

# **EAST LOCH SHIEL DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP**

## **DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### **ACTION PLAN - WORKING DOCUMENT 1<sup>st</sup> EDITION**

**First Issued 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

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**January and April 2019**

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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 has been formally endorsed by all the Members of the Group. The plan will be reviewed periodically and can be updated if required to take account of any changing circumstances with the group area. A substantial plan review was completed in September 2018.

The 'Deer Management Plan: Background Information' 9<sup>th</sup> Edition was issued in 2018 covering the period to 2023 which 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. A formal review of the overall document is due in 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.

Various appendices, reports, and supplements form part of the DMP to cover different specific aspects of our deer management and allow for periodic updates at appropriate intervals.

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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 sporting stag cull.
- 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 Delivering the Benchmark

ELSDMG has been assessed to show the DMG's delivery of the 'ADMG Benchmark' criteria. In this section of the plan, an account is given of how the DMG currently delivers on the 'ADMG Benchmark' and where appropriate, correcting, new, and ongoing actions are listed.

### **Note re the 2019 SNH Assessment**

With the SNH office reported as 'undergoing personnel changes' and being 'in a state of flux' the promised support to the ELSDMG in the run up to the assessment was not delivered. With no SNH WMO or designated contact from the 18/03/2019 or attendance at the ELSDMG April 2019 meeting, which was to be key to our final preparation for our Assessment and was reliant in part on input and responses from SNH, we were left at a disadvantage going into the Assessment.

At the SNH 2019 Assessment of the East Loch Shiel Deer Management Group, 90 criteria scored green and 11 scored amber, no red. In response to this scoring, the Officers of the group have addressed each of the amber scored criteria (as shown below) in order to resolve them. Priority criteria are highlighted by red comments in the Criterion column. The comments in red are the 'Guidance' given at the ADMG Birnam workshop in 2018 and subsequently confirmed by R Kernahan – SNH Head of National Operations to score green in each priority criterion. The Green notes under are the 'Evidence to demonstrate delivery'.

The pink highlights in the 'What is the DMG doing now' column show the SNH amber scores and their comments at the May 2019 DMG Assessment followed by the DMG summary responses relevant to that score and date.

The ADMG Benchmark	Criterion.	What is the DMG doing now? These are current outputs	What will the DMG do in the future? These are ongoing, current and new actions.	Action by Members and: -	
1. Area and boundaries	1.1 Identify the appropriate boundaries for the group to operate in.	<p>Considered &amp; 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>	Keep boundaries under review.	Chair, Vice Chair.	DMP BI Section 7 BI Appendix2
	1.2 Define appropriate sub populations where applicable	<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>	Keep Working Group and sub-population areas under review.	Chair, Vice Chair.	Appendix 2

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2. Membership</b></p>	<p><b>2.1</b> 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 &amp; data captured in Section 7 - DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>The ELSDMG Constitution Appendix 1 - adopted in November 2018 and reviewed in April 2022 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 and people with a legitimate interest in the deer management of the described ELSDMG area are eligible to join the ELSDMG.</p>	<p>Membership of the ELSDMG remains open to all those listed to the left with membership criteria defined in our Constitution.</p> <p>The most up to date Constitution along with DMP's, updates and DMG information are freely available online on the ELSDMG section of the ADMG website and all parties are advised to use these.  <a href="http://www.deer-management.co.uk/">http://www.deer-management.co.uk/</a></p>	<p>Secretary</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 7 Appendix 1</p>
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<b>3. Meetings</b>	<p><b>3.1</b> 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>Group members communicate as appropriate between meetings either in person or via telephone, email and etc.</p> <p>Special meetings can be called with the procedure set out in Section 7 of the Constitution (Appendix 1).</p> <p>By consensus of the members, in variation to the constitution, whilst unable to hold formal meetings through the 2020/21 pandemic, the DMG business was conducted by email and telephone. A series titled ‘Agenda – Progress’ with dates summarises the ongoing DMG business.</p>	<p>Secretary to ensure that formal meetings take place twice per year.</p> <p>Formal meetings have resumed WEF 19/04/2022 although we may revert to remote working in case of a Covid resurgence or similar.</p>	Secretary	Meeting minutes file. Appendix 1. ADMG website
	<p><b>3.2</b> 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>	Secretary	Appendix 1.

	<p><b>3.3</b> 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 &amp;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 as appropriate.</p> <p>Notice of meetings and Draft Agenda are posted on the ADMG website.</p>	<p>Police Scotland are requested to attend to address specific issues e.g., poaching, sheep or deer worrying &amp;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><b>3.4</b> 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 formal meetings for member's input. Final Agenda are issued at the meeting.</p> <p>Attendees are encouraged to participate at the meetings.</p> <p>All formal meetings have an agenda and are minuted to include agreed actions and decisions. The draft minutes, are circulated to attendees and members after each meeting allowing members to follow up on any required actions and to inform stakeholders and the wider public.</p> <p>The draft minutes are considered at the next formal meeting at which time any corrections can be included and the minutes approved.</p> <p>The Approved Minutes, are published on the ELSDMG section of the ADMG website.</p> <p><a href="http://elochsheildmg.deer-management.co.uk/">http://elochsheildmg.deer-management.co.uk/</a></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. No other voice or video recordings are permitted except with the express permission of all present.</p> <p>Minutes will be taken at the formal meetings. The draft minutes are issued to attendees and members prior to the next formal meeting at which time any corrections can be included and the minutes approved.</p> <p>The Minutes, incorporating the agenda, once approved, are published on the ELSDMG section of the ADMG website.</p>	<p>Chair Secretary Agenda item</p>	<p>Agenda and Minutes Files</p>



