

Ballynakillew,
Ballinrobe,
Co. Mayo.

9 January 2007.

IFCI,
c/o No. 4, Enterprise Center (Phase 2),
Ballintogher,
Co Sligo.

Dear Mr. Tobin,

Thank you for sending me a copy of IFCI draft National Forest Standard No. 3. I had already printed this from its Internet site and I have read it carefully.

My reaction is simple: it reads as if it had been prepared by a group of desk-bound fanatic eco-maniacs who set out to assemble every remote and obscure potentially adverse detail they could think up. It can appropriately be described by the colloquial term "away with the fairies". If it is ever implemented in this form and strictly enforced it will mean the end of commercial plantation forestry.

Much of it is redundant as being already part of the general practice of good forestry as that term is used in the Forestry Acts.

Specifically: I think that the word "enhance" is over-used, and not always with its correct meaning. Often "improved" would be better. I also deplore the adoption of the Forestry Commission term "restocking" when the Irish Forest Service word "reforestation" is available and more precise and accurate in its meaning.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Niall OCarroll.
Former Chief Inspector,
State Forest Service.