

What stakeholders want? Towards non-binary forestry

Professor Anna Lawrence
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About humans



Planted

Natural

For nature



For money



Polarisation

"...the process that causes individuals on either side of a conflict to take increasingly extreme positions that are more and more opposed to each other. As parties move toward these opposite "poles," they define themselves in terms of their opposition to a common enemy. Trust and respect diminish, simplified stereotypes emerge. Parties assume more rigid positions and may refuse to negotiate."

Michelle Maiese and Tova Norlen

www.beyondintractability.org/essay/polarization



Origins of a split ...



A Forest of Contradictions: Producing the Landscapes of the Scottish Highlands

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While total global forest cover is decreasing, in many parts of the world forests are on the rise. Uncritical examinations of this phenomenon credit the benign diffusion of capitalist development for this “forest transition.” More critical readings of this question—including green Marxist and poststructuralist approaches—might conclude something very different, however. In this paper, we explore the question of expanding forest cover, using the case of the Scottish Highlands. Forestland has tripled since the 1920s, in an attempt to critically explain this change. Drawing upon historical sources and Scottish Executive and Forestry Commission data, we examine the specific environments currently forming in the Highlands under conditions of economic change. We conclude that two divergent forestry practices and ecologies have been formed in the wake of economic restructuring: those geared towards industrial production and those targeted at consumption through ecotourism. We conclude, therefore, that capitalism’s spatial fix to declining industrial power in the region is an inherently ecological one that takes the form of “schizophrenic forestry,” in which forest expansion leads to the rise of degraded monocultures alongside “pristine” sites of conservation.

SNH’s [Scottish Natural Heritage] vision is for Scotland’s forests and woodlands to develop as a diverse resource that is productive, ecologically robust, scenically attractive and provides people with

“Two divergent forestry practices and ecologies have been formed ... those geared towards industrial production and those targeted at consumption through ecotourism.”

[They call this ‘schizophrenic forestry’]

Robbins & Fraser 2003



Not only in Scotland ...



“the Finnish forest sector [is] strongly polarised ... two dominant value positions, forestry and nature. Utility values dominate policy discussions. Lack of trust is characteristic of the polarised policy field”

1. Introduction

Natural resource policies are often contested and a source of conflicts. One of the key tasks of national forest policy is to deal with different actors' diverse values, interest and expectations. Actors form different affiliations to strengthen their influence in policy processes and over the outcomes of these processes. Networks, coalitions and the influence of different actors have shown to be important in policy processes and explaining policy change (Weible, 2005; Weible et al., 2009; Sotirov and Memmler, 2012).

Studies examining natural resource policy have usually identified two or three main coalitions that seek to influence the policy system

