Restructuring Forestry: Community Woodlands in Scotland

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The presentation will explore how communities across Scotland are restructuring the nature and meaning of forestry, taking control of woodlands and other assets and delivering wide-ranging social, environmental and economic benefits to local and national communities.
• Community woodland group = any democratic, community-led organisation owning or managing woodland (and other assets).

• 1987: Wooplaw first “modern” CWG.

• 2011: ~ 200 across Scotland, managing ~20,000 ha.

• Plenty more interested, but it has been difficult to acquire land in recent years.
Scotland’s forests are two-thirds privately owned, of which two-thirds owned by absentees, three-quarters of whom are outside Scotland

Of 20 European countries studied, Scotland has that largest average forest holding size 259 ha – 4 times larger than the next (Sweden)
There is a wide consensus that we are not getting the best from Scotland's land…

…the changes we want:
• Delivering multiple benefits
• Partnerships with nature
• Linking people with the land
Thank you!

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