

EAST GRAMPIAN DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP - SUB AREA 1

UPDATE ON SUMMARY OF ACTIONS 12TH DECEMBER 2016

Action	Who by	Timescale	Update 12 th Dec 2016
1. Review and update deer management plan targets and actions annually and carry out a full review of the plan after 5 years.	SA1	At each AGM	
2. Carry out an annual review of Group performance against the Benchmark and Public Interest Actions after each AGM.	Chair & Secretary	After each AGM	
3. Consider and confirm the role of SA1 in relation to the EGDMG.	SA1	End Sep 2016	This item had been discussed at length at the EGDMG AGM in early Nov 2016. EGDMG SA1 choose to liaise direct with ADMG as necessary (including collecting and paying ADMG subscriptions) and communicate with neighbouring groups directly without the need for the umbrella group function of EGDMG.
4. Consider a new name for SA1 or agree to continue with the current name.	SA1	End Sep 2016	Because the Group has the bank account already named as EGDMG SA1, no change to the name is currently proposed.
5. Review and agree the boundary of SA1, particularly the southern boundary and ensure all relevant properties are invited to meetings.	SA1	End Sep 2016	A number of landholdings, including some to the south, and owners of the Harran plantation, will be contacted directly with regard to joining

			the Group.	
6.	Identify the owners of the Harran plantation and invite them to become members of SA1.	SNH, neighbours	End Sep 2016	Contact details have been obtained for managing forest agents for the Harran plantation, and contact now made with them with regard to participation in the Group.
7.	Update Constitution in line with ADMG's Template for DMG Constitutions.	SA1	End Sep 2016	The Draft constitution will be edited to reflect changes to EGDMG function, and uploaded as an appendix to the DMP.
8.	All members to adhere to the Code of Practice in Deer Management.	All members	Continuous requirement	
9.	Keep up to date with Wild Deer Best Practice guidance as it evolves.	All members	Continuous requirement	
10.	Carry out actions arising from the Communications Policy including making relevant data and documents publically available through the SA1 website.	Chair & Secretary	End Oct 2016	There was a discussion on the feasibility, administration and cost of a web site for the Group, to be investigated further. Secretarial role for the Group also to be confirmed going ahead.
11.	All stalkers to attain DSC1 and work towards DSC2. Identify training needs within the DMG and organise training courses where necessary. Consider inviting other rural workers to participate in training courses where possible.	All members	End Dec 2017	
12.	Organise annual co-ordinated foot count of SA1 and consider forming a combined estate count team to improve count coverage. Discuss results at Spring meeting and make results publically available through the SA1 website.	Stalkers, all Members, Chair, Secretary	In winter/ spring annually	Bruce Cooper agreed to assist in communications to coordinate Foot Count February 2017, with Secretary and Colin McLean. Contact information to be provided and updated to assist

			in this exercise. Data collection afterwards to be through Secretary.
13. Ensure a full analysis of count and cull data is carried out at the EGDMG Spring meeting.	Chair & Secretary	Annually at EGDMG Spring meeting.	
14. Consider whether methods to estimate deer populations within woodlands are necessary.	All members with significant areas of woodland	End Dec 2016	It was agreed that this was relevant only to those Landholdings with significant woodland areas to which deer had access (FCS and Harran).
15&16 Carry out annual mortality searches and recruitment counts and use data to update the population model within the deer management plan.	Stalkers, Secretary	Before Spring meeting annually.	Data from this to be gathered and collated by Secretary as necessary.
17. Work towards attaining SQWV standards and ensure a supply of venison is available for local sale.	All members who process deer.	Local venison sales available annually.	

18. Keep up to date on research on methodologies for counting mountain hares and for measuring their grazing impacts.	All members	Updates should be available at Caen Sec 7 Steering Group meetings and should be passed to all members.	Steering Group Meeting awaited.
19. Ensure EGDMG analyses count and cull data before each May meeting.	Secretary	End April annually.	(Subject to future role of EGDMG)
20. Members who hold ground currently within the Caenlochan HIA area will initiate their own Habitat Impact Assessments in 2018. These will be completed on both Blanket Bog and Heath habitats in 2018. Following that, habitat surveys will be completed in the same years as member estates out-with the Caenlochan area.	Relevant members	End Sep 2018	
21. Members who are not currently in the Caenlochan Habitat Survey area will initiate a habitat monitoring scheme which will be compatible with SNH Best Practice guidance.	Relevant members	End Sep 2017	
22. The DMG will organise a group training event for habitat impact assessment if required.	SA1	End Oct 2016	Costs for training for Habitat Monitoring to be obtained. Consideration to be given to both SNH and other methodologies, as long as methods are consistent on repeated monitoring exercises.

