



KNOYDART FOUNDATION LAND MANAGEMENT GROUP



Land Management Plan 2007

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

2. LONG-TERM VISION, AIM & OBJECTIVES

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

4. PLAN FOR ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES

4.1 Habitat

- 4.1.1 Woodland
- 4.1.2 Upland montane and moor
- 4.1.3 Coastal grassland
- 4.1.4 Freshwater
- 4.1.5 Coastal inter-tidal and marine

4.2 Species

4.3 Management of browsing animals

- 4.3.1 Deer on the open hill
- 4.3.2 Deer in fenced woodland
- 4.3.3 Goats
- 4.3.4 Livestock grazing on open hill
- 4.3.5 Introduction of livestock

4.4 Landscape, Geology & Climate

- 4.4.1 Landscape
- 4.4.2 Cultural heritage & archaeology
- 4.4.3 Foundation assets
- 4.4.4 Climate
- 4.4.5 Geology, geomorphology & soils

4.5 Recreation

- 4.5.1 Recreation within woodland
- 4.5.2 Recreation outwith woodland
- 4.5.3 Community and visitor opportunities

4.6 Sustainability

- 4.6.1 Waste disposal
- 4.6.2 Reduction, re-use and recycling of waste
- 4.6.3 Water supply
- 4.6.4 Future energy needs
- 4.6.5 Sewage
- 4.6.6 Local produce and materials
- 4.6.7 Transport & infrastructure
- 4.6.8 Income generation

5. IMPLEMENTATION & MANAGEMENT OF PLAN

6. RECORD OF AMENDMENTS & ADDITIONS TO PLAN

APPENDICES – SEE SEPARATE FOLDER

- Appendix A - BACKGROUND TO KNOYDART
- Appendix B - SURVEYS & MONITORING
- Appendix C - ACHIEVEMENTS
- Appendix D - KNOYDART FOREST TRUST WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN
- Appendix E - KNOYDART FOREST TRUST RECREATION PLAN
- Appendix F - FERAL GOAT MANAGEMENT PLAN
- Appendix G - LIST OF HABITATS AND SPECIES
- Appendix H - RECORD OF AMENDMENTS & ADDITIONS TO APPENDICES

GLOSSARY

READING LIST

CREDITS

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Knoydart Foundation Land Management Group created a five year Natural Heritage Management Plan in 2000. This new plan follows on from that original document but differs from it in a number of ways. It has been renamed the Land Management Plan to reflect its content; natural heritage issues are the main focus of the plan but it also encompasses other land management and community issues.

Unlike the Natural Heritage Management Plan this document is not constrained to a five year timescale; it is seen as an ongoing plan that can be amended where necessary as circumstances change. Changes and updates will be taken to the land management group and to the Knoydart Foundation board.

The purpose of this plan is to set down our land management policies as agreed by the Knoydart Foundation Land Management Group and Knoydart Foundation's board of directors. These policies were decided upon after consultation with the community. Where an area requires further policy development, this will be undertaken and agreed through the Land Management Group, the community and Knoydart Foundation board.

The land management policies are directly related to the long term vision, aim and objectives as stated in section 2. The plan itself is divided into six key areas (section 4):

Habitat
Species
Browsing animals
Landscape, Geology & Climate
Recreation
Sustainability

In each case there is a **prescription and output table detailing existing and proposed actions that will help the Foundation meet the objectives laid out in section 2. Shaded sections of these tables indicate an activity that is already in hand. Unshaded sections indicate aspirations.**

Whilst this plan is concerned primarily with the future, it is important to consider the achievements of the Knoydart Foundation during the lifetime of the Natural Heritage Management Plan (2000-2005). Appendix B contains a detailed list of surveys and monitoring work that has been carried out between 2000 and 2006 and in appendix C there is a list of specific achievements and work that has been completed.

For an explanation of the structure of Knoydart Foundation and the other groups relevant to this plan see appendix A.

2. LONG-TERM VISION, AIM & OBJECTIVES

The following was agreed in the Land Management Consultation:

Vision Our long-term vision for our land is *an area of diverse flourishing habitats with a thriving community that offers a warm welcome to visitors.*

Aim Our aim is *to preserve, enhance and develop Knoydart for the well being of the community and the environment.*

Objectives Our land management objectives are:

- *to enhance habitats with native flora and fauna to achieve optimum natural productivity*
- *to identify and protect features of cultural and heritage significance*
- *to facilitate environmentally sustainable economic activity*
- *to improve public access*

Targets for achieving these objectives are set out within the plan and summarised in section 3.

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document sets down a management strategy for the land owned and managed by the Knoydart Foundation. The document covers a variety of land management issues for which the Foundation is responsible; some of these are ongoing priorities, namely: browsing animals; native woodland; vegetation. These are the three priorities in this document.



To achieve the objectives set out in section 2 the Foundation has set itself the following targets:

General

- employ a land manager to further develop the plans herein.
- **develop and expand the ranger and stalker posts so that we can meet the targets laid out in this plan.**
- ensure continuation of the ranger service, through which the Foundation offers recreation and education opportunities. It is also integral to achieving many of our land management aims.
- continue to work with neighbouring estates and landowners to ensure that, as much as possible, agreed management practices cover the entire Knoydart peninsula and not just Knoydart Foundation land.
- implement a detailed mapping program for effective interpretation of data (eg habitats, species, archaeology etc).
- **ensure this plan is an integral part of Knoydart Foundation sustainable development plan (which is due to be developed in 2008).**

Habitat

- maintain and enhance the variety of habitats present.
- for native woodland - encourage regeneration along the coast, in glens, on crags and up burnsides, within a generally open moorland habitat. For exotic woodland – restructure and diversify to deliver multiple benefits as laid out in the 20 Year Woodland Management Plan (see appendix D).
- recognise, categorise and protect the upland environment.
- identify the variety and abundance of species present, assess condition of habitat with the aim of preserving and enhancing the biodiversity of each grassland habitat.
- implement a survey of type and condition of freshwater lochs, streams and rivers.
- guard against erosion of the coastline, prevent pollution and littering

and ensure local input regarding any proposed developments, such as fish farms, in Loch Nevis, Loch Hourn and the rest of the Knoydart coastline.

Species

- enhance the biodiversity of the peninsula and control the spread of non-native invasive species.

Browsing animals

- ensure a healthy red deer population whilst developing our future range management plans and pursuing our overall habitat targets. Cull levels will be determined by habitat responses.
- reduce deer numbers to a level whereby trees and other vegetation can successfully regenerate.
- ascertain, through regular goat counts, the numbers, distribution and population growth rates of feral goats with a view to implementing a constructive goat cull that facilitates vegetation regeneration.
- assess impact of grazing pressure from sheep.
- investigate the possible benefits of introducing livestock to particular areas.
- **Integrate the stalking activities back into the |Foundations operations to develop a land management team comprising stalkers, rangers and land manager**

Landscape, geology & climate

- recognise Knoydart's National Scenic Area status and follow relevant national guidelines - maintain and enhance the existing landscape and guard against inappropriate development.
- locate and map as many archaeological sites as possible, prevent damage to them and develop a policy for their protection.
- take into account environmental factors and visual impact when designing and siting new buildings and make alterations to existing buildings if deemed appropriate.
- install a weather recording station to note trends in climate change.
- collate all existing geological, geomorphological and soils data and fill in gaps in knowledge.

