

**Minutes of proposed west knoydart deer management group  
held at Knoydart Foundation Office  
19<sup>th</sup> July 2012, 11.30am**

Present: Jim brown, Iain Wilson, Graeme Taylor, Angela Williams, Lester Standen

Jim brown welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the background to the meeting. This was due to a concern regarding the workings of the current deer management group. The Foundation directors had recently discussed the workings of the KDMG and were concerned that they were spending significant amounts of money and time without seeing any return from the group. After looking at a number of different options there was a feeling that we should look to move from the current KDMG and establish a new west knoydart group which would allow us to work closely with the many smaller landholdings in the area. It was made clear that we would be looking to maintain good working relationships with neighbours but it was felt that this was the only practical option to allow us to make progress with establishing a plan and moving forward. AW suggested that it might help the other group members to have more productive discussions.

Lester supported comments made by Jim and highlighted that they too wanted to collaborate positively. He explained some of the background to discussions that had been taken place. He also explained that they had started to have discussions with Barisdale and was hoping that they would lead to a better working relationship.

Iain Wilson highlighted that he had never been invited to join the Knoydart deer management group. He is one of many smaller landowners on the west side who have an impact on deer management.

Graeme Taylor thanked Jim for the invitation to advise the group and outlined SNH's position. Their main concern is that whatever deer management group exists works. Any group needs to be of the right size, clear objectives and a good chair. There needs to be acceptance of different objectives with some willingness to compromise. It is important to focus on activity. GT suggested that if the Western end of KDMG wished to split from the main group in terms of managing a shared herd the most appropriate group size would be to include up to Barisdale and that Barisdale, Kilchoan and Camusrory should all be invited and it was agreed that we would welcome them to attend. There was discussion over a map regarding deer movements and JB explained how things worked on the ground.

There was a discussion regarding communication and the need for good communication between groups. GT suggested that we email the KDMG to outline what we are proposing. It would be important to emphasise shared collaboration with 'shared' deer. It would also be important to share information with them. If we made sure we had good regular communication GT thought new group could work.

There was a discussion regarding the state of the new deer management plan. It was accepted that we would have to pay towards the work that Andrew Barbour had put in and we could then use the info and add our own. If we do our own plan we should work towards including habitat impact assessments and population models. LS to email their DMP through to see if it might work as a template for us all. They might be able to input data to their GIS system to develop a picture of deer movements.

There was a general discussion on several issues with the following action points coming out:

Need full list of landowners and other interested parties - JB

Collate records and start data base (LS to send JB spreadsheet to link with GIS)

Explain to KDMG what we are proposing to do - AW

Arrange next meeting for September, and invite all interested parties.