	<p><b>3.5</b> 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>Group members communicate as appropriate between meetings either in person or via telephone, email and etc.</p> <p>Deer &amp; management issues &amp;etc. are often addressed between the formal meetings either in person or via telephone and emails.</p> <p>Group officers email files demonstrate extensive communications re DMG issues.</p> <p>For more serious issues a Conflict and Grievance Procedure is included at 17.4 of the DMP Background Information.</p>	<p>Deer and management issues may be addressed between the formal meetings either in person or via telephone and emails etc. and this can provide an ongoing source of communication and advice.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair.</p>	<p>Email Files</p>
<p><b>4.</b> <b>Constitution &amp; Finances</b></p>	<p><b>4.1</b> 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 East Loch Shiel section of the ADMG website.</p> <p>By consensus of the members, and at variation to the Constitution, whilst unable to hold formal meetings through the 2020/21 pandemic, the DMG business was conducted by email and telephone. A series titled 'Agenda – Progress' with dates summarises the ongoing DMG business.</p> <p><a href="http://elochsheildmg.deer-management.co.uk/">http://elochsheildmg.deer-management.co.uk/</a></p>	<p>Our Constitution was reviewed by the officers of the DMG in April 2022 and with no updates felt necessary remains in place until the next scheduled review in 2025.</p> <p>The procedure for interim review is set out in the Constitution.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Appendix 1.</p>

	<p><b>4.2</b> Good management and budgeting of finances.</p>	<p>The ELSDMG has no bank account, and is not VAT registered. 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 for the group consider the funder paying the contractor directly. This then deals with the VAT effectively at the same time.</p> <p>Keep this method of operating under review.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b> <b>Deer Management Plans</b></p>	<p><b>5.1</b> All DMGs should have an up to date, effective and forward-looking Deer Management Plan (DMP).</p>	<p>The current forward looking ELSDMG Deer Management Plan, which was formally adopted at the 02/11/2018 ELSDMG meeting, is in three main sections: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The Background Information (9<sup>th</sup> Edition.) section of the DMP which normally covers a five-year period from publication which is to be updated each 5 years or more frequently if circumstances dictate.</li> <li>b. The Action Plan – Working Document (1<sup>st</sup> Edition.) section of the DMP is usually updated every year or more frequently if circumstances dictate.</li> <li>c. Appendixes, Reports, and Supplements which are part of the DMP are issued and/or updated as appropriate.</li> </ol> <p>Our DMP sections are adaptive allowing the group or properties within the area are to respond to changes or circumstances as they arise.</p>	<p>The DMP ‘Background Information’, the ‘Action Plan’, Appendixes, Reports and Supplements will be periodically reviewed and updated as appropriate.</p> <p>Specific information for the WWG FLS area is contained in the FLS LMP’s (referred to below in BM 5.2) which are waiting approval from Scottish Forestry.</p> <p><b>ACTION POINT 1:</b> - WWG to provide summary information specific to their area for inclusion in the ELSDMP.</p> <p><b>ACTION POINT 2:</b> - Chair, Vice Chair to programme DMP BI update on receipt.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair Secretary  WWG</p>	<p>DMP BI and Action Plan.</p>

		The current ELSDMG DMP is posted on the ADMG website. <a href="http://elochsheildmg.deer-management.co.uk/">http://elochsheildmg.deer-management.co.uk/</a>			
	5.2 The DMP should record all the land management objectives within the DMG area.	<p>Considered &amp; 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>Changes of members land management objectives will be included in the DMP 'Background Information' and the 'Action Plan' at the periodic reviews.</p>	<p>A permanent Agenda item requests information on changes to any land management objectives which will be minuted.</p> <p>In the EWG area: -</p> <p>Changes to land management objectives will be updated at the next update of the DMP.</p> <p>In the WWG area: -</p> <p>The draft Drimnatorran Forest and Glenhurich Land Management Plans (LMPs), which record all their land management objectives, are with Scottish Forestry awaiting approval. FLS are uncertain of the timescales for approval. However, both LMPs are located on the LMP consultation page on the FLS website within the West section: <a href="#">Land management plan consultations - Forestry and Land Scotland</a> . Once approved, the LMPs will sit in the Active LMP page on the FLS.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p> <p>Agenda item</p>	DMP BI Section 7 & Action Plan
	5.3 Where applicable, the plan should include a rolling 5-year population model.	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Section 19 DMP Background Information document and Working Action Plan Document.</p>	<p>Population targets etc. are discussed at the Group Management meetings twice yearly.</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>Vice Chair</p> <p>Agenda item.</p>	DMP BI - Section19. Appendix 15

