

EAST LOCH SHIEL DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP

DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN ACTION PLAN - WORKING DOCUMENT

2018 TO 2023 PERIOD

12th September 2018
Updated November 2018
Updated January 2019
Updated April 2019
May 2019

1st Edition

Compiled by:

East Loch Shiel Deer Management Group

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PREFACE

The East Loch Shiel Deer Management Plan has been privately funded and developed by the members of the East Loch Shiel Deer Management Group (ELSDMG). The Plan runs from 2018 until 2023 and has been formally endorsed by all the Members of the Group. The plan will be reviewed on an annual basis and can be updated if required to take account of any changing circumstances with the group area. A substantial plan review has been completed in September 2018 and a further formal review of the overall document will take place at no later than December 2023.

This Working Plan is used as the Group's action plan and is regularly updated to reflect current group issues and plans.

A separate document 'Deer Management Plan: Background Information' provides information about the structure and running of the Group, count and cull information, designated sites, and all other deer management issues that affect the Group.

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1.0 The DMG's Strategic Objectives

Based on the information provided in the Deer Management Plan: Background Information, it is considered that these are the main objectives for the East Loch Shiel Deer Management Group (ELSDMG), in all cases adhering to Best Practice Guidelines:-

The principal objectives of the group are:

- To safeguard, maintain and promote deer welfare and a healthy and sustainable population of red deer in balance with the natural heritage and land use requirements; such as sporting, commercial or native forestry and agricultural land uses.
- To address land use interests in a collaborative way, unconstrained by property ownership boundaries and to facilitate a grazing and/or fencing regime that will gradually enhance the quality and improve the condition of the designated sites and protect their associated habitats from long-term negative deer impacts when considering the lifecycles of the designated features in question.
- To manage the deer populations as a wildlife resource, to meet and expand upon the demand for stalking, and where possible in certain locations to attempt to increase the number of Red Stags available for sporting culls and also to improve the deer range habitat available to support an increased wild herd size.
- To optimise revenue streams from venison sales, stalking and tourism for the benefit of the DMG, the local community and local businesses.
- To support, maintain and where possible improve economic activity and local employment in the ELSDMG's rural locality via deer management, tourism, agriculture, forestry and construction and renewable energy activities where appropriate.
- To engage with any Government Agencies or other groups with a legitimate interest in the affairs of the group or the Group's deer management range.
- To establish thorough agreed arrangements, release of information to facilitate public access within the group area, taking account of current guidelines and industry initiatives.
- To strive to undertake deer management in the public interest whilst meeting individual management objectives.
- To ensure that an effective pro-active system of communication is in place for the purpose of members and for the wider community, agencies and other interested parties.
- To maintain an up-to-date Deer Management Plan that acts as a suitable source of information for all group members.
- To ensure full participation where possible from all members of ELSDMG throughout the DMG area.
- To make available such resources, training and monitoring capacity to achieve the above objectives.

2.0 Actions Summary

The members of the ELSDMG have set the following deer management actions which will be delivered by the DMG during the period of this plan, in conjunction with SNH, ADMG and others. The actions will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis, and others added, as appropriate.

2.1 Operation Of The Group

ELSDMG has been assessed against the ADMG Benchmark document developed by SNH. In this section of the plan, an account is given of how the DMG currently meets the recommended operating criteria and where appropriate, correcting actions are listed.

RED COMMENTS ARE FROM BIRNAM SEMINAR RE WHAT IS REQUIRED TO SCORE GREEN IN EACH SECTION WHERE THEY PROVIDED THE INFORMATION

The ADMG Benchmark		What DMG doing now? This is about current outputs	What will DMG do in the future? This is the detail for the DMP: Inc. Setting targets where appropriate	Action by	
1. Area and boundaries	1.1 Identify the appropriate boundaries for the group to operate in.	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>ELSDMG represents a body in excess of 23 properties with historic established boundaries.</p> <p>The southern boundary is shared with Morvern DMG and there is little crossover of deer. North, east & west boundaries secured by lochs & fences.</p>	<p>Keep boundaries under review.</p> <p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated.</p> <p>An updated (corrected) ELS DMG Boundaries and Properties Map has been prepared showing also the Western and Eastern Working Group areas. It is agreed that NSWG is a separate DMG in its own right and not part of ELSDMG.</p> <p>Action Point: - Correct left-hand table with properties number. Chair, Vice Chair.</p>		<p>DMP BI Section 7</p> <p>BI Appendix2</p> <p>Appendix 2.</p> <p>Email comms Chair – NSWG.</p>

	<p>1.2 Define appropriate sub populations where applicable</p>	<p>Previously considered a southwest end split in 2016 but deemed not suitable at that time.</p> <p>Agreed upon creation of two sub-groups Eastern and Western in August/September 2018.</p> <p>Subsequently a member suggestion that the South West woodlands and properties around to and including Drimnatorran woodlands and enclosed Claish Moss be included in the “Western Sub-Group” was circulated on 07/08/2018.</p> <p>Resolution from the majority of the members of the Eastern Sub-Group that this larger West/East Split was required and would proceed in September 2018.</p>	<p>Keep sub-group formation under review.</p> <p>Consultation in July/Aug18 re:- sub-group division. Agreement that the enclosed FES Glen Hurich, Polloch, and Achnanellan woodlands form a “Western Sub-Group”; leaving the remainder of the area the predominantly Open Range “Eastern Sub-Group.”</p> <p>Consultation via email to FES 31/07/2018. Group wide consultation via email 03/08/2018 following positive response from FES.</p> <p>It was agreed at the 02/11/2018 meeting that the ELSDMG would not form two sub-groups at this stage but would form two ‘Working Groups’, the Western End and Eastern End deferring a decision on splitting the group to a later meeting.</p> <p>Early indications are that the two working groups based around primarily separate deer populations and management practices are working well.</p> <p>Action Point: - Continue to monitor and develop the arrangement. All members.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Comms. list 1 & 2.</p>	<p>To FES email 31/07/2018</p> <p>Group emails 03/08/2018 07/08/2018 18/08/2018 11/09/2019</p> <p>Meeting 02/11/2018</p> <p>Meeting 29/04/2019</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">2. Membership</p>	<p>2.1 All property owners within a deer range should be members of a DMG, including private and public land owners; also, where possible, agricultural occupiers, foresters, crofters and others on adjoining land where deer may be present. In some cases, this may extend to householders with private gardens.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>23 properties and 9 subscribing members identified in DMP.</p> <p>All but 3 of these properties are regularly represented at the DMG meeting in person or by another member.</p>	<p>Through DMP process continue to contact non-attenders/members including posting hard copies of information and questionnaires etc to non-attending members.</p> <p>SNH are to look to bring members together and assist with facilitating sharing of information and lack of engagement from non-attending/engaging members.</p> <p>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</p> <p>As DMGs operate under a voluntary system the first principle would be that no property has to attend or be a member of a DMG. As such a DMG cannot compel any property or body to be a member of the DMG.</p> <p>Group continues to communicate with non-engaging properties where possible. Drimnatorran Farm has instructed us to stop communicating with them. Ariundle Farm is represented at meetings by Conaglen which holds their proxy for voting matters. Chair has communicated with NoSWoG and they are invited to the next meeting. NoSWoG Vice Chair advises that they are a DMG in their own right with their own DMP, that FES and SNH are both members of NoSWoG and are signatories to their Constitution. Chair has communicated with SGRIPD who have</p>	<p>Secretary SNH</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 7 Meeting 02/11/2018 17/07/2018 Email comms Chair/SNH 13/12/2018 Minutes 29/04/2019</p>
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			<p>committed to attendance at meetings in future.</p> <p>It is agreed that NSWG is a separate DMG in its own right and not part of ELSDMG.</p>		
<p>3. Meetings</p>	<p>3.1 DMGs should meet regularly. Two formal meetings per year is the norm but more frequent interaction between members, between meetings, should be encouraged.</p>	<p>The ELSDMG will hold a minimum of two annual meetings at a convenient time and location generally early (November) in the hind and (July) in the stag stalking seasons. At these DMG meetings the members will undertake open discussions to report, consider and resolve any differences in deer management objectives within the ELSDMG area.</p> <p>Management and local meetings held as needed. Email and phone calls between.</p> <p>If required due to e.g. a new woodland proposal, weather/mortality or change of ownership/tenant a member can request a Special Meeting to be held to discuss any issues which may arise.</p> <p>All meetings have an agenda and are minuted. The minutes are circulated to members after each meeting so that members can follow up on any required actions.</p>	<p>Secretary to ensure meeting happens minimum twice per year.</p> <p>The DMG will collate information from the group meeting in the format of minutes and from Autumn 2018 the DMG meeting minutes are to be structured to include the Action Points list from the DMP. These minutes will provide up-to-date information to the members and public as necessary.</p> <p>The minutes are to be published on the ADMG website.</p> <p>SNH are to look to bring members together and assist with facilitating sharing of information and lack of engagement from non-attending/engaging members.</p> <p>Action Point: - SNH</p>	<p>Secretary SNH</p>	<p>Meeting minutes file.</p> <p>ADMG website</p> <p>Meeting 02/11/2018</p> <p>Email comms Chair/SNH 13/12/2018</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</p>

	<p>3.2 For effective collaborative management to take place it is important that all DMG Members should attend every meeting or be represented by someone authorised to make appropriate decisions on their behalf.</p>	<p>Where members cannot attend a meeting, they may elect to be represented in proxy by an agreed party (usually the shooting tenant or neighbour).</p>	<p>Non-attenders are encouraged to attend.</p> <p>Consideration to be given to moving the (July) stag meeting as this often clashes with members/representatives' holidays.</p> <p>Action Point: - ELSDMG Spring meeting moved to April/May to facilitate opportunity for improved attendance.</p> <p>SNH are to look to bring members together and assist with facilitating sharing of information and lack of engagement from non-attending/engaging members.</p> <p>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</p> <p>As DMGs operate under a voluntary system the first principle would be that no property has to attend or be a member of a DMG. As such a DMG cannot compel any property or body to be a member of the DMG.</p> <p>Group continues to communicate with non-engaging properties where possible. Drimnatorran Farm has instructed us to stop communicating with them. Ariundle Farm is represented at meetings by Conaglen which holds their proxy for voting matters. Chair has communicated with NoSWoG and they are invited to the next meeting. NoSWoG Vice Chair advises that they are a DMG in their own right with their own DMP, that FES and SNH are both members of NoSWoG and both are</p>	<p>Agenda next meeting. SNH</p>	<p>Meeting 02/11/2018 17/07/2018</p> <p>Email comms Chair/SNH 13/12/2018</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019 See report</p>
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			<p>signatories to their Constitution. Chair has communicated with SGRIPD who have committed to attendance at meetings in future.</p> <p>It is agreed that NSWG is a separate DMG in its own right and not part of ELSDMG.</p>		
	<p>3.3 In addition to landholding Members, including public sector owners, public agencies such as SNH and Forestry Commission Scotland should be in attendance and other relevant authorities such as Police Scotland may be invited to attend DMG meetings.</p>	<p>Police Scotland have attended.</p> <p>FES and SNH also regularly attend participating in dual roles both as members and as public agencies.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Consider Police Scotland attendance in future if any upcoming issues e.g. poaching.</p> <p>Consultees and other interested parties to be advised of the formal meetings and invited to attend. See 15.1.</p> <p>Stakeholders invites sent out in advance via post and email as appropriate.</p> <p>Police invited to November 2018, this (April 2019) and future meetings. Scottish Forestry invited to this (April 2019) and future meetings.</p> <p>Action Point: - Local Police and Scottish Forestry to be added to the Meetings mailing lists. By Secretary. With immediate effect.</p>	<p>Comms list 2 & 3.</p>	<p>Police comms 07&08/2018</p> <p>Consultees invited.</p> <p>Email comms 03/04/2019</p>

	<p>3.4 Meetings should operate to an agenda and be accurately minuted. Attendees should be encouraged to participate and agreed actions and decisions should be recorded.</p>	<p>Agendas are produced prior to the meetings. Minutes are produced post meetings and actions identifiable for participants.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Ensure actions are identified in minutes. Minutes are to be published on the ADMG website.</p> <p>Going forward it is anticipated that the ELSDMG Working Plan will form part of each meeting agenda.</p> <p>Consideration to be given to engaging a minute taker for meetings to ensure accuracy and completeness.</p> <p>Secretary took meeting minutes 02/11/2018 voice recording also made. Minutes published on ADMG website.</p> <p>Ditto for 29/04/2019 meeting.</p>	<p>Secretary Agenda item</p>	<p>Agenda and Minutes Files</p>
	<p>3.5 Group can demonstrate a capacity to deal with issues between meetings as they arise, and to provide an ongoing source of communication and advice as required.</p>	<p>Informally dealt with, significant numbers of properties under common management so little conflict arises ie FES or BPL.</p> <p>The DMG have written to the stakeholders list in both 2017 and 2018 to ask for comments on the DMP and will do so again when future editions are ready for circulation.</p> <p>The DMG have engaged with the Ardgour CC over a night licensing issues in Clovullin in Aug 2018.</p> <p>Where practical, criteria are addressed between meetings via email leaving more time at the meetings to concentrate on our group Key Priority Criteria.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Conflict and Grievance Procedure in DMP – Conflicts to be raised at meetings or via the Chairman for action.</p> <p>Ongoing Group and individual emails.</p> <p>Group officers email files demonstrate extensive communications re DMG issues with most issues resolved or progressed.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair Members.</p>	<p>Email Files</p>

