

EAST LOCH SHIEL DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP

DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN

ACTION PLAN - WORKING DOCUMENT

Issued 12th September 2018

2020 TO 2025 PERIOD

1st Edition.

Updated January 2020

The November 2018, January, April and May 2019 updates have been incorporated into the Action Plan – Working Document.

Compiled by:

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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 Action Plan – Working Document is used as the Group’s Action Plan and is regularly updated to reflect current group issues and plans. The current updates covers the period 2020 to 2025.

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 periodically 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.

PRIORITY CRITERIA ARE HIGHLIGHTED BY RED COMMENTS IN THE CRITERION COLUMN. THE COMMENTS ARE THE GUIDANCE GIVEN AT THE ADMG BIRNAM WORKSHOP TO SCORE GREEN IN EACH PRIORITY CRITERION.

The ADMG Benchmark	Criterion.	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 Section 7 - DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>The Boundaries and Properties and Sub Group map at Appendix 2 shows the ELSDMG area Boundaries and the Western and Eastern Working Group Boundaries.</p> <p>The Western Working Group area is dominated by enclosed woodlands with some open range and is mainly public sector owned.</p> <p>The Eastern Working Group area is dominated by open range with some enclosed woodlands and is mainly private sector owned.</p>	<p>Keep boundaries under review.</p> <p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings, minuted and if appropriate updated.</p>	Chair, Vice Chair, members.	DMP BI Section 7 BI Appendix2

	<p>1.2 Define appropriate sub populations where applicable</p>	<p>The Western and Eastern Working Group Boundaries agreed in November 2018 are shown on the Appendix 2 Properties and Sub-Group Boundaries Map.</p> <p>The Western Working Group area is dominated by enclosed woodlands with some open range.</p> <p>The Eastern Working Group area is dominated by open range with some enclosed woodlands.</p> <p>The Working Group areas each have their own sub-populations of deer with migration between the areas to be kept to a minimum.</p>	<p>Keep Working Group and sub-population areas under review.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, members.</p>	<p>Appendix 2 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>
<p>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 Section 7 - DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>The ELSDMG Constitution Appendix 1 - adopted in November 2018 defines the membership criteria and the current membership.</p> <p>Membership is open to the owners of land holdings within the ELS deer range where the management of red deer is a continuing requirement, or to other bodies, or people with a legitimate interest in the deer management of the ELSDMG area. Only those properties within the described ELSDMG area are eligible to join the ELSDMG. Only those bodies or people with a legitimate interest in the deer management of the described ELSDMG area are eligible to join the ELSDMG.</p>	<p>Through DMP process continue to contact non-engaging landholders from within the ELSDMG area. ELSDMG business documentation will be circulated where practical to members and non-engaging landholders. ELSDMG area landholders and stakeholders etc. may opt out of receiving correspondence.</p> <p>SNH offer to work to bring members together and assist with facilitating sharing of information and lack of engagement from non-attending/engaging landholders.</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>Secretary SNH</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 7</p> <p>Appendix 1 Meeting 02/11/2018 17/07/2018</p> <p>Email comms Chair/SNH 13/12/2018</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</p>

3. Meetings	<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 formal meetings annually at a convenient time and location generally in Spring and Autumn. (Appendix 1 Constitution sections 5 and 6 refers.) The ordinary business of the DMG will be carried out at these DMG meetings at which the members will undertake open discussions to report, consider and progress the deer management objectives within the ELSDMG area and to attempt to resolve any issues which may arise.</p> <p>Management and local meetings are held as needed. Email and phone calls between.</p> <p>Special meetings can be called with the procedure set out in Section 7 of the Constitution (Appendix 1).</p> <p>All formal meetings have an agenda and are minuted. The minutes are circulated and posted online after each meeting so that members can follow up on any required actions and to inform stakeholders and the wider public.</p>	<p>Secretary to ensure that formal meetings take place a minimum of twice per year.</p> <p>The DMG will collate information from the group meeting in the format of minutes and WEF 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 Agenda and 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 landholders.</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>	Secretary SNH	<p>Meeting minutes file.</p> <p>Appendix 1.</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.</p> <p>Section 11 of the ELSDMG Constitution (Appendix 1) sets out the proxy voting criteria.</p>	<p>All members and non-attending/engaging ELSDMG area landholders are encouraged to attend or be represented at every meeting.</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>	Secretary SNH	<p>Appendix 1.</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>

			<p>Group continues to communicate with non-engaging landholders where possible.</p> <p>Drimnatorran Farm however has instructed us to stop communicating with them. (i.e. opted out.)</p> <p>Ariundle Farm is represented at meetings by Conaglen which holds their proxy for voting matters.</p> <p>Chair has communicated with SGRIPD who have committed to attendance at meetings in future.</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>A full list of ELSDMG area members, landholders, agencies &etc. with contact details is maintained by the Secretary and is considered 'Confidential' to the DMG Office Bearers.</p> <p>The list includes those shown to the left.</p> <p>Neighbours and stakeholders also are included as appropriate.</p> <p>Those listed to the left are advised of the formal meetings and invited to attend.</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>In addition to inviting consider requesting Police Scotland attendance in future if any upcoming issues e.g. poaching, sheep or deer worrying &etc.</p> <p>Those listed to the left are to be advised of the formal meetings and invited to attend. See 15.1.</p>	<p>Secretary</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>Draft Agenda are produced prior to the meetings for members input. Final Agenda are issued at the meeting.</p> <p>Minutes are produced post meetings and actions identifiable for participants.</p> <p>Agenda, draft meeting minutes and approved meeting minutes are distributed to an agreed list including ELSDMG area members, landholders, agencies &etc. with contact details maintained by the Secretary and is considered 'Confidential' to the DMG Office Bearers.</p> <p>Agenda and meeting minutes are published on the ELSDMG section of the ADMG website. http://elochsheildmg.deer-management.co.uk/dmg-business/</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>A request is made to the attendees at the start of each meeting that a voice recording be made of the meeting to help DMG officers with the preparation of the minutes and not for general publication or distribution.</p>	<p>Chair 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>The Western and Eastern Working Group members communicate between themselves and each other via telephone, email and separate meetings between the DMG meetings as appropriate.</p> <p>Deer & management issues &etc. are often addressed between meetings via telephone and emails.</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>A Conflict and Grievance Procedure is included at 17.4 of the DMP Background Information.</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>Ongoing Group, Working Group and individual telephone and emails.</p> <p>Group officers email files demonstrate extensive communications re DMG issues.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair Members.</p>	<p>Email Files</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">4.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Constitution & Finances</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The DMG Constitution was updated, consulted on and approved at our DMG meeting of the 29/04/2019 and incorporates all those points listed to the left.</p> <p>Review of Constitution; Review details are included at section 14 of the Constitution.</p> <p>The current constitution is posted on the ADMG website. http://elochsheildmg.deer-management.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ELS-Updated-Constitution-24Apr19-PDF.pdf</p>	<p>The next scheduled review of the constitution is in April 2022.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair Members.</p>	<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 are dealt with by members on 'as and when basis'.</p> <p>Finance continues on an 'as and when basis'.</p>	<p>Finance continues on an 'as and when basis'.</p> <p>Should public funding be sourced consider the funder paying the contractor directly. This then deals with the VAT effectively at the same time.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair Members.</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;">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 9th edition DMP Background Information and 1st edition Action Plan - Working Document were both formally adopted at the 02/11/2018 meeting.</p> <p>These are both updated periodically.</p> <p>Current ELSDMG DMP's are posted on the ADMG website. http://elochsheildmg.deer-management.co.uk/deer-management-plan/</p>	<p>Data in the 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>Action Point: - The 1st edition Working Plan has and continues to be updated as appropriate. Chair, Vice Chair.</p> <p>The next Action Plan update will include for the two working groups. It is expected that an annual review/update of the Ample is ample.</p> <p>Action Point: - The 9th edition Background Information has and continues to be updated as appropriate. Chair, Vice Chair.</p> <p>The next update will include for the two working groups. It is expected that a two-yearly review/update of the Background Information is ample.</p> <p>Action Point: - Plan updates to be notified to properties and maintained on the ADMG/ELSDMG website. Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair Secretary Members</p>	<p>DMP BI and Action Plan. Meeting 02/11/2018</p>
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	<p>5.2 The DMP should record all the land management objectives within the DMG area.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 7 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>ELSDMG area land management objectives are recorded in section 7 of the DMP Background Information.</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 properties within the area will respond to changes or circumstances as they arise.</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 includes any changes to land management objectives among members.</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 properties within the area are to respond to changes or circumstances as they arise.</p> <p>Action Point: - Permanent Agenda item to request information on changes to any land management objectives.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Members</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 7 & Action Plan Meetings 02/11/2018 12/11/2019</p> <p>See comms file 9th, 10th, 20th October 2019</p> <p>See comms file 03/04/2019</p>
	<p>5.3 Where applicable, the plan should include a rolling 5-year population model.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 19 DMP Background Information document and Working Action Plan Document.</p> <p>A forward-looking population model summary is appended to this Working Plan and further details are included in the DMP Background Information Document. The Population Model is updated at least annually generally between the hind and stag seasons.</p> <p>The Population Model includes deer density, count figures, cull figures, recruitment and mortality, and considers deer condition, availability of shelter and</p>	<p>Population targets etc. are discussed at the Group Management meetings twice yearly.</p> <p>Action Point: - Permanent Agenda item is to report on and gather up to date information for the Population Model.</p>	<p>Chair Vice Chair Members</p>	<p>DMP BI - Section19. Action Plan – Section 4. Action Plan Appendix. Meeting 02/11/2018 Minutes 29/04/2019</p>

		forage, and HIA data at each update to arrive at a Population Target.			
	5.4 Appropriate use of maps to illustrate relevant detail.	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Appropriate maps are included in the Appendicies.</p>	<p>Relevant maps and data included in the DMP Background Information document, which will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in the Action Plan - Working Document and/or information circulated 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: - SNH are requested to provide maps with smaller file sizes for upload that maintain clarity.</p>	Vice Chair	<p>DMP BI Appendix' 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 11.</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</p>
	5.5 The DMP should identify the public interest aspects of deer management.	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Identified also in Section 2.2 of the Action Plan – Working Document below.</p>	<p>Data in DMP Background Information document will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings, minuted & updated in the Action Plan - Working 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 Section 2.2</p> <p>Meeting 02/11/2018</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</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>Considered & data captured in Section 15 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>The policy on Non – Native and Secondary Native Species is contained in Section 15 of the DMP Background Information.</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>DMP BI - Section 15.</p>

		Red deer are the primary species in ELS and the main focus of our DMP. Currently there are no issues with other species, with only roe deer present which for most are only a minor issue.	Group to re-consider should the situation change and revise content as and when other species and their management increase or decrease in importance.		
	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>Considered & data captured in Section 7 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>This Action Plan - Working Document 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 Action Plan - Working Document to provide an up-to-date and evolving DMP.</p> <p>See Action Plan Benchmark 5.1 above.</p>	Vice Chair	DMP BI – Section 7 Action Plan.
	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>Considered & data captured in Section 7 of the 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>This Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment.</p> <p>At the date of the assessment: -</p> <p>SNH; - Scoring and evidence of delivery: - <i>Ariundle is represented by Conaglen but doesn't attend the meetings. Drimnatorran did not input into current DMP and don't attend (property is up for sale). East sub group has met separately and correspond. West sub group - FLS and NSWG have had an initial meeting.</i></p> <p>SNH; -Future action for the group: - <i>The West sub group needs to continue to define and implement actions</i></p> <p>Since the assessment: -</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 and area landholders are encouraged to play their part in the DMP process and members are fully consulted on with the DMP and updates.</p> <p>Chair has communicated with SGRIPD who have committed to attendance at meetings in future.</p> <p>SNH are to look to bring members together and assist with facilitating sharing of information and with the lack of engagement from non-attending/engaging landholders.</p> <p>The SNH WMO has previously suggested on a number of occasions he would</p>	Secretary SNH FLS WWG	<p>DMP BI – Section 7 Action Plan.</p> <p>Meetings attendee lists. Email Files. Meeting 02/11/2018 17/07/2018</p> <p>Email comms Chair/SNH 13/12/2018</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</p>