Recreation

- implement Knoydart Forest Trust's woodland recreation plan (see appendix E).
- develop and implement recreation plan for land outwith woodland.
- ensure continuity of Knoydart ranger service and continue to offer a range of guided walks and practical activities for visitors and residents.

Sustainability

- develop a complete sustainability strategy that allows the community and land to develop and meet needs of present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own need. Ensure that future developments meet a set of assessment criteria.

- develop a community composting scheme, encourage visitors to dispose of rubbish outwith the peninsula and upgrade system of waste disposal.
- investigate the most effective, environmentally-friendly way of dealing with the waste produced on and brought on to the peninsula.
- guard against pollution of the water supply.
- investigate the possibility of introducing hydrogen-produced power and other renewable energy sources to complement the hydro-electric scheme.
- identify and implement the most appropriate method for dealing with sewage.
- encourage interested individuals to offer local products for sale and encourage residents to buy locally when possible.
- review land and sea transport means. Work with users to minimise emissions and their environmental impact.
- develop a strategy regarding future income streams from the land, where this can be undertaken in a sustainable way without compromising the aims and objectives of the Foundation.

4. PLAN FOR ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES

The plan is divided into six distinct sections: Habitat; Species; Browsing animals; Landscape, Geology & Climate; Recreation; Sustainability. Each section includes a box of prescriptions with recommendations for action. These prescriptions reflect the current situation but may change over time. We support, and will actively seek funding for, the creation of a land manager post to implement these plans in an appropriate manner.

4.1 Habitat

Aim *maintain, enhance and sustain the variety of native habitats present and control or eradicate non-native invasive plants*



The variety and type of habitats on Knoydart reflects the temperate maritime climate that is typical of the west coast of Scotland. The condition and distribution of these habitats has been affected greatly by past management practices and other influences. Many habitats, that would otherwise flourish, have suffered as a consequence. The Caledonian Pine forest, for example, has been completely destroyed west of the Ladhar Bheinn ridge (although there is now a young native pine forest at Garsley).

The Foundation and Forest Trust have identified which habitats are present and have been monitoring the condition that these are in on an annual basis, particularly with regard to the impact of browsing by deer, sheep and goats. The Foundation wishes to enhance the biodiversity of Knoydart Foundation land (and the peninsula as a whole) and to do this we recognise the importance of a healthy mix of flourishing habitats. We will take into account the UK BAP (UK Biodiversity Action Plan), Lochaber BAP and Local BAP guidelines before making management decisions.

By aiding recovery of native habitats we expect Knoydart to become an example of effective conservation. This strategy has related benefits including an increase in tourism revenue, a healthier environment for the

residents and the chance to encourage a similar approach to conservation from other land managers.

4.1.1 Woodland



Aim for native woodland - encourage regeneration along the coast, in glens, on crags and up burnside, within a generally open moorland habitat. For exotic woodland – restructure and diversify to deliver multiple benefits as laid out in the 20 Year Woodland Management Plan (see appendix D).

The Knoydart Forest Trust has a management agreement with the Knoydart Foundation to manage the woodland on Foundation land. Some fragments of woodland are not covered by this agreement. The Foundation intends to develop a plan for these areas.

The following are the Knoydart Forest Trust's objectives for woodland under its remit, as laid out in the *20 Year Knoydart Woodland Management Plan 2000-2020* (see appendix D):

- To promote local employment: manage the forest in a way that will provide local employment and help consolidate the community.
- To promote environmental management and restoration: manage the forest to increase environmental benefits by enhancing and expanding the native woodland and restructuring and diversifying the non native woodland.
- To create a sustainable locally useful resource: this will include sawn timber, fence posts, firewood, etc.
- To promote public benefits: to encourage public access, awareness and enjoyment while promoting the long term health of the ecosystem.

The Foundation and Forest Trust will use fences where needed and justified. We also wish to encourage regeneration of native woodland (oak, aspen, hazel, birch, willow and rowan) along the coast from Glaschoille to Reidh an Dariach and/or from Doune to Airor without the need for fencing. We propose that this can be achieved with a relatively small decrease in browsing. There are reputed to be very few hefted hinds in the area. Most of the browsing pressure comes from wintering stags and feral goats.

output	lead responsibility	time scale	time implication
	<i>Forest Trust</i> <i>KFT ranger</i> <i>KF ranger</i>	2006- 2026 - <i>ongoing</i>	

4.1.2 Upland, montane and moor

Aim *recognise, categorise and protect the upland environment.*



Knoydart is a mountainous peninsula typical of the North-west Highlands. These mountains are part of the once greater Caledonian chain that includes the mountains of Scandinavia and the Appalachians. The mountains in Knoydart were formed from schists and have since been shaped by water erosion and glaciation, rising as high as 1000m (3280ft) on the summit ridge of Ladhar Bheinn. The lower slopes of the mountains are characterised by exposed bedrock, purple moor grass, deer sedge and ling. The less well-drained areas contain blanket bog, an internationally threatened habitat. Above 700 metres lichens and mosses predominate.

The upland zone is an important habitat for golden plover, golden eagle and ptarmigan among others. It is also an important recreational area. Hill-walkers visit Knoydart throughout the year, mainly to climb Ladhar Bheinn, the highest munro (hill over 3000ft) on the peninsula. Whilst the Foundation encourages recreation we also recognise the fragility of the upland environment.

The display room in Inverie will be used to supply information on erosion, and ways to avoid it, along with recommended walking routes that avoid sensitive areas. There will also be opportunities for residents and visitors to help with path maintenance. The Foundation will compile a list of the species present in the upland zone. Information on the incidence of muirburn in the past will be collated and everything possible will be done to guard against uncontrolled muirburn in future. Monitoring of browsing animals will continue throughout the year.

prescription	output	lead responsibility	timescale	time implication
Identify and map upland habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> map of sites (paper based). collation of maps on computer mapping 	Ranger	2008 ongoing	
Provide visitor education on minimum impact walking & erosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> information paragraph agreed upon and incorporated into leaflets where necessary 	Ranger Forest Trust	2008 ongoing	
Review, repair and maintain footpaths where necessary with assistance of volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> footpath survey prioritisation of work upgrade most popular paths 	Ranger	2008 ongoing	see recreation plan
Collate information on history of muirburn on Knoydart and guard against uncontrolled muirburn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> timeline established of muirburn information on muirburn fires in leaflets 	Ranger	2007 ongoing	
Monitor number of grazing animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> annual deer count annual goat count 	Ranger Stalker	ongoing	
Record species and maintain a species list for the peninsula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain list and use as a measure of Knoydart's biodiversity over time 	Ranger	2007 ongoing	2 wks / yr
Species monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintain records of abundance as biodiversity indicators 	Ranger		4 wks / yr
Identify sites of ecological importance and guard against their disturbance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> map of sites (once information obtained) – available for all 	Ranger	2008 ongoing	

