

West Knoydart Deer Management Group

Minutes of meeting held at Inverie Village Hall Monday 3rd December 2012, 11.30am

Present: Jim brown, Iain Wilson, Lester Standen, Eric Delwart, Iain Biggart, Davie Newton

Apologies: Graeme Taylor, Angela Williams, Tommy McManmon

JB welcomed DN as new chair. DN outlined his role as Local Development Officer, and previous experience of land management issues with KF.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 26th October were agreed.

Review of action points

Format for land management objective weightings	All	Ongoing, Kilchoan to start then circulate
Circulate framework document	JB	Done, tidy wording and adopt
Invite Davie Newton to be chair	JB	Done
Produce Code of Conduct	AW	Done, adopted
Report for KDMG meeting	JB	Done, minutes of last sent to KDMG
Collate Records and start database	JB	Ongoing,
Provide detail of database to link with JMT GIS	LS	Just need to include grid refs. in cull records
Present WKDMG to KDMG meeting in November	JB/IB	Done
Arrange meeting for when ED is here in December	JB	Done

Hind Cull Progress

JB reported that all was going well so far, and had noticed a higher proportion of calves than normal. A young sika stag had been shot in the new Guserein Bridge plantation.

LS hadn't been able to stalk as much as he wanted, but would catch up later in the season. He thinks that the Sgamadail deer fence has increased pressure on the Li fence. JMT don't yet have out-of-season authorisation, but will be applying for it soon.

IW hasn't had any hinds yet, but will be shooting some soon.

IB said the cull was going well, but hoped to increase the proportion of yeld hinds culled.

JB to contact Niel Taylor to try and find out what has been culled at Sgamadail.

Member	Hind Cull to Date	Proposed Hind Cull
Knoydart Foundation	25 hinds + 11 calves Goats: 2 nannies + 2 kids Woodland: 2 calves, 1 stag, 1 sika stag	50 + calves
John Muir Trust	7 hinds + 2 calves (inc. 2+2 culled by KF)	C. 60
Inverguseran Farm	0	C. 6
Kilchoan Estate	47 hinds + 24 calves	C. 90 + calves, to total 120
Total	79 + 37	206 + calves

Deer Count

The plan is to try and count sometime between 9th February and 9th March. There-after LS and IB would not be available and late April would be the next opportunity. Coordinate with Rob Cooper at Camusrory.

Feedback from KDMG Meeting

IB and JB reported on the recent KDMG meeting, in particular regarding members' opinions of WKDMG. The main concern was that KDMG did not want to lose diversity, and they had decided to write to KF requesting they reconsider the decision to leave. Robert Gordon had said that Barisdale would not consider

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membership of WKDMG, and Rupert Soames said that Camusrory would only consider joining as a sub-group of KDMG.

The email from Rupert to KF was discussed.

DN outlined a conversation he had recently had with Craig Harbison of Barisdale, which had highlighted a number of mis-apprehensions; namely of KF land management policy, how KF is funded and their relationship with JMT, and of WKDMG formation and purpose. He thinks there is a need to clarify these matters, which could partially be done by circulating our DMP when produced.

ED said that Kilchoan no longer wanted to be a member without Camusrory involved and put forward a proposal to get Camusrory on board, where-by the WKDMG could operate as a sub-group of KDMG for a trial period of 1 year. He will put the proposal in writing.

IW said he would not be a member of a KDMG sub-group.

DN suggested we try to find middle ground, whereby we could invite Camusrory to attend our meetings and include them in the DMP development without them actually being members.

Next Meeting: Mid January, look for date to suit GT and LS,
then 1st week of March,
then late May to coincide with KF LMG meeting.

Next KDMG will be 17th June.

Action Points

Set down land management objectives	IB/ED then circulate.
Tidy wording of framework document	JB
Collate Records and start database	JB
Look to use SNH Deer-line website for making cull returns and retrieving cull data.	All
Record grid-refs in future cull records	JB/IB/IW/LS
Write up proposal to operate for a trial period as KDMG sub-group	ED
Response to Rupert Soames email	DN
Invite Camusrory to attend future meetings	DN/JB
Include Rob Cooper in deer count planning	IB/JB