		<p>Our Forward Population Model and Targets are updated annually.</p> <p>A summary of our forward-looking Population Model and Targets (Appendix 15) is published online. Further details are included in the DMP Background Information Document. The Population Model and Targets is updated each year 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 forage, and HIA data &amp;etc. at each update to arrive at a Population Target.</p>	<p>A permanent Agenda item is to report on and gather up to date information for the Population Model.</p> <p>The annually updated Population Model and Targets summary information (Appendix 15) is published online in the ELS section of the ADMG website.</p>		
	<p><b>5.4</b> Appropriate use of maps to illustrate relevant detail.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Appropriate maps and data are included in the DMP Background Information document and/or as appendices maintained on the ELSDMG section of the ADMG website.</p>	<p>Consider inclusion of any other relevant mapping as appropriate.</p> <p>Action: - Vice Chair to review and update the maps in the DMP Appendixes to reflect the new enclosures and LMP on Conaglen Estate.</p>	<p>Chair Vice Chair</p>	<p>DMP BI Appendix' 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 11.</p>
	<p><b>5.5</b> The DMP should identify the public interest aspects of deer management.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Identified also in Section 2.2 of the Action Plan – Working Document below.</p> <p>Public Interest aspects of deer management are included in Section 2.2 of this Action Plan.</p>	<p>Periodic DMP reviews will capture and update changes to 'Public Interest' aspects.</p>		<p>DMP BI Action Plan Section 2.2 Public Interest</p>
	<p><b>5.6</b> DMP should make appropriate reference to other species of deer within the DMG area and provide a</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Section 15 of the DMP Background Information document.</p>	<p>A shoot on sight policy has been agreed with all members in relation to Muntjac, Wild Boar and Sika Deer. Subject to the</p>		<p>DMP BI - Section 15.</p>

	<p>level of detail proportionate to this interest.</p>	<p>The policy on Non – Native and Secondary Native Species is contained in Section 15 of the DMP Background Information.</p> <p>Red deer are the primary species in ELS and the focus of our DMP. Currently there are no issues with other species, with only roe deer present which for most are a minor issue.</p>	<p>period of maximum dependence restrictions.</p> <p>Group to re-consider should the situation change and revise content as and when other species and their management increase or decrease in importance.</p>		
	<p><b>5.7</b> It should include a list of actions that deliver the collective objectives of DMG Members as well as public interest objectives. These actions should be updated annually.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; 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 as noted above in BM 5.1.</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 can draw information from the Constitution, meeting minutes, the DMP Background Information and the Action Plan – Working Document, Appendixes, supplements, &amp;etc.</p>	<p>The DMG will ensure continued development and periodic review of the DMP Background Information document, the Action Plan - Working Document, Reports, Appendixes, Supplements &amp; etc. to provide an up-to-date and evolving DMP.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair</p>	<p>DMP BI – Section 7 Action Plan.</p>
	<p><b>5.8</b> It is important that all DMG Members should play a full part in the planning process and in the implementation of agreed actions.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; 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><b>This Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment.</b></p> <p><b>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</i></b></p>	<p>All DMG members and area landholders are encouraged to play their part in the DMP process.</p> <p><b>Input required from Western Working Group.</b></p> <p>ACTION: The West sub group needs to continue to define and implement actions.</p> <p>During late 2022 and early 2023 FLS have invited representations during the consultation periods for the Drimnatorran and Glenhurich Land Management Plans. The chair responded on behalf of the group and members were given the</p>	<p>Secretary SNH FLS WWG</p>	<p>DMP BI – Section 7 Action Plan.</p>

		<p><i>sub group - FLS and NSWG have had an initial meeting.</i></p> <p><b>SNH; -Future action for the group: - <i>The West sub group needs to continue to define and implement actions</i></b></p> <p><b>At the date of the Assessment: -</b></p> <p><b>DMG comment: -</b></p> <p>Drimnatorran and NSWG, a neighbour, are named in the SNH 2019 assessment notes above but neither are members of ELSDMG.</p> <p>Also noted is that: - ‘The West Sub-Group’ (Actually the ‘Western Working Group’, which is dominated by public sector owned properties amounting to over 83% of the WWG area), ‘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>We had no SNH WMO or designated contact from the 18/03/2019. 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. With no SNH attendance at this meeting or support 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><b>Summary: -</b></p> <p>The ELSDMG private members satisfied this criterion.</p>	<p>opportunity to make their own representations.</p> <p>In the WWG area: -</p> <p>The draft Drimnatorran Forest and Glenhurich Land Management Plans (LMPs) are with Scottish Forestry awaiting approval. FLS are uncertain of the timescales for approval. However, both LMPs are located on the LMP consultation page on the FLS website within the West section: <a href="#">Land management plan consultations - Forestry and Land Scotland</a>. Once approved, the LMPs will sit in the Active LMP page on the FLS website.</p>		
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	<p><b>5.9</b> 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 &amp; 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>The DMP identifies conflict over FLS failed fences. This has been addressed on several occasions at the Group meetings and via direct comms with FLS officers but without progress or resolution.</p> <p><b>Eastern Working Group comment:</b> - 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.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Both the DMG Chair and Vice Chair made representations prior to and as part of the FLS consultation for the Drimnatorran and Glenhurich LMPs expressing the concerns regarding the failing FLS fences and the negative impacts on the FLS neighbours.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair Secretary FLS</p>	<p>DMP BI - Section 7. DMP BI Section 17.4</p>
	<p><b>5.10</b> Relevant local interests should be consulted on new DMPs and advised of any changes as they come forward.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Section 17 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Local interests were consulted on the new ELSDMG DMP’s.</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. <a href="http://elochsheildmg.deer-management.co.uk/">http://elochsheildmg.deer-management.co.uk/</a></p> <p>The most up to date DMP’s, revisions and updates etc. are freely available online and all parties are</p>	<p>An open and transparent process is followed and the DMP is accessible to all on the ADMG website.</p> <p>During late 2022 and early 2023 FLS have invited representations during the consultation periods for the Drimnatorran and Glenhurich Land Management Plans. The Chair responded on behalf of the group and members were given the opportunity to make their own representations.</p> <p><b>Input required from Western Working Group:</b> - Provide contact details including email addresses for local interests in the</p>	<p>Secretary FLS WWG</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 17 Action Plan</p>

