

# Broadleaf Forestry Research

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## Context

- The national forest estate  $\approx$  11% of land area.
- Industry main focus is on Sitka spruce
- $> \frac{1}{4}$  of forest area is broadleaf
- Broadleaf planting increased from mid 1990s, planted by private owners
- Broadleaf silviculture knowledge is limited

## RMIS project

*Group selection and underplanting of ash stands to mitigate ash dieback*

- 2 sites (Co. Derry and Johnstown Castle)
- Fell small areas (0.025 – 0.45 ha)
- Replant with oak, birch and hazel
- Changing light conditions on tree growth

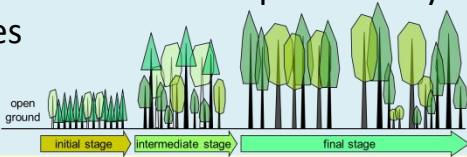


## RMIS project – TransSSFor

*Transformation of Sitka spruce stands to Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF)*

With UCD and Coillte

- $> 50\%$  forest area is Sitka spruce
- Increasing demand for CCF information
- Continuation of a previous DAFM-funded project
- Study impact of three thinning treatments on transformation of stand structure and stand productivity at two sites



## DAFM project – EARTH

*Exploitation And Realisation of Thinnings from Hardwoods*

With NUIG

- Quantify the resource
  - 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> thinnings
- Physical and mechanical properties
- Drying schedules
- Durability of thinnings
- Potential end-uses
- Dissemination



## RMIS project

*Exploitation of the working properties and utilisation of small-diameter Irish-grown alder*

With GMIT Letterfrack

- establish the characteristics, properties and utilisation potential of small-diameter Irish-grown alder
- explore opportunities to add-value

## DAFM project – ShortFor

*Short Rotation Forestry*

With UCD, WIT, UL and TCD

- Spacing and species suitability
  - Close / wide planting density
  - Eucalyptus / Alder / Sitka spruce / Grand fir / Coast redwood
- Fuel properties characterisation
- Economic & environmental sustainability

## Acknowledgements

Jerry Campion

Susie Foreman

Derek Gibson

Ted Wilson

Private site owners who facilitate the work DAFM for funding previous 5-year CCF project that established the trial sites