Farming and Public Benefits

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NFU Uplands Forum Chairman
Introduction

• Upland Tenant Farmer
  – 750 hectare farm across LFA land
  – Situated in Bowland AONB, Lancashire
  – 2500 Breeding Ewes (Swaledale and Mule)
  – Participate in various environmental schemes

• NFU Uplands Forum Chairman
Why are we farming the Uplands?

• Uplands farming businesses are focussed around agricultural activities

• Very aware of the many other benefits we provide alongside this:
  – Biodiversity outcomes
  – Carbon Storage
  – Water Quality
  – Public Access

• A huge amount of an uplands farmers time is spent delivering on outcomes often which are not directly valued

• Cultural links to the areas, often bringing a wealth of experience with the generations who’ve farmed the land
Where are the opportunities

• We can work and do continue to deliver on joint outcomes

• Maximising local knowledge to facilitate and effectively deliver wider policy objectives

• Partnerships can be beneficial for all, however all solutions and delivery needs to be created jointly
The Issues

• Partnership Working
  
  – Has to do what it says on the tin!
  
  – Farmers have to be included in decision making and consulted properly, incorporating local knowledge alongside national strategy
  
  – Which stakeholders are shouldering the risk and who’s realising the reward?
Questions