

East Loch Shiel Deer Management Group

Action Points Summary 29 April 2019

Updated 02/05/2019

From the following, all those Action Points highlighted yellow were raised for discussion at the meeting 29/04/2019. Information in advance of the meeting in green. Meeting responses in blue. Those with a red highlight are still outstanding.

The following are Action points from the November 2018 DMG meeting:-

- **GT** stated that where there are differences between VC's report and SNH observations, SNH will comment. **ACTION GT**
- **JJ** observed that the reproductive rates [for their enclosed woodlands] should be 65% of sexually mature hinds rather than 45% [the figure that C Lavin gave] and that the calves to hinds cull was around 50:50 with a shoot the calf first policy. JJ to email comments to the group shortly. **ACTION JJ JJ confirmed this statement as correct. We can now use this in our population modelling going forward.**
- **GT** updated the group with a designated sites report stating that SNH only have draft reports but would hope to have full reports by the end of November. GT stated that the headline of the draft reports will remain the same as the full reports, indicating over 90% browsing of seedlings on two of the designated sites. Once reports are fully finished GT will send round to group. **ACTION GT. DM confirmed we still do not have the final reports, originally promised for last August.**
- **PS** explained that the [NSWG] SOG hadn't met for many years but there was a desire from some members to restart the group. KK asked PS if he would be the point of contact and attempt to contact members. PS agreed to try to move things forward with help from FES. **ACTION PS and FES. PS arranged a meeting which took place on the 17/12/2018. PS confirmed the meeting had taken place. JM from NSWG attended the ELS meeting and said they were working hard to get their members to re-engage. NSWG re-affirmed they were a DMG in their own right and are not part of the ELSDMG. They did appreciate the communications between the two groups as collaborating neighbours. Also explained, to be PC they no longer use the NoSW*G initials.**
- **DM** disagreed that it was [lack of engagement from] the smaller members, asked that FES provide more data before the next benchmark meeting, highlighted that this was one reason why we would fall down the league table. KK stated that he had prepared data but wasn't sure where it had gone, was going to look into it **ACTION KK. JJ had sent some information through and would respond to future requests as they come through. KK explained the FLS email system only kept emails for two weeks before deleting them so it is generally not possible to refer back.**
- **Discussions** took place between Conaglen and FES around fencing between Glenhurich and Glenscaddle, KK suggested a sub meeting with DM **ACTION DM and KK. Whilst this meeting had not taken place yet both confirmed the meeting would occur within the next three months.**
- **KK** confirmed FES will not commit to writing a DMP for the western end, it has to be collaborative. GT said SNH will assist. **ACTION GT and KK. Further discussion here clarified that**

the group needs proper detail for Western Working Group specifics often in the form of DMP sections to include in the ELSDMP. Further progress on the DMP will be to clearly show the working groups in their own sections.

- JJ advised that FES are to carry out population density assessments this season and agreed to provide updated information on various aspects of the plan. ACTION JJ. JJ explained that they have not been able to carry this out this season but that it is now planned for the 2019/20 season.
- SF asked if the new BPG for HIA was available yet? GT confirmed not completed yet, GT will chase and make available ACTION GT GT stated that last updates sent out by post 2014, will check for new updates. ACTION GT SF reminded all that BPG will no longer advise you directly of any updates and it is now down to each of you individually to find out if you have the up to date guides.
- SF asked about the condition of the designated sites in the West end of the group and what managements actions need to be discussed between owners of designated sites and SNH. GT confirmed that meetings with individual owners are needed. ACTION GT & Individual owners. Without confirmation from SNH there is some uncertainty re specific issues in the ELS area designated sites. We had previously been told that the Sunart oakwoods that surround the loch and which are in several DMGs will be marked as unfavourable even e.g. if the unfavourable part is in another group area.
- EM confirmed that Ardgour Estate would look to ensure that the major part of the hind cull this year would come from the lower ground around the village ACTION EM Confirmed to the meeting a major part of the cull was and will be taken from around the Clovullin area and the situation will continue to be monitored.

The following are Action points from the Action Plan – Working document.