		advised to use these. <a href="http://elochsheildmg.deer-management.co.uk/">http://elochsheildmg.deer-management.co.uk/</a>	Western Working Group area to be included on the circulation list.		
<b>6. Code of Practice on Deer Management</b>	<b>6.1</b> 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>Considered &amp; 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. <a href="https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/land-and-sea-management/managing-wildlife/managing-deer/code-practice-deer-management">https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/land-and-sea-management/managing-wildlife/managing-deer/code-practice-deer-management</a></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>	Members are to continue to deliver on the terms of the Code in their work.	Chair Vice Chair Secretary	DMP BI Section 2 Constitution Appendix 1. Training log.
<b>7. ADMG Principles of Collaboration</b>	<b>7.1</b> The Principles of Collaboration should be incorporated into all DMG Constitutions and Deer Management Plans.	<p>Considered &amp; 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. <a href="http://www.deer-management.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/ADMG-PRINCIPLES-OF-COLLABORATION.pdf">http://www.deer-management.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/ADMG-PRINCIPLES-OF-COLLABORATION.pdf</a></p>	The DMG members are to continue to adhere to the ADMG Principles of Collaboration.	Chair Vice Chair Secretary	DMP BI - Section 4. Constitution Appendix 1. Training etc log.



8. Best Practice	8.1 All deer management should be carried out in accordance with Best Practice.	<p>Considered &amp; 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>All members are aware of and are working to Best Practice.</p>	<p>Members are to continue to carry out deer management in accordance with Best Practice.</p> <p><b>PLEASE NOTE: 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.</b></p>	<p>Chair Vice Chair Secretary</p>	<p>DMP BI - Section 3. Training etc log.</p>
	8.2 All Deer Management Plans should reference and follow WDBP which will continue to evolve.	<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 and repeated 09/07/2020.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bestpracticeguides.org.uk/">https://www.bestpracticeguides.org.uk/</a></p>			
9. Data and evidence gathering- Deer Counts	<p>9.1 Accurate deer counting forms the basis of population modelling. An ethos that reflects this should be in evidence.</p> <p>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>DMP/WP/Minutes captures this information on counting programme ; using this as the basis for population modelling</p>	<p>Considered &amp; 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>The aim is to complete a full co-ordinated and systematic census of the whole ELSDMG open range 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 after SNH offers of funded counts in 2014, 2015 and 2016 were withdrawn.</p>	<p>With a helicopter count in 2022 the next open range count is scheduled for 2027.</p> <p>Count data is included in the forward-looking Population Models where our responsive and adaptive cull planning is summarised.</p> <p>Discuss and agree on timing of next deer count and methods with foot counts being unsuitable over much of our area.</p>	<p>ChairVice Chair Secretary</p>	<p>DMP BI - Section 8. Appendix 15</p>

		<p>An SNH funded helicopter open range count was carried out in January 2019.</p> <p>Nature Scot advise of a move away from helicopter counts citing cost and carbon concerns.</p> <p>A NatureScot funded helicopter count was carried out in February 2022.</p>			
	<p><b>9.2</b> 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>Figures and discussion evidenced and captured in Minutes/WP</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Section 8 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>NOTE: The guidance seems to contradict this criterion.</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 open range deer population 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 2010.</p> <p>A privately funded helicopter count was completed in March 2016 of the Open Range after offers of SNH funded counts in 2014, 2015 and 2016 were withdrawn.</p> <p>An SNH funded helicopter open range count was carried out in January 2019.</p> <p>Nature Scot advise of a move away from helicopter counts citing cost and carbon concerns. Discuss and</p>	<p>Nature Scot advise of a move away from helicopter counts citing cost and carbon concerns.</p> <p>With a helicopter count in 2022 the next open range deer population count is scheduled for 2027.</p> <p>Discuss and agree on timing of next deer count and methods with foot counts being unsuitable.</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>Vice Chair</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>NatureScot</p>	<p>DMP BI - Section 8.</p> <p>Appendix 15</p> <p>.</p>