4.1.3 Coastal grassland



Aim *identify the variety and abundance of species present, assess condition of habitat with the aim of preserving and enhancing the biodiversity of each grassland habitat.*

The Foundation will obtain information on the location and condition of grassland throughout Knoydart. We will compile as comprehensive a species list as possible (both flora and invertebrates). We will also monitor the numbers of grazing animals in each area across the seasons. We will use this information to guide future management plans with the aim of preserving and enhancing the biodiversity of each grassland habitat.

prescription	output	lead responsibility	timescale	time implication
identify and map each grassland habitat present on Knoydart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> map of zones (paper based). collation of maps on computer mapping program (when established). 	Ranger	2009	
assess condition of grassland habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> vegetation monitoring 	Ranger (with ecologist support)	2007 ongoing	1 wk / yr
record species and maintain a species list for the peninsula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain list and use as a measure of Knoydart's biodiversity over time 	Ranger	2007 ongoing	2 wks / yr
species monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintain records of abundance as biodiversity 	Ranger	2008 ongoing	4 wks / yr
monitor number of grazing animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> annual count (as part of established deer count) 	Ranger Stalker	ongoing	
identify sites of ecological importance and guard against their disturbance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> map of sites (once information obtained) – available for all 	Ranger	2008 ongoing	

4.1.4 Freshwater

Aim *implement a survey of type and condition of freshwater lochs, streams and rivers.*



There are no large freshwater lochs on the Knoydart estate. The largest loch on the peninsula is Dubh Lochan which does not sit within Foundation boundaries. There are, however, a number of lochans, some of which are at quite high altitude and offer good breeding sites for red-throated divers.

Along with a number of smaller burns there are two main rivers on the peninsula: Inverie River and Guiserein River. Inverie River is not on Foundation land but most of the Guiserein River is. The Foundation intends to clarify who has the rights to the Guiserein River. No survey work of freshwater lochs and burns has been carried out on Foundation land. This is a situation we hope to rectify.

prescription	output	lead responsibility	time scale	time implication
Implement survey of and assess condition of freshwater lochs, burns and rivers on Knoydart Foundation land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mapping program used to assess change in water quality – this then used to identify reasons for deterioration in water 	Ranger	2008 ongoing	
Record species and maintain a species list for the peninsula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain list and use as a measure of Knoydart's biodiversity over time 	Ranger	2007 ongoing	2 wks / yr
Species monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintain records of abundance as biodiversity indicators 	Ranger	2008 ongoing	4 wks / yr
Identify sites of ecological importance and guard against their disturbance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> map of sites (once information obtained) – available for all 	Ranger	2008 ongoing	
Clarify who has the rights to the various Rivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information used to ensure correct info given on recreational fishing 	Ranger	2008	

4.1.5 Coastal, inter-tidal and marine

Aim *guard against erosion of the coastline, prevent pollution and littering and ensure local input regarding any proposed developments, such as fish farms, in Loch Nevis, Loch Hourn and along the rest of the Knoydart coastline.*



For Knoydart the sea is a significant feature. It can be divided into three specific habitats: the shore (coastal), the river mouths of Inverie River and some smaller rivers (the inter-tidal region) and the open sea (marine).

The Foundation is active in guarding against coastal erosion: vulnerable stretches of coastline in Inverie Bay have been protected with a revetment of boulders (not locally-sourced); the banks of the badly eroded "hole" at Long Beach have been planted with willow and a barrier will be erected to prevent unauthorised sand and gravel extraction. There is some local support for a small-scale gravel quarry where extraction can be controlled and monitored. The detail of this is yet to be explored but will be done so as part of the local plan process.

With respect to fish farm applications the Foundation had successful communications with Highland Council regarding such an application at Glaschoille. In early 2006 the community members met to discuss the Loch Nevis Aquaculture Plan. The result was a group response calling for a restriction to further development. We did, however, give a balanced viewpoint and offered no objection to the redevelopment of existing but redundant fish farms.

In August 2006 the new pier at Inverie was completed and the old pier removed. Before construction of the new pier a local marine biologist, on behalf of Highland Council, conducted a sea grass survey. This continued during construction of the pier and a report on the findings is now available (see appendix B). The Foundation intends to support a survey of marine habitats and species with a view to compiling a comprehensive habitats and species list.

prescription	output	lead responsibility	timescale	time implication
Give a considered response to future aquaculture proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> written response on an “as needs” basis 	Ranger (with a support of community)	ongoing	
Investigate feasibility of small-scale quarry to discourage unauthorised gravel extraction from the beaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> feasibility study if successful small scale quarry offering sustainable source of local stone reduction “stone miles” 	Forest Trust Ranger	2008	
Survey of coastal / marine habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> map of sites (once information obtained) – available for all 	Ranger (with assistance of marine biologist)		
Record species and maintain a species list for the peninsula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain list and use as a measure of Knoydart’s biodiversity over time 	Ranger	2007 ongoing	
Species monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintain records of abundance as biodiversity indicators 	Ranger		
Identify sites of ecological importance and guard against their disturbance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> map of sites (once information obtained) – available for all 	Ranger	2008 ongoing	

4.2 SPECIES

Aim *enhance the biodiversity of the peninsula and control the spread of non-native invasive species.*



Knoydart is home to a number of rare species which have the potential for increased abundance and range expansion. There is also the potential for greater abundance of the more common species present. The Foundation is keen to look into the possibility of reintroducing species that are no longer present (if there is suitable habitat).

The ranger service maintains a record of Knoydart's biodiversity in the form of a list of all species known to be present. This is an ongoing record which will be added to as we compile existing information. We will commission surveys by qualified experts, societies, volunteer groups, ecologists and university students to help us identify which species are present, which should be and which need careful monitoring and protection to ensure their continued presence.

From the species list we will identify the UK-BAP (UK Biodiversity Action Plan) species that are present and from this formulate a Knoydart Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Within the plan will be species-specific action plans covering the following:

Lower plants & fungi

Vascular plants

Terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates

Marine species

Freshwater fish

Herpetiles

Birds

Terrestrial mammals

The Foundation intends to control the spread of non-native invasive species by establishing if they are present and acting to eradicate where necessary. For example, we will establish how many mink are present and consider an eradication programme. An equally rigorous approach will be taken against other non-native species, including rabbits and Sika deer (which are both absent at the time of writing but have been present in the recent past).

