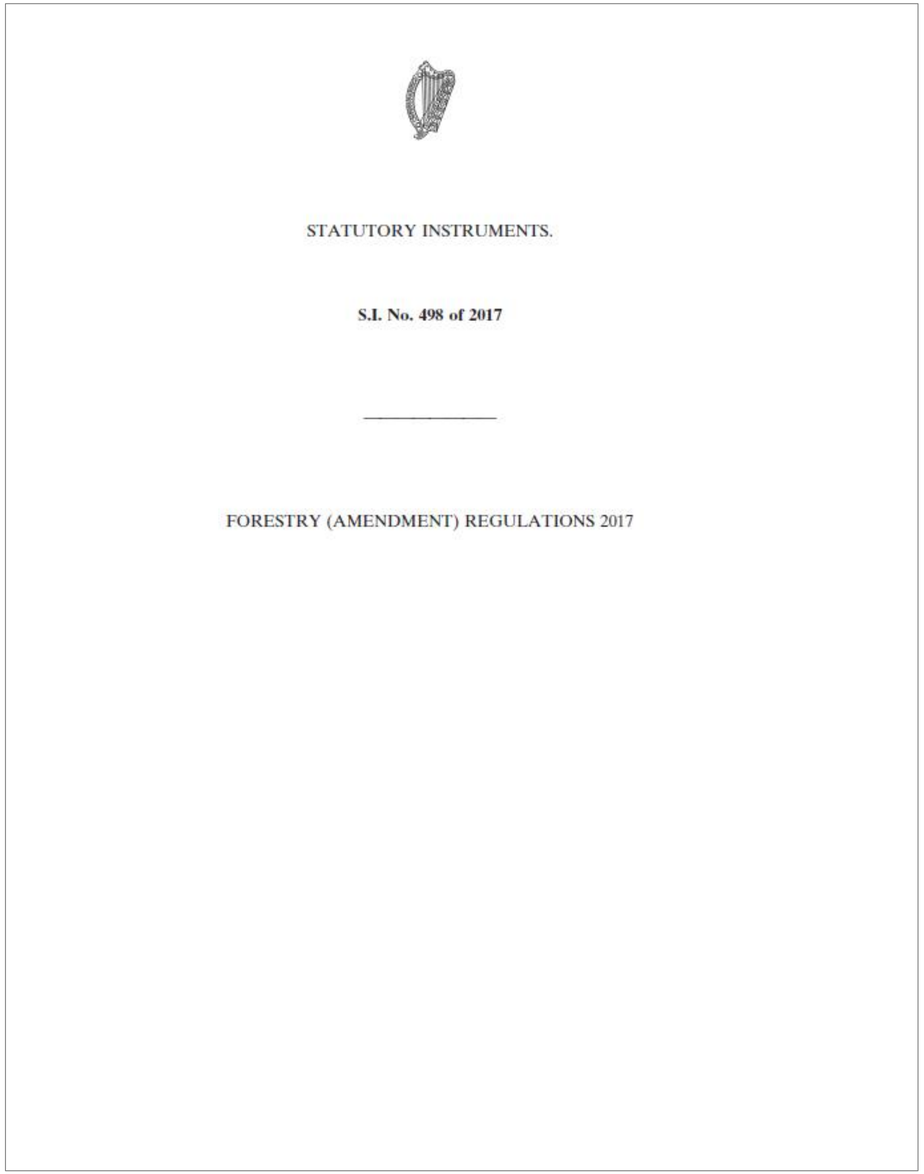

750,000
700,000
650,000
600,000
550,000
500,000
450,000
400,000
350,000
300,000
250,000
200,000
150,000
100,000
50,000
-
Area [ha]
1920 1925 1930 1935 1940 1945 1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015
Year
Total
Public
Private

Legal framework



Number 31 *of* 2014

Forestry Act 2014



STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS.

