



## Private Forest Owners – Timber mobilisation challenges and opportunities

Presentation to National Timber Transport Conference  
Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016

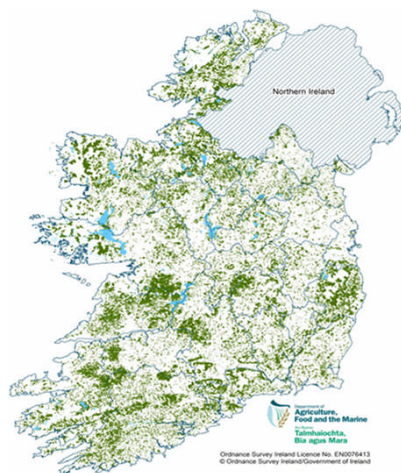


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The Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority

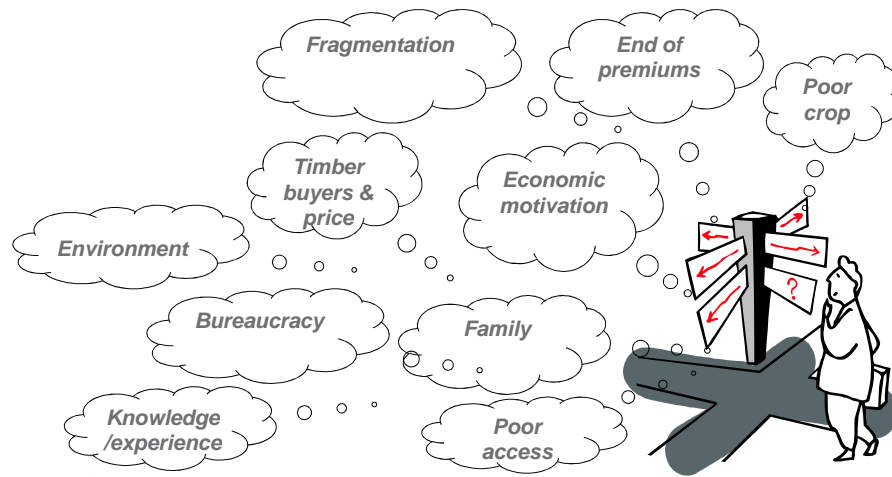
## Private forest statistics 2015



<b>Private forest area</b>	348,298 hectares (47%)
Owners	20,592 (1980-2014)
Forest parcels	28,756 (1980-2014)
Av. forest size	9 hectares
Single forest ownership	79%
Timber production	↑ 4 million m3 by 2035



## Mobilisation challenges



## Mobilisation challenges contd

### Personal

- Awareness – crop, management, thinning, value
- Motivation – knowledge/confidence, support, the next step...

### Forest – Internal

- Size, species, quality, fragmentation
- Access – provision of satisfactory access required
  - 64% of private forests within 50 m of a 4<sup>th</sup> class road (Phillips 2011)
- High road specification - Cost?
- Timber security

### Forest – External

- Public road – width, condition, features
- Planning permission?
- Haulage route restrictions?
- Road bonds?
- Harvesting viability?



## Mobilisation opportunities

### Personal

- Knowledge and confidence building – Information gathering – KT events, Forest Owner groups, peer to peer learning, mobilisation KTGs
- Registered forester
- Planning critical – have a plan!

### Forest – Internal

- Familiarisation - species, layout, quality
- Inventory and work scheduling
  - Registered forester and/or owner!
- Readiness to thin
- Access – assess and action
  - *Forest road grant*
  - *Co-operative road*



## Mobilisation opportunities – timber transport

Forest owners have a reasonable expectation to transport timber efficiently from forest to market.

Clarity and certainty required to drive mobilisation

Encouraging initiatives and collaborative approach offer potential solutions to current timber transport challenges

- Planning permission – *Single consent system for forest entrances will remove forest entrances from planning process*
- Haulage route restrictions & road bonds – *Agreed routes project and Variable Tyre Pressure technology*
- Local harvest forecasting – *Enhanced information sharing on harvest forecasting and road usage*
- *Forest management plans – providing owners and foresters with a roadmap for future management.*

Consultation – Collaboration – Certainty - Continuity



## Teagasc Forestry Development Department



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