

Deer Management Plans - Delivering Public Interest

Actions 1 to 14	In DMP (y/n)	What DMG doing now? This is about current outputs (From date of audit)(Narrative)	What will DMG do in the future? This is the detail for the DMP: set targets where appropriate (Narrative)	Operations Manager - Chris Donald comments and score 16 June 2016
1. ACTIONS to develop mechanisms to manage deer	y	11/08/2014 & 14/06/16	To be reviewed annually by group. Will be part of DMG agenda.	As evidenced
	y	DMP has a series of actions listed for delivery of public and private objectives within group area.	Monitor delivery of these actions via DMG meetings, revise plan as appropriate.	As evidenced
	y	DMP has been completed and will remain draft for updating quarterly. DMP delivers well on both public interests criteria and members objectives. The plan does not address the management of the herd shared with the DMG immediately East despite the plan authors best efforts.	Actions from DMP will be included as part of DMG agenda.	As evidenced
		DMG assessment carried out and repeated, plan and annexes complete and published on internet. Plan cannot cover shared herd.	Continue to seek agreement over population model with Barisdale/Camusory. Continue to invite these properties who do not wish to attend the DMG.	As evidenced
2. ACTIONS for the delivery of designated features into Favourable Condition.	y	Knoydart NSA- No issues regarding deer management.		As evidenced. However there is a shared deer population with Barisdale estate who manage Barisdale SSSI. If there is a change in management at Barisdale to improve woodland condition or expansion then this will have impacts on the DMG which will need to be taken into consideration.
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	y	Knoydart NSA- No issues regarding deer management.		As evidenced. However there is a shared deer population with Barisdale estate who manage Barisdale SSSI. If there is a change in management at Barisdale to improve woodland condition or expansion then this will have impacts on the DMG which will need to be taken into consideration.
		Knoydart NSA- No issues regarding deer management.	Keep designations under review, manage habitat to BP. There is a shared deer population with Barisdale estate who manage Barisdale SSSI. If there is a change in management at Barisdale to improve woodland condition or expansion then this will have impacts on the DMG which will need to be taken into consideration. In addition if Inverie river is designated there may be implications for deer management.	
3. ACTIONS to manage deer to retain existing native woodland cover and improve woodland condition in the medium to long term.	y	This information is detailed in the current plan. Group has illustrated the area and % of woodland currently protected.	Addition of this map into DMP would help illustrate delivery of this action.	As evidenced
	y	Currently delivered by Knoydart Forest Trust for Knoydart Foundation. Other information exists via NWSS for DMG area. Additionally Klichooan and Li are monitoring woodland.	Scottish Native Woodland Survey information to be used to identify condition (SNH). Ground truthing of reported condition required. SNH/DMG /KFT **As of 14/6/16 DMG will update live DMP with Action Point to deliver group wide woodland monitoring by 2020.	As evidenced, requires further improvement to take into consideration other properties not just Knoydart Foundation
	y	SRDP, WGS schemes etc. have taken place, these are listed in DMP annex. There is an undertaking to improve the condition and extent of woodland and monitor impacts.	Deliver woodland improvements under Knoydart Forest Trust woodland plan.	As evidenced
	y	Herbivore impact within woodland to be monitored by members where deer are present.	HIA results will be used in an adaptive way to adjust ongoing management across DMG. Woodland monitoring an action point as of June 16.	As evidenced
		Extent of woodland throughout the group considerable. Knoydart Forest Trust is delivering on many aspects of this action. Woodland monitoring on a number of properties taking place currently.	For areas outwith Knoydart Forest Trust management better information is needed on woodland land condition, this can be gathered via NWSS	As evidenced, requires further improvement to take into consideration other properties not just Knoydart Foundation. Considering the issues surrounding JMT this section of the plan needs to be more comprehensive in terms of priorities and data on condition.
4. ACTIONS to demonstrate DMG	y	Data has been gathered for DMG wide properties. DMG have mapped woodland extent. In annex of plan on Website.	None.	As evidenced
	y	Identified for Knoydart Forest Trust area under woodland planning proposals.	KFT woodland expansion areas to be confirmed when plan is complete.	Recent issues relating to JMT require the plan to detail the plans and opportunities for all properties and not only Knoydart Foundation.