			Deer & management issues &etc. are often addressed between meetings via telephone and emails.		
4. Constitution & Finances	4.1 All DMGs should have a Constitution which defines the area of the Group, sets out its purpose, its operating principles, membership and procedures, in addition to providing for appointing office bearers, voting, raising subscriptions and maintaining financial records.	The DMG Constitution was re-circulated in May 2017 and agreed by members in June 2017.	<p>Review as necessary.</p> <p>Vice Chair needs to be formally appointed.</p> <p>Agenda item for next meeting.</p> <p>Action Point: - A vote to confirm Vice Chair appointment to be taken at meeting 29/04/2019. Chair, Voting Members.</p> <p>Agenda item. Approved unanimously at meeting.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Agenda item. Updated Constitution adopted unanimously at meeting.</p>	Vice Chair Agenda item.	<p>DMP BI Appendix 1.</p> <p>Group email 08/04/2019</p> <p>Agenda 29/04/2019</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</p>

	<p>4.2 Good management and budgeting of finances.</p>	<p>Group has no bank account, so expenses generally are dealt with via a single member paying invoices then billing members their proportion e.g. helicopter counts. Or via self-billing invoices raised to members for direct settlement e.g. ADMG fees.</p> <p>Finances dealt with by members on 'as and when basis'.</p> <p>Finance continues on an 'as and when basis'.</p>	<p>Group will need to consider if current banking arrangements would allow application for public funding if ever sought.</p> <p>Should public funding be sourced consider the funder paying the contractor directly. This then deals with VAT effectively at the same time.</p>		
<p>5. Deer Management Plans</p>	<p>5.1 All DMGs should have an up to date, effective and forward-looking Deer Management Plan (DMP).</p>	<p>The 8th Edition of the DMP was circulated in May 2017 and agreed by members in June 2017.</p> <p>The 9th Edition is currently with members for comments before public circulation and adoption.</p> <p>9th edition DMP was circulated for consultation to members and consultees in September 2018.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>9th edition DMP Background Information and 1st edition working plan formally adopted at 02/11/2018 meeting subject to ongoing amendments which will be highlighted.</p> <p>Action Point: - The 1st edition Working Plan has and continues to be updated as appropriate. Chair, Vice Chair.</p> <p>Action Point: - The 9th edition Background Information will be reviewed and updated through summer/autumn 2019. By Chair, Vice Chair. And will include for the two working groups. It is expected that an annual review/update of the Background Information is ample.</p>	<p>Secretary</p>	<p>DMP BI and Action Plan. Meeting 02/11/2018</p>

			<p>Action Point: - Plan updates to be notified to properties and maintained on the ADMG/ELSDMG website. Chair, Secretary.</p>		
	<p>5.2 The DMP should record all the land management objectives within the DMG area.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document. Group objectives are identified in the working Action Plan Document.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Update with members input as required to ensure the DMP Edition 9 expands on land management objectives among members.</p> <p>The 9th edition DMP and 1st edition Working Plan were issued to members and properties for consultation in advance of adoption via email. Stakeholders & Crofting Clerks were consulted via email or post advising of the link to ADMG website where the document is available to all.</p> <p>The ELSDMG officers consider there have been no significant changes to land management objectives since the preparation of our current DMP. Our DMP's are adaptive and the group or</p>	<p>Vice Chair</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 7 & Action Plan Meeting 02/11/2018</p> <p>See comms file 9th, 10th, 20th October 2019</p> <p>See comms file 03/04/2019</p>

			<p>properties within the area will respond to changes or circumstances as they arise.</p> <p>Action Point: - Annual Audit to request changes in management objectives from properties: - Chair, Vice Chair – summer 2019.</p>		
	<p>5.3 Where applicable, the plan should include a rolling 5-year population model.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document and Working Action Plan Document.</p>	<p>A forward-looking population model is appended to this Working Plan and further details are included in the DMP Background Information Document.</p> <p>Population targets etc need to be annually agreed with members. Population model will be updated post 2019 winter/spring counts.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Chair Vice Chair Members</p>	<p>DMP BI Section19. Action Plan Appendix. Meeting 02/11/2018 Minutes 29/04/2019</p>
	<p>5.4 Appropriate use of maps to illustrate relevant detail.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p>	<p>Relevant maps and data included in the DMP Background Information document, which will be periodically reviewed and</p>	<p>Vice Chair</p>	<p>DMP BI Appendix' 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 5,</p>

			<p>discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Consider potential for inclusion of any other relevant mapping as new information becomes available.</p> <p>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.</p>		<p>6, 7, 8, 9, and 11.</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</p>
	<p>5.5 The DMP should identify the public interest aspects of deer management.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Public Interest aspects of deer management form the second section of this Working Plan.</p>		<p>DMP BI Action Plan Meeting 02/11/2018</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</p>
	<p>5.6 DMP should make appropriate reference to other species of deer within the DMG area and provide a level of detail proportionate to this interest.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>A shoot on sight policy has been agreed with all members in relation to Muntjac (not currently resident in Scotland), wild boar (not currently resident the DMG area) and Sika (only 2 ever culled in group area).</p> <p>Wild Goats are not to be culled if they return to the DMG area.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Group to re-consider should the situation change and revise content as and when other species and their management increase or decrease in importance.</p>		<p>DMP BI Section 15.</p>

		Currently no issues with other species, with only roe deer present which for most are only a minor issue.			
	<p>5.7 It should include a list of actions that deliver the collective objectives of DMG Members as well as public interest objectives. These actions should be updated annually.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>This Working Plan is the action list and is to be updated annually or more frequently to address specific items.</p>	<p>The DMG will ensure continued development and periodic review of the DMP Background Information document and of the Working Action Plan document to provide an up-to-date and evolving DMP.</p> <p>See Action Plan Benchmark 5.1 above.</p>	Vice Chair	DMP BI & WP.
	<p>5.8 It is important that all DMG Members should play a full part in the planning process and in the implementation of agreed actions.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>All members are encouraged to play their part in the planning process and implementation of agreed actions.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>All DMG members have been included in the DMP process and members are fully consulted on with the DMP and updates.</p> <p>SNH are to look to bring members together and assist with facilitating sharing of information and lack of engagement from non-attending/engaging members.</p> <p>See Action Plan Benchmark 2.1, 3.2, 5.2, above.</p> <p>It has been incorrectly put forward in the past that NSWG was part of ELSDMG. Subsequently it is established that NSWG is a DMG in its own right with a DMP &etc. SNH and FES are signatories to their Constitution.</p> <p>It is agreed that NSWG is a separate DMG in its own right and not part of ELSDMG.</p>	Secretary SNH	<p>Meetings attendee lists. Email Files.</p> <p>Meeting 02/11/2018 17/07/2018</p> <p>Email comms Chair/SNH 13/12/2018</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</p>

			<p>The ELSDMG adopted Constitution Boundaries and Properties Map defines the correct ELSDMG area.</p>		
	<p>5.9 The DMP may identify potential conflicts and how they can be prevented or addressed to ensure an equitable approach to the shared deer population.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>The DMG have written to the stakeholders list in both 2017 and 2018 to ask for comments on the DMP and will do so again when future editions are ready for circulation.</p> <p>The DMG have engaged with the Ardgour CC over a night licensing issues in Clovullin in Aug 2018.</p> <p>Conflicts: Should be raised at the meetings or between meetings with/via the Chairman. See Benchmark 3.5.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>As required further consider in DMP development how conflicts will be dealt with, if identified.</p> <p>A working procedure for raising and dealing with conflicts is included in the DMP Background Information.</p> <p>DMP identifies conflict over FES failed fences. This has been addressed on a number of occasions at the meetings and via direct comms with FES officers.</p> <p>It is often not possible to identify potential conflicts that may or may not occur in the future. The DMP sets out a conflicts and grievance procedure that allows the DMG to address issues in a structured manner.</p> <p>The Agricultural issue is covered in the Spring 2019 report.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair Secretary</p>	<p>Police comms 07 to 09 /2018.</p> <p>Meetings 02/11/2018 17/07/2018 02/11/2017. DMP BI Section 17.4</p> <p>Email files 07 to 09/2018</p> <p>Meeting 02/11/2018</p> <p>DMP BI 17.4</p>

	<p>5.10 Relevant local interests should be consulted on new DMPs and advised of any changes as they come forward.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Local interests are consulted on DMP's and advised of changes as they occur.</p> <p>A consultee/stakeholders list is included in DMP.</p> <p>The DMP and approved meeting minutes are published on the ADMG website. Members, consultees and interested parties will be emailed to inform of changes.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Local interests are to be consulted on DMP's and advised of changes as they occur.</p> <p>An open and transparent process is followed and plan is accessible to stakeholders.</p> <p>Stakeholders consultation, invites etc. sent out in advance via post and email as appropriate.</p> <p>Both parts of the new DMP was issued to members and properties for consultation in advance of adoption via email. Stakeholders & Crofting Clerks were consulted via email or post advising of the link to ADMG website where the document is available to all. Action Point: - Request email addresses for Crofting/Township Clerks &etc. for ease of communication. By: - Secretary.</p>	<p>Secretary</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 17</p> <p>DMP BI, Action Plan and meeting agenda's minutes etc on ADMG website.</p> <p>See comms file 9th, 10th, 20th October 2019</p> <p>Comms 03/04/2019</p>
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<p>6. Code of Practice on Deer Management</p>	<p>6.1 The Code should be endorsed by all DMGs and referenced in both the Constitution and Deer Management Plan of every Group. The terms of the Code should be delivered through the Group Deer Management Plan.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>The DMG members will undertake, the principles laid out in the Code of Practice on Deer Management.</p> <p>All members are aware and working to this standard.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>The Chairman will email the membership with the link to the online document for reference. Group email sent 29/11/2018</p> <p>Members to deliver on the terms of the Code in their work.</p> <p>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. Adopted unanimously 29/04/2019 includes COP on DM.</p>	<p>Chair, Members.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 2</p> <p>Training etc log.</p> <p>Group email 29/11/2018 02/01/2019</p> <p>Group email 08/04/2019</p> <p>Agenda 29/04/2019</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</p>
<p>7. ADMG Principles of Collaboration</p>	<p>7.1 The Principles of Collaboration should be incorporated into all DMG Constitutions and Deer Management Plans.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>All members are aware of these principles.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>The Chairman will email the membership with the link to the online document for reference. Group email sent 29/11/2018.</p> <p>The DMG members will adhere to, the ADMG Principles of Collaboration.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Chair, Members</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 4.</p> <p>Training etc log.</p> <p>Group email 29/11/2018 02/01/2018</p> <p>Group email 08/04/2019</p> <p>Agenda 29/04/2019</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</p>

			Agenda item. Adopted unanimously 29/04/2019, includes POC.		
8. Best Practice	8.1 All deer management should be carried out in accordance with Best Practice.	Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.	Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail. Members to deliver on the terms of the Code in their work.	Chair, Members.	DMP BI Section 3. Training etc log.
	8.2 All Deer Management Plans should reference and follow WDBP which will continue to evolve.	The DMG members will undertake, the principles laid out in the Best Practice Guidance notes. All members are aware of and are working to Best Practice.	Best Practice are no longer disseminating updates or news either in hard copy or via email. The emphasis is on the user now to find out for themselves any changes. The Chairman will email the membership with the link to the online document for reference. Group email sent 11/09/2018. Action Point: - Chair to review and re-issue BPG group email to properties during May 2019.	Chair, Members.	DMP BI Section 3. Training etc log. Members email 11/09/2018

9. Data and evidence gathering- Deer Counts	<p>9.1 Accurate deer counting forms the basis of population modelling. An ethos that reflects this should be in evidence.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Due to remoteness aerial counts are considered the only effective method of counting our open hill range.</p> <p>Members aim to complete at least one full co-ordinated and systematic census of the whole ELSDMG area every five years.</p> <p>A privately funded helicopter count was completed in the March 2016 of the Open Range.</p> <p>DM collated and circulated deer count map and information to ELSDMG members following the count.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Next count scheduled no later than 2021. Referred to in 01/12/2015 and 26/07/2016 minutes. Also, in DMP.</p> <p>Discuss and agree on timing of next deer count and methods.</p> <p>Nominate and select members who will co-ordinate deer counting and carry out a deer count when weather conditions are suitable.</p> <p>SNH propose a helicopter count this season. See 9.2</p>	<p>Count map in 8th edition.</p> <p>Meetings 12/02/2015 22/06/2015 01/12/2015 26/07/2016 02/11/2017 17/06/2018 02/11/2018 DMP BI Section 8. Count map appendix.</p>
	<p>9.2 As publicly funded aerial counts are now exceptional, DMGs should aim to carry out a regular well planned coordinated foot count of the whole open range deer population. The norm is to count annually.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Due to remoteness aerial counts are considered the only effective method of counting our open hill range. The last open hill aerial count was undertaken in 2016.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Next aerial count scheduled no later than 2021. Referred to in 01/12/2015 and 26/07/2016 minutes. Also, in DMP.</p> <p>Keep regular aerial counts under review. Consider use of ground counts if aerial counts become uneconomic.</p> <p>SNH propose a helicopter count this season.</p>	<p>As 9.1</p> <p>Minutes 09/04/2019 Vice Chair email request 01/05/2019.</p>