The Foundation has an agreement with the Forest Trust to totally eradicate

Rhododendron ponticum and, with some assistance from the Foundation, is actively controlling the spread of Japanese knotweed. The total eradication policy for *Rhododendron ponticum* is well under way and continuing (see appendix D). The need to control the spread of ragwort has been noted.

At present the Foundation has not come to a decision on whether bracken needs controlling but it is under discussion. In the event that a decision is taken to control it, one or more of the following methods may be implemented: trampling by introduced livestock, hand cutting, knapsack spraying (dependent on its impact upon other species, particularly ferns).

The Foundation will produce a set of leaflets covering each group in the list above, highlighting typical and rare species. The aim of the leaflets will be to educate and to explain how best to prevent damage or disturbance. This information will also be available in the display room in the form of maps and interpretation panels.

prescription	output	lead responsibility	timescale	time implication
Commission surveys by qualified individuals or groups with the aim of compiling comprehensive species lists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> species list available for all to see. measure of change in biodiversity over time. 	Ranger		2007 ongoing
Identify which species from the above are listed under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK-BAP) and Lochaber Biodiversity Action Plan and take into account the relevant guidelines before making any management decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> conservation of species and habitats enhance biodiversity 	Ranger		2007 ongoing
Control the spread of and guard against introduction of non-native invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> survey of mink abundance and distribution with a view to an eradication programme. enhance biodiversity of native 	Stalker Ranger		ongoing
Support Knoydart Forest Trust's total eradication policy for <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> healthier woodlands 	Forest Trust Ranger		ongoing
Consider re-introduction of native species where appropriate habitat is present and sufficiently abundant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> enhance biodiversity ecotourism opportunities 	Ranger		ongoing
Produce leaflets on each species group for the benefit of the community and visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 leaflets available for purchase 	Ranger		2007
use mapping technology to ascertain density and distribution of species present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	Ranger		2008 ongoing
Create a Knoydart BAP and species-specific action plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> species action plans aimed at conserving species identified as vulnerable 	Ranger		2007

4.3 MANAGEMENT OF BROWSING ANIMALS

4.3.1 Deer on the open hill

Aim *ensure a healthy red deer population whilst developing our future range management plans and pursuing our overall habitat targets. Cull levels will be determined by habitat responses.*



The red deer is integral to the local ecosystem. It has a place in traditional community life and is attractive to tourists. Historically, the levels of the annual deer cull have been determined by sport shooting interests.

Our aim since 1999 has been to reduce the numbers of red deer to a population recommended by Prof Rory Putnam in the Knoydart Deer Management Group Deer Management Plan. This has been achieved and exceeded. We now aim to ensure a lower, healthier population in balance with a healthy habitat. As previously stated in section 4.1.1 we intend to reduce browsing pressure on the coastal strip from Glaschoille to Reidh an Dariach and/or Doune to Airor with the intention of encouraging native woodland regeneration without the need for fences.

We have been monitoring vegetation annually with the assistance of an external ecologist and we also undertake an annual deer count. The combination of the two sets of data helps us understand the impact that different numbers of deer have on the vegetation. This will then determine our future deer management policy.

We have been working closely with neighbouring estates (through the Knoydart Deer Management Group) with regard to best practice and organised deer counts. Working with the Knoydart Deer Management Group has been productive and we intend to continue to work through this diverse network. We will consider researching the dynamics of our red deer herd through the use of calf tagging and possibly GPS collars.

Currently, the deer cull is achieved through the commercial operations of Knoydart Trading. With the implementation of this plan the Foundation hopes that all land management activity will be carried out under a single framework headed by a land manager.

prescription	output	lead responsibility	timescale	time implication
Control red deer numbers to achieve vegetation recovery in line with targets and maintain a healthy herd in balance with its habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> improved habitat 	Stalker	ongoing	
Monitor vegetation to assess the long term impact that deer have on each habitat and the regeneration of native woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> annual report annual community presentation 	Forest Trust Stalker Ranger	ongoing	
Conduct annual deer count in conjunction with the other Knoydart Deer Management Group estates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> annual deer count mapping program annual community 	Stalker Ranger	ongoing	
Care and maintenance of garron ponies for use in extraction of deer from hill – to avoid impact on land of argocats / other vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect upland environment 	Stalker	ongoing	
Employ ghillies and ponyman when needed and utilise support of local residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> local employment 	Stalker	ongoing	
Welcome and entertain stalking guests and ensure they understand KF objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> stalking information leaflets happy guests 	Stalker	ongoing	
Guard against the ingress of Sika deer to the peninsula		Stalker	ongoing	
Consider researching herd dynamics through tagging and GPS collars		Stalker	ongoing	

4.3.2 Deer in specified woodland

Aim *reduce deer numbers to a level whereby trees can successfully regenerate*



Roe deer are present on Knoydart though their range is limited by the scarcity of their preferred woodland habitat. As native woodland expansion progresses, they may in future require more active management. Roe deer range, population and impact on habitat will be closely monitored.

Within the Inverie fence there are established red and roe populations which, it is anticipated, will require ongoing management due to the mixed stage nature of the woodland.

Within fenced woodland enclosures the Foundation has a policy of reducing deer numbers to a level whereby trees can successfully regenerate. This may include out of season and night shooting where necessary. Refer to the 20 Year Woodland Management Plan (appendix D) for further details.

prescription	output	lead responsibility	timescale	time implication
Monitor roe deer range, population and impact on habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • results of monitoring help determine cull level 	Stalker	ongoing	
Reduce and maintain roe deer levels within fenced areas to a level by which trees can grow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forest can regenerate, not degenerate • enhanced biodiversity 	Stalker	ongoing	

4.3.3 Goats

Aim *ascertain, through regular goat counts, the numbers, distribution and population growth rates of feral goats with a view to implementing a constructive goat cull that facilitates vegetation regeneration.*



The following is a summary of our management objectives regarding the resident feral goat populations. See appendix F for the Feral Goat Management Plan.

There are two small but growing populations of feral goats on the peninsula. One is along the south and west coasts between Glaschoille and Airor in winter (higher in the Black Hills during summer). The other is on the north coast between Li face and Meall Breac. There are differing opinions regarding their origins; some believe they originate from the Clearances when domestic goats were abandoned by fleeing residents, others believe that a local resident brought them to the peninsula.

It is clear that both populations have grown significantly, and their ranges expanded, since Knoydart Foundation took ownership of the estate. It is also evident that their presence has a destructive effect on the vegetation and seriously inhibits regeneration of native woodland.

The Foundation believes that a reduction in goat numbers would help woodland regeneration. It is our aim, therefore, to ascertain, through regular goat counts, the numbers, distribution and population growth rate of feral goats on the peninsula with a view to implementing a constructive goat cull.

In December 2005 we counted the southern herd. There were 59 animals (billies, nannies and kids). The population of the northern herd is less certain but is believed to be smaller at around 30 animals. We have conducted vegetation monitoring in areas frequented by the southern population; the damage they cause is quite evident with browsing occurring on the majority of seedlings.