Updated

Updated

contribution to the Scottish Government woodland expansion target of 25% woodland cover.	Consider at a population level the implication of increased woodland on deer densities and distribution across the DMG.	P	Any increase in woodland via delivery of DMP or through individual owners plans will be discussed wrt deer populations and population model.	Group to revise population targets and population model when woodland expansion plans are completed.	Requires policy and process to deal with contentious issues. These need to be explicit in the plan.
	Implement actions to deliver the DMG woodland expansion proposals and review progress.	P	Via KFT the group has identified 400Ha of new woodland expansion, this is a woodland expansion action. This is now at consultation stage.	Group plan to be updated when KFT proposals are taken forward. This is an action point for 2017.	Requires other group members to set out their actions to deliver expansion targets.
	Summary: Agree a colour for current delivery of the Action (red, amber, green) and detail what is going to happen to deliver future actions		Group produced a list of all new woodland in last 5 years (SRDP) and beyond (WGS). New areas are under consideration Knoydart Foundation and Kilchoan. Woodland expansion and deer population discussed at DMG. This aspect will be delivered in conjunction with Knoydart Forest Trust.	As new woodland expansion plans come to light group will need to revise plan accordingly. Updates to population targets, population models and cull planning will need to be delivered.	Evidence does not mention JMT and woodland expansion targets and actions.
5. ACTIONS to monitor and manage deer impacts in the wider countryside.	Identify habitat resource by broad type.	Y	In plan as an annex map.	Update as required.	As evidenced
	Identify required impact targets for habitat types.	Y	Targets set for open ground habitats subject to monitoring. These are SNH standard habitat targets.	Extend areas to be monitored and therefore subject to target setting. Invergusseran/Scamadale-points required but at lower frequency.	As evidenced
	Identify a sustainable level of grazing and trampling for each of these habitat types.	Y	Group has set impact targets for a large majority of open ground area. Deer, stock and goats counted recently.	Means of collating, analysing and presenting the data being gathered is required.	As evidenced
	Identify where different levels of grazing may be required and prioritise accordingly.	Y	Comparison between current impact levels, grazing pressures and targets not yet completed.	Group need to compare HIA data, deer & stack numbers and	As evidenced
	Conduct herbivore impact assessments, and assess these against acceptable impact ranges. Identify and implement actions to attain impacts within the range.	Y	Three main landholdings have completed HIA assessments. C90% of area covered.	Increase number of properties delivering HIA.	As evidenced
	Regularly review information to measure progress and adapt management when necessary.	Y	Through the plan, the targets and the group management set up this will be possible on receipt of supporting data gathered by the group.	DMG meetings should discuss impact data, cull targets, populations and DMP revised as appropriate.	As evidenced
	Summary: Agree a colour for current delivery of the Action (red, amber, green) and detail what is going to happen to deliver future actions		HIA program and targets detailed in DMP. further work needs done to identify impacts and manage those impacts within agreed ranges.	HIA to be undertaken across DMG area. Consider increasing plot numbers, agree frequency. Habitat targets to be agreed with monitoring results assessed against objectives.	As evidenced
6. ACTIONS to improve Scotland's ability to store carbon by maintaining or improving ecosystem health.	Quantify the extent of the carbon-sensitive habitats within the DMG range.	Y	Woodland and blanket bog identified as part of planning process. Data in DMP and annexes.	None	As evidenced