		<p>agree on timing of next deer count and methods with foot counts being unsuitable over much of our area.</p> <p>A NatureScot funded helicopter count was carried out in February 2022.</p>			
	<p><b>9.3</b> Recruitment and mortality counts are also essential for population modelling.</p> <p><i>Green where undertaken annually and overall Group figure calculated. DMP/ Minutes/ Working Plan captures count programme - group to deliver in accordance with milestones against this</i></p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Section 8 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>DMG to follow this updated procedure; Mortality assessment and recruitment counts.</p> <p>For mortality assessment: - Use the SNH/NatureScot standard figures for adult deer mortality as the basis but vary as appropriate based on the observations of the stalkers.</p> <p>For recruitment: - 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>ACTION: Recruitment counts and mortality assessments are included as a permanent Spring meeting Agenda item at which time they are delegated for action.</p> <p>ACTION: The next update to Section 8 of the DMP BI to include the Recruitment and Mortality assessment methods shown to the left. Action Point: - Chair, Vice-Chair</p> <p>A request to ELSDMG landholders has been issued in advance of the 2023 Spring/Summer meeting to carry out the mortality assessments and recruitment counts.</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>Vice Chair</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>Agenda item.</p> <p>Deer managers.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 8.</p> <p>Appendix 15</p>
	<p><b>9.4</b> 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 &amp; data captured at 8.4 in the DMP Background Information document with the 2009 FES deer population assessment figures used as the datum for our population modelling.</p> <p><b>This Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment.</b></p> <p><b>SNH; - Scoring and evidence of delivery: - <i>FLS to provide woodland census data next year</i></b></p> <p><b>SNH; -Future action for the group: - <i>No future action advised.</i></b></p> <p><b>At the date of the Assessment</b></p>	<p>Census data is included in the forward-looking Population Models where our responsive and adaptive cull planning is summarised.</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>Vice Chair</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>FLS</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 8.</p> <p>Appendix 15</p>

		<p><b>DMG comment: -</b></p> <p>We have used the 2009 FCS DPA as the datum for our population modelling.</p> <p>As noted by SNH above FLS are progressing this year with a deer density assessment with results due in 2020. Carbon and cost considerations restrict more frequent woodland census'. Whilst other census methods may be required in some circumstances, FLS say they are not concerned how many deer they have –it is deer impacts that are monitored and of importance to them and have confirmed their deer impacts are acceptable.</p> <p>It is noted that many other DMG's have woodlands or other concealing habitats where no 'other census methods' have been applied without being scored down on this criterion whereas FES had provided ELSDMG with deer census data which has been used as the basis of our population modelling.</p> <p><b>Summary: -</b></p> <p>This criterion should not have been scored down. On the contrary, our group has historic density data and are progressing currently with a deer density assessment which addresses this criterion.</p> <p><b>Since the date of the Assessment: -</b></p> <p>FLS provided the 'FLS 2019-20 DPA Report – Ardnamurchan Complex DRAFT 060421' to the DMG in June 2021.</p>			
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<p><b>10.</b> <b>Data and evidence gathering- Culls</b></p>	<p><b>10.1</b> 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>Agreed in DMP/Minutes</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Section 19 of the DMP Background Information document. <sup>1</sup></p> <p>Full detail including target deer density is shown in the Population Model and Targets – Appendix15 and the FLS 2019-20 DPA Report – Ardnamurchan Complex DRAFT 060421.</p>	<p>Refer to the Population Model and Targets – Appendix 15 which is updated annually and the FLS 2019-20 DPA Report – Ardnamurchan Complex DRAFT 060421.</p>	<p>Chair Vice Chair Secretary</p>	<p>DMP BI section 19 Appendix 15</p>
	<p><b>10.2</b> 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>Proposed and actual culls captured in DMP/WP/Minutes</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Full detail including target deer density is shown in the Population Model and Targets – Appendix15.</p> <p><b>This Priority Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment.</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>SNH; -Future action for the group: - Group feel this is a green - to QA - check against Morvern and use 11.1 to inform QA. Result of QA - The statement against</b></p>	<p>Proposed and actual cull information is included in the Population Model and Targets (Appendix 15).</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Cull apportionment is a permanent agenda item which is discussed at the DMG twice yearly formal meetings.</p> <p>It is noted that individual sporting interests' objectives are constrained while significant migration continues into the insecure woodlands (see Population Model Appendix 15).</p> <p>Both the DMG Chair and Vice Chair made representations prior to and as part of the FLS consultation for the Drimnatorran and</p>	<p>Chair Agenda item</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 19 Population model Appendix 15</p>