The northern herd tends to drift over land outwith the Foundation's control so any future intention to manage this herd would require discussion and coordination with the relevant landowners. Culling of the southern herd is straightforward in that the animals are present on Foundation land. Twelve to fifteen animals from the southern herd have been culled over the past ten years; this is a figure that we aim to increase through regular culling as

follows:

Oct 2006-Feb 2007 30 animals (billies, nannies and kids)

Following this initial cull we will then continue with an annual maintenance cull. We will assess any differences in impact that the lower population has and consider further reductions if required.

Our stalkers will undertake the cull. If some income can be generated from paying guests to help offset costs this will be acceptable but it will not be marketed as a sporting activity.

prescription	output	lead responsibility	timescale	time implication
Implement regular goat counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • annual goat count • annual presentation to community 	Stalker (with ranger and community support)	ongoing	
Implement goat cull as agreed through community consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduced abundance • improved habitat • enhanced biodiversity 	Stalker	ongoing	
Monitor vegetation and woodland regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • results help to determine goat cull level 	Forest Trust Stalker Ranger	ongoing	

4.3.4 Livestock grazing on open hill

Aim *assess impact of grazing pressure from sheep.*

Sheep from the farm at Inverguiserein occupy the Guiserein glen (which is owned by the farmer). Additionally, Knoydart Foundation lease the grazing rights of some neighbouring land, including Beinn na Caillich, to the farmer. The sheep range widely over these two areas and also as far as Coire Each, Folach, the Black Hills and Mam Uidhe.

The results of vegetation monitoring suggest that this added grazing pressure, on top of the impact from grazing deer, has a marked effect on vegetation health, diversity and abundance.

prescription	output	lead responsibility	time scale	time implication
Liaise with sheep farmer to discuss future plans regarding sheep grazing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> long term plan for sheep numbers 	Stalker Ranger	2008	

4.3.5 Introduction of livestock

Aim *investigate the possible benefits of introducing livestock to particular areas*

The Foundation is investigating the benefits or otherwise of livestock (cattle or wild boar) as a means of encouraging woodland regeneration through ground disturbance with a view to a possible livestock introduction plan.

The Foundation also recognises that the introduction of livestock for agricultural purposes would be a method of creating revenue from the land. This is an area that needs further investigation.

prescription	output	lead responsibility	time scale	time implication
<i>Implement study into the benefits and implications of livestock introduction as a means of encouraging woodland regeneration</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Potential for woodland to regenerate, not degenerate</i> 	<i>Forest Trust Ranger</i>	2010	
<i>Investigate financial benefits of livestock introduction for agricultural purposes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Potential for new income stream</i> 	<i>Ranger</i>	2010	

4.4 LANDSCAPE, GEOLOGY & CLIMATE

4.4.1 Landscape

Aim recognise Knoydart's National Scenic Area status and follow relevant national guidelines - maintain and enhance the existing landscape and guard against inappropriate development.



The Scottish Executive (under guidance from Scottish Natural Heritage) designated Knoydart a National Scenic Area (an area of outstanding scenic interest of national significance which must be conserved as part of the country's natural heritage). The Foundation recognises this status. We have been active in the local plan revision process and will ensure that this meets our aims as described here and will take it into consideration when making management decisions.

The community is an important part of the National Scenic Area in that they and the Foundation act as its guardians. We will offer local advice over future planning issues and consult with the Highland Council over future development proposals and planning applications.

The Knoydart Forest Trust is enhancing the landscape around Inverie with an active long-term plan to restructure existing plantations and replace non-native trees with native ones (see appendix D).

prescription	output	lead responsibility	timescale	time implication
Offer local advice over planning issues and liaise with Highland Council over planning applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> written responses as appropriate 	Ranger (with assistance from community)	Ongoing	minimal – as required

4.4.2 Cultural heritage & archaeology

Aim *locate and map as many archaeological sites as possible, prevent damage to them and develop a policy for their protection.*



The Foundation has collated information from local residents, visitors, the Highland Council and the John Muir Trust and will continue to collate further information from these and other sources, including aerial photographs, from which we will identify other archaeologically and historically important sites.

We are keen to make this information available to locals and visitors in order to educate and inform. At present we have some basic archaeological heritage information on show in the display room in the village and intend to develop these further. As part of this education programme we will produce a leaflet as part of a wider series of information leaflets. These will be freely available in the display room. We also hope to produce a map that highlights ruins of particular interest and other significant features of the landscape.

We have also been offering guided historical walks provided by local members of the community who have a strong interest in and knowledge of local archaeology and history. These have been positively received by locals and visitors alike.

We shall endeavour to protect important historical and cultural sites by keeping them free from regenerating trees and preventing any development in their vicinity.

prescription	output	lead responsibility	time scale	time implication
Locate and map all archaeological sites with a view to guarding them from damage and/or inappropriate development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • list of archaeological sites available for all • production of action plan and mapping program • conservation of sites 	Forest Trust Ranger (with archaeological experts)	2007-08	
Produce leaflet on sites of archaeological interest for purposes of education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 leaflet • education for all 	Ranger	2008	2 wks
Continue to offer guided historical walks with local experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • x number of walks / year • x number visitors better informed 	Ranger Volunteers	ongoing	

4.4.3 Foundation assets

Aim *take into account environmental factors and visual impact when designing and siting new buildings and make alterations to existing buildings if deemed appropriate.*



Buildings contribute greatly to the overall aesthetics of the landscape. Since Knoydart is most appreciated for its natural beauty it is important to consider the impact that new and existing buildings have in this respect. We will, therefore, take into account environmental factors and visual impact when designing and siting new buildings and we will make alterations to existing buildings if deemed appropriate. The Foundation will develop a sustainable design policy for Foundation developments. We will also encourage others to follow the same policy.

Materials used in construction will be chosen with due consideration to their environmental impact. Most of the electricity on Knoydart is supplied through the hydro-electric scheme at Loch Bhraomisaig whilst some is supplied by diesel generators. In keeping with this environmentally-friendly approach we shall ensure that all new Foundation buildings are properly insulated and as energy efficient as possible.

The natural heritage management plan that preceded this land management plan identified the former shop as a potential location for a display room and information centre. This has since been brought to fruition. At present it is an unmanned centre with display boards on history, wildlife and landscape. It is home to information boards where we keep the public informed of upcoming events, volunteer activities and guided walks and is the place where we store reports and minutes of meetings so that they are fully accessible to the public. We also have an internet terminal in the building which is open daily.

We intend to develop the display room further and make it the first port of call for visitors to the peninsula. The possibility of one of the rangers staffing the centre when the ferry arrives, in order to offer a friendly welcome and point of contact for visitors, has been mooted. In the long term the Foundation is keen to develop a joint office space with the Knoydart Forest Trust in a new building that will also act as a visitor information centre.

