

WEST KNOYDART DMG ACTION PLAN

Actions outlined in red need to be developed and delivered, where possible, by the beginning of April 2019 (in time for the group's re-assessment) and certainly by the meeting scheduled for 11 June 2019.

Action criteria	Required activity	Next steps	By whom
Constitution and finance	Is the Constitution up to date? Good management and budgeting of finances – report from Treasurer.	Update Constitution with new members, redraw boundaries, change areas. Set up bank account and provide budget for next 12 months	CM CM
Deer Management Plan	Does the DMP require updating and/or review?	Update DMP with information about new members and all outstanding actions identified in healthcheck Sept 2018. Bring to AGM November 2018 for approval. Consultation with all members.	CM
Best Practice	Updates to WDBP	Maintain an eye on WDBP website for all updates	CM
Counting	Annual deer count Mortality and recruitment counts	Plan and deliver 2019 foot count Undertake watercourse/woodland edge mortality counts and overall recruitment counts for Population model.	JB/All All
Culls	Review of Population Model Set and agree 2019 cull targets for all members	Input count data to Pop model Discuss output from Pop model and agree 2019 culls	CM All
Habitats and Habitat Monitoring	Map broad habitat types and condition across DMG Set impact targets for broad habitat types Review HIA carried out in current/previous year Set targets for HIA going forward Review habitat targets and discuss relative to current evidence	Update group map Discuss with SNH Data to Secretary Maps and report of HIA Decide on what needs to be monitored next – habitats, locations (woodland etc) Bring together HIA, habitat target, count, cull and other data in one report Discuss any changes implied by above report and agree any adjustments required	CM – done CM/JB All CM – done All CM All
Designated sites	DMP to include information on Barisdale SSSI, features, condition and management prescriptions How can deer management activity support delivery of favourable condition?	Update DMP Offer support and ask if the group can help Barisdale to deliver improved feature condition	CM All
Woodland	Woodland extent and condition mapped and in DMP Review of herbivore impacts Actions to improve woodland condition Actions to extend native woodland extent Consider impacts of woodland expansion on deer	Produce map and hectareage and condition of all woodland in DMG Assess woodland HIA when available Discuss how to manage deer to improve woodland condition Map woodland extensions known about Bring all future woodland proposals to DMG Discuss deer impacts of increases in woodland cover	CM CM All CM All All
Peatland	Peatland restoration schemes Consider new opportunities for peatland restoration and carbon storage	Document existing information in DMP Review annually	CM All
INNS	Report all sightings and outcomes of non-native deer species (principally sika) Presence and management of other INNS	Report to meetings Report to meetings; discuss potential further actions	All All

Historic, cultural and landscape features	Fencing must meet Agency guidelines Discuss impacts on deer of fence changes – both addition and removal	Report all proposed fences to group for discussion Discuss potential need to adjust deer numbers and impacts on movements	All All
Competence and training	Keep Competence register up to date Develop training policy What training requirements exist? What training opportunities exist or can be created?	Update Competence register with new members Develop existing training policy in DMP Assess whether training needs exist and how they can be met	CM CM All
Venison marketing	SQWV membership or similar QA standards Collaboration opportunities	Report on how many meet SQWV or similar standards, including new members Are there further collaboration opportunities such as shared larders?	CM All
Communications	Is the Comms plan up to date? Potential for wider consultation for any major change to the DMG Active engagement with wider community – open day?	Check Comms plan contains relevant info for new members Consider wider consultation for major revisions Open day in 2019?	CM All All
Public health and safety	Reporting of all notifiable diseases Dissemination of information on ticks and Lyme disease Ensure CWD management is effective for all foreign clients Identify other biosecurity risks Consider implications of interaction between recreational activity and deer management	Ensure carcass inspection is thorough and immediately raise any concerns Periodic updates on Lyme and incidence in DMG area Ensure all foreign clients that have been in CWD areas carry out thorough biosecurity measures Consider as they arise Bring to attention of all any conflicts that are known and arise between recreation and deer management	All CM/All All All All
Economic benefits and costs	Register of employment related to deer management Register of capital investment and infrastructure in deer management Consider ways of rationalising and increasing returns on deer management across the group Consider impacts of deer management on other land use and users Consider impacts of changes in ownership and objectives and mitigate where possible	Update register in existing DMP Create register and populate Discuss potential options Discuss potential impacts Discuss potential and actual changes	CM CM/All All All All
Deer welfare	Carry out all culling operations according to Best Practice Agree what proxy data can be used to evaluate deer health Ensure culls match available data on deer condition to ensure welfare is maintained Consider ways of safeguarding and improving the welfare of surviving deer (food, shelter)	Periodic check on what this means – potential for part of training programme Agree data to be used and set up a way of monitoring and reporting it to group meetings Match pop model cull targets with proxy data Periodic check on how improvements can be made for deer welfare	All All CM All