S.I. No. 498 of 2017

FORESTRY (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2017

Forestry stakeholders

- **Forest Service:** regulatory authority
  - National forest policy
  - Tree planting
  - Tree felling
  - Forest protection
  - Administers grant schemes
  - Research & development
- **Coillte Teoranta (Coillte):** Semi-State Body
  - Established 1989
  - Manages the State’s commercial forests.
- **Private** land owners

Type of Forestry

Forestry operations

- Afforestation
- Forest road construction
- Thinning
- Clear felling and replanting

Environmental issues

- Forestry focused on marginal land

- Habitat loss
- Hydrological
- Cumulative impacts

Habitat loss

Hydrological impacts

Cumulative impacts

Mitigation

- Licence Application process
- Adherance to Environmental requirements
- Forestry Standards Manual
- Best Practice Guidelines

Land Types for Afforestation

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Working Document
March 2016

Environmental Requirements for Afforestation

December 2016

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Licence application process

- Registered forester submits an application for afforestation or felling on behalf of applicant
- Forest Service assessment of applications -
- Reviewed by FS District inspectors
- Site visit
- Referral to ecologist - RFI's Ecological surveys, NIS
- Revised applications
- Refusal or Approval with ± conditions
- Certification

Mitigation:
Water set back

Native Woodland Establishment GPC9 & GPC10

Silvicultural Standards

September 2015

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

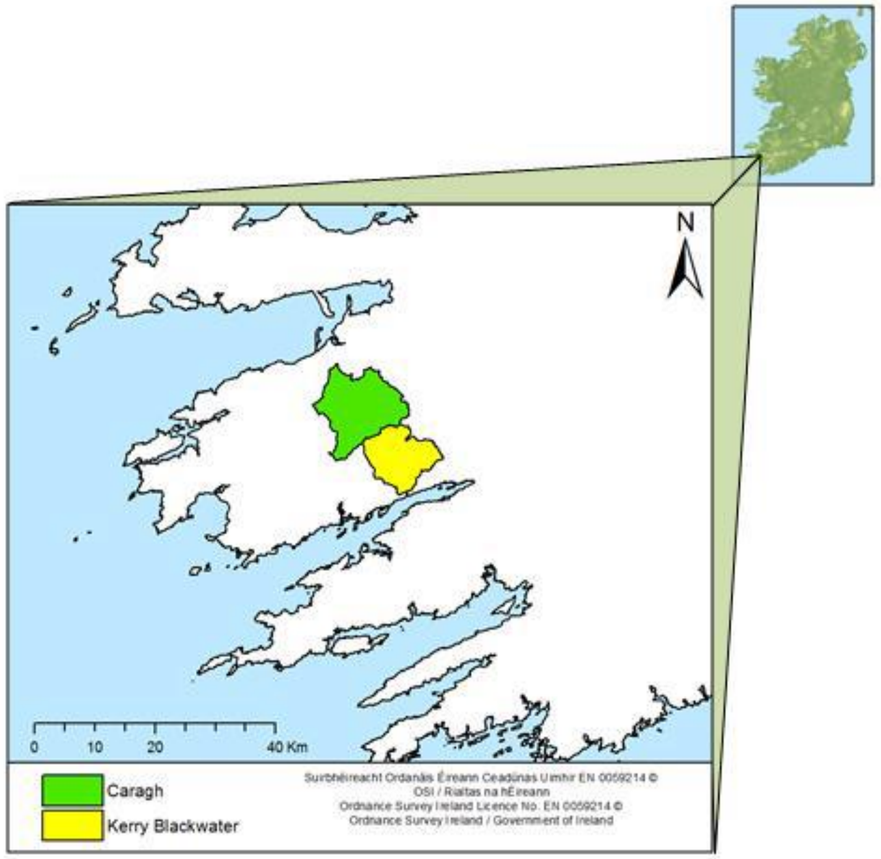
Protection forest

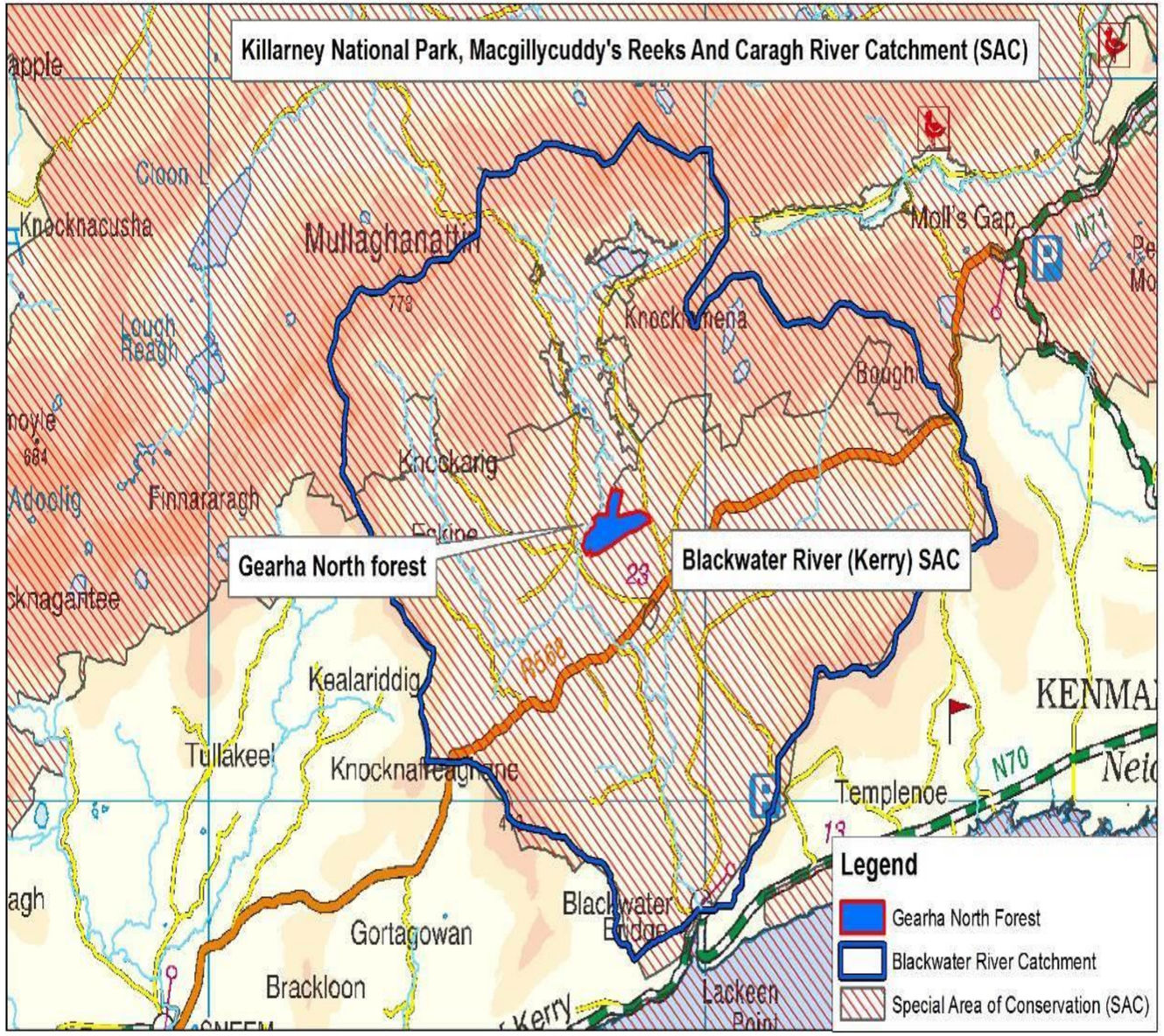
Challenges

- Legacy issues
- Afforestation focused on marginal land
- No alternative grant scheme for HNV farmland
- Conifers versus broadleaves
- Types of management – clearfell system
- Deer
- Diseases such as Ash die-back

