

**West knoydart Deer Management group**  
**Minutes of meeting held at Inverie village hall**  
**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2013 11.30 am**

**Present:** Iain Biggart, Tommy Macmanom, Graeme Taylor (also representing Cathy Mayne), Lester Standen, Fred Rous, Lorna Schofield, Iain Wilson, Davie Newton (chair), Angela Williams

1. **Apologies:** Jamie Lindsey, Jim Brown, Eric Delwart, Rupert Soames, Lewis Pate, Cathy Mayne
2. **Minutes of meeting** held on 10<sup>th</sup> June were agreed although it was noted that the meeting had taken place in the village hall and not Kilchoan barn!
3. **Review of action points**

| <b>Action point</b>                    | <b>Who by</b> | <b>progress</b>   |
|--|---------------|---|
| Develop count and cull data base       | DN            | Carry forward   |
| Record grid ref in future cull records | all           | Being actioned  |
| Allocate priority scores               | all           | In hand – see agenda item   |
| Set meeting dates in advance           | all           | On agenda   |
| Provide examples of DMG mapping        | GT            | Actioned ( note, check with JB to see if he received and circulate round to everyone) |
| Natural mortality recording            | LP            | Actioned and on going   |
| Information to new members             | JB            | Actioned  |
| Invite to Doug Hawthorn                | NT            | Carry forward   |
|  |               |   |

It was queried what format cairngorms DMG mapping used. GT thought it was ArcView but will check.

**4. Habitat monitoring progress**

TM reported back on recent vegetation monitoring. Work had been undertaken on blanket bog and dry heathland habitats. It was noted that Lewis had done a lot of preparation work which had been useful. It was noted that we were struggling on some plots to determine browsing and that next year we would aim to undertake in May. Photos had been taken of all plots. Woodland plots would be undertaken in May. Kilchoan are planning to do next week but will also aim to do in may in future.

GT asked if we had compiled data yet and offered to forward spreadsheets to assist with this **action GT**

TM asked if the monitoring was useful on a highland wide basis but GT explained that primary purpose was for local use.

Location maps of where monitoring had been undertaken to be brought to future meeting.

## **5. Updated cull proposals and progress**

It was noted that only KF had shot any beasts to date and everyone else was still aiming for targets discussed at previous meeting. IB highlighted that if fencing goes up they will have an additional 6 stags to shoot for compensatory cull. He highlighted the importance for Kilchoan of letting for hinds which was making a significant difference to the estates viability.

## **6. Data recording progress**

Progress to date was outlined. Database is now in place for recording count and cull data, and stalkers are mostly recording grid refs in cull records. DN has made progress on reviewing historic data, but more to do. It was agreed that we will need to look at deer densities in relationship to vegetation monitoring returns.

## **7. Deer Management Plan**

### **A. Objectives Spreadsheet**

Spreadsheet circulated by Jim brown was discussed. It was noted that a lot of effort had gone into producing this work and this was acknowledged by the group.

IW queried how the weighting worked and how this took into account smaller landowners. One of the reasons this group was set up was to take into account views and the involvement of smaller landowners.

It was noted that this was just one way that was being considered to see if it helped in the development of the plan. It was noted that in KF's instance, there had been no local discussion about priorities.

It was agreed that we should all have a copy of the different priorities of individual owners prior to the weighting being applied. It would also be useful to see information with regard to count information and aspirational densities etc

LS asked what would happen if a new member joined the group at a future point and how we would consider their priorities?

It was suggested that we look at priorities under the different categories which might make it easier to set targets in each category.

GT suggested that the plan should be short and concise. He offered to bring some examples of good plans

As a result of this discussion the following action was agreed:

- Background information on priorities etc to be circulated action JB
- All to consider this information action all
- Discussion on density levels to take place at future meeting action all
- Kf to circulate info regarding cull, densities etc action KF
- Circulate examples of other plans action GT

## 8 AOB

## 9 donm

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November

### Action Points

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Develop count and cull database                           | DN       |
| Circulate objective priority weightings background        | JB       |
| Set meeting dates for the year in advance.                | All      |
| Provide examples of Deer Management Plans                 | GT       |
| Bring monitoring maps, etc to next meeting                | LS/LP/IB |
| Provide habitat monitoring summary sheets to compile data | GT       |
| Natural Mortality recording information                   | LP       |
| Information and invitation of membership to Doug Hawthorn | NT       |
| Provide information on aspirational and actual densities  | JB       |