		<p>DMG comment: -</p> <p>Drimnatorran and NSWG, a neighbour, are named in the SNH 2019 assessment notes but neither are members of ELSDMG.</p> <p>Also noted is that: - ‘The West Sub-Group [or Western Working Group, which is dominated by Public sector owned properties] needs to continue to define and implement actions.’</p> <p>‘The public sector owned properties are making little contribution to the DMP process.’</p> <p>The ELSDMG April 2019 meeting was to be key to our final preparation for our Assessment and was reliant in part on input and responses from SNH, without which we found ourselves at a disadvantage going into the Assessment. DMG requests to SNH for information often are not responded to and agreed SNH actions often not carried out.</p> <p>See – ELS 57 Outstanding Criteria 2019 word.</p> <p>DMG Western Working Group comment: -</p>	<p>encourage non-engaging properties to engage with the group. Action Point: -SNH</p> <p>Input required from Western Working Group.</p> <p>FES will not commit to writing a DMP for the western end, it has to be collaborative. GT said SNH will assist. ACTION POINT - SNH and FLS.</p> <p>Further discussion here clarified that the group needs proper detail for Western Working Group specifics often in the form of DMP sections to include in the ELSDMP. Action Point FLS.</p> <p>See Action Plan Benchmark 2.1, 3.2, 5.2, above.</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 Section 7 of the DMP Background Information document.</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 at 17.4 that allows the DMG to address issues in a structured manner.</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 DMP identifies conflict over FLS failed fences. This has been addressed on a number of occasions at the meetings and via direct comms with FLS officers but without progress or resolution.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair Secretary FLS</p>	<p>DMP BI - Section 7. Police comms 07 to 09 /2018. Meetings 02/11/2018 17/07/2018 02/11/2017.</p>

			<p>Eastern Working Group comment: - It is hoped that FLS will give serious consideration to the proposals made by the open range members to address the fencing issue. The proposals have benefits for Sustainable Deer Management, the 'Public Interest', all DMG members and to the environment.</p>		<p>DMP BI Section 17.4 Email files 07 to 09/2018 Meeting 02/11/2018 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 Section 17 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Local interests are consulted on new DMP's and advised of changes as they come forward.</p> <p>A consultee/stakeholders list is included at 17.1 in the Background Information section of the DMP.</p> <p>The DMP and approved meeting minutes are published on the ADMG website. Members, consultees and interested parties will be emailed to advise of changes.</p> <p>Agenda, meeting minutes, DMP's, DMP revisions and updates are distributed to an agreed list including ELSDMG area members, landholders, agencies, stakeholders &etc. with a contact details list maintained by the Secretary which is considered 'Confidential' to the DMG Office Bearers.</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 the DMP is accessible to all on the ADMG website.</p> <p>Some local interests have not provided email addresses. Action Point: - Request email addresses for ease of communication. Action Point: - The next postal meeting invitation (spring 2020) will include a request for email addresses.</p> <p>Input required from Western Working Group: - Provide contact details for local interests in the Western Working Group area to be included on the circulation list.</p>	<p>Secretary</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 17 Action Plan meeting agenda's minutes etc on ADMG website. See comms file 9th, 10th, 20th October 2019 Comms 03/04/2019</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">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 Section 2 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>The Code is endorsed and referenced in the ELSDMG Constitution at 2.ii</p> <p>The DMG members will undertake, the principles laid out in the Code of Practice on Deer Management. https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/land-and-sea-management/managing-wildlife/managing-deer/code-practice-deer-management</p> <p>All members are aware of and working to this standard and a link to the document has been circulated via group email on 29/11/2018.</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>Members are to deliver on the terms of the Code in their work.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Chair, Members.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 2</p> <p>Constitution Appendix 1.</p> <p>Training 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 style="text-align: center;">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 Section 4 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>The ADMG Principles of Collaboration are referenced in the ELSDMG Constitution at 2.ii</p> <p>All members are aware of these principles.</p> <p>All members are aware of and working to this standard and a link to the document has been circulated via group email on 29/11/2018. http://www.deer-management.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/ADMG-PRINCIPLES-OF-COLLABORATION.pdf</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 DMG members are to adhere to, the ADMG Principles of Collaboration.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Chair, Members</p>	<p>DMP BI - Section 4.</p> <p>Constitution Appendix 1.</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>

8. Best Practice	<p>8.1 All deer management should be carried out in accordance with Best Practice.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 3 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>The DMG members will undertake, the principles laid out in the Best Practice Guidance notes.</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>Members are to carry out deer management in accordance with Best Practice.</p>	<p>Chair, Members.</p>	<p>DMP BI - Section 3. Training etc log.</p>
	<p>8.2 All Deer Management Plans should reference and follow WDBP which will continue to evolve.</p>	<p>All members are aware of and are working to Best Practice.</p> <p>All members are aware of and working to this standard and a link to the document has been circulated via group email on 21/09/2018. https://www.bestpracticeguides.org.uk/</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Chair, Members.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 3. Training etc log. Members email 11/09/2018</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">9.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Data and evidence gathering- Deer Counts</p>	<p>9.1 Accurate deer counting forms the basis of population modelling. An ethos that reflects this should be in evidence.</p> <p style="color: red;">Green where DMG demonstrates a counting policy, with actions, that looks for a population estimate (whether by foot or helicopter) at least every 3-5 years, an assessment of the information gathered and a responsive and adaptive cull planning process.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 8 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Due to remoteness aerial counts are considered the only practical and 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>Carbon footprint and cost considerations prohibit more frequent helicopter counts.</p> <p>A privately funded helicopter count was completed in the March 2010 of the Open Range.</p> <p>A privately funded helicopter count was completed in the March 2016 of the Open Range.</p> <p>An SNH funded helicopter open range count was carried out in January 2019.</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>With a helicopter count in 2019 the next count is scheduled no later than 2024.</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 style="color: purple;">Deer count Map: we require alterations and corrections to be made to the 2019 count plan layout and legend by SNH, also we require a full set of GIS information to be issued to the DMG (as shape files) so that we can complete a finalised copy of the plan ourselves. Action Point – SNH.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Chair Members SNH</p>	<p>DMP BI - Section 8.</p> <p>Count map appendix ? when finalised</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.</p> <p>Count map appendix.</p>
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	<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>Green where counting is undertaken on 3-5 year basis; rationale and justification set out where this is not the case as a minimum.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 8 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Due to remoteness aerial counts are considered the only practical and 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>Carbon footprint and cost considerations prohibit more frequent helicopter counts.</p> <p>A privately funded helicopter count was completed in the March 2016 of the Open Range.</p> <p>An SNH funded helicopter open range count was carried out in January 2019.</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 2024.</p> <p>Keep regular aerial counts under review. Consider use of localised ground counts if aerial counts become uneconomic.</p> <p>SNH helicopter count completed 09/01/2019. Data will be used to update the Population Model. Deer count Map: We require alterations and corrections to be made to the 2019 count plan layout and legend by SNH, also we require a full set of GIS information to be issued to the DMG (as shape files) so that we can complete a finalised copy of the plan ourselves. Action Point – SNH</p> <p>Include the final count map as an Appendix to the DMP. Action Point: -Chair Vice-Chair.</p>	<p>Chair Vice-Chair. SNH</p>	<p>DMP BI - Section 8.</p> <p>Count map appendix ? when finalised</p> <p>As 9.1</p> <p>Minutes 09/04/2019 Vice Chair email request 01/05/2019.</p>
	<p>9.3 Recruitment and mortality counts are also essential for population modelling.</p> <p>Green where undertaken annually and overall Group figure calculated.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 8 of the 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>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>Permanent Spring meeting Agenda item.</p>	<p>Agenda item. Chair, Vice-Chair Deer managers.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 8.</p> <p>Mail to SNH re mortality counts sent 09/09/2018</p> <p>Meetings 02/11/2018 17/07/2018</p>

		<p>Recruitment counts of 200 to 300 hinds and calves from across the open range during April/May each year to determine the average recruitment to be applied to the Population Model.</p> <p>Mortality assessment/counts. At the 12/11/2019 meeting SNH advises that for adult deer we use the SNH standard of 2% but vary as needed based on the observations of the stalkers. For calves, carry out sample recruitment counts late spring by which time the winter mortality will have occurred. This then gives the actual 'post-winter mortality' recruitment figure with no need to calculate further. These figures can then be applied to the Population Model</p>	<p>Update to Section 8 of the DMP to include the Mortality assessment method shown to the left. Action Point: - Chair, Vice-Chair</p>		<p>02/11/2017 01/12/2015 22/06/2015 DMP BI Section 8.</p> <p>Meeting 29/04/2019 12/11/2019</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>FLS provided density data last for 2009 then has twice recently deferred the already overdue population density assessments back from 2018 to 2019, then again to 2020 citing budgetary constraints.</p> <p>This Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment.</p> <p>DMG comment: -</p> <p>FLS provided density data last for 2009 then has twice recently deferred the already overdue population density assessments back from 2018 to 2019, then again to 2020 citing budgetary constraints.</p> <p>This criterion is failed by Scot Gov agency FLS. A red assessment score was only avoided by the FLS commitment to a population density assessment being completed in 2020.</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>DMG to continue to encourage FLS to complete woodland deer counting/sampling. Ideally this would coincide with the open range counts.</p> <p>Action Point: - FES to provide deer density, recruitment, and mortality data in good time to allow the Population Model to be updated during summer 2020.</p>	<p>FLS Agenda item</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 8.</p> <p>Meeting 02/11/2018 Minutes 29/04/2019</p>

10. Data and evidence gathering- Culls	<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>Green where the Group has agreed a target which will deliver the objectives as set out within the DMP; 'agreed' is in relation to the DMG members, not SNH; where there's a contract or grant, or regulation is being used then target density and appropriate cull levels will require agreement with SNH/FCS, but not otherwise.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 19 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>With open range helicopter counts having been completed in 2016 and 2019, the group should continue to use population modelling, recruitment and mortality counts/assessments on an annual basis.</p> <p>General mortality, recruitment and other information is discussed during each DMG meeting.</p> <p>A forward-looking detailed Population Model and Target is at Section 4 of this Action Plan – Working 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>The population model target and cull target will be updated annually.</p> <p>Permanent Agenda item.</p> <p>Action Point: - Population model to be updated to include helicopter open range, recruitment, mortality and FES counts. Chair, Vice Chair, Members.</p>	Chair	DMP BI section 19 Action Plan – Section 4. Meeting 02/11/2018 29/04/2019 12/11/2019
	<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>Green where the groups overall cull, and apportionment of it in terms of distribution is appropriate to securing objectives set out in DMP.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>A forward-looking detailed Population Model has been prepared with population and cull targets discussed and agreed between members to achieve management and environmental objectives.</p> <p>This Priority Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment.</p> <p>SNH; - Scoring and evidence of delivery: - Cull is discussed and agreed with members present at meetings. Current culls and population targets will not achieve favourable environmental condition. SNH; - Future action for the group: - Group feel this is a</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.</p> <p>Action Point: - Cull apportionment to be agreed at the DMG twice yearly formal meetings. Chair, Vice Chair, Members.</p>	Chair Members FLS	DMP BI Section 19 Action Plan – Section 4. Meetings 12/11/2019 29/04/2019 02/11/2018 17/07/2018 02/11/2017 01/12/2015 DMP BI Section 19