KerryLIFE
2015/09/01

KerryLIFE





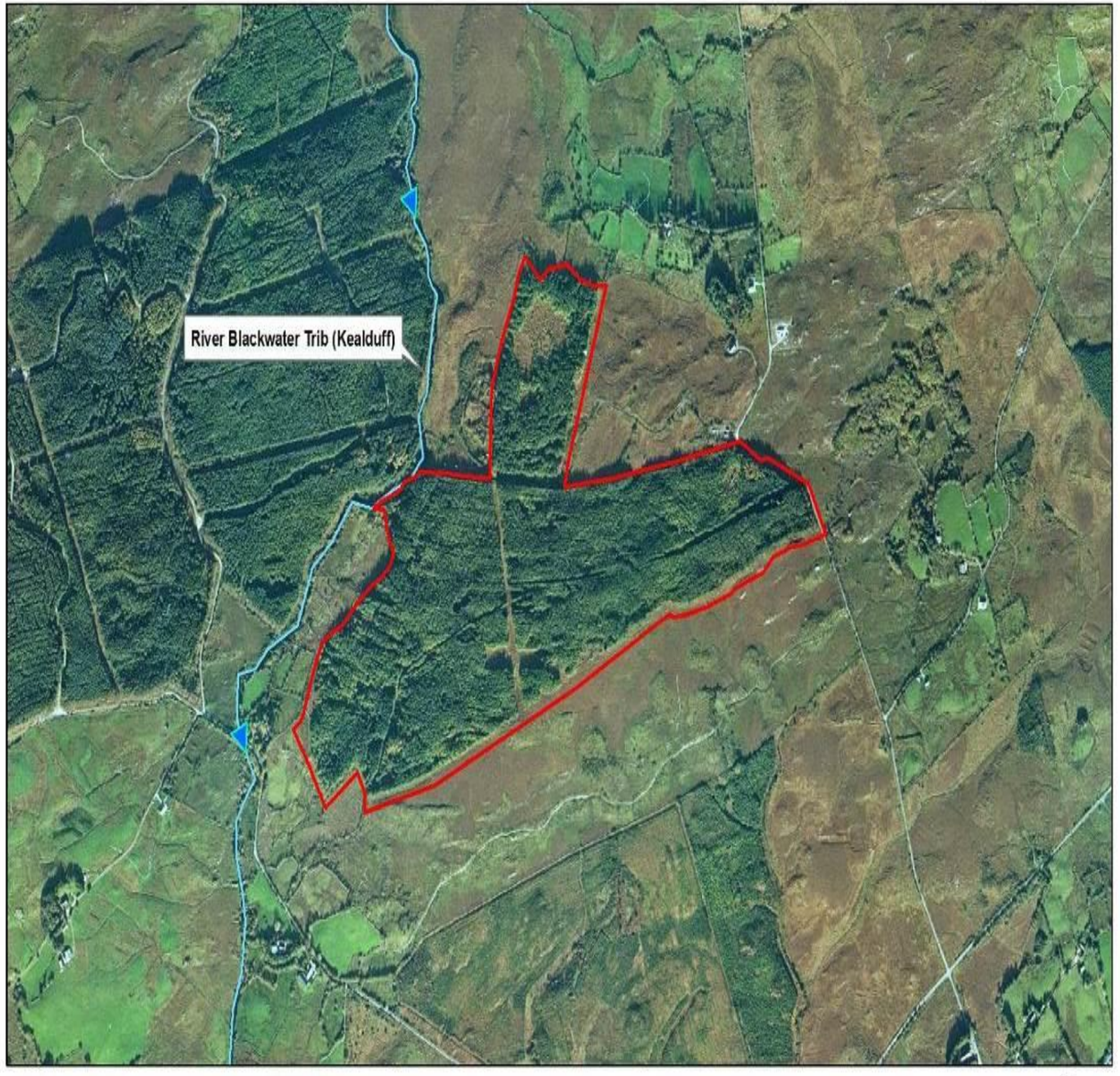
Project: KerryLIFE

Site name: Gearha North Forest

Scale:

0 1,250 2,500 5,000 Meters

N W E S



Project: KerryLIFE

Site name: Gearha North Forest

Gearha North Site

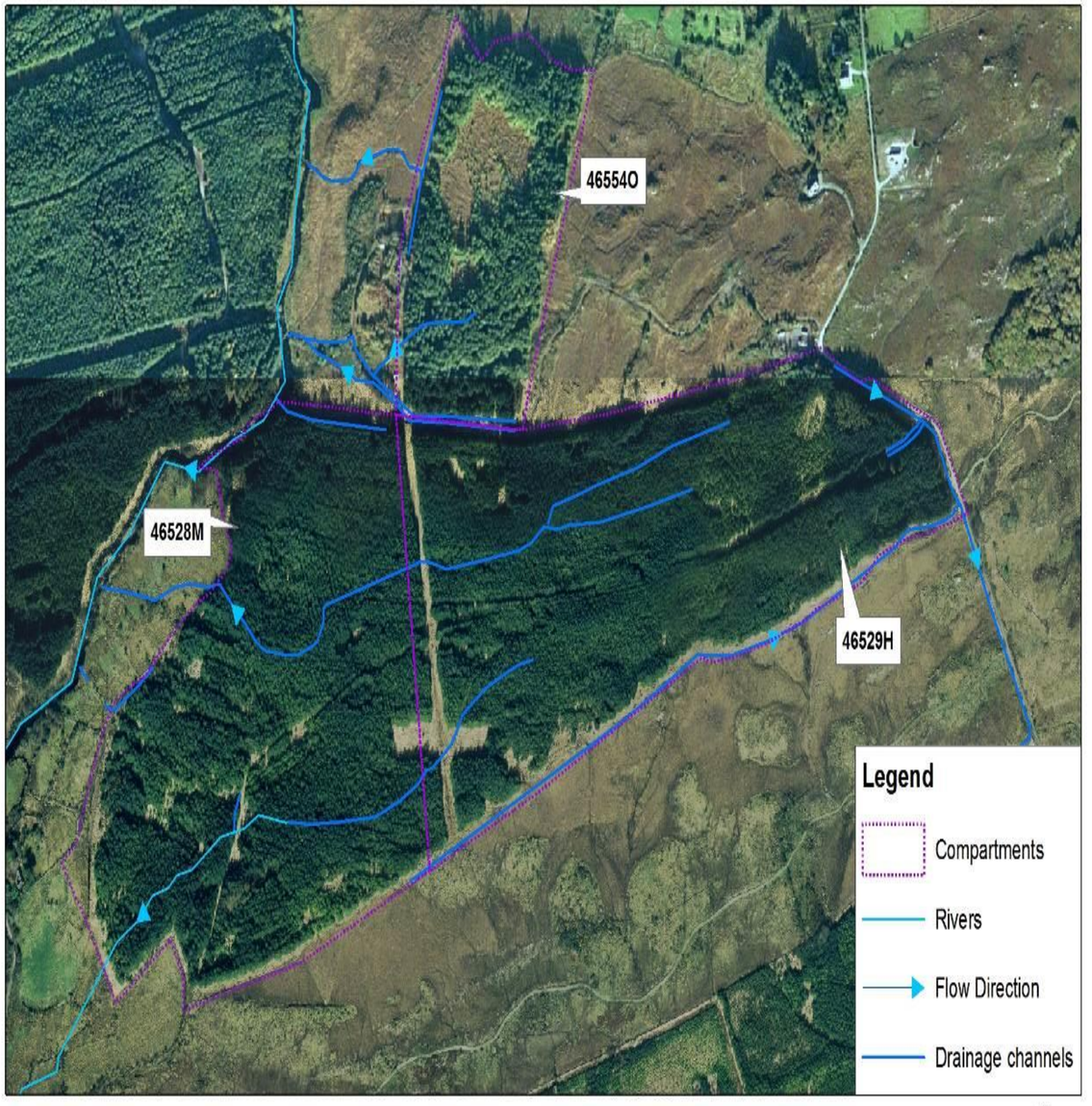
Rivers

Flow Direction

Scale:

