

Growing the Caledonian Forest by growing Dundreggan Tree Nursery

Trees for Life
October 2014



Trees for Life is a charity which engages volunteers in practical conservation work to restore the Caledonian Forest, one of the UK's most endangered woodland habitats. In 2014 we celebrated our 25th anniversary of practical work to expand the forest, and we used the opportunity of this anniversary to extend our tree nursery, where we propagate and grow some of the most threatened trees and plants.

We are thankful for the support of **The Naturesave Trust** in enabling this vital capital project to go ahead.

About Dundreggan and our tree nursery

In 2008, Trees for Life purchased Dundreggan, a 10,000 acre expanse of wild land near Loch Ness, where we established a major forest restoration project. This included a small tree nursery, where our staff developed the specialist expertise to propagate rare species. However, the capacity of our existing nursery was very limited.

Funding from **The Naturesave Trust** is enabling Trees for Life to install a new polytunnel, which will be used to propagate and grow rare species of trees and plants including montane willows, aspen, twinflower, juniper and more.

What we can achieve now

We can now build up stocks of woolly willow and many other rare species for planting out through our annual conservation volunteering programme. This will help to enrich the diversity of native woodlands and conserve the specialised wildlife which depends on these trees and plants.

Trees for Life has started a five-year initiative to expand the Caledonian Forest with a million more trees by 2018. The new polytunnel will increase our capacity to grow more of the trees needed to achieve our ambitious goal.

By extending the tree nursery at Dundreggan, we can now also engage more people in conservation volunteering – an excellent form of 'green' exercise and a proven way to improve health and wellbeing. Our tree nursery is ideal for people from diverse backgrounds, from students and young people to older or less mobile members of society, all of whom can share experiences, make new friends and gain skills for life.

To find out more, visit treesforlife.org.uk/work/tree-nursery