

ABSTRACT

**International Peatland Society Convention, Aberdeen - Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May**

**Theme B: Responsible Management of Peatlands under Forestry**

**Deciding future management options for afforested deep peatland in Scotland**

Dr. Julia Garritt, Forestry Commission Scotland

Address: Silvan House, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT.

E-mail: [julia.garritt@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:julia.garritt@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

In 2015, Forestry Commission Scotland published a practice guide to help forest managers in Scotland decide future management options for afforested deep peat sites (defined here as soils with a peat layer of 50 cm or more). A high proportion of productive forests in Scotland are now reaching maturity and require different levels of ‘restructuring’ in order to comply with the UK Forestry Standard, the government’s standard for sustainable forest management. This guidance also intends to support Scottish Government ambitions on climate change mitigation to restore peatlands.

The practice guide is a robust framework to guide the management of afforested peatland in the future. This presentation will outline how the guide was developed, the underlying science and the conflicts and trade-offs considered.

END