400 200 0 400 Meters

N W E S



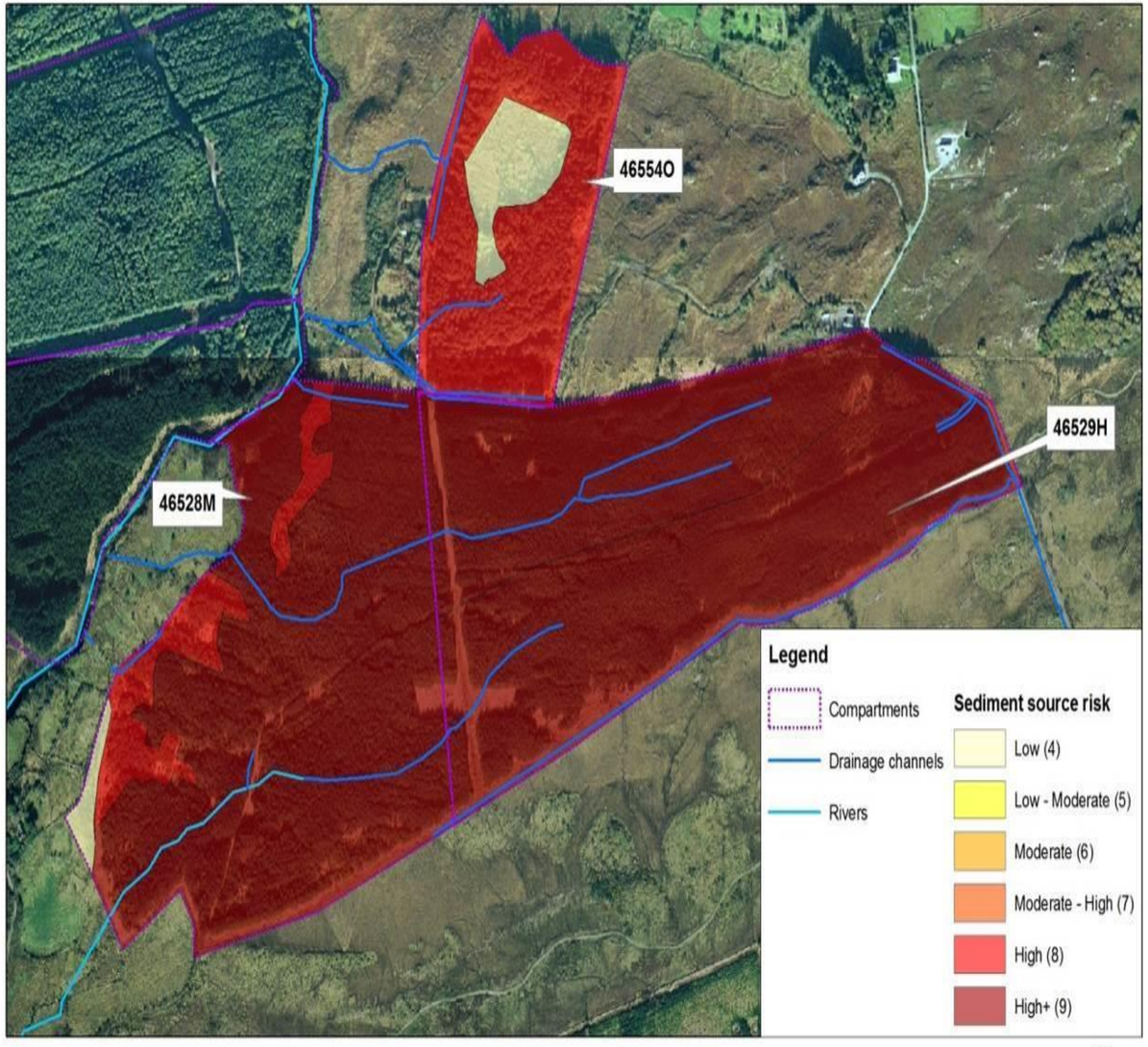
Project: KerryLIFE

Site name: Gearha North Forest

Scale:

0 125 250 500 Meters

N W E S



Project: KerryLIFE

Site name: Gearha North Forest

Scale:

0 125 250 500 Meters

N W E S

Low impact harvest machines

Retro-fit aquatic buffers

KerryLIFE

- Transform conventional clearfell-managed forests to continuous cover forestry
- Heli logging
- Felling to waste
- Native Woodland scheme - establishment and conservation measures

Going forward

- Forestry Programme 2014-2020 (Mid term review)
  - Promote broadleaves higher grants
  - Alternative management – Continuous cover forestry CCF
- New measures:
  - Woodlands for water. Working with EPA on catchment plans and protection forests
- Training:
  - Registered foresters and ecologists