Benchmark

- 2.1, 3.1, 3.2 The SNH WMO has previously suggested on a number of occasions he would encourage non-engaging properties to engage with the group. Action Point: - SNH No reported action here. HP who was present at the meeting and who had previously been highlighted by SNH as a 'non-engaging' property confirmed no approach had been made to him.
- 3.2 Action Point: - ELSDMG Spring meeting moved to April/May to facilitate opportunity for improved attendance. Certainly property members attendance was good this meeting with only SNH not represented.
- 3.3 Action Point: - Local Police and Scottish Forestry to be added to the Meetings mailing lists. By Secretary. With immediate effect. Police invited to last meeting. Both are invited to the 2019 spring meeting. Attendance at this meeting from KS Police. Apologies from Scottish Forestry.
- 4.1 Action Point: - A vote to confirm Vice Chair appointment to be taken at meeting 29/04/2019. Chair, Voting Members. Agenda item. The vote was taken, unanimous support.
- 4.1, 6.1, 7.1 Action Point: - An updated Constitution is proposed and issued for consultation. A vote to adopt will be taken at the meeting 29/04/2019. Chair, Voting Members. Agenda item. The vote was taken, unanimous support.
- 5.1 Action Point: - The 1st edition Working Plan has and continues to be updated as appropriate. Chair, Vice Chair. Up to date plans circulated and on the ADMG website. SF advised the group the Action Plan had been updated recently. Action Points are identified in the plan. (As summarised here.)

- 5.1 Action Point: - The 9th edition Background Information will be reviewed and updated through summer/autumn 2019. **By Chair, Vice Chair.** Further discussion here clarified that the group needs proper detail for Western Working Group specifics often in the form of DMP sections to include in the ELSDMP. Further progress on the DMP will be to clearly show the working groups in their own sections.
- 5.1 Action Point: - Plan updates to be notified to properties and maintained on the ADMG/ELSDMG website. **Chair, Secretary.** Up to date plans circulated and on the ADMG website. Ongoing.
- 5.2 Action Point: - Annual Audit to request changes in management objectives from properties: - **Chair, Vice Chair – summer 2019.**
- 5.3 Action Point: - The Population Model will be updated this summer to incorporate, cull data, the open range helicopter count figures, the recruitment and mortality count information, FES density, recruitment & mortality data, deer condition reports, HIA data, and availability of/changes to shelter and forage. **By: - 31/08/2019, Chair, Vice Chair, Members.** Agenda item 29/04/2019. Most cull figures are now in. We have to do some analysis between the 2016 and the 2019 count maps as much more area was included in the 2019 helicopter count and there are discrepancies between the areas shown between counts. HIA plots have/are being monitored with 180 open range plots in hand this year which will be analysed to inform the population model.
- 5.4 **Many** of the SNH map files are too large to upload onto the ADMG/ELSDMG website. Action Point: - Request to SNH to provide maps with smaller file sizes for update that maintain clarity. **By: - Chair meeting 29/04/2019.**
- 5.10 Action Point: - Request email addresses for Crofting/Township Clerks &etc. for ease of communication. **By: - Secretary.** Ongoing
- 8.2, 13.3 Action Point: - **Chair** to review and re-issue BPG group email to properties during **May 2019.**
- 9.2 Action point: - Review next 'no later than' date for helicopter count. **Chair, Vice Chair, Members.** **By 31/08/2019**
- 9.3 **Action** Point: - Recruitment and mortality counts are agenda items for meeting 29/04/2019 at which they will be delegated. **Agenda item 29/04/2019.** Recruitment counts are delegated. Mortality counts, we still have little detail as to how to carry these out or how to interpret any data gathered. **BPG has no detail. SNH to advise.**
- 9.4 Action Point: - FES to provide deer density, recruitment, and mortality data in good time to allow the Population Model to be updated by 31/08/2019. **Agenda item 29/04/2019.** JJ explained that they have not been able to carry this out this season but that it is now planned for the 2019/20 season.
- 10.1 Action Point: - Population model to be updated before 31/08/2019 and include helicopter open range, recruitment, mortality and FES counts. **FES [as agreed will]to provide data, Chair, Vice Chair, Members.** JJ explained that they have not been able to carry this out this season but that it is now planned for the 2019/20 season.
- 10.2 Action Point: - Cull apportionment to be agreed by 31/08/2019. **Chair, Vice Chair, Members.** SF advised that whilst we may indicate our anticipated stag cull now the actual cull targets will be confirmed to members upon completion of the population model. Latest date for issue 31/08/2019.
- 11.1, 11.2 Action Point: - **Chair** to request property completion of HIA log. Email 15/04/2019. Property replies by 24/04/2019. Agenda item. **Information from Ardgour/Glenscaddle,**

Carnoch, Conaglen, SGRPID. Most outstanding information presented by members prior to or at the meeting. Detail for Claish Moss outstanding SNH.