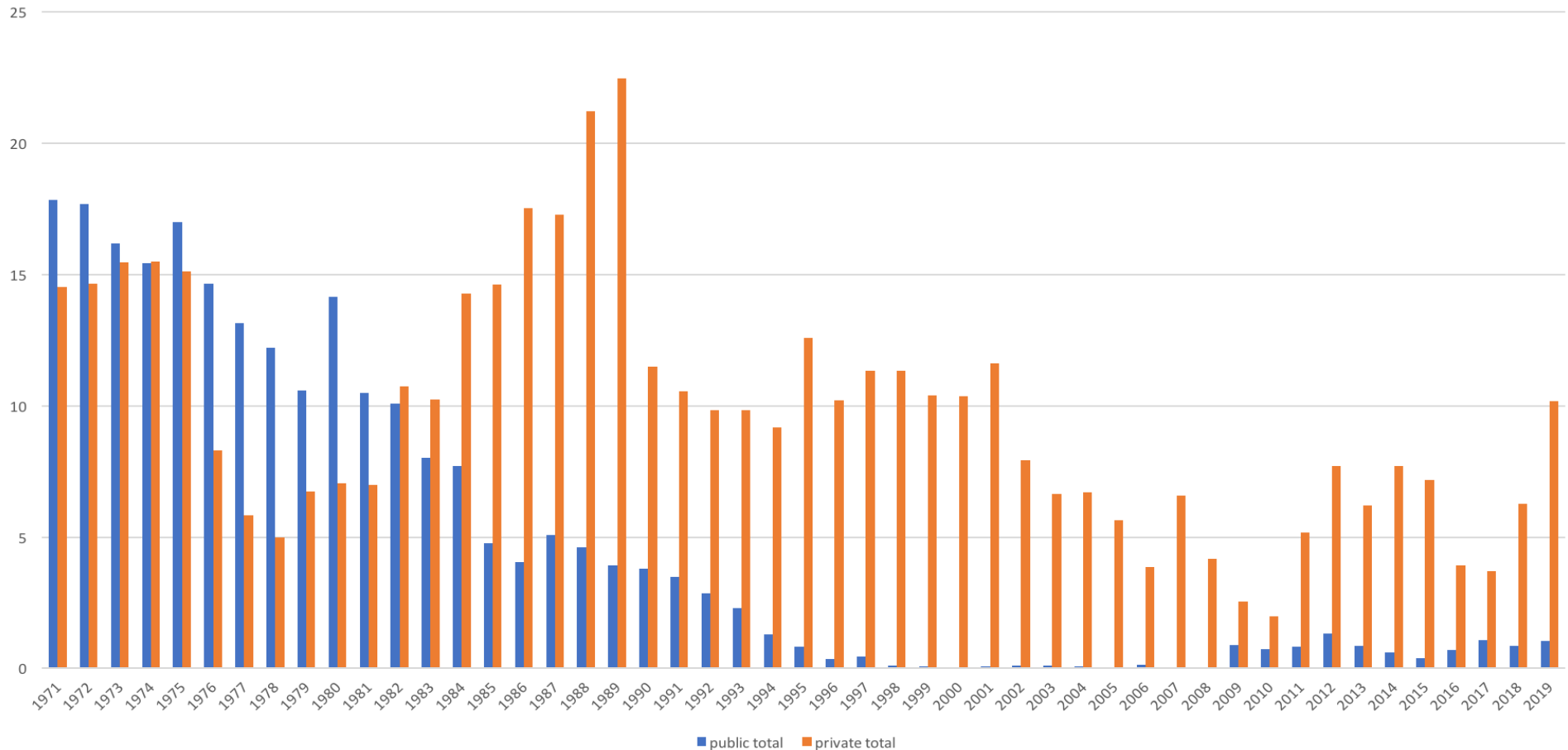
forest policy making has been confined to committees and working groups where the main interest groups represented were forest industry and forest owners. Since 1990s with the rise of environmental consciousness and economic globalisation the numbers of interest groups has increased, and the significance of non-governmental organisations as well as international forest companies has increased (Ollonqvist, 2002; Kotilainen and Rytteri, 2011). Up to 1980 conflicts mainly erupted between private forest owners and forest administration “as the forest authorities failed to recognize the needs of forest owners or were not willing to do so” (Siiskonen, 2007, p. 132). More recently the roots of the conflicts are found in the divide between economic interests and conservation interests (Hellebrandt, 2001; Raitio, 2013). Earlier research