		<p><i>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><b>At the date of the Assessment: -</b></p> <p><b>DMG comment: -</b> Full detail including the cull apportionment target is shown in the Population Model – Appendix 15 and meeting minutes (both published online). The cull is achieving the objectives of the DMP and individual management objectives and maintaining the agreed target population although is often undermined while FLS continue their policy of not repairing fences and adopting their aggressive culling policy. <sup>1</sup></p> <p>With DRAFT results for the Ardgour Pinewoods SSSI issued to the group in January this year and requesting feedback by the 7<sup>th</sup> February it would be premature at least and not possible to address the proposed downgrading of Favourable Condition by deer culls prior to the date of the assessment. Deer culls alone, cannot resolve designated sites conditions other than by the near eradication of the herd which would mean non-compliance with other parts of this criterion</p> <p><b>Eastern Working Group comment: -</b> 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</p>	<p>Glenhurich LMPs expressing the concerns regarding the failing FLS fences and the negative impacts on the FLS neighbours.</p> <p><b>Eastern Working Group comment: -</b> 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>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><b>WWG comment:</b> -</p> <p><b>Group comment:</b> - Refer to the Population Model (Appendix 15) and the FLS 2019-20 DPA Report – Ardnamurchan Complex DRAFT 060421.</p>			
	<p><b>10.3</b> 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 Update population model included within Action Plan</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Sections 19 and 20 of the DMP Background Information.</p> <p><b>Cull targets</b></p> <p>Full detail including the group cull target is shown in the forward-looking Population Model and Targets – Appendix 15 (published online) which is reviewed and updated annually and the FLS 2019-20 DPA Report – Ardnamurchan Complex DRAFT 060421.</p>	<p>ACTION: The ELS Population model Appendix 15 is reviewed and updated annually.</p> <p>ACTION: The proposed cull target for the coming season is considered at the DMG formal meetings.</p>	<p>Chair, Agenda Item.</p>	<p>DMP BI - Section 19 Section 20  Population Model Appendix 15</p>
<p><b>11.</b>  <b>Data and evidence gathering- Habitat Monitoring</b></p>	<p><b>11.1</b> 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. Updated Action Plan and note of discussions and conclusions through minutes/papers.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Section 18 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Full detail is provided in DMP HIA Monitoring Plan (ELS Appendix 11) and HIA Log (ELS Appendix 13) published online.</p> <p><b>This Priority Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment.</b></p> <p><b>SNH; - Scoring and evidence of delivery:</b> - <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>Refer to Appendix 11, the indicative HIA map which is updated periodically as new information becomes available.</p> <p>Refer to Appendix 13 which describes the detail and analysis which is updated annually to incorporate up to date results/information.</p> <p>See also Public Interest 5. Below.</p>	<p>Chair Agenda item</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 18  Appendix11 indicative map.  ELS HIA Log. Appendix 13</p>

		<p><b>SNH; -Future action for the group: -<i>Group to finish HIA, adopt habitat condition targets and monitor progress against these.</i></b></p> <p><b>At the date of the Assessment</b></p> <p><b>DMG comment: -</b></p> <p>The HIA Log (Appendix 13) published online showed the HIA monitoring carried out to date, onward program, and the summary HIA assessment with a timebound commitment to analyse all the results by the end of July 2019 and use these results to inform the population model during August 2019.</p> <p>110 Baseline HIA plots have been established on the privately owned open range. With other information also used as proxies the results are within the DMG targets. Subsequent monitoring, which is not yet due, in relation to objectives will determine whether impacts are sustainable.</p> <p>However, with no HIA's carried out on the publicly owned land there are no results to review in the WWG area other than those presented by the privately owned Resipole Farm.</p> <p>The DMG had requested HIA guidance from SNH but this has not been delivered. SNH were to provide broad guidance on sustainable densities across difference habitat types.</p> <p><b>In the Eastern Working Group area: -</b></p> <p>100 open range BPG HIA plots reported carried out (Private ownership). With a schedule of completed and planned HIA in the HIA Log – Appendix 13. The criterion and guidance are satisfied for the EWG.</p>			
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		<p><b>In the Western Working Group area: -</b></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><b>Summary: -</b></p> <p>It is the agencies failure to deliver that has led to this criterion being scored down as Amber at the SNH Assessment in May 2019.</p>			
		<p><b>Since the Assessment: -</b></p> <p>Further analysis of the available HIA results was completed in July 2019 as committed to above.</p> <p>Appendix 11, the indicative HIA map has been updated as new information became available.</p> <p>Appendix 13 which describes the detail and analysis has been updated annually to incorporate up to date results/information.</p> <p>SGRIPD later committed to, and during summer 2019 have established 60 BPG HIA plots with a comprehensive report submitted to the DMG. NatureScot established 12 BB and 9 DSH baseline plots on Claish Moss during summer 2021 with a spreadsheet and report submitted to the DMG.</p>			

		The draft FLS Drimnatorran (2022) and Glenhurich (2023) LMPs contain HIA data for these areas.			
	<b>11.2</b> HIAs should be carried out on a systematic and regular basis. A three year cycle is the norm but many find annual monitoring useful.	Considered & data captured in Section 18 of the DMP Background Information document. 11.2 BPG Blanket Bog or Dwarf Shrub Heath (BB or DSH) are the HIA methods promoted by SNH/Nature Scot for Non-Designated Open Range. BPG HIA frequency suggests a 3 to 5 yearly cycle.	Refer to Appendix 11, the indicative HIA map which is updated periodically as new information becomes available.  Refer to Appendix 13 which describes the detail and analysis which is updated annually to incorporate up to date results/information.  See also Public Interest 5. Below.		DMP BI Section 18.
	<b>11.3</b> Data is required on other herbivores present and their impact on the habitat.	11.3 It is noted that apart from hare dung presence, other herbivores input and signs of burning are not included on the BPG BB and DSH field data sheets as downloaded on 08/03/2019, still current at 03/04/2023 nor is there any recording of insect or other environmental damage.			DMP BI Section 18.
	<b>11.4</b> DMPs should include a section on habitat monitoring methods and procedures and record annual results so as to measure change and record trends.	11.4 Considered and captured in Section 18 of the ELSDMP Background Information and in the annually updated Appendix 13 HIA Log.			DMP BI Section 18. HIA log. – Appendix 13