			<p>SNH helicopter count completed 09/01/2019. Final mapped results issued April 2019. Data will be used to update the Population Model.</p> <p>Action point: - Review next 'no later than' date for helicopter count. Chair, Vice Chair, Members. By 31/08/2019</p> <p>Action Point: - Request made to SNH 01/05/2019 for alteration to or GIS files for the count map supplied to enable comparison to previous counts. By: - SNH.</p>		
	<p>9.3 Recruitment and mortality counts are also essential for population modelling.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>The ELSDMG will collect, collate and review data available within the DMG which might be used as a proxy for deer health/welfare i.e. count and cull numbers, recruitment, winter mortality and HIA range assessment information where it is available from members.</p> <p>Stalkers are required to record all observed cases of natural mortality, making note of sex, approximate age and possible cause of death.</p> <p>Property Audit information collated by July 2018 and the data requirements for population modelling are detailed in the DMP.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Post 17/07/2017 meeting further recruitment and mortality information was gathered and included in population model. Agenda item for next meeting is to detail and delegate spot recruitment counts of perhaps 200-300 hinds during April/May each year across the range to determine average recruitment that can be applied to the population model.</p>	<p>Agenda item. Chair, Deer managers.</p>	<p>Mail to SNH re mortality counts sent 09/09/2018</p> <p>Meetings 02/11/2018 17/07/2018 02/11/2017 01/12/2015 22/06/2015 DMP BI Section 8.</p> <p>Agenda for meeting 29/04/2019</p>

			<p>Chairman to ask SNH if there is any recognised practical method for the group to use to establish mortality percentages.</p> <p>Methods and by who agreed at 02/11/2018 meeting. See minutes.</p> <p>Action Point: - Recruitment and mortality counts are agenda items for meeting 29/04/2019 at which they will be delegated. Recruitment counts delegated at meeting 29/04/2019. Mortality counts, we were to request more guidance from SNH at the meeting. Counters will record carcasses found in order that with SNH guidance we can turn the data into a meaningful statistic. By: -SNH.</p>		
	<p>9.4 Other census methods may be required in some circumstances, e.g. dung counting in woodland or other concealing habitats or on adjoining open ground.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>FES completed dung counting in 2009 in Glenhurich and leader damage assessments in 2016.</p> <p>No population information provided by FES to the group since 2011.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Encourage FES to complete woodland deer counting/sampling in 2018/19 to update population model. FES agreed will provide population count/estimate this winter.</p> <p>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. FLS information now for 2019/20.</p>	<p>Agenda item</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 8.</p> <p>Meeting 02/11/2018</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">10. Data and evidence gathering- Culls</p>	<p>10.1 All DMGs should agree a target deer population or density which meets the collective requirements of Members without detriment to the public interest.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>With a good helicopter count having been recently completed in spring 2016, the group should continue to use population modelling and recruitment counts on an annual basis. Information on mortality shall also be collated on an annual basis.</p> <p>General mortality, recruitment and other information is discussed during each DMG meeting.</p> <p>In addition, annual audit sheets have circulated to members to gather information which will then be compiled.</p> <p>A forward-looking Population Model and Target is appended to this Working Plan.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Further information obtained post July 2018 meeting allowing completion of population model. Detail is included in population model.</p> <p>Population model appended to this working plan. The population model has been circulated to the members.</p> <p>The population model target and cull target will be updated annually.</p> <p>Action Point: - Population model to be updated before 31/08/2019 and include helicopter open range, recruitment, mortality and FES counts. FES to provide data, Chair, Vice Chair, Members.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Chair</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Population model 07/2018 DMP BI section 19 Action Plan Meeting 02/11/2018</p>
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	<p>10.2 The cull should be apportioned among Members to deliver the objectives of the DMP and individual management objectives while maintaining the agreed target population and favourable environmental condition.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>A forward-looking population model has been prepared and cull targets discussed and agreed between members to achieve management and environmental objectives.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Proposed and actual cull information is included in DMP/WP/Minutes and the population model which is appended to this working plan. See minutes.</p> <p>Individual sporting interests' objectives are constrained while significant migration continues into the insecure woodlands (see Population Model etc. below). Action Point: - Cull apportionment to be agreed by 31/08/2019. Chair, Vice Chair, Members.</p> <p>Current deer densities and culls have been stable for a long time. Open range densities are at the lower end of the SNH medium rated density. Herbivore pressure is significantly reduced. Habitat monitoring is under way and the DMG will adapt to issues as they arise. It is not appropriate to alter the cull or density on the basis of crystal ball gazing or guess work. It may be that evidence, when it is available, will inform changes to address specific issues. Cull and density levels may alter or even just where the culls are concentrated may change.</p> <p>It is recognised that the most robust method of protection of designated site interests is often by exclusion of</p>	<p>Chair</p>	<p>Population model 2018</p> <p>Meetings 29/04/2019 02/11/2018 17/07/2018 02/11/2017 01/12/2015 DMP BI Section 19</p>
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			<p>herbivores by deer fencing and that the principle of rotational fencing is suitable to retain existing native woodland cover and improve woodland condition in the medium to long term whilst at the same taking other factors into consideration.</p>		
	<p>10.3 The Group cull target should be reviewed and, if necessary, adjusted annually.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p><u>Cull targets</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A forward-looking population model has been prepared and cull targets discussed and agreed between members. • Proposed culls for the coming season are considered and decided at the hind and stag group meetings. • At the March 2017 meeting cull targets were agreed for the 2017/18 season, but following a very wet Autumn and Winter the members discussed and agreed increasing the cull targets somewhat to ensure best deer welfare standards were maintain. • At the July 2018 meeting cull targets were agreed for the 2018 Stag season. 	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Population model appended to this working plan will be updated annually.</p> <p>Members to discuss/review proposed hind cull at hind meeting and may vary as deemed necessary. See minutes.</p> <p>Agenda item 29/04/2019.</p>	<p>Chair, Agenda Item.</p>	<p>Population model 2018</p> <p>DMP BI Section 19 Section 20</p> <p>Meetings 02/11/2018</p> <p>29/04/2019</p>

<p>11. Data and evidence gathering- Habitat Monitoring</p>	<p>11.1 DMGs should carry out habitat monitoring. Habitat Impact Assessments (HIA) measure progress towards agreed habitat condition targets on both designated sites and the wider deer range.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Detail provided in DMP and HIA range assessment information, where it is available from members, will be collated by late spring 2019.</p> <p>Green if HIA undertaken across an appropriate proportion of the DMG area; milestones met in terms of reviewing results in relation to objectives outlined in DMP.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Updated Action Plan and note of discussions and conclusions are provided in DMP/WP/Minutes.</p> <p>Commitment from Ardgour, Claish Moss, Conaglen, Druim Laith, Glenscaddle Resipole Farm to a program of HIA's.</p> <p>Request for HIA data sent out via group email 02/01/2019. SGRIPD have indicated a willingness to carry out HIA's in future.</p> <p>RIPD have confirmed they will be carrying out HIA with action planned 'in the next few weeks'.</p> <p>See other HIA results summary in spring 2019 supplementary report.</p> <p>See ELS HIA Log.</p> <p>Action Point: - Chair to request property completion of HIA log. Email 15/04/2019. Property replies by 24/04/2019. Agenda item.</p> <p>180 plots BPG BB & DSH committed to for assessment this season with 110 already assessed on a three year cycle. Data to be analysed and detailed map when all results</p>	<p>Meetings 29/04/2019 02/11/2018 17/07/2018 02/11/2017 13/03/2017 22/06/2015 12/02/2015</p> <p>DMP BI Section 18</p> <p>Group email 11/09/2018 02/01/2019</p> <p>Email 11/04/2019</p> <p>Spring 2019 group report.</p> <p>ELS HIA Log. Appendix11.</p>
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			are in. Indicative map prepared at Appendix 11. HIA log summarises. See Public Interest 5. Below.		
	11.2 HIAs should be carried out on a systematic and regular basis. A three year cycle is the norm but many find annual monitoring useful.	Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.	See Action Plan Benchmark 11.1 above. BPG HIA commitment is for a 3 yearly cycle. Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail. Action Point: - Chair to request property completion of HIA log. Email 15/04/2019. Property replies by 24/04/2019. Agenda item. Information supplied, log updated.		DMP BI Section 18.
	11.3 Data is required on other herbivores present and their impact on the habitat.				DMP BI Section 18.
	11.4 DMPs should include a section on habitat monitoring methods and procedures and record annual results so as to measure change and record trends.				DMP BI Section 18. HIA log.
12. Competence	12.1 It is recommended that in addition to DSC 1 deer managers should also attain DSC 2 or equivalent.	Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document. A Skills, Experience, Training and Certification schedule is appended to this Working Plan.	Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then		DMP BI Section 13. Training etc log

		All contributing properties are represented by members with a minimum of DSC1 with trained hunter exemption and many with DSC2.	minuted and/or information circulated to members via e-mail. To be updated annually with information gathered from the members and Audit Sheets. Training etc. log updated at meeting 29/04/2019.		Minutes 29/04/2019
	12.2 Deer managers supplying venison for public consumption are required to certify carcasses as fit for human consumption to demonstrate due diligence. "Trained Hunter" status is required for carcass certification.	Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document. DSC1 or 'Trained Hunter' is required to certify carcasses fit for human consumption. All contributing properties are represented by members with a minimum of DSC1 with trained hunter exemption and many with DSC2.	Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted and/or information circulated to members via e-mail. Training schedule shows all estates (other than Claish Moss) supplying venison for public consumption do have 'trained hunter' status. If sufficient additional members need training/certification consider an in-house course for un-qualified members. Claish Moss now has a DSC2 deer controller.	Agenda item. Chair.	Email sent to members 17/08/2018 re Scottish Venison videos. Training log WP. DMP BI Section 13.
13. Training	13.1 All DMGs should have a training policy and incorporate it in the DMP.	Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document. A training policy is included in Section 13.1 of the 9th Edition DMP Background Information . Discussed and agreed with members as part of DMP.	Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.		DMP BI Section 13. Training etc log

	<p>13.2 All DMG Members or those acting on their behalf should undergo the necessary training to demonstrate Competence.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>The Skills, Experience, Training and Certification schedule is appended to this Working Plan.</p> <p>All contributing properties are represented by members with a minimum of DSC1 and many with DSC2.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>The DMG has full coverage of industry minimum standards.</p> <p>The training schedule will be reviewed annually to establish if there are any further training requirements. Next review summer/autumn 2019.</p> <p>Action Point: - The ELSDMG Training and Skills log to be passed around for members update at the meeting 29/04/2019. Chair. Agenda item. Action completed 29/04/2019.</p>	Chair	<p>DMP BI Section 13. Training etc log</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</p>
	<p>13.3 The training policy should promote and record continuing professional development through Best Practice Guidance.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Section 13.1 Background Information document.</p> <p>There is a group undertaking to deliver the terms of WDPB.</p> <p>Also see 12.1 13.1 and 13.2.</p> <p>Policy agreed with members and in DMP.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Concern raised at meeting 02/11/2018 that BPG will no longer send out updates or circulate information. SNH response 06/11/2018 that changes will be publicised via member organisations. Group email 11/09/2018.</p> <p>BPG awareness and availability is recorded on ELS Training Log.</p> <p>Action Point: - Chair to review and re-issue BPG group email in May 2019.</p>		<p>DMP BI Section 13. Training etc log</p> <p>Group email 11/09/2019</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</p>

14. Venison Marketing	<p>14.1 Membership of the Scottish Quality Wild Venison scheme is recommended by ADMG.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Members are encouraged to join the SQWV scheme.</p> <p>With the recent addition of Resipole Farm to the SQWV scheme in late 2018, a total of 79.2% of the DMG area and 80.6% of the average annual cull is currently processed under the SQWV scheme.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>SQWV are offering free larder assessments through 2018. Chair will circulate the membership with the detail.</p> <p>Carnoch is now SQWV registered, Number 139.</p> <p>Training log to be updated periodically</p>	<p>Chair</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 16. Training etc log.</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</p>
	<p>14.2 There is evidence of collaborative venison production within the Group.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Venison marketing and selection of a Game Dealer for venison collection to be considered by the members and agreed annually.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Fyne Game have made an offer for this season (2018/19) with a covering letter which the Chairman will circulate around the membership recommending acceptance but also inviting members' comments/alternatives.</p> <p>Group email 15/08/2018 sent. Collaborates not just with our members but with MDMG also. Group wide agreement.</p> <p>Action Point: To be reviewed again prior to the main stag season. By Chair by 31/08/2019.</p>	<p>Chair. Members.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 16. Training etc log.</p> <p>Email 14/08/2018 16/08/2018</p> <p>Group email 15/08/2018.</p>

15. Communications	<p>15.1 DMGs should include a Communications Policy in their DMP. External communication should be directed at parties not directly involved but with an interest in deer management including individuals, local bodies such as community councils, local authorities, local media and other specialist interests.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>DMP contains agreed policy, group will attend local community councils ask stakeholders identified in plan for comment on DMG's activities.</p> <p>A contacts/stakeholders' list is appended to the Working Plan.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Continue communication between Community Councils and ELSDMG.</p> <p>ELSDMG should keep their communications policy up dated.</p> <p>Secretary to circulate information as agreed. Consultation notice sent to stakeholders 10/10/2018 and invite to meeting. DMP on ADMG website.</p> <p>Meeting notice sent 03/04/2019.</p>	Secretary	<p>BMI BI Section 17.</p> <p>Email and postal files 03/04/2019</p>
	<p>15.2 An annual communication programme suitable to local circumstances is advised. This might include a DMG website or a page on www.deer-management.co.uk, an annual Newsletter, annual open meeting, or attending local meetings by invitation.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>The DMP and approved meeting minutes are published on the ADMG website. Members, consultees and interested parties will be emailed to inform of changes.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>The ELS DMP to be reviewed annually with updates included and notification sent to stakeholders' list.</p> <p>Consultation notice sent to stakeholders 10/10/2018 and invite to meeting. DMP on ADMG website. Meeting notice and reference to website 03/04/2019.</p> <p>Meetings are open to members, stakeholders and the public.</p> <p>Action Point: A vote is to be held 29/04/2019 on holding the Autumn/Winter meeting in a Public place.</p>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary	<p>ADMG website.</p> <p>BMI BI Section 17.</p>
	<p>15.3 A Deer Management Plan should be accessible and publicly available, and local consultation during its development is advised.</p>			Secretary	<p>ADMG website.</p> <p>Direct to members etc. DMP BI Appendix 12</p> <p>BMI BI Section 17.</p>

			Agenda item 29/04/2019. Approved unanimously 29/04/2019.	Agenda 29/04/2019. Minutes 29/04/2019
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2.2 Delivering Public Interests

ELSDMG has been assessed against the DMG Delivery of Public Interest document developed by Scottish Natural Heritage and the Association for Deer Management Groups. In this section of the plan, an account is given of how the Group currently delivers public benefit and where appropriate, correcting actions are listed.

