



**Press Release: 7 December 2018**

## **Pupils restore the Flows**

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A group of enthusiastic pupils from Noss and Lybster Primary Schools teamed up recently to help the restoration of the Flow Country peatlands at Loch More, near Westerdale. A great day was had by all, removing invasive conifers which are spreading onto the open peatland from a nearby plantation. Pupils learned how to use tools and between them removed over 2500 trees. If left to grow, these trees would soon start to dry out the peat, preventing the special peatland plants and animals from living there. The pupils loved their outdoor experience and the warming cup of hot chocolate at the end of the day.

The trip was organised by Hilary Wilson, Learning Development Officer with the Flows to the Future Project at Forsinard. She also led sessions in both schools about why the Flow Country peatlands are so important for wildlife and how the peat stores carbon, which makes it really important as a buffer against climate change.

They were joined by a team of staff and residential volunteers from the RSPB Flows Field Centre at Forsinard, as well as local volunteers.

Simon Lamb, P6/7 teacher at Lybster Primary commented:

“This was a truly excellent out of school event. Our pupils and staff loved every moment. It was a very different hands on activity that will remain in our memories for a long time.”

Alistair Clarke, P6/7 teacher at Noss Primary added:

“Pupils had a brilliant time and it certainly heightened their interest in the peatlands and what they could do to restore them.”

The event was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.



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## NOTES TO EDITORS

The Peatlands Partnership includes Scottish Natural Heritage, The Highland Council, RSPB Scotland, Forestry Commission Scotland, Plantlife Scotland, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, The Highland Third Sector Interface, The Flow Country Rivers Trust, and The Environmental Research Institute (UHI). It is chaired by Professor Stuart Gibb from the Environmental Research Institute.

RSPB Scotland is the lead partner in The Flows to the Future project, a Peatlands Partnership project, which gratefully acknowledges funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and from the following funders and supporters; Environmental Research Institute, European Regional Development Fund, Forestry Commission (Scotland), Peatland Action, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, The Highland Council, RSPB, WREN, Scotland Rural Development Programme, Scottish Government, Scottish Natural Heritage and The Tubney Trust.

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