- 13.2 & PI 9.3 Action Point: - The ELSDMG Training and Skills log to be passed around for members update at the meeting 29/04/2019. Chair. Agenda item. Log passed around and filled in by members present.
- 14.2 & PI 11.4 Action Point: [Venison marketing] To be reviewed again prior to the main stag season. By Chair by 31/08/2019.
- 15.3 Action Point: A vote is to be held 29/04/2019 on holding the Autumn/Winter meeting in a Public place. Agenda item 29/04/2019. Vote taken and unanimously agreed.

Public Interest

- 1.3 Action Point: - The 1st edition Working Plan has been and continues to be updated as appropriate. Chair, Vice Chair. Up to date plans circulated and on the ADMG website. SF advised the group the Action Plan had been updated recently. Action Points are identified in the plan. (As summarised here.)
- 1.3 Action Point: - The 9th edition Background Information will be reviewed and updated through summer/autumn 2019. By Chair, Vice Chair. Up to date plans circulated and on the ADMG website. Further discussion here clarified that the group needs proper detail for Western Working Group specifics often in the form of DMP sections to include in the ELSDMP. Further progress on the DMP will be to clearly show the working groups in their own sections.
- 1.3 Action Point: - Plan updates to be notified to properties and maintained on the ADMG/ELSDMG website. Chair, Secretary. Up to date plans circulated and on the ADMG website. Ongoing.
- 2.2, 3.3, 3.4, 4.3, 4.4, 14.3 A consultant has been retained to prepare a collaborative woodland application to support a feasibility study, considering designated sites and woodland expansion which will then allow individual applications to SRDP. Plans are to include assessment and action to ensure welfare. Action Point: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Consultant, SNH, FCS. Ongoing. DM summarised to the meeting. Ongoing.
- 5.2 Request to SNH for guidance on impact targets to consider at the meeting 29/04/2019. Action point: Chair email request 15/04/2019. SNH guidance requested to be supplied in time for meeting 29/04/2019. See also Action Plan Benchmark 11.1, 11.2 Above.
- 5.3 HIA progressing and committed to. See ELS HIA Log. Action Point. Properties to complete ELS HIA Log relevant to their property. Chair to requested 15/04/2019. Property response by 24/04/2019. Information from Ardgour/Glenscaddle, Carnoch, Conaglen, SGRPID. Most information presented by members prior to or at the meeting. Claish Moss is the only one outstanding SNH.
- 5.6 Action Point: - DMP Background Section 18, update to include HIA cycle, analysis and what to do with data outcomes. Chair, Vice Chair, Members, DMP review summer 2019.
- 6.3 SNH WMO is invited again to promote 'Peatland restoration' at the Spring 2019 meeting with the emphasis being on perceived ecological and local benefits. Action Point: Chair to requested 15/04/2019. SNH to promote at meeting 29/04/2019. SF advised the group of his disappointment that all that was referred to at the last meeting was the grants available.
- 10.1 DVC information request to be added to the 2019 Annual Audit. By Chair, Vice Chair.
- 12.4 Action Point: - Agenda item for 29/04/2019 meeting is 'Sporting Rates Appeals'. Discussed, a number of concessions were reported and following the meeting further advice on how to seek the best outcome with the appeals was offered.

Sections

- 3.3 Action Point: - Section 3 to be updated relevant to the 2018/19 season in its entirety. **By Chair, Vice Chair prior to the Population Model update.**
- 5.0 Action Point: - The Population Model will be updated this summer to incorporate, cull data, the open range helicopter count figures, the FES density data, the recruitment and mortality count information – open range and FES enclosed woodlands, deer condition reports, HIA data, and availability of/changes to shelter and forage. **By: - 31/08/2019, Chair, Vice Chair, Members.**
- 5.1.2 Action Point: - A mortality count will be carried out alongside the recruitment count during May 2019 using the SNH suggested method from meeting 02/11/2018. **By: - To be delegated at group meeting 29/04/2019. Agenda Item. Mortality counts, we still have little detail as to how to carry these out or how to interpret any data gathered. BPG has no detail. SNH to offer guidance.**
- 5.1.3 Action Point: - A recruitment count will be carried out during May 2019 sampling 200 to 300 hinds/calves across the range to establish the ratio of hinds: calves surviving the winter. **By: - To be delegated at group meeting 29/04/2019. Agenda item. Recruitment counts are delegated.**
- **6.2 Action Point:** - Chair has asked SNH for guidance re Habitat impact targets. **By: - email 15/04/2019. SNH to respond.**
- **6.2 Action Point:** - SNH to give guidance in advance of the 29/04/2019 group meeting for consideration by all (See Public Interest 5.2 above.). **Agenda item 29/04/2019.**
- **6.2 Action Point:** - Chair, Vice Chair, Members to consider and incorporate as agreed into Action Plan and for Population Model update by 31/08/2019. **Agenda item 29/04/2019.**
- **6.2 Action Point:** - Review additional available HIA data to inform the Population Model update. **By Chair, Vice Chair, Members. Agenda item 29/04/2019. Most information presented by members prior to or at the meeting. Claish Moss is the only one outstanding SNH.**
- **7.0 Action Point:** - Compare and consider the achieved 2018/19 cull to the target. Understand any significant variation. **By: - Chair, Vice Chair, Members prior to the Population Model Update.**
- **7.0 Action Point:** - Propose provisional Group and individual property stag cull targets for next season (subject to population modelling outcomes). **Chair, Vice Chair, Members. Agenda item 29/04/2019. SF advised that whilst we may indicate our anticipated stag cull now the actual cull targets will be confirmed to members upon completion of the population model. Latest date for issue 31/08/2019.**
- **7.0 Action Point:** - Section 7 to be updated relevant to the 2019/20 season in its entirety. **By Chair, Vice Chair prior to the Population Model update**