		<p><i>green - to QA - check against Morvern and use 11.1 to inform QA. Result of QA - The statement against the Morven 10.2 criteria is more definitive and expansive in terms of delivering against multiple objectives. However for East Loch Shiel the information against the same criteria does not carry the same level and weight of evidence or commitment to justify GREEN. In addition this allocation for BM10.2 for ELS is consistent with the allocation for Public Interest 2.2 and 2.3.</i></p> <p>DMG comment: - The cull cannot 'be apportioned among members to deliver the objectives of the DMP and individual management objectives' while FLS continue their policy of not repairing fences and adopting their aggressive culling policy.</p> <p>Eastern Working Group comment: - Should FLS repair/maintain their fences, or agree to open range members proposals to address the fencing issues to stop migration the open range landholdings can reduce their deer density by ≈ 25% and maintain the agreed target population to 'deliver the objectives of the DMP and the individual management objectives.'</p> <p>See – ELS 57 Outstanding Criteria 2019 word.</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</p>	<p>Individual sporting interests' objectives are constrained while significant migration continues into the insecure woodlands (see Population Model etc. below).</p> <p>Eastern Working Group comment: - It is hoped that FLS will give serious consideration to the proposals made by the open range members to address the fencing issue. The proposals have benefits for Sustainable Deer Management, the 'Public Interest', all DMG members and to the environment. Action Point FLS.</p>		
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		<p>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 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>Green where the Group is operating to an up to date population model</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Sections 19 and 20 of the DMP Background Information document and Section 4 of the Action Plan – Working Document.</p> <p><u>Cull targets</u></p> <p>A forward-looking population model has been prepared and cull targets discussed and agreed between members.</p> <p>Proposed culls for the coming season are considered and decided at the DMG formal meetings.</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>Population model appended to this working plan will be updated annually.</p> <p>Members to discuss/review proposed culls at the DMG twice yearly formal meetings and may vary as deemed necessary.</p> <p>Permanent Agenda item.</p>	<p>Chair, Members Agenda Item.</p>	<p>DMP BI - Section 19 Section 20 Action Plan – Section 4. Meetings 02/11/2018 29/04/2019 12/11/2019</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">11.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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>Priority Criterion - Green if 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>Considered & data captured in Section 18 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Detail provided in DMP HIA Plot Map (ELS Appendix 11) and HIA Log (ELS Appendix 13) both of which are updated periodically. (November 2019 Revisions)</p> <p>This Priority Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment.</p> <p>SNH; - Scoring and evidence of delivery: - <i>Appendix 13 of DMP (online) summarises the current situation regarding HIA. Most estates have carried out some HIA though there are currently gaps. 110 complete, another 75 to complete 2019/2020 (Inversanda, SGRPID). Group has requested wider HIA guidance from SNH but this has not been delivered.</i></p> <p>SNH; -Future action for the group: -<i>Group to finish HIA, adopt habitat condition targets and monitor progress against these.</i></p> <p>DMG comment: -</p> <p>At the date of the assessment: -</p> <p>The HIA indicative Plot map (Appendix 11) and the HIA log (Appendix 13) showed the HIA monitoring commitments and the summary HIA assessment.</p> <p>The DMG had requested HIA guidance from SNH but this has not been delivered.</p> <p>In the Eastern Working Group area: -</p> <p>>90 open range BPG HIA plots reported carried out (Private ownership). With a schedule of completed and planned HIA in the HIA Log – Appendix 13.</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>SNH Claish Moss HIA scheduled for 2019 was not done, now deferred to 2020. No detail is given as to their proposals (Perhaps? 30 BPG BB 30 BPG DSH and some woodland?). Action Point: - SNH to confirm detail of their Claish Moss BPG HIA plan.</p> <p>FLS has no plans to do open range HIA. FLS explained that their priority was to monitor the woodland condition. They have extensive woodland HIA data and results. Their view is that if the woodland condition impacts are satisfactory then adjacent open range by default should also be satisfactory and there should be no need for them to carry out open range HIA. FLS tell us they are in dialogue with SNH to agree this is a reasonable way forward. <i>No update from FLS or SNH as to whether this approach is agreed. Still outstanding at 24/11/2019.</i> Action Point: - SNH and FLS to resolve and confirm the outcome to the DMG.</p> <p>See ELS HIA Plot map (Appendix 11) and HIA Log November 2019 Revisions (Appendix 13) for current HIA status.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SNH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FLS</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 18</p> <p>ELS HIA Log. Appendix11.</p> <p>Appendix 13 Meetings</p> <p>12/11/2019</p> <p>29/04/2019</p> <p>02/11/2018</p> <p>17/07/2018</p> <p>02/11/2017</p> <p>13/03/2017</p> <p>22/06/2015</p> <p>12/02/2015</p> <p>DMP BI Section 18</p> <p>Group email 11/09/2018</p> <p>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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		<p>In the Western Working Group area: -</p> <p>10 open range BPG HIA plots on Resipole Farm. (Private ownership)</p> <p>No SNH Claish Moss BPG HIA plots, (Public ownership) and no detail is given as to their proposals.</p> <p>No FLS open range BPG HIA plots and no plans to do any. (Public ownership)</p> <p>No SGRIPD BPG HIA plots, although under consideration. (Public ownership)</p> <p>Partial delivery of this criterion has led to an Amber score at the SNH Assessment in May 2019.</p> <p>N.B. SGRIPD later committed to, and during summer 2019 have established 60 BPG HIA plots with a report submitted to the DMG.</p>	<p>Action Point: - Chair requested property completion of HIA log. Email 15/04/2019. Property replies by 24/04/2019. Claish Moss detail of what is planned is still outstanding. Agenda item.</p> <p>HIA data to be analysed and detailed map prepared when all results are in. HIA plot map prepared (Appendix 11.) and HIA log (Appendix 13) summarises. Annual update.</p> <p>See Public Interest 5. Below.</p>		
	<p>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.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 18 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>11.2 BPG HIA frequency suggests a 3 to 5 yearly cycle.</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>		DMP BI Section 18.
	<p>11.3 Data is required on other herbivores present and their impact on the habitat.</p>	<p>11.3 It is noted that apart from hare dung presence, other herbivores input and signs of burning have been removed from the BPG BB and DSH field data sheets as downloaded on 08/03/2019, nor is there any recording of insect or other environmental damage.</p>	<p>See Action Plan Benchmark 11.1 above.</p>		DMP BI Section 18.
	<p>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.</p>	<p>11.4 Considered and captured in Section 18 of the ELSDMP Background Information.</p> <p>The HIA plot map at Appendix 11 and the HIA Log at Appendix 13 of the DMP shows the current monitoring with a results summary. (November 2019 Revisions)</p>	<p>Action Point: - Chair requested property completion of HIA log. Email 15/04/2019. Property replies by 24/04/2019. Agenda item. Claish Moss detail of what is planned is still outstanding at 10/12/2019.</p>		DMP BI Section 18. HIA log. – Appendix 13

12. Competence	<p>12.1 It is recommended that in addition to DSC 1 deer managers should also attain DSC 2 or equivalent.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>A Skills, Experience, Training and Certification schedule (Appendix 10) of this Working Plan shows DSC1 and DSC2 status.</p> <p>The DMG recommends that all properties are represented by deer managers with a minimum of DSC1 and/or 'trained hunter' exemption and preferably with DSC2 and/or equivalent.</p> <p>All named landholdings have DSC1, 'trained hunter' and most have DSC2 or equivalent.</p> <p>The DMG will support members with training and certification if needed.</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>To be updated annually with information gathered from the members and Audit Sheets.</p> <p>The DMG is to support members with identified training and certification needs.</p> <p><i>Training and log update - Permanent Spring Agenda item.</i></p>		<p>DMP BI Section 13.</p> <p>Training log – Appendix 10</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</p>
	<p>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.</p> <p><i>Priority criterion – no additional guidance.</i></p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>DSC1 or 'Trained Hunter' status is required to certify carcasses fit for public consumption.</p> <p>A Skills, Experience, Training and Certification schedule (Appendix 10) of this Working Plan shows DSC1 and DSC2 status.</p> <p>All named landholdings have DSC1, 'trained hunter' and most have DSC2 or equivalent.</p> <p>The DMG will support members with training and certification if needed.</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>A Skills, Experience, Training and Certification schedule (Appendix 10) of this Working Plan shows all member landholdings have 'trained Hunter' status.</p> <p><i>The Skills, Experience, Training and Certification schedule (Appendix 10) is appended to this Working Plan and is to be updated annually. Action Point: - Chair, Members.</i></p> <p>The DMG is to support members with identified training and certification needs.</p>	<p>Agenda item. Chair.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 13.</p> <p>Training log – Appendix 10</p> <p>Email sent to members 17/08/2018 re Scottish Venison videos.</p>

13. Training	<p>13.1 All DMGs should have a training policy and incorporate it in the DMP.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>A training policy is included in Section 13.1 of the DMP Background Information. Discussed and agreed with members as part of DMP.</p> <p>The Skills, Experience, Training and Certification schedule (Appendix 10) is appended to this Working Plan.</p> <p>The DMG will support members with training and certification if needed.</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><i>The Skills, Experience, Training and Certification schedule (Appendix 10) is appended to this Working Plan and is to be updated annually. Action Point: - Chair, Members.</i></p> <p>The DMG is to support members with identified training and certification needs.</p>		<p>DMP BI Section 13.</p> <p>Training log – Appendix 10</p>
	<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 Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>A training policy is included in Section 13.1 of the DMP Background Information. Discussed and agreed with members as part of DMP.</p> <p>The Skills, Experience, Knowledge, Training and Certification Log (Appendix 10) is appended to this Working Plan and demonstrates a high standard across the ELSDMG.</p> <p>The DMG will support members with training and certification if needed.</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><i>The training schedule will be reviewed annually to establish if there are any further training requirements.</i></p> <p><i>Permanent Spring Agenda item.</i></p> <p>The DMG is to support members with identified training and certification needs.</p>	Chair	<p>DMP BI Section 13.</p> <p>Training log – Appendix 10</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 Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>There is a group undertaking to deliver the terms of WDPB.</p> <p>The Skills, Experience, Training and Certification schedule (Appendix 10) is appended to this Working Plan.</p> <p>The DMG will support members with training and certification if needed.</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 was 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 – Appendix 10.</p> <p>The DMG is to support members with identified training and certification needs.</p>		<p>DMP BI Section 13.</p> <p>Training log – Appendix 10</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</p>
<p>14.</p> <p>Venison Marketing</p>	<p>14.1 Membership of the Scottish Quality Wild Venison scheme is recommended by ADMG.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 13 and 16 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Members are encouraged to join the SQWV scheme.</p> <p>Approximately 80% of the ELSDMG area and cull are covered by and operating under the SQWV or similar QA scheme.</p> <p>SNH says; It is the responsibility of stalking [leaseholder] to determine what quality assurance scheme to be involved in.</p> <p>The Skills, Experience, Training and Certification schedule (Appendix 10) is appended to this Working Plan.</p> <p>The DMG will support members with training and certification if needed.</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 is to support members with identified training and certification needs.</p>	<p>Chair</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 13 Section 16.</p> <p>Training log – Appendix 10.</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 Section 16 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Venison marketing and selection of a Game Dealer for venison collection is 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>Group emails 15/08/2018 and 22/09/2019 sent. Often collaborates not just with our members but with MDMG also. Group wide agreement.</p> <p>Venison marketing and selection of a Game Dealer for venison collection is to be considered by the members and agreed annually. <i>Action Point: Annual summer review and recommendation, subject to unforeseen issues e.g. insolvency of game dealer.</i></p>	<p>Chair. Members.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 16. Training log – Appendix 10</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</p> <p>Email 14/08/2018 16/08/2018</p> <p>Group email 15/08/2018.</p>
<p>15. Communications</p>	<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 Section 17 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>DMP contains agreed policy, group will - attend local community councils' meetings by invitation – Attend other local meetings by invitation - invite stakeholders identified in plan for comment on DMG's activities.</p> <p>A full list of ELSDMG area members, landholders, agencies &etc. with contact details is maintained by the Secretary and is considered 'Confidential' to the DMG Office Bearers.</p> <p>Neighbours and stakeholders also are included as appropriate</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, stakeholders and ELSDMG.</p> <p>ELSDMG should keep their communications policy up dated.</p> <p><i>Secretary to circulate information as agreed.</i></p>	<p>Secretary</p>	<p>BMI BI Section 17.</p> <p>Email and postal files 03/04/2019 01/11/2019 31/10/2019</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 Section 17 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>The current DMP was fully consulted on prior to adoption.</p> <p>New editions of the DMP will be fully consulted on prior to adoption,</p> <p>Updates will be notified and publicly available on the ELSDMG section of the ADMG website.</p> <p>The DMP, approved meeting minutes and other relevant documentation are published on the ADMG website.</p> <p>Meetings are open to members, stakeholders and the public.</p> <p>At least the Autumn Ordinary Meeting will be held in a public place to facilitate stakeholder and public involvement.</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 Action Plan – Working Document is to be reviewed annually with updates included and notification sent to stakeholders’ list.</p> <p>The ELS DMP Background Information is to be reviewed bi-annually with updates included and notification sent to stakeholders’ list.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary</p>	<p>ADMG website. DMP 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> <p>Priority criterion – no additional guidance.</p>			<p>Secretary</p>	<p>ADMG website. Direct to members etc. DMP BI Appendix 12 DMP BI Section 17. Minutes 29/04/2019 12/11/2019</p>

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.