We are also looking into ways of making use of the ruined shepherd's cottage at Folach. Suggestions have included an outdoor education centre or bothy. However we are wary of attracting too many visitors to this peaceful and undisturbed location. We have no definite plans but may develop it into a

very basic bothy for hillwalkers to use as an emergency shelter but not as a base. **We will also manage the land around this site.**

Finally, the Foundation will uphold the law regarding proposed new buildings. Anyone wishing to build on a plot of land must first buy the plot and ensure they have planning permission from Highland Council and approval from the Foundation. The decision of the Foundation is based on the outcome of local public consultation of the proposal.

prescription	output	lead responsibility	time scale	time implication
Assess environmental impact for proposed new buildings		Ranger	ongoing	
Ensure that all new buildings are properly insulated, energy efficient, well-designed and sympathetic to the local environment		Development manager Ranger	ongoing	
<i>Maintenance and routine repairs of Foundation A-frame building</i>		Ranger	ongoing	
<i>Maintenance and routine cleaning of Net shed area</i>		Ranger	ongoing	
Develop the information display room and make it more accessible		Ranger	2008	
Create a point of contact desk in the display room, staffed by one of the rangers or volunteers when the boats come in		Ranger	2008	
Consider the restoration of the ruined shepherd's cottage at Folach for use as an emergency shelter for hillwalkers		Ranger	2009	
Ensure that proposals for new buildings have planning permission and approval from the community and Foundation		Development manager Ranger	ongoing	

4.4.4 Climate

Aim *install a weather recording station to note trends in climate change.*



Climate change may have a significant impact on Knoydart's natural heritage. Some species may be particularly susceptible to a rapid change in climate: mountain hares, ptarmigan and montane flora for example. Climate change may also have a devastating impact on Knoydart's human population. In the long term, rising sea levels would affect almost everyone, with the majority of the population living along the coastal fringes, within metres of the mean high tide level. In the short term, a variation in rainfall distribution through the year or a decrease in the mean annual rainfall would impact heavily upon local water supply and hydro electricity.

The Foundation maintains a rain gauge by the hydro-electric scheme's dam at Loch Bhraomisaig. We expect this to give detailed information on changes in rainfall intensity, quantity and distribution through the year.

The Foundation recognises how climate variables affect habitat productivity and will use local data, including that from the Meteorological Office, to note trends in climate change. **We are, and will continue to be, aware of the impact that climate change has on sea level rises and weather patterns and the impact that these may have on developments around the bay.**

prescription	output	lead responsibility	timescale	time implication
Continuation of rain gauge at Loch Bhraomisaig	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>monitoring data</i> 	Knoydart Renewables	ongoing	
Presumption against further building on land subject to flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>safer homes</i> 	Development manager	ongoing	
Investigate ways of reducing the community's carbon footprint such as reducing our reliance on diesel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>improve local air quality</i> • <i>reduction in noise pollution</i> • <i>(part of sustainable development plan)</i> 	Development manager Ranger	2008	
Use local meteorological data to note trends in climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>will help us plan future developments</i> 	Ranger	ongoing	

4.4.5 Geology, geomorphology & soils

Aim collate all existing geological, geomorphological and soils data and fill in gaps in knowledge.



There is currently little information on the geological and geomorphological features of the peninsula. The Foundation intends to rectify this by collating all existing geological, geomorphological and soils data. This will include *Scottish Natural Heritage's* landscape character assessment information. We also intend to get involved with the Lochaber Geopark and take advice and assistance on collating information and interpreting it for a wider audience.

Where there are gaps in this information we shall endeavour to fill them by mapping the land ourselves, by commissioning consultants and by interpreting existing aerial photographs of the peninsula.

prescription	output	lead responsibility	time scale	time implication
Collate all existing information on geological and geomorphological features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mapping program for all to access 	Ranger	2009	
Fill in gaps in currently available information using aerial photographs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • goes towards the mapping program 	Ranger	2009	
Produce detailed map of geological and geomorphological features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • map in display room for education purposes 	Ranger	2009	
Offer guided geology walks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • x number of walks per year • Education for all 	Ranger	2008 ongoing	
Produce local geology leaflet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 leaflet produced • Education for all 	Ranger	2008	
Take advice and assistance from the Lochaber Geopark regarding collation of, and interpretation of, geological information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accurate dissemination of information 	Ranger	ongoing	

4.5 RECREATION

The Foundation actively encourages people to enjoy the outdoors. We recognise the Scottish Outdoor Code and welcome genuine wild camping and the right to roam. We provide daily information on where deer management is taking place.

4.5.1 Recreation within woodland

Aim *implement Knoydart Forest Trust's woodland recreation plan (see appendix E).*

prescription	output	lead responsibility	timescale	time implication
<i>Implement habitat enhancement plan for Long Beach pond area and improve access</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>enhance biodiversity</i> • <i>area planted with alder, willow and wildflowers</i> • <i>nest boxes</i> 	<i>Ranger Volunteers</i>	<i>2007-08</i>	
<i>Implement habitat enhancement plan for Bull Park field and improve access</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>enhance biodiversity</i> • <i>area planted with alder, willow and wildflowers</i> • <i>nest boxes</i> 	<i>Ranger Stalker Volunteers</i>	<i>2009</i>	
<i>Maintenance of wild camping area, Long Beach toilets and wildlife hide</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>cleaner local environment</i> • <i>attractive recreation area for all</i> 	<i>Ranger</i>	<i>ongoing</i>	
<i>Implement Forest Trust's woodland recreation plan</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>improved recreation opportunities for all</i> 	<i>Forest Trust Ranger</i>	<i>2008-10</i>	

4.5.2 Recreation outwith woodland

Aim *develop and implement recreation plan for land outwith woodland.*



At present there is no policy or plan regarding recreation opportunities outside the fenced woodland. The Foundation intends to develop a plan that works alongside the Knoydart Forest Trust's Woodland Recreation Plan (see appendix E).

prescription	output	lead responsibility	time scale	time implication
Develop recreation plan for land outwith woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One recreation plan and action plan 	Ranger	2008	
Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited number of low key signs at useful junctions and access points to estate. Improved visitor access. 	Ranger	2008	
Develop display room as a tourist information post	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ranger desk in room with ranger on duty at ferry times Improved visitor information (walking, stalking, 	Ranger	2008	

4.5.3 Community and visitor opportunities

Aim ensure continuity of Knoydart ranger service and continue to offer a range of guided walks and practical activities for visitors and residents.