The following are Action points from the Spring Reports.

- The 9th Edition DMP - Background Information will be reviewed and updated this summer. **Chair, Vice Chair.**
- The DMP, the Action Plan – Working Document and this report are publicly available and published on the ADMG website. **Chair, Secretary. Up to date plans circulated and on the ADMG website. Ongoing.**
- A proposed updated Constitution has been circulated to Voting Members and proxies with a vote on adoption scheduled for our meeting on the 29th April 2019. **Chair, Voting Members. Comments by 15/04/2019. Comments received prompting minor alterations. Voted on and approved unanimously.**

- The SNH WMO has previously suggested on a number of occasions he would encourage non-engaging properties to engage with the group. SNH. No reported action here. HP who was present at the meeting and who had previously been highlighted by SNH as a 'non engaging' property confirmed no approach had been made to him. Meanwhile, Chair confirmed he had been in dialogue with SGRPID who are committed to meeting attendance, engagement with the group and compliance with Benchmark and Public Interest criteria. The Chair has been in contact with Inversanda owners with a meeting TBC to include for DMG engagement.
- Ordinary Group Meetings are open to members, neighbours, stakeholders and the public. We are to vote on holding the Autumn meeting in a public place to facilitate and encourage wider attendance. Chair, Voting Members. Agenda item. Voted on and approved unanimously.
- Culls have been/will be recorded on either side of the count. Info; All please to Secretary by 29/04/2019. Most cull information is in now.
- Open range mortality counts will be carried out during May 2019. Agenda item. To be delegated at meeting 29/04/2019. Mortality counts, we still have little detail as to how to carry these out or how to interpret any data gathered. BPG has no detail. [Mortality counts] SNH may offer more guidance? SNH.
- FES is to provide population density, recruitment and mortality data for their areas. FES by 01/06/2019, please. JJ explained that they have not been able to carry this out this season but that it is now planned for the 2019/20 season.
- Cull targets: - Chair, Vice Chair, Members. By 31/08/2019.
- SNH WMO is invited to provide clarity at our spring 2019 meeting as to why our stated Habitat Impact Targets are not satisfactory. Chair has written to SNH 15/04/2019 for guidance. SNH to respond, requested response in time to prep for meeting.
- Peatland restoration: - Chair has written to SNH 15/04/2019. SNH reply at meeting 29/04/2019
- JNCC article which raises concern over the re-wetting of peatlands. <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5905> Comment on this is invited from SNH at our next group meeting. Chair written to SNH 15/04/2019 re peatland promotion and SNH comment re the JNCC article.
- HIA figures and map to be updated in due course. [When this year's HIA results are in.] Vice Chair.
- Ecologists carried out an extensive survey of Glen Gour during 2018, the results of which are still outstanding. Ard gour to follow up.
- Summary BPG compatible HIA data to be submitted to the DMG to consider with the Population Model update. All properties by 31/07/2019.
- A request for an HIA analysis spreadsheet for woodland was made to SNH 08/09/2018 and repeated 24/10/2018. SNH.
- Claish Moss will be creating 10 BB HIA plots during 2019. SNH 2019.
- RIPD are to carry out 30 Blanket Bog and 30 Dwarf Shrub Heath baseline plots this summer which will be re-assessed on a three-year cycle into the future. R Dunsmore July 2019.
- Resipole have been carrying out annual woodland grazing HIA's for many years. Resipole also confirmed the establishment of 10 Baseline DSH plots to BPG. Data sheets have been sent to Chair for analysis.
- Summary BPG compatible HIA data to be submitted to the DMG to consider with the Population Model update. All properties by 31/07/2019.