RED COMMENTS ARE FROM BIRNAM SEMINAR RE WHAT IS REQUIRED TO SCORE GREEN IN EACH SECTION WHERE THEY PROVIDED THE INFORMATION

SNH Actions 1 to 14		What DMG doing now? This is about current outputs	What will DMG do in the future? This is the detail for the DMP: Inc. Setting targets where appropriate	Action by	
<p>1. ACTIONS to develop mechanisms to manage deer.</p>	<p>1.1 Carry out an assessment of effectiveness against the Benchmark.</p>	<p>Completed on 13/11/2014 & 21/06/16 ADMG Review 21/09/2018. SNH Assessment Spring 2019. <i>ADMG review carried out, report circulated to members, raised at meeting 02/11/2018 posted on ADMG website.</i></p>	<p>DMG will complete ADMG review in Sept 2018 & SNH Benchmark review in April/May 2019 Ensure that continued assessment is undertaken of ELSDMG against the benchmark in collaboration with SNH. 'Health Check' by ADMG scheduled September. Corrective or further development post 'Health Check' in preparation for: SNH review spring 2019. <i>SNH spring 2019 Assessment scheduled for 08/05/2019. Date changed by agreement to 07/05/2019.</i></p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p><i>Meeting 02/11/2018</i></p>

	<p>1.2 Develop a series of actions to be implemented and assign roles.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document & DMP Action Plan document.</p> <p>Monitor the operation and accuracy of the population model during the course of this plan, and review as required.</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Actions to be implemented and responsible parties detailed by means of this Working Action plan which is updated annually.</p> <p>Delivery of actions is reviewed at each DMG meeting.</p> <p>See also Action Points Summary updated 02/05/2019.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>ELS Action Points Summary.</p>
	<p>1.3 Produce and publish a forward-looking, effective deer management plan which includes public interest elements relevant to local circumstances. The plan should contain an action plan which sets out agreed actions and monitors delivery. Minutes of DMG meetings should be publicly available.</p>	<p>Comments were taken into account on previously audited 2016 edition of DMP.</p> <p>DMP published online on ADMG website since 2016, along with meeting minutes and agendas and circulated to the members' and consultees' list via email.</p> <p>An updated DMP Background Information Document and Working Action Plan are now in place & circulated to all members and stakeholders.</p> <p>The DMP details public interests and how the group plans to deliver on them.</p> <p>9th edition and 1st edition working plan formally adopted at 02/11/2018 meeting subject to ongoing amendments which will be highlighted.</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Continue to collate information from the Group to provide up-to-date information to the public.</p> <p>Continued updating of the Working plan to provide a working DMP.</p> <p>Information from the ELSDMG Working Plan will form part of each meeting agenda going forward.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>In progress since March 2015, now on 9th edition.</p> <p>Meetings 29/04/2019 02/11/2018 17/07/2018 02/11/2017 13/03/2017 26/07/2016 01/12/2015 22/06/2015 12/02/2015</p>

			<p>Action Point: - The 1st edition Working Plan has been and continues to be updated as appropriate. Chair, Vice Chair.</p> <p>Action Point: - The 9th edition Background Information will be reviewed and updated through summer/autumn 2019. By Chair, Vice Chair.</p> <p>Action Point: - Plan updates to be notified to properties and maintained on the ADMG/ELSDMG website. Chair, Secretary.</p>		
<p>2. ACTIONS for the delivery of designated features into Favourable Condition.</p>	<p>2.1 Identify designated features, the reported condition and herbivore pressures affecting designated sites in the DMG area.</p>	<p>Designated sites and their feature conditions along with relevant maps have been considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Meetings between SNH and managers of designated sites to be held to progress. SNH has commenced a series of meetings with individual members.</p> <p>Action Point: - SNH to advise timetable and outcome of meetings. By: - Summer 2019.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Meetings 29/04/2019</p> <p>02/11/2018 17/07/2018 02/11/2017 DMP BI Section 10</p>

	<p>2.2 Identify and agree actions to manage herbivore impacts affecting the favourable condition of designated features.</p>	<p>Three SSSI sites have an Unfavourable Condition Status for one woodland feature each; i.e. Doire Donn SSSI, Loch Shiel SSSI & Sunart SSSI</p> <p>See DMP Background Information document for further details on these sites.</p> <p>Green where action plans for features are in place, with milestones and agreed with SNH; Green where feature(s) are URDTM based on DMP; Green if features are URDTM due to agreement with SNH post-DMP/2016 assessment and milestones are being met; Criteria based on development of deer actions, but developed with the context of wider impacts in mind i.e. density targets developed with consideration of other herbivores using that ground and the implications on this on sustainable deer densities.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>See DMP Background Information document for further details on planned site management to resolve the issues on the designated sites.</p> <p>Meetings between SNH and managers of designated sites to be held to progress. SNH has commenced a series of meetings with individual members.</p> <p>Three SNH Woodland and Wildlife Management Officers visited the Conaglen Pinewoods in March 2019. See Spring Summary report.</p> <p>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. Action Point: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Consultant, SNH. Ongoing.</p> <p>See: Benchmark 2.1, 2.2, 3.2, 10.2 And Public Interest 2.1. Above.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9&10</p> <p>Meeting 02/11/2018</p> <p>Spring 2019 Summary report.</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</p>
	<p>2.3 Monitor progress and review actions to manage herbivore</p>	<p>Continue to liaise with SNH regarding the condition of Woodland SSSIs designated in Unfavourable condition.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9&10</p>

	impacts affecting favourable condition.	<p>Deer carcasses will be extracted using methods which minimise or prevent damage to the natural heritage.</p> <p>Green where mechanisms for adaptive management are agreed in the DMP and being delivered in line with milestones set out in the DMP; Green judged against actions set out in DMP, rather than all actions necessary to deliver the site into favourable condition.</p>	<p>minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Meetings between SNH and managers of designated sites to be held to progress. SNH has commenced a series of meetings with individual members.</p> <p>See Action Plan Public Interest 2.1 & 2.2 above & Benchmark 2.1, 2.2, 3.2, 10.2</p>		
<p>3. ACTIONS to manage deer to retain existing native woodland cover and improve woodland condition in the medium to long term.</p>	<p>3.1 Establish overall extent of woodland and determine what proportion is existing native woodland.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document. See DMP Background Information document for further details on NWSS regarding these sites also for further details on LTFP and woodland expansion proposals.</p> <p>Many members of ELSDMG practice a system of rotational native woodland fencing to allow sections of woodlands to rejuvenate and trees to become established beyond browsing heights. These projects consider the overall lifecycle of the woodland normally being in the hundreds of years; and the aim is to always ensure that a sufficient area is being protected from browsing pressure so that it can establish; while utilising the remainder of the woodland as vitally important deer shelter and livestock forage areas particularly in the winter months.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>New woodland proposals to be notified to DMG and those identified in the DMP to date are to be discussed and progressed.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9&10</p>
	<p>3.2 Determine current condition of native woodland.</p>	<p>The DMG have discussed and targeted some areas that need improved e.g. SOWOG and Doire Donn and ELSDMG will encourage its members to complete an initial fencing audit and repair program, followed by a culling regime in the securely fenced locations to</p>	<p>ELSDMG are currently working on a project to correlate the NWSS data on “Herbivore Grazing Pressures” with the NWSS data in relation to both “Canopy Cover” and the presence of “Established Natural Regeneration” within the DMG’s designated native woodland sites; to agree upon locations where it may be required for members to offer further fencing protection to allow woodland improvement under the rotational</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9&10</p>

	<p>3.3 Identify actions to retain and improve native woodland condition and deliver DMG woodland management objectives.</p>	<p>improve the woodland regeneration in these locations.</p> <p>Additionally, the group have removed livestock from areas such as parts of Resipole Farm and have successfully agreed with the crofting tenant at Achaphubuil to remove livestock and also at Part of Duiskey and North Garvan which were areas deemed to be subject to high or very high herbivore impact levels.</p>	<p>fencing system when considering the lifecycles of the woodlands in question.</p> <p>Update the DMP when necessary to show those areas that need to be targeted to promote woodland protection.</p> <p>Woodland proposals for Conaglen and Druim Laith advised, for discussion at next meeting. (superseded in part by Collaborative woodland application noted below)</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9&10</p>
	<p>3.4 Monitor progress and review actions to manage herbivore impacts.</p>	<p>Resipole farm have been monitoring woodland browsing in the Sunart Oakwoods for 15-20 years.</p> <p>Ardgour/Glenscaddle, Conaglen and Druim Laith (North Carnoch) Estates all undertake frequent surveys of leader browsing damage in their natural regeneration and restocking sites thought the year to assess deer impacts. If impacts are found, then any animals which have accessed these enclosures are either driven out or culled as soon as possible.</p> <p>Conaglen confirmed a compensatory cull was taking place at the South Garvan Woodland during 2017/18 to allow restocking and closure of fence.</p>	<p>Three SNH Woodland and Wildlife Management Officers visited the Conaglen Pinewoods in March 2019. See Spring Summary report.</p> <p>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. Action Point: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Consultant, SNH. Ongoing. See Spring report.</p> <p>Formal woodland proposals were submitted to FCS for approval in relation to Doire Donn and Ardgour Pinewoods in late 2018 and Conaglen are currently awaiting confirmation if these proposals are acceptable to FCS.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Spring report</p>

4. ACTIONS to demonstrate DMG contribution to the Scottish Government woodland expansion target of 25% woodland cover.	4.1 Identify and quantify extent of recent woodland establishment (through SRDP (last 5 years) and through other schemes.	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>See DMP Background Information document for further details on recent woodland establishment and woodland expansion proposals.</p>	Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	DMP BI Section9
	4.2 Identify and quantify opportunities and priorities for woodland expansion over the next 5-10 years.		New planting schemes should be put forward to the Group and implications for deer management discussed. Woodland proposals for Conaglen and Druim Laith advised, for discussion at next meeting. (superseded in part by Collaborative woodland application noted below)	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	DMP BI Section 9
	4.3 Consider at a population level the implication of increased woodland on deer densities and distribution across the DMG.		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. Action Point: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Consultant, SNH. Ongoing. Our timebound aspiration is to pursue this to commence site work for the 2019/20 season. See consultants notes re embryonic future plans. Historically compensatory culls have been carried out within the DMG as appropriate.	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	Population Model
	4.4 Implement actions to deliver the DMG woodland expansion proposals and review progress.			Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	DMP BI

<p>5. ACTIONS to monitor and manage deer impacts in the wider countryside.</p>	<p>5.1 Identify habitat resource by broad type.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>See DMP Background Information document for further details on habitat resources by type.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9</p>
	<p>5.2 Identify required impact targets for habitat types.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>ELSDMG will progress the group-wide HIA monitoring programme, updating the DMP to show the progress and results of HIA monitoring.</p> <p>Members carrying out their own HIA monitoring will be encouraged to share their data with the group.</p> <p>Members not currently doing HIA will be advised to start monitoring and supported where possible.</p> <p>Green where DMGs have agreed impact targets in DMPs/Minuted; delivery is assessed against the planning process of setting these targets and the appropriateness of these targets in delivering the objectives within their DMP; SNH to provide broad guidance on sustainable densities across difference habitat types - DMG to rationalise operating out with these parameters where this is the case; broad SNH targets as ultimately where all DMGs should aim for, but groups will be assessed against having interim stepping stone targets to getting there.</p> <p>Above broad guidance has not been given to the DMG. Following the draft Assessment issued 08/04/2019, Chair requested guidance via email 15/04/2019 from SNH in time to prepare for the meeting 29/04/2019 in</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Further discussions will be required with SNH on HIAs and any potential funding available to expand the current scheme undertaken by the Group.</p> <p>Commitment from Ardgour, Clais Moss, Conaglen, Druim Laith, Glenscaddle Resipole Farm to a program of HIA's.</p> <p>Request for HIA data sent out via group email 02/01/2019. SGRIPD have indicated a willingness to carry out HIA's in future.</p> <p>SNH comment that our impact targets are generic.</p> <p>Request made to SNH for guidance on impact targets to consider and agree at the meeting 29/04/2019. Action point: Chair email request 15/04/2019. SNH guidance by 29/04/2019. See also Action Plan Benchmark 11.1, 11.2 Above.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9</p> <p>Population Model</p> <p>Group email 02/01/2019</p> <p>Email 15/04/2019.</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</p> <p>HIA log.</p>

