

EAST GRAMPIAN DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP

SUB GROUP 5 MEETING

AT KEILOCH, INVERCAULD

On 24th MARCH 2016 at 2.30pm

MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Mark Nicolson – Mar Estate
Tom Willis – Mar Estate (Savills)
Roddy d’Anyers Willis- Mar Estate (Savills)- Chair
Arthur Fernie – Mar Estate
Dr Linzi Seivwright - Caorann
Richard Gledson - Delnadamph
Clive Meikle – Glenavon (Bidwells)
Richard Greenlaw - Glenavon
David Frew – Mar Lodge
Chris Murphy – Mar Lodge
Angus McNicol – Invercauld
Richard Thomas – Invercauld (Home)

APOLOGIES: Andrew (Will) Reid – Invercauld (Baddoch)
Robin Leslie-Melville – Candacraig
Andrew Salvesen – Dinnet
Rebecca Kimber Danger – Invercauld (Fowler Fortescue)
Ian Hope - SNH
Rosey & Adrian Walker - Allargue
Jim Davidson – Invercauld (Home)

Introduction/Current Position

Time pressure to get plan to certain stage for SNH.
Next stage is moving towards DMP assessment.
Not just what done to date – look to intentions over the next 5 years.
LS noted plan to contain as much detail as possible to be a success.
AM queried how the plan would work if goalposts keep changing.
MMN reiterated importance for action for voluntary process to be a success.
Group agreed to continue to meet twice a year.
DF suggested involve individuals rather than communities – agreed sensible by group.
LS noted openness and transparency the key.
MMN – sub 5 to use the EGDMG website.
LS noted finished plan will go on the website in due course along with minutes etc and that public meeting should be considered.

Populations, movements and management

LS – taking action from red to green to do with SNH confidence.
Plan actions revised to be more specific.
Part 2 & 3 – fine tuning required but these parts more for ‘outsider’ viewers of the plan and not intended to change much after sign off.
‘management units’ to be used.
All members to fill in gaps on cull/count data.
Population model – to change every year and to be reviewed at future date and can be used to deliver what is required in 5 years time.

SNH will look for justification on why group happy with current deer numbers.
LS has divided sub group into East & West areas.
Data to come from other groups
Continued communication re fencing.
Group to react to a situation should it arise.

Actions re Favourable Condition

Mar Lodge densities currently 0.1ha in designated areas and can be seen as a relative success. Monitoring of all Mar Lodge sites can be seen as positive at the moment.
All members of group counted on foot.
Group to continue to collaborate re designations/condition..
Whole group heli count 2017.
50% SNH 50% group funded.
Group wishes to continue to foot count generally as more effective for members.
Drones may be considered in due course.
April recruitment count forms basis of cull target.
MMN suggested continued annual reporting to note unusual occurrences.
LS has clarified SSSI wording after comment from SNH.
Glenavon happy with actions to provide info to SNH.
Allargue noted Ladder Hills designation may have browsing impact from hares.
AM home beat cull comments no longer of relevance and to be updated.
All group members will continue to carry on burning as per the muirburn code as usual.
DF - SAC Caledonian forest designation already covered by SNH management agreement.
Aberdeen SNH entirely supportive of ending Mar Lodge section 7.

Manage Woodland Cover

SNH aspiration to reduce herbivore impact – noted by the group that this could be more to do with hares than deer.
DF noted less funding available from SNH for habitat surveys.
ECAAF funding – group to indicate they are interested.
Group to continue to take action to prevent negative impact.
FCS already inputting in deer management on local level.

Demonstrate Commitment to 25% Woodland Cover

Figures are available on woodland cover existing in the group and can be provided.
DF noted definition of woodland should include montane scrub – taking Cairngorms Plateau back in.

Manage Deer Impacts

Open range not monitored every year at Mar Lodge and moorland surveyed every 3 years.
Groups to share data.
Logical that groups use Mar Lodge templates/methodology for surveying habitats
DMG to improve impact assessment where necessary.

Carbon

Group has already taken action to restore peatland and sequester carbon – Mar Estate Glen Ey and others in progress.
Stephen Corcoran working up a large scale plan.

Management of Alien Species

Group to prevent establishment of alien species.

Actions to Protect Historic and Cultural Features

Group will continue to protect historic and cultural features where relevant.

Contribute to Higher Standards of Deer Management

Group already trained on deer management and will continue to have all culling activities supervised by L2 trained stalkers in the West of the group.

Actions to Promote Public Health and Wellbeing

Group will continue to do this where applicable.

Maximise economic Benefits Associated With Deer

Group already SQWV accredited and will continue to promote best practice. Re preparation and collection of carcasses.

Group continue to maintain high standards in hygiene as per SQWV.

Effective Communication on Deer Issues

Group already effectively collaborating and will continue to do so.
Access information will be available on deer group website.

Deer Welfare

Group will continue to be focussed on this.

Group aware of DWD and will continue to monitor deer.