	Conduct herbivore impact assessments, and assess these against acceptable impact ranges for these sensitive habitats. Identify and implement actions to attain impacts within the range.	Y	Three properties have undertaken HIA. This represents a large (90%) of the overall land area. Contribution being made to keep peat land in good overall condition but just not monitored or quantified. Group will consider improving peat land condition as part of plan, not quantified.	Increase uptake on smaller properties.	As evidenced
	Identify opportunities for the creation/restoration of peat lands	Y		Further develop this action- subject to resources the group have undeken to deliver open ground HIA on BB by 2017 and consider its implications.	As evidenced
	Contribute as appropriate to River Basin Management Planning	N	Individuals within group may be involved and have more of an understanding through fishery boards etc.	Opportunity to link work of fishery boards etc. through DMP, riparian woodland, flooding through habitat management etc. Action point to contact SEPA by 2017.	Requires further work and engagement with RBMP
	Summary: Agree a colour for current delivery of the Action (red, amber, green) and detail what is going to happen to deliver future actions		Sensitive habitats mapped, undertaking to deliver partial coverage of HIA. Increasing areas of woodland an undertaking in plan (400Ha).	This action needs further development with reference to tangible outcomes.	As evidenced
7. ACTIONS to reduce or mitigate the risk of establishment of invasive non-native species	Manage invasive non-native species (e.g. muntjac) to prevent their establishment and spread e.g. report sightings of muntjac to SNH	Y	Agreed policy for sika and goats based on minimising spread into or through area.	Counts/culls and sightings of INNS to be monitored at DMG meetings. DMP will be upgraded to include wild pig section.	As evidenced
	Agree on local management of other non-natives which may be utilised as a resource e.g sika, fallow, goats, to reduce their spread and negative impacts.	Y	Agreed for sika/muntjac. Goat population managed.	Counts/culls and sightings of INNS to be monitored at DMG meetings.	As evidenced
	Summary: Agree a colour for current delivery of the Action (red, amber, green) and detail what is going to happen to deliver future actions		Good collective agreement re the management of sika and goats. management of non natives in DMP and discussed at DMG meetings.	Counts/culls and sightings of INNS to be monitored at DMG meetings.	As evidenced
8. ACTIONS to protect designated historic and cultural features from being damaged by deer e.g. by trampling.	Identify any historic or cultural features that may be impacted by deer and undertake deer management to retain these features	Y	Historic/cultural features under archaeological survey currently. Group has undertaken to act on any advice from archaeological advisers- action point in plan.	Revise deer management prescriptions on receipt of survey data.	As evidenced
	Consider the implications of fencing on the landscape with due regard to the Joint Agency Guidance on Fencing.	Y	Group undertaking to deliver fencing guidance. Link to fencing guidance in DMP. Due to NSA status this is required.	Group to ensure fencing guidance is delivered, proposals to be discussed at DMG meetings.	As evidenced
	Summary: Agree a colour for current delivery of the Action (red, amber, green) and detail what is going to happen to deliver future actions		Survey work is currently being done. Discuss survey results at meetings, take action as required. Members made aware of fencing guidance through plan.		As evidenced
	Undertake a skills and training assessment to establish current skill levels applicable to deer management within the DMG	Y	Assessment undertaken as part of plan preparation. Detail logged for group.	Keep up to date record of skills and competence within the DMG membership.	As evidenced
	Identify training and development needs / requirements of DMG members including opportunities for Continuous Professional Development (i.e. in relation to Best Practice)	Y	Group has identified a progression of training with UHI deer management qualification set as an aspiration.	DMG may consider organising training opportunities.	As evidenced

