

12th July, 2025

Re: LIFE IP Wild Atlantic Nature Forest to Bog Restoration Expression of Interest

Background

LIFE IP Wild Atlantic Nature works closely with farmers, local communities and landowners to deliver conservation and restoration of our Special Area of Conservation (SAC) network of blanket bogs and associated areas.

Forestry plantations on blanket bog

Commercial planting of conifers on peatlands was a common practice in Ireland in the last century and brought important short-term socio-economic benefits to many areas. We now know that the environmental impacts of afforestation on blanket bog is often negative. Many plantations were located in areas of deep peat with high water tables that resulted in very poor growth rates. For many landowners, the monetary value of the crop is low and there are additional financial burdens in relation to on-going insurance costs and regulatory obstacles, particularly if they are located within or adjacent to designated or environmentally sensitive sites.

Forest to bog restoration

Forest to bog restoration involves removing conifer plantations from areas that were once open peatland, with the goal of improving habitat quality and reducing carbon emissions. Forest to bog restoration can be a complex and costly undertaking due to the extensive degradation of the peatland habitat and added practical and regulatory complexities of removing forestry and changing land use.

Call for expressions of Interest

LIFE IP Wild Atlantic Nature are now seeking expressions of interest (EOI) from landowners with lands within, or in near proximity to, a designated site who may be interested in reverting their forestry to open peatland. The intention is to ascertain the level of interest that exists and to prioritise potential sites for restoration should funding become available.

Please complete the attached form if you would like to have your forestry plantation considered for forest to bog restoration.

The form should be returned to:

Eoin McGreal, LIFE IP Wild Atlantic Nature Office, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo, F28 Y273, OR via email to eoin.mcgreall@housing.gov.ie.

The deadline for receipt of EOIs is **Friday, 26th September, 2025**.

Kind regards



Derek McLoughlin
Project Manager

LIFE IP Wild Atlantic Nature Forest to Bog restoration

I wish to have my forestry plantation considered for forest to bog restoration:

Please use BLOCK CAPITALS when completing your details below

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Forestry Details

Detail	Response
Location (Townland)	
County	
Size (ha)	
Land Folio number	
Forest Age (Years)	
Rotation cycle, e.g. 1 st , 2 nd rotation?	
Is it located within or adjacent to a designated site (if known)? YES/NO	
Name of designated site (if known)	
Are there invasive species, e.g. Rhododendron, present on the site? YES/NO	
Has the forestry site been subject to previous permissions, e.g. Felling Licence application? YES/NO	
Are there any other proposed activities for the forestry site, e.g. wind-farm development, Native Woodland Scheme, etc.? YES/NO	
Other comments	

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