		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.			
12. Competence	12.1 It is recommended that in addition to DSC 1 deer managers should also attain DSC 2 or equivalent.	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>A Skills, Experience, Knowledge, Training and Certification Log (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 as appropriate.</p>	<p>The DMG is to support members with identified training and certification needs as appropriate.</p> <p>Refer to the Appendix 10 Training Log which details members Skills, Experience, Knowledge, Training and Certification that is updated periodically.</p>		DMP BI Section 13. Training log Appendix 10
	<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>Priority criterion – no additional guidance.</p> <p>Training policy /section in DMP/ongoing monitoring and update through Meeting Minute/DMP update</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>DSC1 or other ‘Trained Hunter’ status is required to certify carcasses fit for public consumption.</p> <p>A Skills, Experience, Knowledge, Training and Certification Log (Appendix 10) of this Working Plan shows DSC1 and DSC2 status.</p> <p>All named landholding members have DSC1 or equivalent ‘trained hunter’ status, and most have DSC2 or equivalent.</p> <p>The DMG will support members with training and certification as appropriate.</p>	<p>Refer to the Appendix 10 Training Log which details members Skills, Experience, Knowledge, Training and Certification which shows all landholding members have ‘trained Hunter’ status.</p> <p>ACTION: The Skills, Experience, Knowledge, Training and Certification log (Appendix 10) is updated periodically.</p> <p>The DMG is to support members with identified training and certification needs as appropriate.</p>	Agenda item.	DMP BI Section 13. Training log Appendix 10

<b>13. Training</b>	<p><b>13.1</b> All DMGs should have a training policy and incorporate it in the DMP.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; 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, Knowledge, Training and Certification Log (Appendix 10) is appended to this Working Plan.</p> <p>The DMG will support members with training and certification as appropriate.</p>	<p>ACTION: The Skills, Experience, Knowledge, Training and Certification Log (Appendix 10) is updated periodically.</p> <p>The DMG is to support members with identified training and certification as appropriate.</p>		<p>DMP BI Section 13.</p> <p>Training log – Appendix 10</p>
	<p><b>13.2</b> All DMG Members or those acting on their behalf should undergo the necessary training to demonstrate Competence.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document.</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 as appropriate.</p>	<p>The DMG has full coverage of industry minimum standards.</p> <p>ACTION: The Skills Experience, Knowledge, Training and Certification log is reviewed periodically to establish if there are any further training requirements.</p> <p>The DMG is to support members with identified training and certification as appropriate.</p>	Chair	<p>DMP BI Section 13.</p> <p>Training log Appendix 10</p>
	<p><b>13.3</b> The training policy should promote and record continuing professional development through Best Practice Guidance.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; 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, Knowledge, Training and Certification log (Appendix 10) is appended to this Working Plan.</p> <p>The DMG will support members with training and certification as appropriate.</p> <p>Also see 12.1 13.1 and 13.2.</p>	<p><b>PLEASE NOTE: 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.</b></p> <p>BPG awareness and BPG availability is recorded on The Skills Experience, Knowledge, Training and Certification log which is reviewed periodically to establish if there are any further training requirements. (Appendix 10.)</p>		<p>DMP BI Section 13.</p> <p>Training log Appendix 10</p>

			The DMG is to support members with identified training and certification as appropriate.		
<p><b>14.</b> <b>Venison Marketing</b></p>	<p><b>14.1</b> Membership of the Scottish Quality Wild Venison scheme is recommended by ADMG.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; 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>Over 80% of the ELSDMG area and cull are covered by and operating under the SQWV or similar QA scheme.</p> <p>Our SNH WMO says; It is the responsibility of stalking leaseholder/contractor/manager, etc to determine what quality assurance scheme to be involved in.</p> <p>The Skills, Experience, Knowledge, Training and Certification Log (Appendix 10) is appended to this Working Plan.</p> <p>The DMG will support members with training and certification as appropriate.</p>	<p>The DMG is to support members with identified training and certification as appropriate.</p>	Chair	DMP BI Section 13 Section 16. Training log – Appendix 10.
	<p><b>14.2</b> There is evidence of collaborative venison production within the Group.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; 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 periodically.</p>	<p>Venison marketing and selection of a Game Dealer for venison collection is to be considered by the members and consensus sought periodically. See minutes.</p>	Chair.	DMP BI Section 16. Training log Appendix 10
<p><b>15.</b> <b>Communications</b></p>	<p><b>15.1</b> 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</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Section 17 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>The DMP BI contains our agreed policy. A group representative will attend local community councils' and/or other relevant local meetings where practical and appropriate by invitation.</p> <p>A full list of ELSDMG area members, landholders, agencies &amp;etc. with contact details is maintained by</p>	<p>Continue communication between Community Councils, stakeholders and ELSDMG.</p> <p>ELSDMG should keep their communications policy updated.</p> <p>Secretary will circulate information as agreed.</p>	Secretary	BMI BI Section 17.