agree could be green

9. ACTIONS to contribute to delivering higher standards of competence in deer management.	Ensure all those who actively manage deer are "competent" according to current standard	Y	Assessment undertaken as part of new plan preparation. 100% coverage of DSC 1.	Promote uptake of DMQ2.	As evidenced
	Promote and facilitate the uptake of formal and CPD training opportunities for those participating in deer management.	Y	Habitat monitoring training organised through DMG and undertaken by SNH.	Other training on deer census, HIA, population modelling may be required.	As evidenced
	Summary: Agree a colour for current delivery of the Action (red, amber, green) and detail what is going to happen to deliver future actions		Group has a good understanding of current training and competence levels via skills assessment in DMP annexes.	Consider DMQ accredited witness qualification to drive internal capacity to facilitate competence. Group could provide training in the local area should this be delivered.	As evidenced

10. ACTIONS to identify and promote opportunities contributing to public health and wellbeing.	Identify and quantify public safety issues associated with deer within the DMG area. e.g. DVCs, airports etc.	N	Not in plan. No current issues within DMG (no airports/roads)		For assessment improvement - reflect situation within plan.
	Identify actions with landowners, Local Authority, DMG to reduce or mitigate public safety risk and monitor effectiveness of actions.	N	Not in plan. No current issues within DMG (no airports/roads)		For assessment improvement - reflect situation within plan.
	Identify means of ensuring food safety is maintained in carcass handling and venison processing and compliance with BPG in relation to meat hygiene	Y	Group DSC 1 uptake at 100%. DSC 2 at 80%. Group undertake to abide by WDBP and this is defended in plan.	SQWV and DMQ1 uptake reviewed on periodic basis.	As evidenced. Training and collaboration opportunities.
	Ensure deer managers are familiar with notifiable diseases, that a system for recording is in place and all deer managers are familiar with course of action to take.	Y	Group DSC 1 uptake at 100% therefore all carcasses subject to trained hunter examination. Group undertake to abide by WDBP and this is referenced in plan, this provides assurance on notifiable disease reporting.	Ensure new starts/ entry level staff are trained to DSC 1 level or attain this level of training.	As evidenced. Training and collaboration opportunities.
	Ensure that appropriate bio security measures are enacted when visitors from areas where CWD is present are involved with deer management activities	N	Best Practice elements of bio security implicit at the land holding level.	CWD leaflet to be distributed to group membership- Action point in plan. Also to be added to internet.	Needs to be reflected within the plan rather than implicit at land owner level.
	Identify opportunities to raise awareness of the risks associated with Lyme's Disease.	N	Tick awareness already discussed within member estates.	Can be referenced within plan - action lies with individual landholdings. HPS Lyme awareness leaflet could be circulated to the group. Include as part of estate visitor information- Action point in DMP.	As above, this would be a simple upgrade to the online plan.
	Identify main access and recreational activity within the DMG area and assess how this fits with deer management activity.	N	Most members currently promote access and provide information. Access management in line with access code promoted. Knoydart Foundation has a Ranger service.	Access section could be added to the in draft DMP. Identify any potential issues and what DMG can do to address these. In the meantime continue with current positive work.	For an area which is popular for hill walkers this needs to be part of the plan - policy/process/actions at group level rather than left to land holding level. Opportunities for collaboration for consistent messages, signage etc
	Identify actions to mitigate any effects of public access and recreation activities during peak periods of deer culling e.g. use of Hill phones and web sites	N	Not an issue within this DMG, all members promote access as a complimentary activity to deer culling.	As above - possibility of promoting key messages for popular access areas within the plan or reflect where these are hosted.	Needs to be part of the plan
	Facilitate public access and promote positive communication between visiting public and wildlife managers.	Y	DMP contains statement regarding groups positive attitude towards access, practically this is managed by individual properties.	Group to consider use of HFTSH. JMT already use this system for Li.	Evidence suggests fully meeting criteria
	Summary: Agree a colour for current delivery of the Action (red, amber, green) and detail what is going to happen to deliver future actions		Much of this is already informally delivered. DVC/Access sections could be developed in DMP to formalise what the group is delivering.	Follow up on HFTSH website/ hill phone. Identify solutions for any local access issues if they arise.	

11. ACTIONS to maximise economic benefits associated with deer	Identify and quantify the main sources of revenue related to deer (sport, tourism etc.).	Y	In plan for primary sporting income as well as wider income reflecting community benefit.	No further action required.	As evidenced
	Identify and quantify deer related employment. Identify opportunities to increase and improve prospects throughout the DMG;	Y	Information has been gathered for all main members of the group with reference to employment.	Periodically update when/if levels of employment change.	As evidenced
	Identify opportunities to add value to products from deer management (SQWV, venison branding)	Y	Foundation venison is branded and processed/smoked. There is an undertaking for the group to consider this type of development in the plan.	Action needs updated with a timescale to ensure delivery. KF currently process 30% of venison, this is now a target for 100% by 2017.	As evidenced
	Explore options for larder sharing, infrastructure improvement and carcass collection to ensure maximum benefit from venison production whilst reducing carbon costs.	Y	Larder sharing. 15,000 invested in venison and facilities (Foundation). Not co-ordinated through DMG in any way but there is an undertaking in DMP to consider this issue.	Action needs updated with a timescale to ensure delivery.	As evidenced
	Summary: Agree a colour for current delivery of the Action (red, amber, green) and detail what is going to happen to deliver future actions		Detailed information has been gathered on income both primary and secondary/subsidiary, there is an undertaking in the plan for members to consider opportunities to develop income/larder sharing etc.	The actions to consider development opportunities need a timescale attached. Where areas for development are identified these will be delivered through DMG. Collective discussion/exploration required.	as evidenced

