

Item:
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Report to Partnership Meeting 26 April 2013

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

UPSTICKS- Timber Transport Survey

Purpose of Report

To provide Members with background on the study undertaken by Frank MacCulloch of Arvika Consulting to determine the origin and destination of raw timber in the Highland area and thus provide a clear view of the use of the public road network and the deployment of the timber transport fleet.

Survey

At the December 2012 meeting of the Highland Timber Transport Group (HTTG) the possibility of carrying out a timber traffic survey of the Highlands was discussed. The purpose of the survey would be to get a better understanding of the timber truck movements across the public road network in the Highlands. This will enable HITRANS and local authorities to try to anticipate problems that might arise in the future and to develop strategies for best use of the limited resources available to maintain and improve the public road network.

HITRANS conducted a similar survey recently of the whisky industry which has greatly raised the profile of transport as an industry issue at Government level. It is hoped the HITRANS Timber Traffic survey will follow on from our Timber Access Scoping Study carried out by Aecom two years ago and will give us all a much clearer picture of the sort of road movements there are in the area at a time when timber production will increase significantly.

The survey focusses on single day inputs at the main mills taking raw timber in. Discussion at the HTTG meeting recognised that any single day might give a skewed result so up to three separate days have used to ensure the survey picked up journeys from a variety of origin forests.

It must be emphasised that there is no wish to seek any commercially sensitive data and the information will only be used for transport planning purposes. It is expected that the information being sought will be of the sort readily available from daily weighbridge/entry records for the selected days eg:

- Time
- Vehicle Origin (Forest or starting point)
- Vehicle Type/Configuration (Artic, Trick and Drag, CTI fitted etc)
- Data to understand how many runs a single vehicle has completed in the day

The report will be available soon.

Recommendation

1. Members are asked to note the report.

| Risk | Impact | Comment |
|--------------|---------------|--|
| RTS delivery | √ | This project fits well with a number of RTS Horizontal themes. |
| Policy | √ | This project has integration and environmental benefits. |
| Financial | √ | This project is fully funded |
| Equality | - | No impact on equalities issues. |

Report by: Frank Roach
Designation: Partnership Manager
Date: 16 April 2013