**Your woods – your views**

*(photo of woods from website as background)*

**Please help, we need just 5 minutes of your time…**

Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) manage the forests across Scotland, on our behalf, and the Callander Woodland Group works with them to improve Coilhallan, Upper Crags and Torrie woodlands around Callander.

A new Land Management Plan is being developed by FLS covering the next 10 years and this is our opportunity to let them know what we want - the Woodland Group is running and co-ordinating all our responses to this survey, so please have your say.

It’s right here below and we have also placed QR codes on entrances to each these woods linking to the survey and its on our brand new website.

So please take a few minutes to compete the survey below. Your answers will be fed in to the Land Management Plan. In a couple of months, when there is a competed draft, representatives from Forestry and Land Scotland and the Callander Woodland Group will hold a public meeting to which everyone will be invited.

**Thank You**

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**Callander Woodlands Group Survey**

Please answer the following questions and take your form to either the library or the visitor centre, or visit our website …….. and complete the survey there.

**Coilhallan, Upper Crags, Torrie.**

*Please circle the woodland you are commenting about.*

1. How often do you visit the woods?
2. What do you do there?
3. What do you like about the woods?
4. What improvements would you like to see?
5. Any other comments

**The longer read……**

The Land Management Plan for Coilhallan, Torrie and Upper Crags woodlands is up for renewal. The plan mainly deals with felling, thinning, restocking and new planting and changes to forest tracks – long term decisions, at a fairly high level, but below it there is a much more detailed work plan, where we can have a big influence.

For example we can request new or upgraded paths, clearance of informal paths, small ponds dug to enhance wildlife habitats, picnic and seating areas and entrances to woodlands to be improved with better car parking.

We can also suggest that the woodlands are zoned, so that we have quiet, peaceful woods and others that encourage more active activities such as mountain biking.

So there is a lot at stake here and it’s very important that we show that Callander people are interested in their woodlands now and in the future.

There will be a public meeting, hosted by FLS when the draft plan has been prepared, which is another chance to air your views. Please try and come along.

We are lucky enough to be surrounded by forests and woodlands, so it’s really important that we make sure FLS know what we want for them, now and in the future - it’s not only for us and our visitors but for the wildlife that lives there.

Meanwhile the Callander Woodland Group continues to hold volunteer sessions where we are currently clearing the sides of the paths in Coilhallan, cutting back gorse, broom, brambles and sitka saplings and pulling up the invasive piri-piri-bur.

If you are interested in joining us then please come along.

Our next outings are on 15th and 27th October.

Please email CallanderWoodlandGroup@gmail.com and we will send you more details. We’d love to see you.

And if you have another spare few minutes, please visit our new website and read much more about what your Callander Woodland Group are getting up to, or use it to get in touch with us.

*Sue King*

*on behalf of the Callander Woodland Group*

*More photos of woodlands*