Harrinkari et al. 2016

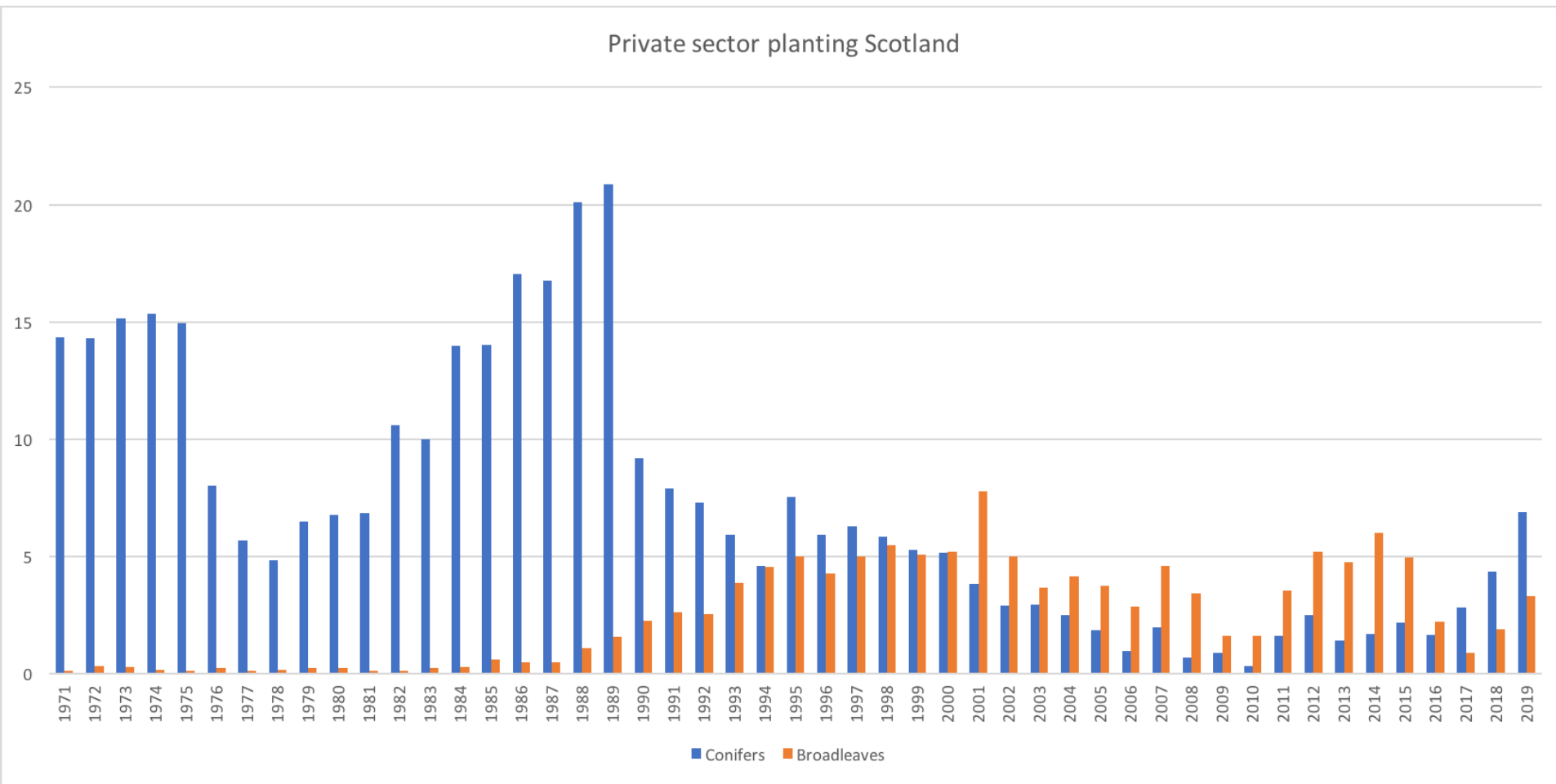


How do public and private planting compare?

New planting, totals, Scotland



How do private conifer and broadleaf planting compare?



UK COMMERCIAL FORESTRY

Gresham House
Specialist asset management

IN THE UK



The UK is a 'captive market': we have to import c.80% of timber to meet demand from construction/other industries



The price of UK timber is currently around 20% lower than imported timber



More use of wood in housing: in 2016, 27.6% of new builds in the UK were timber frame, which is forecast to rise to 32.4% by 2018

Source: Gresham House Research

FOUR FUNDAMENTAL DRIVERS OF FORESTRY/TIMBERLAND RETURN



Biological growth



Land values



Timber pricing



Asset management

SIGNIFICANT TAX BENEFITS



Income from timber sales in the UK is free of Income and Corporation Tax



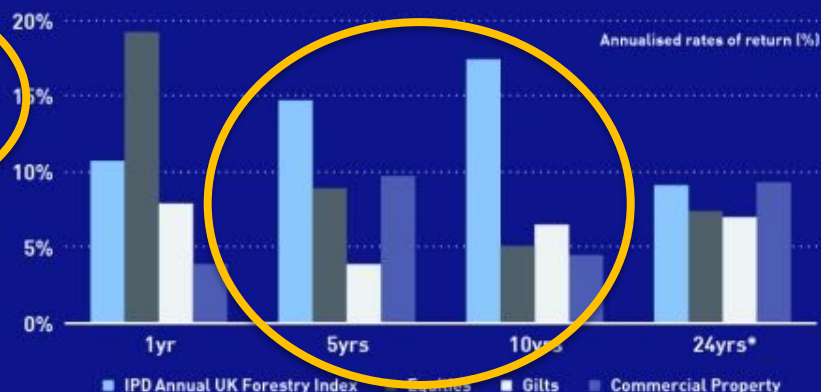
Growing timber is exempt from Capital Gains Tax



After two years of ownership, commercial woodlands qualify for 100% Business Property Relief from Inheritance Tax

Tax returns depend on individual circumstances

LONGTERM OUTPERFORMANCE COMPARED TO TRADITIONAL ASSETS



Sources: MSCI, JP Morgan, Forestry Commission
IPD UK Annual Property & Forestry Indices, Annualised rates, Total Return, as at 31 December 2016. *IPD UK Forestry Index created in 1992 - 24 years ago.

ADVANTAGES OF INVESTING IN FORESTRY



Superior long term returns



Unique return characteristics - biological growth



Positively linked to inflation



Underpinned by physical assets



Low correlation to traditional assets



Tax efficient

CERTIFIED WOODLAND AREA BY REGION

Hectares

SCOTLAND
841k

N.IRELAND
65k

ENGLAND
337k

WALES
145k



Source: Forestry Commission June 2017

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Does the Climate Emergency change [human dimensions of] forestry?