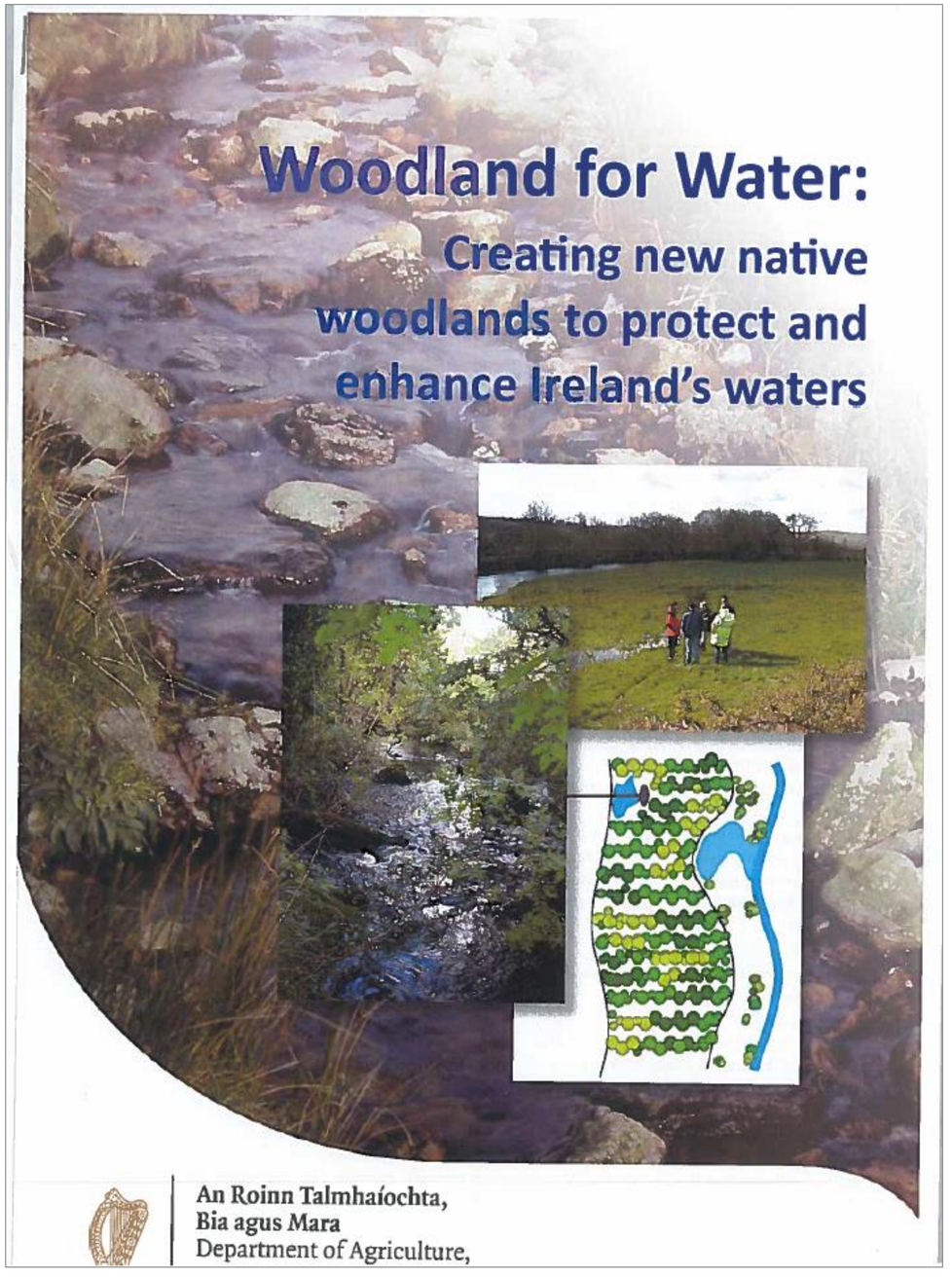
Felling and Reforestation Policy

Department of
Agriculture,
Food and the Marine
An Roinn
Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara

May 2017

Woodland for Water:

Creating new native woodlands to protect and enhance Ireland's waters



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Department of Agriculture,

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Thank you

NB Native Woodland Conference Monday 30th April

Katharine Duff
26th April 2018