23.	Each member will carry out habitat impact assessments every 3 years.	All members	Every 3 years with first round in summer 2017.	
24.	The DMG will review results from the first round of habitat impact assessments and will set targets to reduce impact where they are found to be high.	SA1	End Dec 2017	
25.	Estates in SA1 to consider means of reducing the need for out of season shooting either by preventing damage or by agreeing compensation for damage.	SA1	End Dec 2016	All agreed that it was better to control marauding deer, rather than try to compensate afterwards. Any difficulties with deer upon agricultural ground are currently being actively managed and contained.
26.	Maintain current successful deer management regime in Crossbog Pinewood SSSI.	Relevant deer managers	Fences maintained annually and deer culls achieved annually.	(not sure if this reference should be deleted)
27.	SNH to publish Caenlochán HIA data for 2015. The progress of the Agreement should be assessed in the light of these data.	SNH	Asap	Awaited
28.	Members to provide count, mortality and recruitment data to the Secretary to enable the population model to be updated before each June meeting.	All members	Annually	Ongoing

29.	Ensure EGDMG carries out an analysis and reconciliation of population models for SA1 and SDNA DMG (former sub area 2).	Chair & Secretary	Annually	(Subject to future role of EGDMG)
30.	Fully implement all aspects of the Caenlochan Plan	SA1 signatories to Caenlochan Section 7 Agreement	June 2017	
31.	Consider culls and target populations in relation to habitat data as trends in habitat condition become clear.	SA1 signatories to Caenlochan Section 7 Agreement.	Aug 2017	
32.	Where deer are likely to be the cause of impacts on native woodlands, each relevant estate to use NWSS results to prepare condition assessments of each wood within the High or Very High impact categories and produce management proposals to improve condition or justify current management. These management proposals should be supported by a regular cycle of woodland condition monitoring in accordance with WDBPG.	All members with native woodlands assessed as having High or Very High herbivore impacts.	End Dec 2017.	
33.	SA1 will monitor woodland condition following Best Practice guidelines and will adaptively manage woodlands dependent on the outcome of these surveys.	All members who own >0.5ha of native woodland.	After Action 32 above has been completed.	
34-41	Carbon storage action points including identifying the extent of degraded peat on blanket bog.	All members	End Dec 2017.	
42-44	Continue to resist colonisation by fallow and sika through culling all observed individuals where possible. Any feral pigs observed will also be culled if possible. Numbers and locations of culled animals will	All members	Report at each DMG meeting.	All reports of feral pigs to be reported to Kevin Peters, FCS.

	be reported to the DMG.			
45	Ensure DMG is open to communication with regard to concerns of damage to historic and cultural features. The DMG to contact the appropriate Council archaeologist to see if they have any concerns.	SA1	Council archaeologists contacted by Mar 2017.	
46.	Members to consider use of the Heading for the Scottish Hills website as a means of providing information for walkers.	All members	Consider by end Dec 2016.	Secretary to circulate information and guidance. Group members should provide consistent information across the area. Consideration to be given to use of access information on a Group website.
47.	Consider ways of raising driver awareness of the risk of deer vehicle collisions on the A93. Monitor numbers of deer killed on the roadside on a monthly basis. Report collisions to the Deer Collisions UK database.	SA1, relevant estates.	End Dec 2016.	Any collisions to be reported to the Secretary. Local Council to be approached with regard to improved signage on A93 (A McNicol).
48.	Deer vehicle collisions to be an agenda item at each AGM	Secretary	End Dec 2016	Action for Secretary.
49.	Ensure estate guests are aware of the risks and symptoms of Lyme disease. Ensure First Aid kits include appropriate tick removal equipment.	All members	Annually as part of information to new guests.	
50.	Consider establishing commercial deer related activities other than deer stalking. These might include deer viewing, photography etc.	All members	Consider by end March 2017.	
51.	Develop good lines of communication with farmers to the south of the SA1 boundary and north of Alyth.	Chair and Secretary	End Dec 2016.	See Action number (5). Those local to that area

SA1 will try to find solutions to any concerns raised.			to be vigilant upon instances of marauding and maintain communication with farmers.
52. Consider deer welfare issues at each SA1 meeting and consider the implications for deer welfare when taking management decisions.	All members	At each DMG meeting.	Action for Secretary (DS)
53. Consider the use of a signed Declaration form in relation to Chronic Wasting Disease for stalking guests from North America and Scandinavia.	SA1	End Dec 2016.	Relevant information to be shared by Group members. (A McNicol)