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CCC welcomes action to tackle climate change in Scottish Programme for Government

3 September 2019

The Scottish Government's plan for the coming year demonstrates commitment to continue leading the UK in tackling climate change Committee on Climate Change (CCC) says today.

Welcoming Scotland's [Programme for Government](#), which includes a number of further reduce Scotland's polluting emissions, CCC Chairman, Lord Deben, said:

"Scotland has led the UK in reducing its emissions and has ambitions to lead the climate change: this Programme for Government suggests that vision is alive and

THE IRISH TIMES Sun, Sep 15, 2019

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Climate change: Ireland plans to plant 440m trees by 2040

Farm land to be used for some of the 8,000 hectares of new forestry every year

© Sat, Aug 31, 2019, 18:18

Brian Hutton

A photograph of a large, mature tree with a thick trunk and dense green foliage, standing in a grassy field. In the background, there are rolling hills and a clear sky.

Does the Climate Emergency change [human dimensions of] forestry?

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Logging study reveals huge hidden emissions of the forestry industry



ENVIRONMENT 10 September 2019

By Michael Le Page



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Scottish Govt urged to expand woodlands to achieve net-zero emissions

27 May 2019

The Trust and nine other expert organisations have written to the First Minister suggesting natural solutions to meet climate targets



22 May 2019

Does the Climate Emergency change [human dimensions of] forestry?

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Leitrim trees: Anger at Irish climate change scheme

By Shane Harrison
BBC NI Dublin correspondent

© 21 July 2018

Climate change

THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES

Maltese afternoon tea
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Super-rich buying up Scotland's forests

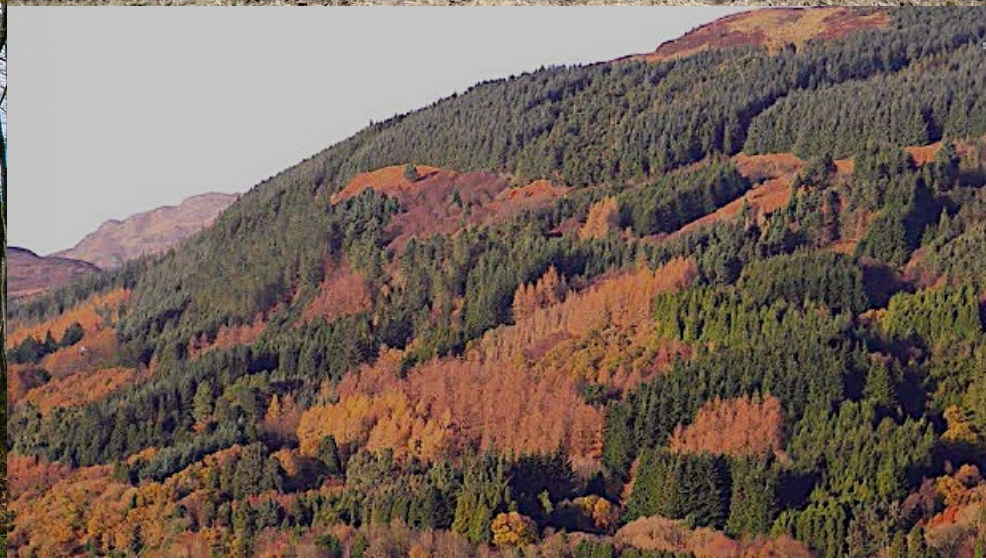
Farming Independent

NEWS AGRI-BUSINESS PROPERTY DAIRY TILLAGE BEEF SHEEP MACHINERY LEC

Growth of forestry is impacting on people's mental health - former Leitrim rose



Between the two poles



Making non-binary forestry happen

- **Regulations** – e.g. controlling deer
- **Financial incentives** - e.g. grants for suitable ground prep
- **Advice** – e.g. support for small owners, peer-to-peer support
- **Legislation** – land reform



A productive, working forest providing measurable social, econ

Discussion points

- Humans are diverse, subjective and argumentative
- 'Big issues' tend to become polarised
- Policy can feed the polarisation or explore creative non-binary solutions
- Money is not an ecosystem service
- The climate emergency is not a bandwagon
- The ecological emergency is hidden by the focus on climate



Thanks for:

Pictures from:

- Perks, M., Khomik, M., Bathgate, S., Chapman, S., Slee, B., Yeluripati, J. *et al.* 2018 Agroforestry in Scotland–potential benefits in a changing climate. Climate XChange.
- facebook.com/saveleirim
- Mary Anne Smythe
- Forest Research
- Gresham House

Data from:

- <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/forestry-statistics/forestry-statistics-2018/woodland-areas-and-planting/>

