

## CHAPTER 17

### Reconstitution of Woodlands Scheme

#### 17.1 Scope

This grant applies when damage to a plantation is as a result of natural causes. In such cases the Forest Service grant aids the reconstitution of such a plantation if the plantation had been well managed and maintained up to the time it was damaged. Examples of natural causes that most often affect plantations include fire, frost, disease and windblow.

In the case of windblow a reconstitution grant is normally allowable where the windblow occurs before the plantation reaches 2/3 of the reduced age of Maximum Mean Annual Increment, MMAI). Reduced rotations are generally 80% of age of MMAI for Sitka spruce and lodgepole pine and 70% for Norway spruce. Exceptions may be made in the event of catastrophic wind blow where the value of the timber is reduced significantly.

The objective of the grant is to repair the damage to plantations by replacing those elements that have been damaged. The reconstitution grant does not compensate increment loss or timber loss and it would be prudent for forest owners to insure their forestry investment.

#### 17.2 Silviculture

The same silvicultural standards, environmental guidelines as for afforestation are applicable. Operations such as drainage, fencing and cultivation may not be required depending on the nature of the natural disaster. Where a semi-mature plantation is wind damaged, windrowing of lop and top, drain clearance and possibly re-fencing may be necessary. Good quality plants in young plantations which have received adequate weed control often resprout and these may reduce the number of new plants needed. Singling out double leaders may also be required. Rules 1 and 2 of Chapter 5 must be considered in these instances.

#### 17.3 Application Procedure

##### 17.3.1 Approval

Written approval from the Forest Service must first issue before work commences on site. The following should be submitted to the Forest Service :

- Form 1 (signed by the applicant and an approved forester) within eight weeks of the occurrence of damage
- Certified Species Map (as defined in Chapter 10) indicating areas affected and (if different) the area to be covered by the reconstitution grant
- Location map, 1:50,000 discovery series
- Statement of proposed remedial works and estimated costs
- Listing of species and number of plants to be replaced
- In the case of frost damaged areas a map indicating location of permanent markings of representative plots (50m line plots or 14m x 14m plots) to support percentage failure and species that have been affected must be supplied
- Garda report is required in the case of a fire.

Following a satisfactory site inspection from a Forest Service Inspector written approval will issue. All works should be completed before the end of the current or in the following planting season.

### 17.3.2 1st installment payment

Following completion of the site works, the following should be submitted to the Forest Service:

- Form 2 (signed by the applicant and the approved forester)
- Certified Species Map of the treated area (as defined in Chapter 10)
- Location map, 1:50,000 discovery series
- Statement of Costs to re-establish the plantation to the point at which it was at before the damaging event occurred
- Invoice(s), Where works are carried out by the applicant a statement of the costs claimed for his/her own labour must be provided detailing the hours worked and cost per hour. (See template Appendix 21)
- Current tax clearance certificate(s) or a C 2 Certificate for contractor(s) used
- Provenance Declaration Form (see Chapter 9 and Appendix 1)
- A valid Mandate (where the grant is mandated to a contractor or bank). The requirements for mandates are listed in Appendix 2 and sample Mandates are included at Appendix 3 and 3A.

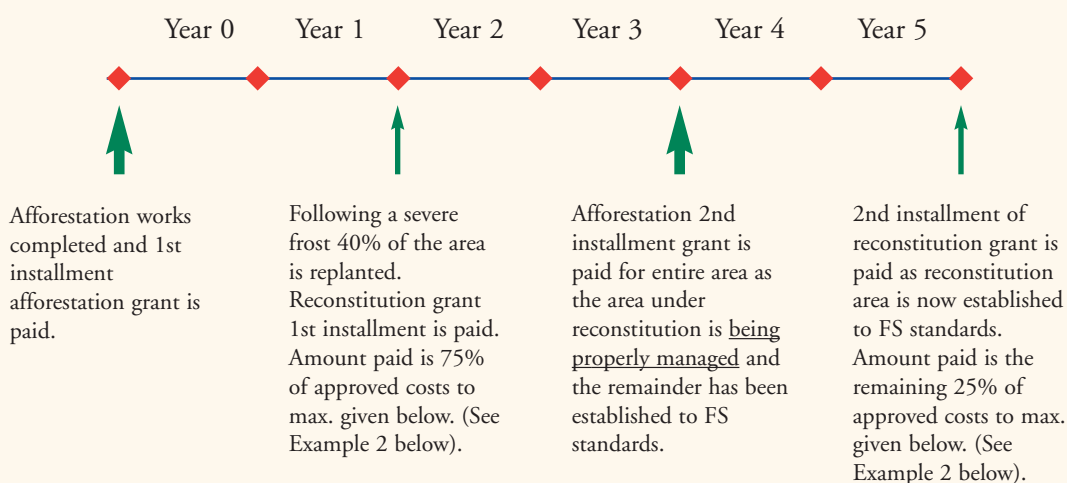
75% of the total costs, subject to the maximum not being exceeded is due at this stage.

### 17.3.3 2nd installment payment

Four years after the site is reconstituted it will be due for its 2nd installment reconstitution grant. At this stage complete and submit a Form 3. The remaining 25% of the grant is due at this stage and will be paid following a successful site inspection by a Forest Service Inspector.

## 17.4 Interaction with Afforestation Grant Payments

In many situations reconstitution is approved on part or all of a plantation after first installment payment of the afforestation grant and before second installment payment. At year four the entire area should be paid the afforestation 2nd installment grant provided that the area not included in the reconstitution application is established to Forest Service standards and that the reconstitution area is being properly managed.



## 17.5 Grant Rates

Costs to a maximum of € 3174.35 / ha for conifers.

Costs to a maximum of € 6729.61 / ha for broadleaves.

Costs for reconstitution are those costs necessary to carry out the remedial establishment work required to get the plantation back to the stage it was at before the natural disaster occurred.

Examples of Cost Calculations for Reconstitution

### Example 1

A plantation just planted on mounds is hit by frost and all the trees are killed.

Allowable costs are the cost of plants and the cost of planting. The other costs and the cost of maintenance are covered by the afforestation grant.

### Example 2

Two years after planting a plantation is hit by frost and all the trees are killed.

Allowable costs include plants, planting, and 2 years weed control (and additional operations if necessary).

### Example 3

A 25 year old plantation burns down. Allowable costs include all necessary operational and related costs (up to maximum levels indicated above) to establish the crop to 2nd installment (year 4) stage.