PRIORITY CRITERIA ARE HIGHLIGHTED BY RED COMMENTS IN THE CRITERION COLUMN. THE COMMENTS ARE THE GUIDANCE GIVEN AT THE ADMG BIRNAM WORKSHOP TO SCORE GREEN IN EACH PRIORITY CRITERION.

SNH Actions 1 to 14	Criterion.	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. ACTIONS to develop mechanisms to manage deer.	1.1 Carry out an assessment of effectiveness against the Benchmark.	<p>SNH Assessments completed on 13/11/2014, 21/06/16 and 07/05/2019.</p> <p>An ADMG 'Health Check' Review was completed on 21/09/2018.</p> <p>Completed SNH Assessments and the ADMG Health Check summary were circulated to the membership upon issue.</p>	<p>The ELSDMG will complete further SNH assessments periodically as required by SNH.</p> <p>The ELS DMP Background Information and The Action Plan – Working Document will be reviewed and updated periodically.</p> <p>Periodic updates to this Action Plan – Working Document are ongoing assessment of the ELSDMG effectiveness against the Benchmark.</p>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary SNH.	
	1.2 Develop a series of actions to be implemented and assign roles.	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information Document, the DMP Action Plan – Working Document and the ELSDMG Constitution (Appendix 1).</p> <p>The ELS DMG Constitution sets out office bearers and members roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>Further actions to be implemented are set out in the next</p>	Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then minuted & updated in Action Plan – Working Document and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary Members	Constitution Minutes DMP BI Action Plan

		<p>column to the right of this Action Plan – Working Document with the ‘action by’ alongside, in the DMP Background Information and/or in supplements to this Action Plan.</p> <p>Further actions will be agreed at the formal meetings with ‘action by’ identified in the minutes.</p> <p>Further actions will be agreed at management or local meetings, via telephone or email &etc.</p> <p>For convenience an Action Points Summary may be issued which can include actions required, actions by - agreed/delegated, status and completion dates. This summary will draw information from the Constitution, meeting minutes, the DMP Background Information and the Action Plan – Working Document &etc.</p>	<p>Actions to be implemented and responsible parties detailed by means of the Constitution, meeting minutes, the DMP Background Information, the Action Plan – Working Document, supplements &etc.</p> <p>Delivery of actions is reviewed at each DMG meeting. – Permanent agenda item.</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>Green where DMG has DMP in place and an Action Plan which is updated annually, and there is a clear process for reviewing delivery. The term 'effective' refers to the extent to which agreed management actions will deliver objectives set out within the plan</p>	<p>The 9th edition DMP Background Information and this 1st edition Action Plan – Working Document including any supplements are the East Loch Shiel Deer Management Plan.</p> <p>The 9th edition DMP Background Information and this 1st edition Action Plan – Working Document were both formally adopted at 02/11/2018 meeting subject to ongoing amendments and periodic updates.</p> <p>The current forward looking ELS DMP is published online on the ELS section of the ADMG website, along with meeting agenda and minutes which are also circulated to the members' and consultees' list via email.</p> <p>The ELS DMP Background Information Document and this Action Plan – Working Document and supplements are periodically reviewed and updated.</p> <p>The DMP details public interests and how the group plans to deliver on them.</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 ELS DMP Background Information Document and the Action Plan – Working Document are to be periodically reviewed and updated.</p> <p>Summary information from the ELSDMG Working Plan will form part of each meeting agenda with key priorities which need to be addressed tabled at the meetings.</p> <p>Action Point: - The 1st edition Action Plan - Working Document has been and continues to be updated as appropriate. Chair, Vice Chair.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>In progress since March 2015, now on 9th edition.</p> <p>Meetings 12/11/2019 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>Group reports</p>

		<p>The 9th edition DMP Background Information and the 1st edition Action Plan – Working Document contain the action plan.</p> <p>Minutes from the ELSDMG formal meetings are publicly available published on the ELS section of the ADMG website.</p>	<p>Action Point: - The 9th edition Background Information has been and continues to be updated as appropriate. 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>For convenience an Action Points Summary may be issued which can include actions required, actions by - agreed/delegated, status and completion dates. This summary will draw information from meeting minutes, the DMP Background Information, the Action Plan – Working Document &etc.</p> <p>For convenience, Supplementary Group and Working Group Reports may be issued which can include actions required, actions by - agreed/delegated, status and completion dates. These reports will draw information from meeting minutes, the DMP Background Information and the Action Plan – Working Document &etc.</p>		
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<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>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where the extent and condition of features is described in the DMP</p>	<p>Designated sites and their feature conditions along with relevant maps have been considered & data captured in Section 10 of the 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 (January 2019) with individual members. Action Point SNH. Action Point: - SNH to advise timetable and outcome of meetings. By: - Summer 2019.</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 FLS. Ongoing.</p> <p>The consultant is producing comprehensive detailed reports on the ELS Eastern Working Group area designated sites and further proposals for ongoing progress on these sites. Action Point: - Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Consultant, SNH FLS. Ongoing.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary. SNH</p>	<p>Meetings 12/11/2019 29/04/2019 02/11/2018 17/07/2018 02/11/2017 DMP BI Section 10 Group reports</p>
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	<p>2.2 Identify and agree actions to manage herbivore impacts affecting the favourable condition of designated features.</p> <p>Priority Criterion –</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>Two SSSI sites have an Unfavourable Condition Status for one woodland feature each; the Doire Donn SSSI, and Loch Shiel SSSI.</p> <p>See Sections 9 and 10 of the DMP Background Information document for further details on these sites.</p> <p>This Priority Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment.</p> <p>At the time of the assessment: -</p> <p>SNH; - Scoring and evidence of delivery: - <i>Group members have been working on rotational fencing plans especially for Ardgour PW for at least 30 years. Group has identified some actions for designated sites in DMP background and working plan. ¹ At time of audit these actions will not result in favourable condition for Doire Donn SSSI and Loch Sheil SSSI. No feedback from Forestry Scotland on draft proposals. ELS discussing collaborative application. ² SNH; -Future action for the group: - <i>Work with FLS and SNH to agree further actions to deliver favourable condition of designated features.</i></i></p> <p>¹ DMG Eastern Working Group comment: - A further proposal for 3 Pinewood enclosures has been with SNH and FCS since 2018 which is as yet undecided.</p> <p>² DMG Eastern Working Group comment: - ELS have appointed a consultant V Clements (VC) 05/04/2019 to prepare a collaborative woodland application. (SNH comment above incorrect.)</p> <p>DMG Western Working Group comment: -</p> <p>Since the assessment: -</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. Action Point SNH. Action Point: - SNH to advise timetable and outcome of meetings. By: - Summer 2019.</p> <p>Three SNH Woodland and Wildlife Management Officers visited the Conaglen Pinewoods in March 2019. See Spring Summary report.</p> <p>VC gave a presentation at the 12/11/2019 meeting highlighting the aims, methods and background to the collaborative proposals. Whilst woodland proposals are under consideration on all four estates there is significant emphasis being placed on the designated woodland sites. VC anticipates bringing firm proposals</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9&10</p> <p>Minutes 12/11/2019 29/04/2019 02/11/2018</p> <p>Spring 2019 Summary report.</p>
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		<p>DMG Eastern Working Group comment: - ¹ Still no decision re proposal for 3 Pinewood enclosures at 15/12/2019. ¹</p> <p>² VC gave a presentation at the 12/11/2019 meeting highlighting the aims, methods and background to the collaborative proposals. Whilst woodland proposals are under consideration on all four estates there is significant emphasis being placed on the designated woodland sites. VC anticipates bringing firm proposals forward in the near future.</p> <p>DMG Western Working Group comment: -</p>	<p>forward in the near future. Action Point: - Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Consultant, SNH FLS. Ongoing.</p> <p>See also: Benchmark 2.1, 2.2, 3.2, 10.2 And Public Interest 2.1. Above.</p>		
	<p>2.3 Monitor progress and review actions to manage herbivore impacts affecting favourable condition.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</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>Two SSSI sites have an Unfavourable Condition Status for one woodland feature each; the Doire Donn SSSI, and Loch Shiel SSSI.</p> <p>See Sections 9 and 10 of the DMP Background Information document for further details on these sites.</p> <p>This Priority Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment.</p> <p>At the time of the assessment: -</p> <p>SNH; - Scoring and evidence of delivery: - <i>Version 9 of the DMP does contain some actions aimed at resolving issues on Doire Donn and Ardgour PW. These have not transferred as time bound actions in the working document. SNH/owners meetings in Jan 2019. Group has taken on woodland advisor to resolve these issues. SNH; -Future action for the group: - <i>Update working plan with time bound actions for each designated site which will resolve designated site issues.</i></i></p> <p>DMG Eastern Working Group comment: - A further proposal for 3 Pinewood enclosures has been with SNH and FCS since 2018 which is as yet undecided.</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>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>VC gave a presentation at the 12/11/2019 meeting highlighting the aims, methods and background to the collaborative proposals. Whilst woodland proposals are under consideration on all four estates there is significant emphasis being placed</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9&10</p>

		<p>DMG Eastern Working Group comment: - ELS have appointed a consultant V Clements (VC) 05/04/2019 to prepare a collaborative woodland application.</p> <p>DMG Western Working Group comment: -</p> <p>Since the assessment: -</p> <p>DMG Eastern Working Group comment: - Still no decision re proposal for 3 Pinewood enclosures at 15/12/2019.</p> <p>VC gave a presentation at the 12/11/2019 meeting highlighting the aims, methods and background to the collaborative proposals. Whilst woodland proposals are under consideration on all four estates there is significant emphasis being placed on the designated woodland sites. VC anticipates bringing firm proposals forward in the near future which will include management of herbivore impacts.</p> <p>DMG Western Working Group comment: -</p>	<p>on the designated woodland sites. VC anticipates bringing firm proposals forward in the near future. Action Point: - Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Consultant, SNH FLS. Ongoing.</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>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where the extent of the woodland is described through the DMP.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Sections 9 and 10 of the DMP Background Information document. See DMP Background Information document (Appendices 4a, 4b, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 for further details on NWSS regarding these sites also for further details on LTFP and woodland expansion proposals.</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&10</p>