		<p>order that ultimate targets and stepping stones could be agreed at the meeting.</p>	<p>No SNH guidance given without which we have been unable to progress. An agenda item for our meeting 29/04/2019 was having been given guidance/clarity over impact targets these would have been agreed to work toward. Now to be considered and agreed by DMG at next meeting assuming guidance/clarity is given.</p>		
	<p>5.3 Quantify a sustainable level of grazing and trampling for each of these habitat types.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Green where DMG have set out process for assessing current impacts, setting desired impact range and considered population targets which will deliver these (quite a crude approach); as per 5.2., DMG will be judged against whether these grazing levels will likely deliver the Group's agreed impact target.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>RIPD have confirmed they will be carrying out HIA with action planned 'in the next few weeks'. Dated 11/04/2019.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Population Model</p> <p>Email 11/04/2019</p> <p>Emails 15/04/2019</p> <p>HIA log.</p>

			<p>Population model to be updated post agreed counts/population estimates to include sustainable impact levels.</p> <p>HIA progressing and committed to. See ELS HIA Log. Action Point. Properties to complete ELS HIA Log relevant to their property. Chair to request 15/04/2019. Property response by 24/04/2019. Most information to complete log received. Action Point: - When all data is in analysis will be completed. By: - Chair, Vice Chair, Members.</p> <p>180 plots BPG BB & DSH committed to for assessment this season with 110 already assessed. Data to be analysed and detailed map prepared when all results are in. Indicative map at Appendix 11. HIA log summarises.</p> <p>Action Point: - Impact results to be reviewed against impact targets that are to be agreed at the next DMG meeting. By Chair, Vice Chair, Members. Action Point: - Agree actions to manage the deer to achieve the agreed targets. By: - Chair, Vice Chair, Members.</p>		Appendix 11.
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	<p>5.4 Identify where different levels of grazing may be required and prioritise accordingly.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Green where the Group identify and set out actions for localised management to deliver 5.2 and 5.3.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Unable to progress having not been given the requested guidance from SNH. See Action Plan Public Interest 5.2, 5.3, above.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Population Model</p>
	<p>5.5 Conduct herbivore impact assessments and assess these against acceptable impact ranges. Identify and implement actions to attain impacts within the range.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>HIA information to be collated by late spring 2019, from any members undertaking HIAs.</p> <p>Green where HIA is being undertaken at appropriate DMG scale and mechanisms for using this data to inform cull planning are clearly articulated i.e. if they're delivering against milestones set out in DMP but haven't yet used data to inform cull planning then still green.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Commitment from Ardgour, Clash Moss, Conaglen, Druim Laith, Glenscaddle Resipole Farm to a program of HIA's.</p> <p>Request for HIA data sent out via group email 02/01/2019. SGRIPD have indicated a willingness to carry out HIA's in future.</p> <p>Most HIA information to complete HIA log has been submitted. See Action Plan Public Interest 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, above</p> <p>180 plots BPG BB & DSH committed to for assessment this season with 110 already assessed. Data to be analysed and detailed map prepared when all results are in. Indicative map at Appendix 11. HIA log summarises.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 18.</p> <p>Email to members 11/09/2018 Meeting 02/11/2018</p> <p>HIA log.</p> <p>Appendix 11.</p>

	<p>5.6 Regularly review information to measure progress and adapt management when necessary.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>180 plus BPG HIA plots under way on a three-year cycle. 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. See HIA log.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 18. Meeting 02/11/2018 HIA log</p>
<p>6. ACTIONS to improve Scotland's ability to store carbon by maintaining or improving ecosystem health.</p>	<p>6.1 Quantify the extent of the carbon-sensitive habitats within the DMG range.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail. Lack of available funding is a key issue and the DMG will look out for possible future funding streams to extend the HIA scheme.</p> <p>See Action Plan Public Interest 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6 above</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9 & 14. Meeting 02/11/2017 02/11/2018</p>
	<p>6.2 Conduct herbivore impact assessments and assess these against acceptable impact ranges for these sensitive habitats. Identify and implement actions to attain impacts within the range.</p>			<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9, 14 & 18.</p>

	<p>6.3 Identify opportunities for the creation/restoration of peatlands.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Peatland Action funding will be considered if it becomes available and undertaken where possible benefits to public good can be identified and a workable scheme implemented.</p> <p>ELS members will adhere to the Muirburn code.</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail. SNH invited to promote peatland restoration at meeting 02/11/2018. See minutes.</p> <p>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 request 15/04/2019. SNH to promote at meeting 29/04/2019. See EWG report. See HIA log.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9.7 & 14</p> <p>Meeting 02/11/2018</p> <p>Email 15/04/2019.</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</p> <p>EWG report</p> <p>HIA log.</p>
	<p>6.4 Contribute as appropriate to River Basin Management Planning.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 13</p> <p>Meeting 02/11/2018</p>
<p>7. ACTIONS to reduce or mitigate the risk of establishment</p>	<p>7.1 Manage invasive non-native species (e.g. muntjac) to prevent their establishment and spread e.g. report sightings of muntjac to SNH.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>A shoot on site policy has been agreed with all members in relation to Muntjac (not currently</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 15.</p>

<p>of invasive non-native species.</p>	<p>7.2 Agree on local management of other non-natives which may be utilised as a resource e.g. sika, fallow, goats, to reduce their spread and negative impacts.</p>	<p>resident in Scotland), wild boar (not currently resident the DMG area) and Sika (only 2 ever seen/culled in group area). Wild Goats are not to be culled if they return to the DMG area.</p>	<p>Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 15.</p>
<p>8. ACTIONS to protect designated historic and cultural features from being damaged by deer e.g. by trampling.</p>	<p>8.1 Identify any historic or cultural features that may be impacted by deer and undertake deer management to retain these features.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document. ELSDMG will maintain contact with community groups and other stakeholders to try to prevent any potential threats that deer may be to historic and cultural features. Highland Council - Historic Environment Team have been contacted to request them to identify features and factors affecting condition.</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail. Members considering new forestry schemes or forestry expansion will follow guidance on historical and cultural features and all new planting schemes will be assessed for any negative impacts to cultural and historic features. Considered by Conaglen & Druim Laith re woodland development to be discussed at next meeting. Nothing notified by HC Historic Environment Team. Historic Environment Scotland monitor the condition of scheduled monuments on an appropriate time interval of between one and 10 yearly with the monitoring results advised to the Owner-Occupier.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 11.1 Letter to Historic environment team 27/06/2018</p>
	<p>8.2 Consider the implications of fencing on the landscape with due regard to the Joint Agency Guidance on Fencing.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 11.</p>

			<p>Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Members considering new forestry schemes or forestry expansion will follow Joint Agency Guidance on Fencing.</p> <p>Considered by Conaglen & Druim Laith re woodland development, to be discussed at next meeting.</p>		
<p>9. ACTIONS to contribute to delivering higher standards of competence in deer management.</p>	<p>9.1 Undertake a skills and training assessment to establish current skill levels applicable to deer management within the DMG.</p>	<p>Individual members of the DMG will undertake an annual skills and training assessment audit to establish current skill levels applicable to deer management within the DMG.</p> <p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document and a Skills, Experience, Training and Certification schedule is appended the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Information Included RE DSC1 and DSC2; along with other aspects of CPD such as first aid/habitat training etc.</p> <p>Highland College trainee employed at Conaglen.</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>The Skills, Experience, Training and Certification Schedule is to be updated annually with information gathered from the Audit Sheets, to establish if there are any further training requirements. Next update post Audits 2019.</p> <p>Training Policy at DMP Section 13. Meeting 29/04/2019. See Training Log.</p> <p>Training Log was passed around at the meeting 29/04/2019 and updated.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section13</p> <p>Training etc log.</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</p> <p>Training Log.</p>
	<p>9.2 Identify training and development needs/requirements of DMG members including opportunities for Continued Professional Development (ie in relation to Best Practice).</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document and a Skills, Experience, Training and Certification schedule is appended the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>ELSDMG recognises DSC1 as minimum and sets DSC2 as an aspiration for all. There currently is a good</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section13</p> <p>Training etc log.</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</p>

	<p>9.3 Ensure all those who actively manage deer are “competent” according to current standard.</p>	<p>overall coverage of DSC1 and DSC2 and it is notable that all contributing members with properties within the ELSDMG area have at least one owner or member of staff, who complete the culling activities, trained to a minimum of DSC Level 1 and many have attained the Level 2 DSC.</p>	<p>Members were asked to raise any training requirements they may have identified at the 29/04/2019 meeting.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Training log appendix Action Plan. DMP BI Section 13</p>
	<p>9.4 Promote and facilitate the uptake of formal and CPD training opportunities for those participating in deer management.</p>	<p>HIA course completed in July 2017.</p>	<p>The Skills, Experience, Training and Certification Schedule is to be updated annually with information gathered from the Audit Sheets, to establish if there are any further training requirements. Next update post audits 2019. Action Point: Chair by 31/08/2019. Agenda item 29/04/2019. Action completed.</p> <p>Competences etc. within the group are shown on the Training Log BI Appendix 10.</p> <p>Members will identify and plan the development or training of staff involved in deer management; looking for further opportunities to improve general training levels within the Group.</p> <p>Group to regularly consult and agree what aspects of training/CPD they can support and deliver. Agenda item 29/04/2019.</p> <p>Members were asked to raise any training requirements they may have identified at the 29/04/2019 meeting.</p> <p>An update to the training policy is presented below in Section 8 as an action point for inclusion in the Edition 9 DMP Background information.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section13 Training etc log.</p>

<p>10. ACTIONS to Identify and promote opportunities contributing to public health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>10.1 Identify & quantify public safety issues associated with deer within the DMG area. e.g. DVCs, etc.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Police Scotland have attended meetings historically where relevant agenda items e.g. poaching has been recognised or required to be discussed as a threat.</p> <p>Public safety issues associated with deer are identified in the DMP Back Ground Information Document e.g. vehicle collisions, night shooting within hearing distance of residential houses etc.</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail. A night shooting licence issued by SNH has been revoked on the grounds of safety.</p> <p>DVC information request to be added to the 2019 Annual Audit. By Chair, Vice Chair.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section11.</p>
	<p>10.2 Identify actions with landowners, Local Authority, DMG to reduce or mitigate public safety risk and monitor effectiveness of actions.</p>	<p>Written undertaking to record DVC's and a strategy to deal with any issues as they arise is detailed in DMP Background Information.</p> <p>Continue to work closely with SNH and walking groups to promote the need to access land responsibly whilst deer management is being undertaken.</p> <p>Representatives from relevant organisations will be invited to attend ELSDMG meetings including inviting Community Councils and other stakeholders to meetings and prepare information for them to share with local communities about relevant deer management activities.</p> <p>The group invites SNH and FES to all meetings as they are members. The group also invites an ADMG member to meetings.</p> <p>The group agreed at its November 2017 meeting to also invite a representative from neighbouring DMGs, community councils and crofting townships and has circulated a website link to each of these groups for the ELSDMP.</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Consultation notice sent to stakeholders 10/10/2018 and invited to meeting. DMP posted on ADMG website.</p> <p>Meeting notice sent 03/04/2019.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Police comms 07 to 09 /2018.</p> <p>Meetings 17/07/2018 02/11/2017. DMP BI Section 11.</p> <p>Email files 07 to 09/2018</p>

<p>10.3 Identify means of ensuring food safety is maintained in carcass handling and venison processing and compliance with BPG in relation to meat hygiene</p>	<p>DSC 1 or 2 and/or Trained Hunter Status confirmed for all members in DMP Background Information.</p> <p>E-coli survey test pack provided to Ewen Maclean in 2017.</p> <p>Identify and take actions as necessary to reduce the incidence of E-coli 0157 contamination in relation to the sale of wild venison. Results of Scottish Deer Health Survey re E. coli STEC 0157 circulated via members email 10/01/2019.</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail. Results of Scottish Deer Health Survey re E. coli STEC 0157 circulated via members email 10/01/2019.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Training log appendix Action Plan Group email 10/01/2019 22/07/2018 17/08/2018</p>
<p>10.4 Ensure deer managers are familiar with notifiable diseases, that a system for recording is in place and all deer managers are familiar with course of action to take.</p>	<p>DSC 1 or 2 and/or Trained Hunter Status confirmed for all members in DMP Background Information and this provides reassurance on notifiable disease recognition.</p> <p>Individual members of the DMG will undertake an annual skills and training assessment audit to establish current skill levels applicable to deer management within the DMG.</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Group email re African Swine Fever sent 30/11/2018.</p> <p>A list of group emails re disease and etc. is included in the 2019 Spring Report.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Group email 22/07/2018 30/11/2018 Meeting 17/07/2018 26/06/2016 DMP BI Section 13 & 16</p>
<p>10.5 Ensure that appropriate bio security measures are enacted when visitors from areas where CWD is present are involved with deer management activities.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document & DMP Action Plan document and members to inform relevant guests and staff of issues.</p> <p>DMG has recently circulated CWD information to all members for onward distribution.</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>CWD leaflets to members at 26/07/2016 meeting and group email re CWD, Field Guide to Disease, Ticks and Lyme 22/07/2018</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Group email 22/07/2018 20/09/2018 Meetings 17/07/2018 26/07/2016 DMP BI Section 13</p>
<p>10.6 Identify opportunities to raise awareness of the risks associated with Lyme Disease.</p>	<p>Remind and update all members and stakeholders of the potential threats from CWD and Lyme Disease or other similar diseases and advise on preventative measures.</p>	<p>A list of group emails re disease and etc. is included in the 2019 Spring Report.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Group email 22/07/2018 Meeting 17/07/2018</p>