12. ACTIONS to minimise the economic costs of deer, and ensure deer management is cost-effective	Identify and quantify capital investment in deer management related infrastructure.	Y	There is an undertaking to deliver this action for the group through group members data in the dmp.	This action need a timescale attached- on agenda from 2016.	As evidenced	
	Identify where deer are impacting on other land uses and include all relevant stakeholders to assist the group in understanding costs of deer within the DMG (e.g. woodland, agriculture, DVCs)	Y	There is an undertaking to deliver this action for the group through group members data in the dmp. The majority of those who may suffer a loss (agri/woodland occupiers)through deer impacts are members of the group.	This action has been delivered.	As evidenced	
	Where there are management changes, assess the likely economic impacts across the DMG	Y	there is an undertaking for the group to "improve" the costs of deer management during under the plan.	This action need a timescale attached.	As evidenced	
	Formulate a strategy to minimise the negative economic impacts in an equitable way.	Y	Forum potentially exists through the DMG , role of chairman and secretary. Group has undertaken to gather data and consider any issues. Those suffering damage are represented.	To outline mechanism for dealing with issues with economic impacts.	As evidenced	
	Summary : Agree a colour for current delivery of the Action (red, amber, green) and detail what is going to happen to deliver future actions		Group has undertaken to gather data on the costs of deer as part of plan. There is an undertaking to "improve" any issues. Those who are most likely to suffer damage (agricultural/woodland occupiers).	All actions for this aspect of public interest need timescales attached-will be added to agenda 2016.	As evidenced	
13. ACTIONS to ensure effective communication on deer management issues.	Provide regular opportunity for wider community and public agency engagement in planning and communications.	Y	Good agency involvement in group activities, included in planning. Community interests represented via trust board.DMG is recognised within community as means of raising deer issues. Group has dedicated website with all minutes/damp and annexes listed as draft for comment.	Continue with this approach.	As evidenced	
	Identify and implement actions to address community issues on deer or deer management activity.	Y	Community representation through KF board. Community are represented at DMG meetings and have been consulted on draft plan.	Seek to respond to any community issues with deer as they arise.	Advise policy and process as guidance to community as to how to raise issues	
	Support and promote wider opportunities for further education on deer.	Y	Partially delivered as Knoydart Foundation have rmanager service, engagement with visitors through on the ground contact, website and leaflets.	Opportunities to raise awareness through DMG events - potential to engage with local schools through wider initiative.	As evidenced	Update- we graded red- now advise amber.
	Summary : Agree a colour for current delivery of the Action (red, amber, green) and detail what is going to happen to deliver future actions		Community/ stakeholder engagement locally informal and delivering. Public agency involvement good. Wider interests consulted via DMG website which contains draft plan and supporting g documents including all historic minutes.	Group needs to continue with this inclusive approach and for audit purposes consider logging communication activities.	As evidenced	
14. ACTIONS to ensure deer welfare is taken fully into account at individual animal and population level.	Agree, collate and review data available within the DMG which might be used as a proxy for deer health/welfare i.e. recruitment, winter mortality, larder weights etc.	Y	Gathering winter mortality. Included within plan to fit with modelling recruitment and mortality. Group will also share larder records for this purpose as outlined in dmp. HIA information also to be reviewed.	Seek and review information on regular basis - respond to findings from data within ongoing planning.	As evidenced	
	Take reasonable actions to ensure that deer culling operations safeguard welfare; for culled and surviving animals (e.g. for example by following BPG)	Y	Undertaking management to Best Practice standard is recognised as key to meeting this. Following BPG, cull calf first policy. DSC 1 as a minimum. Regular counts vs population target.	Ensure members are delivering WDBP standards.	As evidenced	
	Take reasonable actions to ensure that the welfare of surviving populations is safeguarded (e.g. provision and access to food and shelter)	Y	There is a group undertaking to deliver higher culls if winter mortality is and issue, or alternatively increase woodland shelter.	None	As evidenced	
	Periodically review information on actions to safeguard welfare, identify and implement changes as required.	Y	This is an ongoing action at DMG meetings on agenda.	None	As evidenced	
	Summary : Agree a colour for current delivery of the Action (red, amber, green) and detail what is going to happen to deliver future actions		Principles understood and informally discussed at meetings. Group undertaking to monitor herd health via cull records and mortality counts. Group undertaking to increase cull if winter mortality is an issue or increase woodland shelter.	Monitor delivery of actions aimed at improving animal welfare. Ensure all members deliver agreed actions in the event of mortality/welfare issues arising.	As evidenced	

Delivery of objective is good, in line with actions

Delivery of objective is only partial/ variable in quality

Group is not delivering this element