Through the ranger service the Foundation offers a range of guided walks and volunteer opportunities for residents and visitors. These vary from general walks to themed walks on the history and wildlife of the area and beach cleaning days. They create revenue for the Foundation through donations and also help to educate the public. They also act as an opportunity to gain support for our land management aims, particularly with regard to deer stalking, habitat management and the control of invasive species such as Japanese knotweed and *Rhododendron ponticum*.

prescription	output	lead responsibility	timescale	time implication
<i>Continue to offer guided walks through the ranger service</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 52 weekly walks available per year • £x in donations • Education for all 	Ranger	ongoing	52 x 3hrs
<i>Develop volunteer programme</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 volunteer days • x number beaches cleaned • x area of land cleared/improved • Volunteer activities – ragwort clearance, rhododendron control etc 	Ranger Forest Trust	ongoing	12 x 5hrs plus prep time
<i>Tourist information provision – in person, by email and through Foundation website (and monitor enquiry levels)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors informed and educated • x number of enquiries/year • x number leaflets sold / 	Ranger	ongoing	
<i>Develop new community and visitor opportunities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthier community 	Ranger	ongoing	

4.6 SUSTAINABILITY

The Foundation has the following overall aim for sustainability:

Aim *develop a complete sustainability strategy that allows the community and land to develop and meet needs of present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own need. Ensure that future developments meet a set of assessment criteria.*

4.6.1 Waste disposal

Aim *develop a community composting scheme, encourage visitors to dispose of rubbish outwith the peninsula and upgrade system of waste disposal.*

The Foundation is liaising with Highland Council to investigate ways of upgrading our system for disposal of waste that cannot be recycled. We intend to encourage visitors to take their rubbish with them when they leave the peninsula and dispose of it sensibly in Mallaig or elsewhere.

We encourage residents to dispose of their organic waste through composting and many households do so as a routine. We would like to push this further by developing a community composting scheme.

prescription	output	lead responsibility	timescale	time implication
<p>Encourage visitors to use new recycling facilities and take material to Fort William recycling centre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce amount of waste to landfill • provide information for visitors on recycling opportunities here and in 	Ranger	ongoing	
<p>Develop community composting scheme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce amount of waste to landfill 	Ranger (with Market Garden)	2008	
<p>Encourage reduction and reuse of materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce amount of waste to landfill 	Development manager Ranger	2007	

4.6.2 Reduction, re-use and recycling of waste

Aim *investigate the most effective, environmentally-friendly way of dealing with the waste produced on and brought on to the peninsula.*

There are presently no recycling facilities on Knoydart; a situation the Foundation aims to rectify. We are liaising with the Highland Council, our local waste management contractor and the communities of Eigg and Rum to investigate the most effective, environmentally-friendly way of dealing with the waste produced and brought on to the peninsula.

We expect Highland Council to provide recycling containers. It is likely that these will be managed by our local waste management contractor who will ensure that materials are not mixed. The council will be responsible for collecting the material and transporting it to Fort William. We will urge the Council also to provide us with the means to deal with recyclable materials within Knoydart, thus limiting the unnecessary transportation of rubbish. One suggestion is a glass crusher which could be used for creating material for footpaths.

prescription	output	lead responsibility	time scale	time implication
<i>Develop recycling strategy and propose it to Highland Council</i>		<i>Development manager</i>	2007	
<i>Install recycling and waste containers</i>		<i>Highland Council</i>	2007	
<i>Look for Highland Council assistance in recycling materials within Knoydart (such as a glass crusher) to minimise carbon footprint by avoiding unnecessary transport of materials</i>		<i>Development manager Ranger</i>	2008	
<i>Apply for funding for the set up of a recycling group</i>		<i>Development manager Ranger</i>	2008	

4.6.3 Water supply

Aim *guard against pollution of the water supply.*

The Foundation will inform residents and visitors how to avoid polluting local water supplies by posting relevant information in the display room. We will take into account the potential impact of new developments on the water supply and consider securing a long-term water supply.

prescription	output	lead responsibility	time scale	time implication
<i>Guard against pollution by posting information in display room</i>		<i>Ranger</i>	<i>2007 ongoing</i>	
<i>Consider securing long-term water supply</i>		<i>Ranger</i>	<i>2009</i>	

4.6.4 Future energy needs

Aim *investigate the possibility of introducing hydrogen-produced power and other renewable energy sources to complement the hydro-electric scheme.*

One of Knoydart's most impressive achievements of recent years was the refurbishment of a hydro-electric scheme using the waters from the upland Loch Bhraomisaig. Nearly all of Knoydart's electricity is generated from this power station which is small, quiet, unobtrusive and of course a "clean source of energy".

Knoydart Renewables, one of the Foundation's trading companies, manages the scheme and encourages residents to use this source of power for their domestic needs, rather than imported fossil fuels, with a competitive pricing strategy. We also suggest burning locally-sourced firewood in wood-burning stoves.

Knoydart Renewables will produce a strategy in 2007 which will set down its targets for the following five years regarding renewables.

prescription	output	lead responsibility	timescale	time implication
<p>Encourage and support Knoydart Renewables to expand existing energy sources and explore alternatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All "off grid" properties have "renewable option" if so desired. Renewables expanded... 	<p>Development manager Rangers</p>	<p>ongoing</p>	

4.6.5 Sewage

Aim *identify and implement the most appropriate method for dealing with sewage.*

The Foundation is looking into a number of alternatives for dealing with sewage at its properties, particularly at the Home Farm end of Inverie where sewage problems are inhibiting future developments.

One possibility is to spread the sewage on fields as fertiliser (we are pursuing a Scottish Environmental Protection Agency exemption that will allow us to do this) which would have a knock-on benefit for insectivorous birds and may pave the way for a potential reintroduction of corncrakes. The other possibility is to create a reed-bed or willow pond. The willow could be harvested and used to make handicrafts. One resident has already expressed an interest in this.

prescription	output	lead responsibility	time scale	time implication
<i>Regular rodding of bunkhouse sewage site</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Cleaner and safer local environment</i> 	<i>Ranger</i>	<i>ongoing</i>	
<i>Identify and pursue most appropriate method for managing sewage at Home Farm</i>		<i>Buildings group</i>	<i>2008 ongoing</i>	

4.6.6 Local produce and materials

Aim *encourage interested individuals to offer local products for sale and encourage residents to buy locally when possible.*



The market garden is managed by local residents who produce a variety of fruit and vegetables which are offered for sale. The Foundation would like to encourage more residents to make use of the market garden and other local enterprises; this will benefit the local economy, help reduce the amount of packaging brought onto the peninsula and reduce “food miles”.

There is the potential for more local produce to be supplied and consumed on Knoydart, such as **lamb**, eggs, honey and venison. We would like to encourage interested individuals to offer products for sale (organic where possible) that meet the needs of the local people and encourage residents to buy locally when possible.

prescription	output	lead responsibility	time scale	time implication
<p><i>Encourage residents to buy and sell local produce (venison, lamb, eggs, honey, fruit and veg, pottery and any other arts, crafts or produce that may be produced in future).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>range of local products.</i> • <i>less reliance on travelling long distances for produce.</i> • <i>local employment.</i> • <i>healthy local economy.</i> 	<p><i>Development manager</i></p> <p><i>Ranger</i></p>	<p><i>ongoing</i></p>	

4.6.7 Transport & infrastructure

Aim review land and sea transport means. Work with users to minimise emissions and their environmental impact



There is no public transport on the Knoydart peninsula and there is no need or demand for any. There is a ferry, the *Western Isles*, run by Bruce Watt Cruises. This is a vital link for the community to Mallaig and the rest of the mainland and its facilities, services and public transport. The ferry runs twice a day on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (and also on Tuesdays and Thursdays in summer). **There are also a number of boat charter businesses in Inverie and there is an** unscheduled boat charter available between Barrisdale and Arnisdale on the Glenelg peninsula.