	10.7 Identify main access and recreational activity within the DMG area and assess how this fits with deer management activity.	Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document & DMP Action Plan document. Members subscribe to the Outdoor access code. Conaglen renewed all ELS DMG signs at each glen entry at Conaglen in 2016.	Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail. <i>See DMP Background information 11.2 and Spring 2019 report.</i> In addition to DMP information a summary of 'ELSDMG Public Access Facilitation' is included at is included at Appendix 13. And in section 8 below.	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	DMP BI Section 11. Meeting 02/11/2017
	10.8 Identify actions to mitigate any effects of public access and recreation activities during peak periods of deer culling e.g. use of hill phones and websites.	Members have been encouraged improve communications with hill walkers via the promotion of the use of the 'Heading For the Scottish Hills' website and Conaglen, Ardgour, Glenscaddle, Resipole and Druim Laith have all provided information for 2018. Currently members equating to 81.3% of the land within ELSDMG contribute to this website. On FES and SNH public land access is not restricted		Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	DMP BI Section 11. Meeting 02/11/2017
	10.9 Facilitate public access and promote positive communication between visiting public and wildlife managers.			Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	Meeting 02/11/2017 DMP BI Section 11.2
11. ACTIONS to maximise economic benefits associated with deer.	11.1 Identify and quantify the main sources of revenue related to deer (sport, tourism etc.).	Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document. Section 12.1, 12.2	Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail. Continue to gather information on the economic value of deer stalking and also investigate any new possibilities for increasing the sporting value of deer stalking and venison sales.	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	DMP BI Section 12.
	11.2 Identify and quantify deer-related employment. Identify opportunities to increase and improve prospects throughout the DMG.	Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document. Section 12.5.			

	<p>11.3 Identify opportunities to add value to products from deer management (SQWV, venison branding).</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document. Section 16.</p> <p>Members are encouraged to join the SQWV scheme.</p> <p>The membership of SQWV equates to 77.4% of the land in the DMG area and 77.6% of the 2017/18 cull being processed under the SQWV scheme.</p> <p>West Highland Venison has a local venison processing/retailing business and brand established 20 years. Others have considered but decided against.</p> <p>Promote discussions on the economic costs of deer management.</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Venison branding could only be considered viable by the larger producers.</p> <p>SQWV are offering free larder assessments through 2018. The Chairman has circulated the membership details.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 16. .</p>
	<p>11.4 Explore options for larder sharing, infrastructure improvement and carcass collection to ensure maximum benefit from venison production whilst reducing carbon costs.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>All members changed venison dealer as a group in 2017 to 'Fyne Game' from Yorkshire Game.</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Fyne Game have made an offer for this season (2018/19) with a covering letter which the Chairman will circulate around the membership recommending acceptance but also inviting members' comments/alternatives. Also in collaboration with MDMG.</p> <p>Group email 15/08/2018 sent re venison marketing. Collaborates not just with our members but with MDMG also. Group wide agreement.</p>	<p>Chair</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 16.</p> <p>Group emails 14 & 16/08/2018 Meetings 13/03/2017</p> <p>Email 15/08/2018</p>

			<p>To be reviewed again prior to the main stag season. Action Point: Chair by 31/08/2019.</p> <p>There is some larder sharing where practical. In one case a local deer management business is responsible for the deer management on several properties with carcasses from these landholdings processed with those from other local landholdings through a single larder. In other cases, deer management is carried out by a neighbour who processes all deer carcasses from each landholding through a single larder.</p>		
<p>12. ACTIONS to minimise the economic costs of deer, and ensure deer management is cost-effective.</p>	<p>12.1 Identify and quantify capital investment in deer management related infrastructure.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Information in plan regarding losses of deer into woodland, agricultural damage, DVC's included.</p> <p>Consideration will be given to ways of preventing deer migrating on to agricultural or forest land; when this is deemed not to be appropriate. Fencing regimes will be considered and cull targets will be set taking agricultural and woodland interests into account.</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Group members are to prepare information to be included in a plan showing the strategic fences within the DMG range. The plan should be prepared by Spring 2019.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 12</p>
	<p>12.2 Identify where deer are impacting on other land uses and include all relevant stakeholders to assist the group in understanding costs of deer within the DMG (e.g. woodland, agriculture, DVCs).</p>	<p>Members will inspect and report on the condition of deer fences within the ELSDMG area, particularly march fences and ongoing repairs and replacement of march and other priority fences will be completed as</p>	<p>Both parts of the new DMP was issued to members and properties for consultation in advance of adoption via email. Stakeholders & Crofting Clerks were consulted via email or post advising of the</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Meeting 02/11/2018 17/07/2018 02/11/2017 Emails from 20/08/2018 See comms file 9th, 10th,</p>

		soon as possible by the responsible members for said fences.	link to ADMG website where the document is available to all. SNH agreed actions to address the issues at Clovullin croft are shown in the ELS Spring 2019 report.		20 th October 2019. ELS Spring 2019 report
	12.3 Where there are management changes, assess the likely economic impacts across the DMG.		Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail. The ELS officers consider there have been no significant changes to land management objectives since the preparation of our current DMP. Our DMP's are adaptive and the group or properties within the area will respond to changes or circumstances as they arise.	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	DMP BI Section 12. Meeting 02/11/2017 17/07/2018 13/03/2017 12/02/2015
	12.4 Formulate a strategy to minimise the negative economic impacts in an equitable way.	Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document. All members have been encouraged to appeal against the introduction of sporting rates and keep abreast of the implications of the costs of the introduction of sporting rates.	Our DMP's are adaptive and the group or properties within the area will respond to changes or circumstances as they arise. We do not at this stage attempt to cover every possible eventuality that may or may not occur. Action Point: - Add management changes to the DMG annual audit. By: - Chair, Vice Chair, Members. Summer 2019 Many of the ELSDMG members have appealed against their individual sporting rates and assessments. These appeals have been put back into 2019 by the SAA. Action Point: - Agenda item for 29/04/2019 meeting is 'Sporting Rates Appeals'. Discussion at meeting	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	DMP BI Section 12. Meeting 29/04/2019 02/11/2017 17/07/2018 13/03/2017 12/02/2015 Agenda 29/04/2019. Minutes 29/04/2019

			<p>29/04/2019 and other NDR strategy discussions between individuals post meeting.</p> <p>Grazings Clerks are invited to the meetings. Contact details included on the meeting notice should they wish to communicate via email.</p>		
<p>13. ACTIONS to ensure effective communication on deer management issues.</p>	<p>13.1 Provide regular opportunity for wider community and public agency engagement in planning and communications.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document & DMP Action Plan document.</p> <p>The DMG have wrote to the stakeholders list in both 2017 and 2018 to ask for comments on the DMP and will do so again when future editions are ready for circulation.</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>ADMG website. DMP BI Section 17</p>
	<p>13.2 Identify and implement actions to address community issues on deer or deer management activity.</p>	<p>The DMG have engaged with the Ardgour CC over a night licensing issues in Clovullin in Aug 2018.</p>	<p>Consultation notice sent to stakeholders 10/10/2018 and invite to meeting. DMP posted on ADMG website.</p> <p>DMG meetings open to Members, stakeholders and the public.</p> <p>Meeting notices sent 03/04/2019.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Meeting 02/11/2017 17/07/2018 02/11/2018 Emails from 20/08/2018 DMP BI Section 17</p>

	<p>13.3 Support and promote wider opportunities for further education on deer.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document & DMP Action Plan document.</p> <p>1 X Fulltime Student on Conaglen</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Conaglen tried to recruit 2nd student in 2018 but no-one suitable available. Will review again in 2019.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 13</p>
<p>14. ACTIONS to ensure deer welfare is taken fully into account at individual animal and population level.</p>	<p>14.1 Agree, collate and review data available within the DMG which might be used as a proxy for deer health/welfare i.e. recruitment, winter mortality, larder weights etc.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document & DMP Action Plan document.</p> <p>Members will set appropriate cull targets before culling begins and then to achieve the set targets.</p> <p>Information collected and made available to members for discussion and rates of natural mortality and recruitment are discussed at each ELSDMG meetings to monitor deer numbers and any potential threats to deer welfare.</p> <p>Maintain good communications within the group to monitor deer numbers and locations and any potential threats to deer welfare e.g. winter conditions or new forestry creation.</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document; if necessary reviewing targets for the purpose of natural mortality and weather conditions in any season.</p> <p><i>Deer welfare indicators for consideration include – Changes to and condition of cover and forage available – population counts – population density - recruitment counts – mortality counts – HIA – deer condition reports, &etc.</i></p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Population model.</p> <p>Meetings 02/11/2018 17/07/2018 13/03/2017 01/12/2015 12/02/2015</p>
	<p>14.2 Take reasonable actions to ensure that deer culling operations safeguard welfare; for culled and surviving animals (e.g. for example by following BPG).</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document & DMP Action Plan document.</p> <p>Promotion of BPG in DMP and commitment from members.</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Training log appendix Action Plan DMP BI Section 13</p>

		<p>Good overall coverage of DSC 1 and 2 and notable that all contributing members with properties within the ELSDMG area have at least one owner or member of staff, who complete the culling activities, trained to a minimum of DSC Level 1 and many have attained the Level 2 DSC.</p>	<p>Concern raised at meeting 02/11/2018 that BPG will no longer send out updates or circulate information. SNH response 06/11/2018 that changes will be publicised via member organisations. Group email 11/09/2018.</p> <p>Re-iterated at meeting 29/04/2019.</p>		<p>Group email 11/09/2018</p> <p>Meeting 02/11/2018</p> <p>29/04/2019</p>
	<p>14.3 Take reasonable actions to ensure that the welfare of surviving populations is safeguarded (e.g. provision and access to food and shelter)</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document & DMP Action Plan document.</p> <p>Deer cull efforts will be concentrated during in-season periods. Following BPG and taking reasonable actions to ensure that deer culling operations safeguard welfare; for culled and surviving animals.</p> <p>However, FES will continue to reserve the right to employ both Section (6) and Section 18(2) authorised cull as they deem necessary.</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p> <p>Monitor observed winter mortality rates and members report to DMG.</p> <p>Delivery of addition shelter via DMP is considered and discussed in relation to woodland expansion. So too are the implication of woodland expansion and potential requirement for compensatory culls.</p> <p>Considered by Conaglen & Druim Laith re woodland development, to be discussed at next meeting.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Training log appendix</p> <p>Action Plan</p> <p>DMP BI Section 13</p> <p>Spring 2019 report.</p>

			<p>Action Point: - Plans are to include assessment and action to ensure welfare. By: - Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Consultant, SNH. Ongoing. See Deer Welfare Spring report.</p>		
	<p>14.4 Periodically review information on actions to safeguard welfare, identify and implement changes as required.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document & DMP Action Plan document. BPGs are followed by group members Compensatory cull completed by Conaglen in 2017/18 RE fencing and restocking of South Garvan woodland.</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan Document; to ensure that reasonable actions are being taken to ensure that the welfare of surviving populations is safeguarded e.g. provision/access to food and shelter and maintaining an appropriate deer density. See Deer Welfare. Spring 2019 Report.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Training log appendix Action Plan DMP BI Section 13 Spring 2019 report.</p>

3.0 The 2017/18 Season Cull

3.1 The Eastern Working Group's Cull 2017/18 Season

Landholding	Stag Cull Target 2017/18	Stag Cull Achieved 2017/18	Hind Cull Target 2017/18	Hind Cull Achieved 2017/18	Calf Cull Target 2017/18	Calf Cull Achieved 2017/18
Ardgour	13	11	18	18	8	8
Ariundle Farm (Figures Estimated)	14	15	12	17	4	0
Conaglen	45	39	92	91	33	47
(Inc. Enclosed South Garvan Cull)	-	0	-	30	-	15
Drimnatorran Farm (Figures Estimated)	6	8	6	8	2	0
Drumfern and Doire Mhor (FCS)	-	9	-	6	-	3
Glenscaddle	25	24	30	29	10	14
Inversanda North	6	10	6	10	2	4
Druim Laith (North Carnoch)	7	7	2	3	1	2
Total Open Range Sub-Group Cull	116	123	166	212	60	93

In addition to the above sporting and woodland cull in the Eastern Sub-Group area, a cull was completed on a 4-acre croft Clovullin by the crofter to address perceived impacts on agricultural land in that location.

Landholding	Stag Cull Target 2017/18	Stag Cull Achieved 2017/18	Hind Cull Target 2017/18	Hind Cull Achieved 2017/18	Calf Cull Target 2017/18	Calf Cull Achieved 2017/18
Clovullin Croft	-	21	-	6	-	2
Total Overall Open Range Sub-Group Cull	116	144	166	218	60	95

The total cull therefore taken in the 2017/18 season in the Eastern Sub-Group area, whilst excluding animals culled within enclosed woodlands and also the cull completed by the crofter at Clovullin was as undernoted.