	<p>3.2 Determine current condition of native woodland.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where DMP/WP sets out% of impacts in V. High, High, Medium or Low categories.</p> <p>Green based on process of understanding condition and not the condition itself.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Sections 9 and 10 of the DMP Background Information document. See DMP Background Information document (Appendices 4a, 4b, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 for further details on NWSS regarding these sites also for further details on LTFP and woodland expansion proposals.</p> <p>Three SNH Woodland and Wildlife Management Officers visited the Conaglen Pinewoods in March 2019. See Spring Summary report.</p> <p>Resipole farm have been monitoring woodland browsing in the Sunart Oakwoods for 15-20 years.</p> <p>Ardgour/Glenscaddle and Conaglen Estates undertake periodic surveys of leader browsing damage in their natural regeneration and restocking sites 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>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>VC gave a presentation at the 12/11/2019 ELSDMG meeting highlighting the aims, methods and background to the collaborative proposals. Whilst woodland proposals are under consideration on all four estates there is significant emphasis being placed on the designated woodland sites. VC anticipates bringing firm proposals forward in the near future.</p> <p>VC initial reports and proposals are nearing completion for issue to the group and support network. These reports detail the current condition, setting out and enabling further understanding of the condition.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9&10</p>
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	<p>3.3 Identify actions to retain and improve native woodland condition and deliver DMG woodland management objectives.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where Plan/Working Plan/Meeting minutes demonstrates evidence of strategic group consideration and captures actions, including rationale where action to improve woodland condition are Group priority or Group have demonstrated limitations to current delivery e.g. through exploring grant availability ;delivery focused on the group process for setting out what their contribution is, not on the amount they will deliver</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Sections 9 and 10 of the DMP Background Information document. See DMP Background Information document (Appendices 4a, 4b, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 for further details on NWSS regarding these sites also for further details on LTFP and woodland expansion proposals.</p> <p>This Priority Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment.</p> <p>At the time of the assessment: -</p> <p>SNH; - Scoring and evidence of delivery: - DMP contains updated information on NWSS in Section 9.6.3. Section 9.6.5.1 in background DMP refers to some actions. ELS "woodland project" outlined as a major action in DMP, but no details as yet forthcoming. Working document contains some historic information but requires clarity on future actions. Draft plans for Dore Donn and Ardgour submitted to Scottish Forestry. Collaborative woodland application being made by DMG.</p> <p>SNH; -Future action for the group: - Specific time bound actions to deliver on this section needed.</p> <p>DMG Eastern Working Group comment: - A further proposal for 3 Pinewood enclosures has been with SNH and FCS since 2018 which is as yet undecided.</p> <p>DMG Eastern Working Group comment: - ELS have appointed a consultant V Clements (VC) 05/04/2019 who is preparing a collaborative woodland application.</p> <p>DMG Eastern Working Group comment: - As reported on at previous meetings discussions have been held to try to find woodland proposals that can be supported by both SNH and FLS with both SNH and FLS seemingly at odds as to what is acceptable to support in the designated sites.</p> <p>Since the Assessment: -</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>VC gave a presentation at the 12/11/2019 ELSDMG meeting highlighting the aims, methods and background to the collaborative proposals. Whilst woodland proposals are under consideration on all four estates there is significant emphasis being placed on the designated woodland sites. VC anticipates bringing firm proposals forward in the near future.</p> <p>Initial reports and proposals are nearing completion for issue to the support network in a further attempt to progress.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9&10</p>
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		<p>Eastern Working Group comment: - VC gave a presentation at the 12/11/2019 ELSDMG meeting highlighting the aims, methods and background to the collaborative proposals. Whilst woodland proposals are under consideration on all four estates there is significant emphasis being placed on the designated woodland sites. VC anticipates bringing firm proposals forward in the near future.</p> <p>Initial reports and proposals are nearing completion for issue to the support network.</p> <p>Western Working Group comment: -</p> <p>Group Comment: - The DMG have discussed and targeted some areas that need improved e.g. 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 improve the woodland regeneration in these locations.</p> <p>The reduction in sheep numbers by over 13,000 plus followers and 350 breeding cows plus followers over recent years will be delivering significant reductions in impacts.</p>			
	<p>3.4 Monitor progress and review actions to manage herbivore impacts.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Sections 9 and 10 of the DMP Background Information document. See DMP Background Information document (Appendices 4a, 4b, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 for further details on NWSS regarding these sites also for further details on LTFP and woodland expansion proposals.</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</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</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9&10 Spring 2019 report</p>

		<p>deemed to be subject to high or very high herbivore impact levels.</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>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>A further proposal for 3 Pinewood enclosures has been with SNH and FCS since 2018 which is as yet undecided.</p>	<p>improvement under the rotational fencing system when considering the lifecycles of the woodlands in question.</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>Update the DMP when necessary to show those areas that need to be targeted to promote woodland protection.</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>4. ACTIONS to demonstrate DMG contribution to the Scottish Government woodland expansion target of 25% woodland cover.</p>	<p>4.1 Identify and quantify extent of recent woodland establishment (through SRDP (last 5 years) and through other schemes.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where planning process is clearly articulated and minuted/ incorporated into Working Plan; Detail of schemes being entered into are shared at DMG meeting,</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 9 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>See DMP Background Information document for further details on recent woodland establishment and woodland expansion proposals.</p> <p>Eastern Working Group: - A consultant (VC) 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>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 planting schemes should be put forward to the Group and implications for deer management discussed</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section9</p>

	<p>minuted and incorporated into Working Plan ; delivery is judged against planning process - not the amount being contributed.</p>	<p>VC gave a presentation at the 12/11/2019 ELSDMG meeting highlighting the aims, methods and background to the collaborative proposals. Whilst woodland proposals are under consideration on all four estates there is significant emphasis being placed on the designated woodland sites. VC anticipates bringing firm proposals forward in the near future.</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>4.2 Identify and quantify opportunities and priorities for woodland expansion over the next 5-10 years.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where DMG have implement actions agreed through the planning process (i.e. the actions set out in 4.2).</p>	<p>Initial reports and proposals are nearing completion for issue to the support network in a further attempt to progress.</p> <p>The implications of deer densities are considered within the proposals and agreed actions will be carried out to mitigate against undesirable impacts as/if the schemes come through.</p> <p>Western Working Group: -</p>	<p>VC gave a presentation at the 12/11/2019 ELSDMG meeting highlighting the aims, methods and background to the collaborative proposals. Whilst woodland proposals are under consideration on all four estates there is significant emphasis being placed on the designated woodland sites. VC anticipates bringing firm proposals forward in the near future.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9</p>
	<p>4.3 Consider at a population level the implication of increased woodland on deer densities and distribution across the DMG.</p> <p>Priority Criterion –</p> <p>Green where Group have demonstrated re-calculation of densities associated with different scenarios and considered implications of woodland proposal on deer movement where proposals are put forward; actions to monitor and mitigate against undesirable impacts agreed and minuted.</p>		<p>Initial reports and proposals are nearing completion for issue to the support network in a further attempt to progress.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Population Model</p>

	<p>4.4 Implement actions to deliver the DMG woodland expansion proposals and review progress.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green is judged against delivery of deer management measures associated with schemes as/if they come through (rather than delivery of the scheme itself which rests with individual properties - i.e. not judging implementation of actions to get LTFPs etc. agreed etc).</p>			<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI</p>
	<p>5.1 Identify habitat resource by broad type.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where the extent and broad type of habitat has been described within the DMP</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 9 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>See Section 9 of the DMP Background Information document for further details on habitat resources by type.</p> <p>Identified in Appendix 3 – Land Cover Scotland map 1988.</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. ACTIONS to monitor and manage deer impacts in the wider countryside.</p>	<p>5.2 Identify required impact targets for habitat types.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</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>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>Broad guidance (referred to left) has not been given to the DMG. Following the SNH 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 order that ultimate targets and stepping stones could be agreed at the meeting.</p> <p>SNH; - Scoring and evidence of delivery: - DMP states "Impacts should be predominantly low/moderate" across all wider countryside habitats - understanding in the group that this translates as >50% impacts low/moderate.</p> <p>Group comment: - The HIA log (Appendix 13 November 2019 Revision) has been updated detailing predominantly as 'at least 50%' for clarity.</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, Claish Moss, Conaglen, Druim Laith, Glenscaddle, Inversanda, Sunart, and Resipole Farm to a program of HIA's.</p> <p>Request for HIA data sent out via group email 02/01/2019.</p> <p>Request made to SNH for offered 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>SNH assessment 07/05/2019</p> <p>HIA log.</p>
	<p>5.3 Quantify a sustainable level of grazing and trampling for each of these habitat types.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 18 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>This Priority Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment.</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</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Population Model</p> <p>Email 11/04/2019</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>At the time of the assessment: -</p> <p>SNH; - Scoring and evidence of delivery: - Appendix 13 of DMP (online) summarises the current situation regarding HIA. Most estates have carried out some HIA though there are currently gaps. 110 complete, another 75 to complete 2019/2020 (Inversanda, SGRPID). Population target 10 deer/km2.SNH; -Future action for the group: - Updated figures should be sought to show number of plots visited by year, results and onward program of HIA.</p> <p>DMG comment: - At the date of the assessment: -</p> <p>The HIA indicative Plot map (Appendix 11) and the HIA log showed the HIA monitoring commitments and the summary HIA assessment including the number of plots visited by year, available results and an onward programme of HIA.</p> <p>The DMG had requested HIA guidance from SNH but this has not been delivered.</p> <p>In the Eastern Working Group area: - >90 open range BPG HIA plots reported carried out (Private ownership).</p> <p>In the Western Working Group area: - 10 open range BPG HIA plots on Resipole Farm. (Private ownership)</p> <p>No SNH Claish Moss BPG HIA plots, (Public ownership) and no detail is given as to their proposals.</p> <p>No FLS open range BPG HIA plots and no plans to do any. (Public ownership)</p> <p>No SGRIPD BPG HIA plots, although under consideration. (Public ownership)</p> <p>Partial delivery of this criterion has led to an Amber score at the SNH Assessment in May 2019.</p>	<p>and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</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>		<p>Emails 15/04/2019</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</p> <p>HIA log. Appendix 13.</p> <p>HIA Plot Plan Appendix 11</p>
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		<p>N.B. Following the assessment SGRIPD committed to, and have established 60 BPG HIA plots on a 3-year cycle with a report submitted to the DMG.</p> <p>Eastern Working Group comment: - The programme of HIA's will be continued with re-measures on a three to five-year rotation.</p> <p>Western Working Group comment: -</p>			
	<p>5.4 Identify where different levels of grazing may be required and prioritise accordingly.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where the Group identify and set out actions for localised management to deliver 5.2 and 5.3.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>This Priority Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment.</p> <p>At the time of the assessment: -</p> <p>SNH; - <i>Scoring and evidence of delivery:</i> - As 5.2 and 5.3 incomplete so the group has not been able to progress this action. SNH; -<i>Future action for the group:</i> -</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 offered/requested guidance from SNH. See Action Plan Public Interest 5.2, 5.3, above.</p>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	Population Model
	<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>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where HIA is being undertaken at appropriate DMG scale and mechanisms for using this data to inform cull planning</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>This Priority Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment.</p> <p>At the time of the assessment: -</p> <p>SNH; - <i>Scoring and evidence of delivery:</i> - Some HIA complete, no evidence of collective assessment of results in order to assess these against impact ranges. Impact ranges</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, Claish Moss, Conaglen, Druim Laith, Glenscaddle, Inversanda, Resipole</p>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	<p>DMP BI Section 18.</p> <p>Email to members 11/09/2018 02/01/2019 Meeting 02/11/2018 29/04/2019</p> <p>HIA log. Appendix 13.</p>

	<p>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><i>not agreed or recorded in DMP background or working plan.</i> SNH; -Future action for the group: - DMG comment: - At the date of the assessment: - The HIA indicative Plot map (Appendix 11) and the HIA log showed the HIA monitoring commitments and the summary HIA assessment including the number of plots visited by year, available results and an onward programme of HIA. The DMG had requested HIA guidance from SNH but this has not been delivered. In the Eastern Working Group area: - >90 open range BPG HIA plots reported carried out (Private ownership). In the Western Working Group area: - 10 open range BPG HIA plots on Resipole Farm. (Private ownership) No SNH Claish Moss BPG HIA plots, (Public ownership) and no detail is given as to their proposals. No FLS open range BPG HIA plots and no plans to do any. (Public ownership) No SGRIPD BPG HIA plots, although under consideration. (Public ownership) Partial delivery of this criterion has led to an Amber score at the SNH Assessment in May 2019. N.B. Following the assessment SGRIPD committed to, and have established 60 BPG HIA plots on a 3-year cycle with a report submitted to the DMG.</p>	<p>Farm, Sunart Estate to a program of HIA's. Request for HIA data sent out via group email 02/01/2019.</p>		<p>HIA Plot Plan 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</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section18. Meeting 02/11/2018 29/04/2019</p>

			and/or information circulated to members via e-mail. 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.		HIA log Appendix 13 HIA Plot Plan Appendix11
6. ACTIONS to improve Scotland's ability to store carbon by maintaining or improving ecosystem health.	6.1 Quantify the extent of the carbon-sensitive habitats within the DMG range.	Considered & data captured in Sections 9 and 14 of the DMP Background Information document.	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. See Action Plan Public Interest 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6 above	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	DMP BI Section 9 & 14. Meeting 02/11/2017 02/11/2018 Spring 2019 report Autumn 2019 Report
	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>This Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment.</p> <p>At the time of the assessment: -</p> <p>SNH; - Scoring and evidence of delivery: - <i>Generic targets set for habitats. 110 out of 185 HIA plots completed, a small proportion of which will be peatland: 25 blanket bog plots done, plus Claish Moss has had SCM, plus SGRPD to be completed. >50% blanket bog plots complete. Overall low blanket bog cover within group. SNH; -Future action for the group: -</i></p> <p>DMG comment: - At the date of the assessment: -</p>			