The recent completion of the new pier at Inverie has opened up the possibility of the CalMac ferry offering a roll-on roll-off service to Knoydart. There are, however, no **immediate** plans for this and **there are mixed views on this locally. A traffic prohibition order is in place to limit non-residents bringing vehicles to the peninsula.**

There is a variety of private transport on Knoydart (much of it four-wheel-drive, reflecting the rough terrain on the peninsula): Landrovers, quad bikes, motorcycles, tractors and diggers. Some residents simply travel on foot or by bicycle; this is something the Foundation would encourage over motorised transport when the distance travelled is short. Knoydart Renewables are looking into the feasibility of hydrogen-powered vehicle use.

Highland Council has **sub-contracted** responsibility for maintaining the road between Inverie and Airor to the Knoydart Forest Trust. This was badly damaged in places during the storm of January 2005 but the council repaired and resurfaced some of it in July 2006 **and resurfaced a long stretch in August 2007.**

Knoydart Foundation owns the following drivable tracks that extend from the Highland Council road: the track from Inverie to Folach and Inverguiserein (with the exception of the final stretch to Inverguiserein which is part of Inverguiserein Farm), the track that runs from the end of the Council road in Inverie to the boundary of Kilchoan estate at Inverie River, the track that leads to Long Beach. In many places these tracks are badly pot-holed; we would like to repair the worst stretches of them with the assistance of the main users.

prescription	output	lead responsibility	timescale	time implication
Encourage travelling by foot or by bicycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> posters to encourage travel by foot and by bike 	Ranger	ongoing	
Maintenance of slipway		Ranger	ongoing	
Maintenance and repair of paths, bridges and gates		Ranger	ongoing	
Repair worst stretches of tracks owned by the Foundation with assistance from main users		Ranger Forest Trust	2008 ongoing	

4.6.8 Income generation

Aim *develop a strategy regarding future income streams.*

The Foundation will investigate as yet untried methods of income generation from the land, perhaps through the development of agriculture in appropriate areas. *We also generate income through guided walks, stalking guests and rent from property. A potential future income streams includes the Wild Knoydart project (photo-stalking, wildlife safaris and team building events).*

prescription	output	lead responsibility	timescale	time implication
<i>Generation of income through stalking guests (see section 4.3.1)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>financial stability</i> • <i>local employment</i> 	<i>Stalker</i>	<i>ongoing</i>	
<i>Generation of income through the Wild Knoydart project – guided walks, photo shooting, Landrover safaris, wildlife walks and team building exercises</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>financial stability</i> • <i>local employment</i> 	<i>Ranger Stalker</i>	<i>ongoing</i>	
<i>Investigate feasibility of generating income through agriculture, perhaps by considering introduction of livestock</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>financial stability</i> 	<i>Ranger</i>	2008	

5. IMPLEMENTATION & MANAGEMENT OF PLAN

This plan began in 2000 as the Natural Heritage Management Plan, a five year plan aimed at laying down Knoydart Foundation's natural heritage management policies and proposals. In 2006 the land management group reviewed the plan and identified what had been achieved and areas that needed more work.

This was the basis for the new land management plan. Due to the strong and diverse opinions held by those involved, the plan has required a great deal of negotiation, very long meetings and a fair amount of diplomacy. Consequently it has taken months to put together. The result of these meetings and discussions is the formulation of a clear goal for all to work towards. In the past there was a lot of discussion about what we should or should not do. Now, with this plan, we have a decision on what we will and will not do. The Knoydart Foundation believes that, by meeting the objectives herein, we will be able to achieve the vision as set out in section 2. This plan is integral to achieving these objectives and the vision.

This is not to say that the aims set out in this plan are set in stone. By its very nature it is a document that allows for amendments as circumstances dictate. For that reason it has not been given a timescale as had the previous plan. Changes in policy will be discussed with those concerned and should they be approved, amendments will be made to the relevant section of the plan and these change(s) recorded in the amendments sheet at the back of the folder.

Existing activities

1st F/T Stalker	1st F/T Ranger	Forest Trust
Implementation of land management plan	Implementation of land management plan	Implementation of woodland management plans
Land Management meetings	Land Management meetings	Land Management meetings
Time spent with stalking guests and associated admin	Tourist information provision – in person, by email, through Foundation website	
Employment of ghillies and ponyman	Training – mountain leader, First Aid, Biodiversity, outdoor access etc.	
Deer count	Deer count	
Goat count	Goat count	
Deer management	Land Management Plan	
Goat management	Leaflets production	
Care / maintenance of ponies	Provision of tourist information	
Vegetation monitoring	Vegetation monitoring	
General maintenance	Guided walks	
Training	General maintenance	
Vehicle maintenance	Community Consultation	
Woodland stalking		
Open hill stalking		
Community consultation		

Implementation of plan

In order to achieve the aspirations set out in the plan we need to increase the number of people employed. Currently we employ 1 ranger post full time (on a job share basis) and 2 stalkers (full time for 5 or 6 months of the year). Some development work is undertaken by the development manager and admin support is undertaken by the office manager. Whilst a number of targets have been achieved by the above there is still a huge amount to be achieved, as noted in the various prescription tables.

Our aim is to increase the team working on the land management plan to 5 people, comprising a land manager and 4 ranger/stalker posts. Depending on the skills of those employed it may be that some are not full time and additional consultancy is bought in. Where possible we will aim to build up skills of the existing staff on the ground to ensure money is invested locally.

Proposed activities

2nd FT stalker/ranger	Land manager
Wild Knoydart project implementation	Co-ordination of land management plan
Development and implementation of "Wild Knoydart" website and promotional material	Staff management
Recreation Plan	Setting of and Management of budget
Species recording	Grant applications and claims
Species monitoring	Co-ordinate computer based mapping programme
Habitat surveying	Consultants briefs and associated management
Vegetation monitoring	Liaison with Knoydart Forest trust and overseeing management agreement
Mapping program	Work programmes and planning
Practical works	Health and safety
Education work	Income generation
Income generation	Land Management meetings
Venison marketing and developing of value added products	Representation of Foundation at external meetings
	Management of plan, updates
	Community consultation, including meetings, newsletters
	Overseeing website content
	Co-ordination with adjacent landowners and estates
	Establishment of land management base

APPENDICES – See separate folder