	Stag Cull Target 2017/18	Stag Cull Achieved 2017/18	Hind Cull Target 2017/18	Hind Cull Achieved 2017/18	Calf Cull Target 2017/18	Calf Cull Achieved 2017/18
Total Excluding Enclosed Woodland & Clovullin Culls	116	114	166	176	60	75

3.2 The Western Working-Group's Cull 2017/18 Season

Landholding	Stag Cull Target 2017/18	Stag Cull Achieved 2017/18	Hind Cull Target 2017/18	Hind Cull Achieved 2017/18	Calf Cull Target 2017/18	Calf Cull Achieved 2017/18
Achnanellen (FCS)	-	19	-	5	-	3
Arderly (FCS)	-	1	-	0	-	0
Claish Moss (SNH)	-	5	-	3	-	1
Drimnatorran Woods (FCS)	-	25	-	12	-	5
Glen Hurich (FCS)	-	125	-	119	-	63
Resipole Farm	11	15	6	11	2	5
Resipole Woodland	-	4	-	0	-	0
Strontian Village (FCS)	-	0	-	0	-	0
Sunart Estate	9	10	11	11	4	0
Sunart Oakwoods Owners Group	-	0	-	0	-	0
Total Open Range Sub-Group Cull	20	204	17	161	6	77

3.3 The Total Cull 2017/18 Season

Landholding	Stag Cull Target 2017/18	Stag Cull Achieved 2017/18	Hind Cull Target 2017/18	Hind Cull Achieved 2017/18	Calf Cull Target 2017/18	Calf Cull Achieved 2017/18
Total Overall Open Range Sub-Group Cull	116	144	166	218	60	95
Total Open Range Sub-Group Cull	20	204	17	161	6	77
Total	136	348	183	379	66	172

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.

4.0 Population Modelling

It must be understood from the outset that a forecast model presents an estimate of what might happen given certain parameters and making certain assumptions. This forecast will need to be updated annually with input of up to date figures and information with revised assumptions and targets etc.

To produce an open range population model, it is necessary to show the relationship between the primarily FES enclosed woodlands and the rest of the group. However, a very considerable caveat must be applied to any open range model for this DMG area, as it is not a closed population, with significant internal immigration/emigration being established into the FES woodlands. It is important to think in terms of a resident population which is reduced in numbers by loss of deer over the winter months into the FES woodland areas and it is likely that the period of each year when the highest deer numbers are on the open hill in the late Spring to Autumn does not actually coincide with the time of greatest vulnerability of the open range habitat being the Winter months.

As an indication of the deer density required to provide for the open range sporting interests using the SNH website Population Model, "Stag Sept 12 - Managing for Sporting Stags Spreadsheet"; ELSDMG have calculated the undernoted in relation to the open range area of 35189 ha:
- This does not form part of the ELSDMG Population Model.

- The population density required to maintain just a sporting cull on the open range of 137 stags, i.e. the open range previous 5-year average, is just 6.6 deer/km².
- The population density required to maintain the sporting cull target of 180 stags is just 8.8 deer/km².
- The population density required to maintain the sporting stag cull plus the emigration into the woodlands as the last 5 years average total of 207 stags is 10.1 deer/km².
- The population density required to maintain the sporting stag cull plus the emigration into the woodlands at last year's level of 234 stags would have to be 11.5 deer per km².

This demonstrates that while the forestry landowners continue to allow the significant migration of deer into their woodlands the open range population will have to be maintained at a much higher level.

This syphoning of deer through poorly maintained fences is detrimental to the open range sporting interests in regard to Sections 5, 10, 11, and 13 of the 'Benchmark' and Sections 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 14 of the 'Public Interest'. Whilst at the same time being detrimental to the enclosed woodlands interests in regard to Sections 5, 10 and 11 of the 'Benchmark' and Sections 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 12 of the 'Public Interest'.

The argument being that these losses to the sporting members are detrimental to capital values, capital utilisation, revenue, employment and training prospects, increased impacts on habitats & etc. At the same time the costs of deer control, crop damage & capital values etc are detrimental to the mainly publicly owned forestry business interests.

4.1 Establishing the Base Information for the Population Model

The population model prepared for ELSDMG comprises of two parts.

Part 1 - Past population model from 2009/10 deer estimates and counts to the 2016 count allowing us to understand our population dynamics and calibrate our forward-looking model.

Part 2 - Starting from the March 2016 helicopter open range count, forecasts to 2022/23.

4.1.1 Population Model Base Information - Part 1

- i) FES last carried out a population assessment in 2009 calculating a winter population in Glen Hurich Forest of 7.5 deer/km².
- ii) This figure implies a population of 828 deer within the 11,035ha of enclosed woodlands and other non-open range properties with the ELSDMG area.
- iii) FES have said there is no migration from the open hill into their woodlands and there are higher recruitment levels, of 45% in these woodlands due to the better feed and shelter which is available.
- iv) A foot count over the Western Sub-Group was undertaken in March 2009 and an aerial count over the main open hill range was carried out in March 2010 giving a composite population figure for 2009/10.

The Part 1.1 spreadsheet '**2010/16 NO migrate**', shows:

- That FES would have shot all their deer by now, had all the assumptions been correct and accounting for their actual cull figures. Evidently this has not happened because in 2017/18 FES had a record high cull of 395 Red Deer.
- That the open hill range population would have grown by about 37% or over 1,000 animals. However, the March 2016 aerial count of the open range did not show this; with instead only a small increase of 295 deer on the 2010 count figures.
- Also, the Open-Range Stalkers reported no increase, but rather localised decreases, in deer numbers on the open hill by 2016.

The Part 1.2 spreadsheet '**2010/16 migrate**', shows:

- That if migration from the open range into the woodlands is allowed to keep the woodland density constant, then 718 deer would have had to migrate into the woodlands during the period to maintain the density at 7.5 deer/km².

The 2016 count compares with the projected open range population with a margin of error of 2.9%.

4.1.2 Population Model Base Information - Part 2

- i) An aerial deer count of the open range was carried out in March 2016 and the count figures from this are entered as the open range starting population 2016.
- ii) The 2009 FES woodland population estimate of 7.5 deer/km² is used without better information to the contrary.
- iii) The population model projects forward from this date/figure to 2022/23 season.

The Part 2.1 spreadsheet '**2016/23 NO migrate**' shows:

- That if migration into the woodlands is nil and the average cull from the last 5 years were kept up in enclosed woodlands that FES could reduce their deer population by over 50% within two seasons.

The Part 2.2 spreadsheet '**2016/23 migrate**' shows:

- That if migration into the woodlands is allowed to continue to keep the woodland density constant at 7.5 deer/km²; and the FES culls continue at the last 5 years average; then 916 deer will need to migrate into the woodlands during this period.

The Part 2.3 spreadsheet '**2016/23 migrate LYC**' shows:

- If last year's level of cull was to continue in the woodlands and the woodland population were to remain at 7.5 deer/km²; that around 1,493 deer would need to migrate into the woodlands over this period.
- Meanwhile at the same time the open range population would reduce by the same 1,493 deer and the open range density would drop to 6.6 deer/km².

5.0 Forwarding Looking Population Model

The population model projects forward from the March 2016 aerial open range count shows the projected red deer population for ELSDMG to 2023 according to the assumptions applied. It should be noted that the model will require regular updates, at least annually or as relevant information becomes available.

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 Model Assumptions

The open range population has to remain at a sufficient density to deliver the collective objectives of the DMG members as well as public interest objectives. The Open range density has therefore has to support its own cull, as well as to sustain assumed internal migration from the open range area into the enclosed woodlands.

It is noted that the absence of population density, population target, fencing, migration and cull target information for the FES enclosed woodlands hampers the modelling of the open range population. FES have indicated they will provide this information for 2019. This coupled with the aerial count January 2019 will provide an excellent datum point for the forward looking Population Model for 2019/20 on.

5.1.1 Deer Density

The calculated deer density for the whole of the ELSDMG area as at March 2016 was 10.1 deer/km². This density is at the lower end of the SNH's medium rated deer density category of 8 to 15 deer/km²; and as such it is therefore considered that until more data becomes available that the members of ELSDMG should continue to maintain the deer density stable at 10.1 deer/km² +/- 5%.

5.1.2 Mortality

The population model above uses standard assumptions for mortality. However, as the 2017/18 Winter Mortality was considered to have been higher than normal years, due to weather conditions; a Winter 2017/18 mortality factor of X2 has been applied to adjust the open range mortality figures adjustment in the population model, for the Winter 2017/18 period.

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.

5.1.3 Recruitment

The population model uses standard assumptions for recruitment. However, as the Spring 2018 Recruitment was considered to be lower than normal year, also due to the previous Autumns/Winters weather conditions; a Spring 2018 recruitment factor of X0.5 has been applied to adjust the open range recruitment figures in the population model, for Spring 2018.

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.

5.1.4 Migration

The population model supports the position that internal migration from the open hill is occurring into the enclosed woodland areas and this shows no sign of abating.

Therefore, based upon the findings highlighted in 4.1.1, internal migration is assumed to have occurred from the ELSDMG open range to the ELSDMG's enclosed woodland properties; to maintain the deer density within these woodlands at their surveyed original 2009 population estimate of 7.5 deer/km².

5.2 Population Model

The population model, Page 5 for the period until 2022/23 is included as ELS AP Appendix 1 Population Model 2018 - 2023.

6.0 Targets

6.1 Population Target

Whilst wider impact targets remain acceptable and to account for the emigration of deer from the open range ELSDMG have agreed to hold the population target as close as possible to the count figures which were recorded in March 2016 and as such the Population Model at [ELS AP Appendix 1 Population Model 2018 - 2023](#), shows only a very small targeted increase in deer numbers from 3,821 open range animals to 3,837 animals during the period until 2022/23, with an improved hind to stag ratio of 1 stag to 1.67 hinds.

The population model at [ELS AP Appendix 1 Population Model 2018 - 2023](#) forecasts the projected deer cull for 5 seasons and in order to maintain the deer density at approximately 10.1 deer/km² and also in the longer term to achieve an increased sporting stag cull, it has been necessary to restrict the forecast hind cull to 80% of the previous 5-year average for the next 5-year period. It has also been forecast to increase the stag cull annually on the basis of a +5% per annum over the 4 seasons from 2019/20 to 2022/23, being an increase in stags from 137 to 165.

The open range aspirational sporting stag target is for 180 stags per annum; but is currently constrained to around 135-140 by losses due to internal migration from the open range into enclosed woodlands.

However, the SNH Population Model, "Stag Sept 12 - Managing for Sporting Stags Spreadsheet" referred to in section 4.0 [indicates](#) that if internal migration losses could be prevented via taking positive action of fencing improvements that the deer density on the open range could in fact be reduced to 8.8 deer/km², to support an annual sporting stag cull of 180 stags.

The same SNH Population Model, also [indicates](#) that when continuing to allow for migration into the enclosed woodlands from the open range; combined with the very high non-sporting culls that occurred during the 2017/18 season, then the open range deer density within the ELSDMG area may need to increase to more than 11.5 deer/km².

6.2 Habitat Targets

The herbivore impact target for designated sites is to be favourable/stable or improving.

- The designated sites are reported on in the DMP 9th Edition, Background Information Document at Section 10. At present the majority of the designated SSSI's, SAC's, SPA's land and habitats within the ELSDMG area are deemed to be in favourable condition by SNH.

The group's herbivore impact target for non-designated open range and non-designated native woodland, as reported in the DMP 9th Edition, Background Information Document at Section 9.6.5, is to be predominantly light to moderate.

Action Point: - Chair has asked SNH for guidance re Habitat impact targets. By: - email 15/04/2019.

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.

Action Point: - Chair, Vice Chair, Members to consider and incorporate as agreed into Action Plan and for Population Model update by 31/08/2019.

Action Point: - Review additional available HIA data to inform the Population Model update. By Chair, Vice Chair, Members. Agenda item 29/04/2019

- A programme of habitat impact assessments over the open range is underway, but current information today is limited.
- As an interim until more data is available, we take into consideration as proxies:
 - That the deer density is at the lower end of the SNH medium rated category of 8 to 15 deer/km².
 - That the designated sites are generally favourable.
 - That >13170 sheep + followers and >350 cattle + followers have been removed from the open range in recent history.

7.0

Cull Target For 2018/19 Season

Assuming the FES woodland cull number will be maintained at an average of the last 5 years cull during the 2018/19 season, the undernoted cull targets have been set and apportionment as shown in the tables below. The woodland cull is not however to be restricted in securely fenced areas only.

The Eastern Working-Group's Open Range Cull

Landholding	Suggested Stag Cull Target 2018/19	Suggested Hind Cull Target 2018/19	Suggested Calf Cull Target 2018/19
Ardgour	11	15	5
Ariundle Farm	10	12	3
Conaglen	45	65	17
Drimnatorran Farm	9	8	2
Drumfern and Doire Mhor (FC)	-	-	-
Glenscaddle	25	20	7
Inversanda North	8	6	3
Druim Laith (North Carnoch)	10	4	3
Total Open Range Sub-Group Cull	118	130	40

The Western Working-Group's Open Range Cull

Landholding	Suggested Stag Cull Target 2018/19	Suggested Hind Cull Target 2018/19	Suggested Calf Cull Target 2018/19
Achnanellen (FC)	-	-	-
Ardery (FC)	-	-	-
Claish Moss (SNH)	-	-	-
Drimnatorran Woods (FC)	-	-	-
Glen Hurich (FC)	-	-	-
Resipole Farm	11	10	2
Resipole Woodland	-	-	-
Strontian Village (FC)	-	-	-
Sunart Estate	10	10	2
Sunart Oakwoods Owners Group	-	-	-
Total Open Range Sub-Group Cull	21	20	4

Therefore, the overall Open Range cull target for the 2018/19 season is for 137 stags, 150 hinds and 44 calves; which remains subject to review at the winter 2018 meeting. These targets have been set to maintain the open range population deer density within +/- 5% of 10.1 deer/km² with an improving stag: hind ratio of 1:1.67 over the period covered by this model, as forecasted by the population model.