		<p>The HIA indicative Plot map (Appendix 11) and the HIA log showed the HIA monitoring commitments and the summary HIA assessment including the number of plots visited by year, available results and an onward programme of HIA.</p> <p>The DMG had requested HIA guidance from SNH but this has not been delivered.</p> <p>In the Eastern Working Group area: - >90 open range BPG HIA plots reported carried out (Private ownership).</p> <p>In the Western Working Group area: - 10 open range BPG HIA plots on Resipole Farm. (Private ownership)</p> <p>No SNH Claish Moss BPG HIA plots, (Public ownership) and no detail is given as to their proposals.</p> <p>No FLS open range BPG HIA plots and no plans to do any. (Public ownership)</p> <p>No SGRIPD BPG HIA plots, although under consideration. (Public ownership)</p> <p>Partial delivery of this criterion has led to an Amber score at the SNH Assessment in May 2019.</p> <p>N.B. Following the assessment SGRIPD committed to, and have established 60 BPG HIA plots on a 3-year cycle with a report submitted to the DMG.</p>			
	<p>6.3 Identify opportunities for the creation/restoration of peatlands.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where planning process is clearly articulated and minuted/ incorporated into Working Plan; Detail of schemes being entered</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Sections 9 and 14 of the 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>With Blanket bog/Peatland covering 3.4% of our group area there may be limited opportunity for restoration projects.</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>SNH invited to promote peatland restoration at meeting 02/11/2018,</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9.7 & 14 Meeting 02/11/2018</p> <p>Email 15/04/2019.</p>

	<p>into are shared at DMG meeting, minuted and incorporated into Working Plan ; delivery is judged against planning process - not the amount being contributed</p>	<p>The reduction in sheep numbers by over 13,000 plus followers and 350 breeding cows plus followers over recent years will be delivering significant reductions in impacts on these sensitive areas.</p> <p>ELS members will adhere to the Muirburn code.</p> <p>Peatland restoration is covered in more detail in the ELS 45 Group Report Spring 2019 (02/05/2019), ELS 47 Working Group Reports Spring 2019 (02/05/2019), ELS 52 Group Reports Autumn 2019 (05/11/2019) and Minutes from 12/11/2019.</p>	<p>29/04/2019 and 12/11/2019. See minutes.</p> <p>SNH WMO promoted 'Peatland restoration' at the Autumn 2019 meeting. The Lochaber Fisheries Trust peatland officer can advise on peatland restoration projects.</p> <p>Action Point: On 06/12/2019 Chair requested; to help with members understanding 'sight of typical contract/agreements for say - the restoration of a peat hagged area, and for - re-wetting of a previously drained peatland' - from SNH.</p>		<p>Minutes 02/11/2018 29/04/2019 12/11/2019</p> <p>Group Reports Spring 2019 Autumn 2019</p>
	<p>6.4 Contribute as appropriate to River Basin Management Planning.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 13 of the 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>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 Section 15 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>A shoot on site policy has been agreed with all members in relation to Muntjac (not currently resident in Scotland), wild</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 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>boar (not currently resident the DMG area) and Sika (only 2 ever seen/culled in group area).</p> <p>Wild Goats are not to be culled if they return to the DMG area.</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 Section 11 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Highland Council - Historic Environment Team have been contacted to request them to identify features and factors affecting condition. (Letter 27/06/2018.)</p> <p>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>Note re Morvern from a local archaeologist via email 09/04/2019: - <i>‘Deer impacts on Archeological features in Morvern’ ‘all I can say is that, as far as the archaeological sites are concerned, the more grazing there is the better. All the sites I am worried about are suffering from an absence of grazing and in danger of being swamped by vegetation. My current worries are the house and barn at Barr in the FC forest on Loch Teacuis. Since the trees were harvested the buildings have been invaded by self-sown trees, brambles and willow herb and are now impenetrable. Other sites, eg old house foundations, cairns etc on the open hill are also at risk from lack of grazing as they simply disappear in tussocky grass etc. Archaeologists love grazing animals! Occasionally a stone might be knocked over by a grazing animal but I think, in</i></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>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.</p> <p>The new proposals being prepared under the Collaborative Forestry Application will include consideration of historic and cultural features that may be impacted.</p> <p>No issues have been notified by HC Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>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</p> <p>Letter to Historic environment team 27/06/2018</p>

		<p><i>those cases, a cow would usually be the culprit rather than a deer and those impacts are far outweighed by the benefits of the control of vegetation growth.'</i> Whilst this note refers to Morvern the comments apply equally to the East Loch Shiel DMG area.</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 Section 11 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Members considering new fencing, 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.</p> <p>Members considering new forestry schemes or forestry expansion will follow Joint Agency Guidance on Fencing.</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 new proposals being prepared under the Collaborative Forestry Application will include consideration of historic and cultural features that may be impacted.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 11.</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>Considered & data captured in Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>A training policy is included in Section 13.1 of the DMP Background Information. Discussed and agreed with members as part of DMP.</p> <p>The Skills, Experience, Training and Certification schedule (Appendix 10) is appended to the DMP.</p> <p>The DMG has full coverage of industry minimum standards.</p> <p>The DMG will support members with training and certification if needed.</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><i>The training schedule will be reviewed annually to establish if there are any further training requirements. Action Point: - Permanent Spring Agenda item.</i></p> <p>The DMG is to support members with identified training and certification needs.</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 Appendix 10</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 Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>The Skills, Experience, Training and Certification schedule (Appendix 10) 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 and/or information circulated to members via e-mail.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section13</p> <p>Training log Appendix 10.</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>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where mechanisms for ongoing audit are in place (i.e. meeting agenda item and minuted).</p>	<p>The DMG will support members with training and certification if needed.</p> <p>ELSDMG recognises DSC1 as minimum and sets DSC2 as an aspiration for all. There currently is a good overall coverage of DSC1 and DSC2 and it is notable that all 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. There are several DSC2 accredited witness within the ELSDMG area.</p>	<p>The Skills, Experience, Training and Certification Schedule is to be updated annually and reviewed to establish if there are any further training requirements.</p> <p>The DMG is to support members with identified training and certification needs.</p> <p><i>The training schedule will be reviewed annually to establish if there are any further training requirements. Action Point: - Permanent Spring Agenda item.</i></p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Training log appendix 10</p> <p>Action Plan.</p> <p>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>Uptake of relevant formal and CPD training is encouraged and will be supported by the ELSDMG.</p>		<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section13</p> <p>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 Section 11 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Police Scotland have on occasion attended ELSDMG meetings and are invited to all ELSDMG meetings where they may raise public safety issues such as DVC’s &etc.</p> <p>There are few DVC’s reported for the ELSDMG area on the National DVC report.</p> <p>There are no trunk roads, railways or airports within the ELSDMG area.</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><i>A review of identified ELSDMG area Public Safety Issues to be carried out to capture and address any further issues. Action Point: - Chair, Vice-Chair, members.</i></p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section11.</p>

		DVC information is gathered and recorded at the DMG formal management meetings.	DVC information request to be included on the meeting agenda. Action Point: - By Chair, Vice-Chair.		
	<p>10.2 Identify actions with landowners, Local Authority, DMG to reduce or mitigate public safety risk and monitor effectiveness of actions.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 11 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Section 11 of the DMP Background Information includes a written undertaking to record DVC's and a strategy to deal with any issues as they arise.</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 group 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 FLS to all DMG group meetings as they are members. The group also invites an ADMG member to group meetings.</p> <p>The group invites representative from neighbouring DMGs, community councils and crofting townships to the ELSDMG group meetings.</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>A review of identified ELSDMG area Public Safety Issues to be carried out to capture and address any further issues. Action Point: - Chair, Vice-Chair, members.</p> <p>DVC information request to be included on the meeting agenda. Action Point: - By Chair, Vice-Chair, members.</p>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	<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>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where mechanisms for ongoing audit are in place (i.e. meeting agenda item and minuted)</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>The Skills, Experience, Training and Certification schedule (Appendix 10) is appended to this Working Plan. This shows the DSC1, DSC2, appropriate additional training and certification status.</p> <p>Members are encouraged to join the SQWV scheme.</p> <p>In excess of 80% of the ELSDMG area and cull are covered by and operating under the SQWV scheme.</p> <p>The DMG will support members with training and certification if needed.</p> <p>ELSDMG recognises DSC1 as minimum and sets DSC2 as an aspiration for all. There currently is a good overall coverage of DSC1 and DSC2. There are several DSC2 accredited witness within the ELSDMG area.</p> <p>Ardgour Estate participated in the E-coli survey 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. The results of Scottish Deer Health Survey re E. coli STEC 0157 was circulated via members email 10/01/2019. http://www.deer-management.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Deer-Health-Survey-STEC-O157-Results.pdf</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>Deer managers within the ELSDMG area are to follow BPG in relation to meat hygiene.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Training log appendix 10</p> <p>Action Plan</p> <p>Group email 10/01/2019 22/07/2018 17/08/2018</p>
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	<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>Priority criterion – Green where mechanisms for ongoing audit are in place</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>The Skills, Experience, Training and Certification schedule (Appendix 10) is appended to this Working Plan. This shows the DSC1, DSC2, appropriate additional training and certification status.</p> <p>The DMG will support members with training and certification if needed.</p> <p>ELSDMG recognises DSC1 as minimum and sets DSC2 as an aspiration for all. There currently is a good overall coverage of DSC1 and DSC2 or equivalent. There are several DSC2 accredited witness within the ELSDMG area.</p> <p>DMG meetings and/or group emails are used to inform ELS deer managers of notifiable diseases. A list of group emails re disease and etc. is included in the 2019 Spring Report.</p> <p>Notifiable diseases are detailed in the BPG Health and Welfare section which can be found at the following link https://www.bestpracticeguides.org.uk/health-welfare/</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>DMG meetings and/or group emails are used to inform ELS deer managers of notifiable diseases. 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</p> <p>Meeting 17/07/2018 26/06/2016</p> <p>DMP BI Section 13</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>Priority criterion – Green where mechanisms for ongoing audit are in place (i.e. meeting agenda item and minuted)</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>CWD information is detailed in the BPG Health and Welfare section which can be found at the following link https://www.bestpracticeguides.org.uk/health-welfare/</p> <p>With a BDS CWD leaflet can be viewed on this link: -</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</p> <p>Meetings 17/07/2018 26/07/2016</p> <p>DMP BI Section 13</p>

