

Existing Projects

- Forestry Commission are encouraging woodland creation on erodible soils within Catchment Sensitive Farming Areas by point scoring system of woodland creation applications
- England Catchment Sensitive farming Delivery initiative
- SW Forest Woodland Opportunities Strategy 2003 study
- Holnicote Estate Catchment Project - Defra, EA, National Trust
- Loe Pool Catchment Sensitive Farming - National Trust, EA, NE (Cornwall)
- River Isbourne Catchment project – EA, NE (Worcestershire/Gloucestershire)

Project Ideas

- A modelled and specific catchment management plan alleviating flooding/pollution. Integrating all delivery opportunities on a failing N2K catchment
- Forest Research – Re – run the Yorkshire R&D (the GIS project) in the SW and promote the results!
- Benefits?? Demonstration sites? – not just biodiversity/environment
- Demonstrate the economic benefits of planting for the landowners!
- Develop a fund from organisations such as SWW and ‘carbon capture’ to offer a wet woodland supplement on top of EWGS WCG
- Targeted community woodland establishment for flood and flood management, fuel and fibre, flora and fauna, fun!
- South West Project ‘Ward Forestry’ proposal to help manage small scale woodland sites economically. Contact Mike Bracken forestry Advisor (01409 221896)
- Invasive species management is good at catchment scale – top down...
- Opportunities mapping at landscape scale for a range of priorities
- Work on 1 or 2 demo sites to use as SW examples - any exist already?

What’s missing? Needs/Issues

- Better/stronger link with the Catchment Sensitive Farming Project
- Need for statutory bodies (EA/NE/FC) to commit to long term support and funding for initiatives – 3 year funding is NOT adequate to deliver benefits
- Much of the discussion has been on trying to solve problems downstream by new planting. What steps are being taken to inform/persuade landowners at the start of the catchment above spring lines so that slurry and pesticide application and run-off are reduced?
- Locational supplement for planting with financial encouragement for appropriate scale of woodland creation
- Comparison between woodlands and other semi-natural habitats in flood alleviation
- There is a requirement for more information on the effect of short rotation coppice and miscanthus on water flow for inclusion in flood risk

assessment (when applying for Energy Crop Scheme). Calls for better links between EA, NE and planners.

- Have to get EWGS scoring and supplements to target floodplain woodland
 - New build/development must address issues of surface water, water use and sewage treatment. Similarly drainage and run-off from public highways can be an issue.
 - Incentives for landowners – especially farmers
 - Education for our FCRM engineers as to the benefits of trees in floodplains and the variety of options and their potential functions both up and downstream in catchments
 - Look other sectors for funding? Health benefits to people (e.g. study by Landlife in Liverpool)
 - How to engage and incentivise land owners in changing landuse approach – for woodland establishment and ongoing management
 - Greater input and control over the UK and district interpretation of planning law
 - Need longer term funding commitment to projects. They end just as they get going!
- Local Planning big issue in a lot of places
- Need to join up project thinking in region and access to funds
 - Woodlands for timber! Construction substitution of high CO2 imbued building materials e.g. steel, concrete etc
 - Multipurpose woodland for wide public benefit – fuel source – wildlife – carbon sequestration – timber for construction – flood risk management – all need to be considered
 - South West Forest! Or something like it covering the wider SW region
 - Flood mitigation – right level of incentive to landowners/occupiers. How much are benefits worth?

Other Comments

- Are Local Area Agreements an opportunity to pull together agencies? Yes – if data can be drawn!

Typed up by Naomi Brookes 02/04/09