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.

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.

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.

Supplement to the ELSDMG Working Action Plan. Updates for inclusion/combination with existing DMP sections.

Required Action identified.

Benchmark Criteria: - 8.2 13.3.

Action completed as below. Included as an appendix in the ELSDMG Working Action Plan.

Future Action required: - Review and include in the next DMP update. Vice Chair to re-circulate the Group 'Best Practice Guides ELSDMG' email from last September.

Action by: - Chair, Vice Chair, Members.

Date for Action: - Re-circulate BPG group email May 2019. Members ongoing.

All Deer Management Plans should reference and follow WDBP which will continue to evolve.

All deer management in the group will be carried out in accordance with Wild Deer Best Practice Guides. An 'MDMG Skills, Experience, Knowledge, Training and Certification Log' is updated periodically and demonstrates the competencies &etc. attained within the group and visually highlights any potential shortfalls of competence. Subscription or online availability is confirmed for deer controllers and managers.

It is noted that "BEST PRACTICE" since 28th May 2018 have discontinued the publication of 'hard copy' Best Practice Guides. Also, they will no longer circulate any information to you. The onus is now on you to find out whether your guides are current or if there have been any new, revised or updated guides etc, then download your own copy.

For your convenience the link to the online guides is <https://www.bestpracticeguides.org.uk/>

Required Action identified.

Benchmark Criteria: - 5.2. Public Interest Criteria; - 4.2, 4.3, 12.3, 12.4.

Action completed as below. Identified as an ongoing group task.

Future Action required: - When the Collaborative Woodland plans are developed these are to be reviewed and included in the next DMP update.

Action by: - Chair Vice Chair.

Date for action: - Following completion and issue of Collaborative woodland final plans.

The DMP should record all the land management objectives within the DMG area.

There have been no changes to land management objectives since the preparation of our current DMP. The group has discussed this in detail both at the ordinary meetings and between via email and phone. Information is not yet fully complete for the Collaborative woodland applications. When completed plans are available, we will review their land management objectives for inclusion into the ELSDMG DMP. Effects on Economic costs and benefits will be reviewed at the same time.

Required Action identified.

Public Interest Criteria; - 10.1

Action completed as below. Identified as an imminent task.

Future Action required: - Update the Estate Audit Sheets. Report as appropriate.

Action by: - Vice Chair. Ongoing reporting from Members.

Date for Action - July 2019.

Identify and quantify public safety issues associated with deer within the DMG area. E.g. DVC's, Airports etc.

Estate annual Audit to be updated to include for gathering data on 'Public Safety Issues' including historic data. Report if necessary, to the appropriate authority.

Required Action identified.

Public Interest Criteria: - 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 10.3, 14.2. Benchmark Criteria: - 8.1, 8.2, 12.1, 12.2, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3.

Action completed as below. Included as an update to the ELSDMG Working Action Plan.

Future Action required: - Review and include in the 2020 on DMP. Continue to update 'ELSDMG Skills, Experience, Knowledge, Training and Certification Log' periodically. Identify and respond to training needs via meeting agenda or group email communication.

Updated 'Training Policy'

ELSDMG is committed to increasing standards of competence and to offer and deliver, or to encourage, any necessary training for persons in relation to ELSDMG management practices in order to facilitate delivery of effective deer management. The group will support and encourage CPD through Best Practice Guidance which is considered the 'industry standard'.

The DMG recognise that members or staff carrying out deer control should achieve DMQ DSC1 or equivalent qualification as a minimum. 'Trained Hunter' status is also required to certify deer carcasses as fit for public consumption and DSC1 updated or attained WEF 01/01/2006 or the equivalent satisfies this requirement.

The DMG also recognise that members or their staff completing deer management work should attain DMQ DSC2 status.

All members deer controllers are encouraged to safeguard deer welfare by following the Best Practice Guidance and ELSDMG will encourage that DSC level 1 should be attained by anyone one undertaking practical deer control within the group.

The majority of retained stalkers or managers on individual ELSDMG properties hold DMQ DSC1 and a significant number DMQ DSC2 as well as other qualifications.

An 'ELSDMG Skills, Experience, Knowledge, Training and Certification Log' is updated periodically and demonstrates the competencies &etc. attained within the group and visually highlights any potential shortfalls of competence.

ELSDMG recognises that Deer managers supplying venison for public consumption are required to certify carcasses as fit for human consumption and to demonstrate due diligence and therefore the "Trained Hunter" status is required for carcass certification. The Group is committed to promoting "Trained Hunter" status and encouraging those handling carcasses to obtain suitable training.

ELSDMG will respond to suggestions or requests to assist with or arrange specific training for members or staff.

Examples of training offered for group members and staff have included SNH HIA Training, ATV Sit Inside Training and Certification, ATV Sit Astride Training and Certification, Tractor Training and Certification, First Aid &etc.

Required Action identified.

Public Interest Criteria: - 10.1, 11.1, 11.2, 11.3 11.4, 12.4.

Action completed as below. Included as an appendix in the Morvern DMG Working Action Plan.

Future Action required: - Review and include in the 2020 on DMP.

Action by: - Chair, Vice Chair, on receipt of new information. Members to inform.

Date for action: - Ongoing.

Actions to maximise economic benefits associated with deer.

ADMG, the LDNS and the Scottish Gamekeepers Association commissioned a study by “Public and Corporate Economic Consultants” (PACEC) titled ‘The Contribution of Deer Management to the Scottish Economy’. The key findings relevant to Scotland for 2013/14 were:

Economic headlines from the report show:

- £140.8m of expenditure in Scotland is reliant on deer management.
- Of this, £43.1m is directly due to deer management activities.
- There were 2,532 jobs in deer management of which 1,372 were known to be paid and 966 unpaid. The full-time equivalent is estimated at 845 FTEs.

More detail and the full report can be found via the following link: -

<http://www.deer-management.co.uk/deer-management-scotland/value-to-the-scottish-rural-economy/>

Deer stalking continues to grow in popularity with increased domestic and international demand for stalking opportunities. Some of this demand for deer stalking is satisfied in the Morvern area with many landholdings offering deer stalking on a commercial basis.

The annual group cull is forecast to be around 300 stags and 550 hinds/calves. Using average values for a day's stalking stags and hinds/calves we see a potential group value in excess of £200k. p.a.

With a venison value to the producer of £2.00 per kilo, the value of venison culled within ELS annually is IRO £80k. p.a. Game dealers and following trades/retailers add value to the venison processing it into healthy sustainable food and maintaining yet more jobs in the deer sector and contributing further to the local and national economy. Some of the ELS venison is processed through a local business established 20+ years located in the DMG area which is adding value by producing a quality branded product.

Deer stalking visitors, both domestic and international contribute to the local economy through the ELSDMG area with money spent in local hotels, B&B's, self-catering, shops, garages & etc. and while the value is difficult to quantify this is a valuable revenue stream to local businesses much of which is particularly useful as it is often outside of the main tourist seasons.

Many domestic and international tourists come to the area in the hope of seeing wild red deer, as well as the other wildlife, landscapes, flora and fauna our remote area has to offer. Most DMG members will offer advice on where best to walk or cycle as well as offering other activities that may be enjoyed. Guided walks or tours are offered within the DMG area to enable tourists to get the very best from the area and wildlife. Again, this tourism contributes to the local economy with money spent in local hotels, B&B's, self-catering, shops, garages & etc. and while the value is difficult to quantify this is a valuable revenue stream to local businesses.

Within the DMG area, a number of people are engaged in deer management some full and some part-time. It is estimated that there is 12 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs. Using standard values, we see a potential group value of £480k. p.a. It is anticipated that the imposition of sporting rates will have a negative effect on employment prospects within the DMG. With many landholdings having submitted appeals until these are resolved it will be difficult to quantify the negative effects.

Taking the above quantifiable economic benefits into account and allowing for a local multiplier to account for the supporting and supported trades, businesses & etc. we see a total benefit to the ELS area in the region of £1.5m. p.a. providing much-needed revenue and employment to the fragile local economy.

Deer stalking and deer management are only one of a number of ways many of the East loch Shiel landholding businesses generate economic benefits for the area. Farming, hydro-electricity, forestry, tourism, fishing, housing (provision of, construction & maintenance) and other integrated activities etc. all play an important role in the economics of the area, bringing investment, revenue and much-needed employment to the fragile local economy.

There is some larder sharing where practical. In one case a local deer management business is responsible for the deer management on several properties with carcasses from several DMG areas landholdings processed with those from other local landholdings through a single larder located in our DMG area. In other cases, deer management is carried out by a neighbour who processes all deer carcasses from each landholding through a single larder. Consideration

was given to other opportunities for further larder sharing at meetings in the past, but issues arise over practicality including SQWV registration. e.g. It would not be possible for non SQWV accredited personnel to process carcasses through an SQWV registered facility whilst maintaining SQWV compliance. Or, for a SQWV producer to process carcasses through a non SQWV larder. Most other landholdings now have their own deer larder and chill and with SQWV encouraged within the ELSDMG many of these are now SQWV registered or with registration pending.

The selection of game dealer is discussed and negotiated via the DMG periodically with members agreeing on and using the selected game dealer. This helps maximise benefits from venison production whilst at the same time reducing carbon costs. One negative of this policy of 'all our eggs in one basket' is, should the selected game dealer become insolvent the whole group potentially loses its venison income for a period and this has occurred three times in recent history.

Actions to minimise the economic cost of deer and ensure deer management is cost-effective.

Throughout the ELSDMG capital investment has been made in infrastructure, plant and equipment. Notable amongst these are deer larders/chillers, off and on road vehicles. Collectively these would have an approximate capital purchase value of £500,000. It should be noted that on many landholdings much of this capital equipment will be used for other purposes as well as deer management with e.g. both on and off-road vehicles used in farming, forestry &etc.

There is some larder sharing where practical. In one case a local deer management business is responsible for the deer management on several properties with carcasses processed with those from other local landholdings and DMG areas through a single larder located in our DMG area. In other cases, deer management is carried out by a neighbour who processes all deer carcasses from each landholding through a single larder. Consideration was given to other opportunities for further larder sharing at meetings in the past, but issues arise over practicality including SQWV registration. e.g. It would not be possible for non SQWV accredited personnel to process carcasses through an SQWV registered facility whilst maintaining SQWV compliance. Or, for a SQWV producer to process carcasses through a non SQWV larder. Most other landholdings now have their own deer larder and chill and with SQWV encouraged within the ELSDMG many of these are now SQWV registered or with registration pending.

There are extensive hill roads and tracks throughout ELS, often built for forestry, farming and hydro-electricity generation schemes &etc. which facilitate ease of access in many cases for deer management purposes.

There is an extensive fencing network throughout ELS much was originally livestock fencing subsequently raised to deer fence. Other deer fencing was raised to deny access to the deer from their range in order to create or re-generate forestry and woodlands or for agricultural purposes.

Some woodland and forestry interests are being impacted by deer, notably on the FES woodlands where fences are porous. FES continue to maintain their culling effort also utilising out of season and night shooting culling to minimise the impacts. It is noted here that emigration of deer, particularly stags from open range into woodlands through porous fences will have a negative effect on the economic interests of some sporting enterprises.

Otherwise, there is one claimed instance of agricultural damage where the adjacent estate has made proposals to prevent the situation from continuing. Each proposal has been rebutted and the estate has agreed to increase culling around the area. Otherwise there are no other instances of agricultural damage reported for the ELSDMG area although this will be kept under review and should there be any agricultural damage reported to the ELSDMG appropriate action will be considered and taken to resolve the problem.

There are relatively few instances of DVC's reported for the ELSDMG area although this will be kept under review and should there be an increase in DVC numbers appropriate action will be considered and taken to control the problem.

The selection of game dealer is discussed and negotiated via the ELSDMG periodically with members agreeing on and using the selected game dealer. This helps maximise benefits from venison production whilst at the same time reducing carbon costs. One negative of this policy of 'all our eggs in one basket' is, should the selected game dealer become insolvent the whole group potentially loses its venison income for a period and this has occurred three times in recent history.

Scottish Governments recent imposition of Sporting Rates is seen by many members to be an unwarranted and unwelcome additional cost which will have a negative effect on deer management both locally and nationally. It is also anticipated that this imposition of sporting rates will have a negative effect on employment prospects within the ELSDMG. ELSDMG has encouraged all members to appeal against their individual Sporting Rates Levy. With many landholdings having submitted appeals, until these are resolved it will be difficult to quantify the negative effects. A summary of the final rates imposed across the group will be prepared after the outcome of the appeals. The membership is of the opinion that properties that are members of and comply with DMG actions should in any case be exempted from Sporting Rates on the basis of the increased costs of compliance with Government requirements on the 'Benchmark' and the 'Public Interest'.

Up to date information on the above will be gathered on the Morvern DMG annual audits, considered and reported on.