	<p>10.6 Identify opportunities to raise awareness of the risks associated with Lyme Disease.</p>	<p>https://www.bds.org.uk/index.php/documents/research/101-chronic-wasting-disease-leaflet/file</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>CWD leaflets to members at 26/07/2016 meeting and group email re CWD, Field Guide to Disease, Ticks and Lyme Disease 22/07/2018.</p> <p>A Scottish NHS Lyme Disease can be viewed on this link: - https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/ticks-and-lyme-disease-in-scotland/</p>	<p>DMG meetings and/or group emails are used to inform ELS deer managers of CWD and Lyme Disease &etc. A list of group emails sent 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>
	<p>10.7 Identify main access and recreational activity within the DMG area and assess how this fits with deer management activity.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 11 of the DMP Background Information document & DMP Action Plan Working Document.</p> <p>Members subscribe to the Outdoor access 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.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 11. Meeting 02/11/2017</p>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>Conaglen renewed all ELS DMG signs at each glen entry at Conaglen in 2016.</p> <p>Members have been encouraged improve communications with hill walkers via the promotion of the use of the 'Heading for the Scottish Hills' website with Ardgour, Conaglen, Druim Laith, Glenscaddle, and Resipole all providing information.</p>	<p>See DMP Background information 11.2 and Spring 2019 report.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 11. Meeting 02/11/2017</p>
	<p>10.9 Facilitate public access and promote positive communication between visiting public and wildlife managers.</p> <p>Priority criterion – Green where - DMGs articulate the initiatives planned and</p>	<p>Currently members equating to >80% of the land within ELSDMG contribute to this website.</p> <p>On FLS and SNH public land access is not restricted.</p> <p>In addition to DMP information a summary of 'ELSDMG Public Access Facilitation' is included at is included at Appendix 14</p>	<p>In addition to DMP information a summary of 'ELSDMG Public Access Facilitation' is included at is included at Appendix 14. And in section 8 below.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Meeting 02/11/2017 DMP BI Section 11.2 Appendix 14</p>

	implemented to meet responsibilities on access and initiatives to promote the messages around the deer management.	and in Section 8 of the Action Plan – Working Document below.			
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 Section 12 of the DMP Background Information document. The sporting Estates add significant value from deer management in let stalking, provision of accommodation, tourism, &etc.	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. Priority criterion – Green where mechanisms for ongoing audit of associated with Deer Management are in place.	Considered & data captured in Section 12 of the DMP Background Information document.	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.	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	DMP BI Section 12

	<p>11.3 Identify opportunities to add value to products from deer management (SQWV, venison branding).</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 16 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Members are encouraged to join the SQWV scheme.</p> <p>In excess of 80% of the ELSDMG area and cull are covered by and operating under the SQWV scheme.</p> <p>The DMG will support members with training and certification if needed.</p> <p>West Highland Venison has a local venison processing/retailing business and brand established over 20 years. Others have considered but decided against.</p> <p>The Sporting Estates add significant value from deer management in let stalking, provision of accommodation, tourism, &etc.</p> <p>Promote DMG discussions to maximise the economic benefits 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 have offered free larder assessments. The Chairman has circulated the contact details.</p> <p>It is noted that the premium for SQWV product has been withdrawn for the 2019/20 season.</p> <p>Action Point: - Agenda item for spring 2020 meeting to discuss ways to maximise the economic benefits from deer.</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 Section 16 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>All members changed venison dealer as a group in 2017 to Fyne Game following the insolvency of Yorkshire Game.</p> <p>Venison marketing and selection of a Game Dealer for venison collection is considered by the members and agreed annually.</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 and even from neighbouring DMG areas through</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 marketing and selection of a Game Dealer for venison collection is to be considered by the members and agreed annually. Action Point: Annual summer review and recommendation, subject to unforeseen issues e.g. insolvency of game dealer.</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 22/09/2019</p>

		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.	Group emails 15/08/2018 and 22/09/2019 sent. Often collaborates not just with our members but with MDMG also. Group wide agreement.		
12. ACTIONS to minimise the economic costs of deer, and ensure deer management is cost-effective.	12.1 Identify and quantify capital investment in deer management related infrastructure.	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 12 of the 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>	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.	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	DMP BI Section 12
	<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>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where impacts identified and DMG can demonstrate through DMP/WP/Minutes how efforts to resolve and address this have been made. In terms of understanding costs of deer this requires some analysis of the information which should be evidenced in form of actual reporting - i.e. group discussion paper.</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 soon as possible by the responsible members for said fences.</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. SNH agreed actions to address the issues at Clovullin croft are shown in the ELS Spring 2019 report.</p>		Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	<p>Meeting 02/11/2018 17/07/2018 02/11/2017 Emails from 20/08/2018</p> <p>See comms file 9th, 10th, 20th October 2019.</p> <p>ELS Spring 2019 report</p>

	<p>12.3 Where there are management changes, assess the likely economic impacts across the DMG.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>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. Management changes to the DMG are included on the meeting Agenda.</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. 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.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 12.</p> <p>Meeting 02/11/2017 17/07/2018 13/03/2017 12/02/2015</p>
	<p>12.4 Formulate a strategy to minimise the negative economic impacts in an equitable way.</p>	<p>The re-introduction of Sporting Rates has had a major negative economic impact across the DMG.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Many of the ELSDMG members have appealed against their individual sporting rates and assessments. These appeals were generally resolved during 2019 by the SAA. Discussion at meeting 29/04/2019 and other NDR strategy discussions between individuals post meeting.</p> <p>Promote DMG discussions to minimise the negative economic impacts of deer management.</p>	<p>Action Point: Management changes to the DMG are to be included as a permanent Agenda Item.</p> <p>Action Point: - Agenda item for spring 2020 meeting to discuss ways to minimise the economic benefits from deer.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 12.</p> <p>Meeting 29/04/2019 02/11/2017 17/07/2018 13/03/2017 12/02/2015</p> <p>Agenda 29/04/2019.</p> <p>Minutes 29/04/2019</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 Section 17 of the DMP Background Information document & DMP Action Plan – Working Document.</p> <p>All group meetings are open to members, stakeholders and the public.</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>DMG meetings open to Members, stakeholders and the public.</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>Priority criterion – Green where Group can provide evidence of efforts to engage Community Council and providing regular opportunity for this, and wider interest groups.</p>	<p>The DMP, Agenda, Meeting Minutes and DMG business &etc. are publicly available, all posted on the ELSDMG section of the ADMG website.</p> <p>At least the Autumn Ordinary Meeting will be held in a public place to facilitate and encourage stakeholder and public involvement.</p> <p>The ELSDMG has and will continue to consult with stakeholders on new editions of the DMP as they have been/are prepared.</p> <p>The ELSDMG will notify stakeholders of updates to the DMP as they are issued.</p> <p>Police attendance at the 29/04/2019 meeting to address various issues.</p> <p>The DMG have engaged with the Ardgour CC over a night licensing issues in Clovullin in Aug 2018.</p>		<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Minutes 02/11/2017 17/07/2018 02/11/2018</p> <p>DMP BI Section 17</p>
	<p>13.3 Support and promote wider opportunities for further education on deer.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document & DMP Action Plan document.</p> <p>The DMG will support members with training and certification as appropriate.</p> <p>Uptake of relevant formal and CPD training is encouraged and will be supported by the ELSDMG.</p> <p>Conaglen regularly offers week long high school coordinated work placements to local teenagers who want to experience the Gamekeepers role on a sporting estate.</p> <p>As noted in the ELS DMP Section 13.3 the reduction of sporting stags in the open range sporting estates may affect the ability to offer training placements.</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>The imposition of Sporting Rates may affect the ability to offer training placements.</p> <p>The burden of additional DMG costs may affect the ability to offer training placements.</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 with rates of natural mortality and recruitment discussed at each ELSDMG meeting 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>Deer welfare indicators for consideration include – Changes to and condition of cover and forage available – population counts/models – population density - recruitment counts – mortality counts – HIA – deer condition reports, &etc.</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>Deer welfare indicators for consideration include – Changes to and condition of cover and forage available – population counts/models – population density - recruitment counts – mortality counts – HIA – deer condition reports, &etc. Action Point: - These are included on the DMG meeting agenda.</p>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	<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>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where the DMGs acts as a forum to openly discuss and promote compliance with BP and to openly discuss issues and identify concerns raised by</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document & DMP Action Plan document.</p> <p>Ongoing DMG promotion of BPG in DMP and commitment from members.</p> <p>Good overall coverage of DSC 1 and 2 and notable that all 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>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>Concern raised at meeting 02/11/2018 and 29/04/2019 that BPG will no longer send out updates or circulate information. SNH response 06/11/2018 that changes will be</p>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	<p>Training log appendix 10</p> <p>Action Plan</p> <p>DMP BI Section 13</p> <p>Group email 11/09/2018</p> <p>Meeting 02/11/2018 29/04/2019</p>

	<p>interested parties, and to response to the concerns appropriately.</p>	<p>The period of maximum dependency, 01st April to the 31st August will be observed with no females over one year of age culled during this period. (other than for welfare considerations e.g. RTA injured deer.)</p>	<p>publicised via member organisations. Group email 11/09/2018.</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>Priority criterion – Green where mechanisms are in place to assess the wider welfare considerations as described through Best Practice and recorded through DMP/Action Plan/Minutes.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document and the Action Plan – Working Document.</p> <p>Historically, compensatory culls have been carried out as appropriate as access to feed and shelter have changed, or been insufficient. This policy will be evaluated and applied on a case by case basis going forward</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>The period of maximum dependency, 01st April to the 31st August will be observed with no females over one year of age culled during this period. (other than for welfare considerations e.g. RTA injured deer &etc.)</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>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: - 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>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Training log appendix 10</p> <p>Action Plan DMP BI Section 13</p> <p>Spring 2019 report.</p>
	<p>14.4 Periodically review information on actions to</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document and the Action Plan - Working Document.</p>	<p>Data will be periodically reviewed and discussed at DMG Meetings and then</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary</p>	<p>Training log appendix Action Plan</p>

	<p>safeguard welfare, identify and implement changes as required.</p> <p>Priority criterion – No additional guidance.</p>	<p>Deer managers are aware of and follow Best Practice and the Deer Code.</p> <p>The period of maximum dependency, 01st April to the 31st August will be observed with no females over one year of age culled during this period. (other than for welfare considerations e.g. RTA injured deer &etc.)</p> <p>Historically, compensatory culls have been carried out as appropriate as access to feed and shelter have changed, or been insufficient. This policy will be evaluated and applied going forward</p> <p>Compensatory cull completed by Conaglen in 2017/18 RE fencing and restocking of South Garvan woodland.</p>	<p>minuted & updated in Action Plan – Working Document.</p> <p>Members are 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.</p> <p>Compensatory culls will be evaluated and applied going forward as access to feed and shelter change, or be deemed insufficient.</p> <p>Deer welfare, changes of access to feed and shelter are permanent agenda items under Estate Reports along with changes to management policy.</p> <p>See also: - Deer Welfare. Spring 2019 Report.</p>	<p>Members.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 13</p> <p>Spring 2019 report.</p>
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3.0 The 2018/19 Season Cull

3.1 The Eastern Working Group's Cull 2018/19 Season

Landholding	Stag Cull Planned 2018/19	Stag Cull Achieved 2018/19	Hind Cull Planned 2018/19	Hind Cull Achieved 2018/19	Calf Cull Planned 2018/19	Calf Cull Achieved 2018/19
Ariundle Farm (Figures Estimated)	10	10	12	12	3	0
Conaglen (Inc. Enclosed South Garvan Cull)	45	26	65	74	17	34
		10		3		3
Drimnatorran Farm (Figures Estimated)	6	6	8	5	2	0
Drumfern and Doire Mhor (FCS)	0	1	0	0	0	0
Glenscaddle and Glengour	30	30	20	38	7	9
Inversanda North	8	10	6	8	3	2
Druim Laith (North Carnoch)	10	10	4	7	3	2
Unallocated land		3		0		0
Eastern Working Group Totals	109	106	126	147	40	50

The former SNH WMO advised that a number of stags had been culled during the period on a Clovullin croft under a night and out of season license. No return however was submitted.

The Eastern Working Group long term target is for a sustainable stag cull of 160 p/a.

Losses of deer due to migration through porous FLS fences has led to a shortage of mature stags and subsequent restriction of the Eastern working Group area open range cull. Even the planned cull for this season was not achieved due to a lack of mature stags to be found.

3.2 The Western Working-Group's Cull 2018/19 Season

Landholding	Stag Cull Target 2018/19	Stag Cull Achieved 2018/19	Hind Cull Target 2018/19	Hind Cull Achieved 2018/19	Calf Cull Target 2018/19	Calf Cull Achieved 2018/19
Achnanellen (FCS)		11		5		2
Ardery (FCS)		0		0		0
Claish Moss (SNH)	5	0	10	6	+followers	0
Drimnatorran Woods (FCS)		24		22		11
Glen Hurich (FCS)		115		73		33
Ranachan		4		5		1
Resipole Farm	11	15	10	23	2	9
Resipole Woodland		8		0		0
Strontian Village (FCS)		0		0		0
Sunart Estate	10	0	10	16	2	4
Total Open Range Sub-Group Cull		177		150		60

3.3 The Total Cull 2018/19 Season

Landholding	Stag Cull Target 2018/19	Stag Cull Achieved 2018/19	Hind Cull Target 2018/19	Hind Cull Achieved 2018/19	Calf Cull Target 2018/19	Calf Cull Achieved 2018/19
Total Eastern Working Group Cull	120	106	126	147	40	50
Total Western Working Group Cull		177		150		60
ELSDMG Total Cull		283		297		110

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 FLS 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 FLS 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 FLS 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.

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.

As an indication of the deer density required to provide for the Eastern Working Group area open range sporting interests, if migration from the open range into the FLS woodlands be prevented, 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 33003 ha:

- The population density required to maintain just a sporting cull on the open range of 116 stags, i.e. the open range previous 3-year average, is just 6.1 deer/km².
- The population density required to maintain the Eastern Working Group sporting cull target of 160 stags is just 8.4 deer/km².
- The population density required to maintain the Eastern Working Group sporting stag cull (116) plus the emigration into the woodlands (83) as the last 3 years average total of 199 stags is 10.4 deer/km².
- The population density required to maintain the Eastern Working Group sporting stag cull target of 160 stags plus the emigration into the woodlands (83) as the last 3 years average total of 243 stags is 12.7 deer/km².
- This demonstrates that while the forestry landowners continue to allow the significant migration of deer into their woodlands the Eastern Working Group open range population density will have to be maintained at a much higher level.
- Government has dictated that FLS are to increase their deer cull a further 10%.

4.1 Establishing the Base Information for the Population Model

The population model Base Information prepared by the ELSDMG comprises of three parts.

Part 1 - Past population model from 2009 woodland deer density deer estimates and the 2010 helicopter count to the 2016 count allow 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.

Part 3 – Re-starting from the January 2019 helicopter count the model forecasts forward to 2024/25.

The January 2019 helicopter open range count and part 3 Population Model supports the earlier model calculations.

There is no data since 2009 to support the FLS woodland density calculation.

4.1.1 Population Model Base Information - Part 1

- This population model separates the open range and forestry areas and provides a group wide summary.
- FES last carried out a population assessment in 2009 calculating a winter population in Glen Hurich Forest of 7.5 deer/km².
- 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.
- FES have said there is no migration from the open hill into their woodlands and there are higher recruitment levels, of 45% of all hinds in these woodlands due to the better feed and shelter which is available. Now said to be 65% of sexually mature woodland hinds.
- 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

- This population model separates the open range and the forestry areas and provides a group wide summary.
- 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.
- The 2009 FES woodland population estimate of 7.5 deer/km² is used without better information to the contrary.
- 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.

4.1.3 Population Model Base Information - Part 3

- This population model separates the Western and Eastern Working Group areas and provides a group wide summary.

- An aerial deer count of the open range was carried out in January 2019. The DMG is still awaiting the full count details and 'Shape File Data' to enter into the population model. Until this is provided all figures quoted should be treated as provisional and subject to change.
- Also outstanding is a digital count map with a file size suitable to upload to the ELSDMG section of the ADMG website. As an interim, the draft count figures and data are entered as the open range starting population 2019.
- The 2009 FES woodland population estimate of 7.5 deer/km² is used without better information to the contrary. FLS have said they will provide an updated population estimate during 2020.
- The population model projects forward from January 2019 to the 2024/25 season.

The Part 3.1 spreadsheet '**No migration**' shows:

- This spreadsheet builds on the previous population models and demonstrates how the population might alter without migration from the Eastern Working Group area into the Western Working Group Area and without intervention.
- Such changes are not likely to be seen on the ground unless migration between the Working Group areas is stopped.

The Part 3.2 spreadsheet '**3 yr average migration**' 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 3 years average; then 910 deer will migrate into the woodlands during the period covered by this model.
- With the Eastern Working Group cull restrained by losses of deer via migration into the Western Working Group area using standard figures of £450 + £150 per stag and £80 + £80 per hind/calf average total migration costs the EWG open Range Members £47000 to £65,000 a year. This loss of revenue is detrimental to the open range sporting business's and the taxpayer in lost VAT and Inland Revenue receipts.
- No account is made of reduction in secondary incomes etc.
- Using FLS figures the cost to cull each deer is £163. Average migration therefore is costing £30,000 a year
- Using CL figures the cost to cull each deer in this district is £185. Average migration therefore is costing the taxpayer via FLS £33,700 a year.
- No account is made of impacts to the commercial woodlands.

The Part 3.3 spreadsheet '**Strategic fenced 2021**' shows:

- A strategic fence, or at least a fencing repair would allow the Eastern Working Group members to increase their cull sensibly to secure employment and etc.
- This would allow a significant reduction of up to £35,000 per year or £210,000 over the life of this plan in the cost of culling immigrating deer from the Western Working Group woodlands also reducing the costs of woodland impacts.

- The Eastern Working Group area can reduce their deer density by around 25% whilst still attaining their sporting stag cull target of 160, reducing impacts to the designated sites and the wider habitats.
- That using the standard values above an increase in the Eastern Working Group sporting stag cull to the target of 160 plus the additional cull animals would allow a recovery of earnings up to £51,000 per year or £306,000 over the life of this plan plus secondary incomes etc.

5.0 Forwarding Looking Population Model

The population model projects forward from the January 2019 aerial open range count shows the projected red deer population for ELSDMG to 2024/25 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. Updates will 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.

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 Eastern Working Group open range population has to support its own cull, as well as to sustain the migration from the open range area into the enclosed woodlands. The Eastern Working Group target is for 160 sporting stags each year and a population that sustainably supports this. The Western Working Group target is to keep deer to a minimum in the enclosed woodlands.

It is noted that the absence of recent population density, population target, fencing, migration and cull target information for the FLS enclosed woodlands hampers the modelling of the open range population.

Migration is assumed to have occurred from the ELSDMG open range into 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. The population model spreadsheets calculate the approximate migration.

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.

The counted deer density for the whole of the ELSDMG area as at January 2019 was 9.8 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%.

FLS had indicated they would provide population density assessment information for 2019. This coupled with the aerial count January 2019 would have provided an excellent datum point for the forward-looking Population Model for 2019/20 on. Budgetary constraints have meant this has been put back again into 2020.

5.1.2 Mortality

LS of SNH advises at the ELSDMG Autumn meeting on the 12/11/2019 that for adult deer we use the SNH standard of 2% but vary as needed based on the observations of the stalkers. For calves, carry out sample recruitment counts late spring by which time the winter mortality will have occurred. This then gives the actual 'post-winter mortality' recruitment figure with no need to calculate further.

5.1.3 Recruitment

FLS.

CL advised the recruitment figure for the ELSDMG area FLS woodland hinds was 45%. JJ advises the recruitment figure for the ELSDMG area FLS woodlands sexually mature hinds is 65% and that FLS operate under a 'shoot the calf first' policy.

The last 3 years (2016/17 – 2017/18 – 2018/19) show on average a hind: calf cull ratio of 48.5% of all hinds which is \approx 58% of sexually mature hinds. This less spring mortality is \approx 45%.

The 'Forest Research Red deer population dynamics model' suggests in a high-performance woodland 54% for 2-year-old hinds and 76.5% for 3-year-old or over. This equates to \approx 61% of sexually mature hinds.

The 'Forest Research Red deer population dynamics model' gives a figure for Lochaber of 40% (From all data entered into the FC database to March 2005).

Collectively, the above suggests the recruitment figure for all hinds in the FLS woodland could be up to 45%, CL original figure.

The figure used in the forward-looking population model will continue to be 45% of all hinds.

An anomaly to this is the January 2019 count which records a Western Working Group hind: calf ratio of 32% from 516 hinds with 165 calves.

Open Range.

Open range recruitment figures are established at the periodic range counts with updates from annual sample counts.

The January 2019 helicopter count and the spring sample counts suggest an open range, post mortality, recruitment figure of 31.5%. This figure is used in the ELSDMG Autumn 2019 Population Model.

Action Point: - A recruitment count will be carried out during each May sampling 200 to 300 hinds/calves across the open range to establish the ratio of hinds: calves surviving the winter. By: - To be delegated at the Spring Group meetings. 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.

5.2 Population Model

A Population Model, updated for the period 2020/21 to 2024/25 is under preparation but awaiting final count and density data details. Upon receipt the Population model can be completed. This will be issued in due course in advance of the 2020/21 season.

Meanwhile all figures presented in Section 4.1.3 and Sections 5 & 6 are to be considered provisional and subject to change as the Population model is finalised.

Summary 2020/21 to 2024/25 Population Model detail will be included here on completion.

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 with an improving hind to stag ratio progressing over time towards 1:1.

The population model 'ELS 15 Population model Autumn 2019 East – West split' 2019 – 2024/25 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 Eastern Working Group Sporting Estates stag cull annually on the basis of a +5% per annum over the 4 seasons from 2020/21 to 2024/25, being an increase in the stag cull target to 165.

The Eastern Working Group area Sporting Estates stag target is for 160 stags per annum; but is currently constrained to around 120 by losses due to 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 Eastern Working Group could in fact be reduced to 8.4 deer/km², to support an annual sporting stag cull of 160 stags.

Whereas the population density required to maintain the Eastern Working Group sporting stag cull target of 160 stags plus the emigration into the woodlands (83 stags) as the last 3 years average total of 243 stags is 12.7 deer/km².

6.2 Habitat Targets

The designated sites are reported on in the DMP 9th Edition, Background Information Document at Section 10. At present (July 2018) 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 the non-designated open range is to be predominantly (at least 50%) light to moderate. Much of our area is grass dominated. There is no BPG HIA published method for grassland or grass-dominated habitats.

The group herbivore impact target is for non-designated woodland to be predominantly (at least 50%) light to moderate, in order to retain existing native woodland cover and improve the woodland condition in the medium to long term. A woodland monitoring method and training are under development and still to be rolled out.

With both grassland and woodland monitoring being extremely technical and requiring extensive botanical knowledge our SNH WMO advises the group should stick to just BPG BB and DSH monitoring (DMG meeting 12/11/2019).

A programme of habitat impact assessments over the open range is underway. Analysis of BB & DSH HIA shows the overall herbivore impacts as predominantly light to moderate with few heavy impacts. The heavy impacts are mostly concentrated in areas where livestock is grazed. We also take into consideration: 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. This all confirms our open range deer impacts are acceptable.

7.0 Planned Cull For 2019/20 Season

Assuming the FLS woodland cull number will be maintained at an average of the last 3 years cull during the 2019/20 season, the undernoted planned cull figures have been set and apportioned 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 Planned Cull

Landholding	Planned Stag Cull 2019/20	Planned Hind Cull 2019/20	Planned Calf Cull 2019/20
Ardgour	11	16	5
Ariundle Farm	10	12	4
Conaglen	46	80	25
Drimnatorran Farm	9	8	3
Drumfern and Doire Mhor (FLS)	-	-	-
Glenscaddle	26	37	14
Inversanda North	8	12	4
Druim Laith (North Carnoch)	10	14	5
Eastern Working Group area planned cull 2019/20	120	179	60

The Western Working-Group's Open Range Planned Cull

Landholding	Planned Stag Cull 2019/20	Planned Hind Cull 2019/20	Planned Calf Cull 2019/20
Achnanellen (FLS)	-	-	-
Ardery (FLS)	-	-	-
Claish Moss (SNH)	-	10	3
Drimnatorran Woods (FLS)	-	-	-
Glen Hurich (FLS)	-	-	-
Resipole Farm	11	10-12	3
Resipole Woodland	-	-	-
Strontian Village (FLS)	-	-	-
Sunart Estate	10	15-18	5
	-	-	-
Western Working Group area planned cull 2019/20			

Therefore, the overall Eastern Working Group Sporting Estates planned open range cull for the 2019/20 season is for 120 stags, 179 hinds and 60 calves. These figures 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 1:1.56 over the period covered by this model, as forecasted by the population model.