	<p>authorities, local media and other specialist interests.</p>	<p>the Secretary and is considered 'Confidential' to the DMG Office Bearers.</p> <p>Neighbours and stakeholders also are included as appropriate.</p> <p>The most up to date DMP's, updates and DMG information are freely available online on the ELSDMG section of the ADMG website and all parties are advised to use these. <a href="http://www.deer-management.co.uk/">http://www.deer-management.co.uk/</a></p>	<p>The following was included in the Spring 2023 ELSDMG report: - "ELSDMG is in the process of updating its external communications list. In order to maintain this list, please confirm that you wish to receive communications that may be relevant to your interests and confirm your email address for the DMG to use by replying to this email <a href="mailto:eastlochshielchair@gmail.com">eastlochshielchair@gmail.com</a> You may opt out at any time by writing to this email address. ELSDMG will only use your email address for DMG business and this will not be passed on or sold to other organizations or persons."</p> <p>The most up to date DMP's, updates and DMG information are freely available online on the ELSDMG section of the ADMG website and all parties are advised to use these. <a href="http://www.deer-management.co.uk/">http://www.deer-management.co.uk/</a></p> <p>Should you wish to join our external communications list please confirm in writing as shown above.</p>		
	<p><b>15.2</b> An annual communication programme suitable to local circumstances is advised. This might include a DMG website or a page on <a href="http://www.deer-management.co.uk">www.deer-management.co.uk</a>, an annual Newsletter, annual open meeting, or attending local meetings by invitation.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Section 17 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>The most up to date DMP's, updates and DMG information are freely available online on the ELSDMG section of the ADMG website and all parties are advised to use these. <a href="http://www.deer-management.co.uk/">http://www.deer-management.co.uk/</a></p>	<p>The most up to date DMP's, updates and DMG information are freely available online on the ELSDMG section of the ADMG website and all parties are advised to use these. <a href="http://www.deer-management.co.uk/">http://www.deer-management.co.uk/</a></p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary</p>	<p>ADMG website. DMP BI Section 17.</p>

	<p><b>15.3</b> 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>DMP published on ADMG website or an alternative site.</p>	<p>The current DMP was fully consulted on prior to adoption.</p> <p>The DMG twice yearly Ordinary Meetings are open to members, stakeholders, and the public.</p>		<p>Secretary</p>	<p>ADMG website. DMP BI Appendix 12 DMP BI Section 17.</p>
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## 2.2 Delivering Public Interests

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

SNH Actions 1 to 14	Criterion.	What is the DMG doing now? These are current outputs	What will DMG do in the future? These are current, ongoing, or new outputs.	Action by Members and -	
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 periodic Action Plan update includes an assessment of effectiveness against the ‘Benchmark’ (BM) and ‘Delivering the Public Interest’ (PI) with the dates as shown in the title page.</p>	<p>The ELSDMG will complete further NatureScot assessments as required.</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 &amp; 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 column to the right of this Action Plan – Working Document with the ‘action by’ alongside, in the DMP Background</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 &amp;etc.</p> <p>The delivery of key priority actions is reviewed at each DMG meeting.</p>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary Agenda item	Constitution Minutes DMP BI Action Plan



		<p>Information and/or in supplements to this Action Plan.</p> <p>Further actions will be agreed at DMG management meetings local meetings, via telephone or email &amp;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 &amp;etc.</p>			
	<p><b>1.3</b> 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>DMP on website, along with up to date Action Plan, Meeting Minutes and Agendas</p>	<p>The ELSDMG has had formal DMP's in place since 2015.</p> <p>The current forward looking ELSDMG Deer Management Plan, which was formally adopted at the 02/11/2018 ELSDMG meeting, is in three main sections: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The Background Information (9<sup>th</sup> Edition) section of the DMP which normally covers a five-year period from publication which is to be updated each 5 years or more frequently if circumstances dictate.</li> <li>b. The Action Plan – Working Document (1<sup>st</sup> Edition.) section of the DMP is usually updated every year or more frequently as circumstances dictate.</li> <li>c. Appendixes, Reports, and Supplements which are part of the DMP are issued and/or updated as appropriate.</li> </ol> <p>The current ELS DMP is published online on the ELSDMG section of the ADMG website, along with approved minutes which are also circulated to the members via email.</p> <p>The DMP details public interests and how the group plans to deliver on them.</p>	<p>Issue, and update dates are shown on the title pages of the individual sections of the DMP.</p> <p>For convenience an Action Points Summary, Supplementary Group and Working Group Reports may be issued which can include actions required, actions by - agreed/delegated, status and completion dates. The summary will draw information from meeting minutes, the DMP Background Information, the Action Plan – Working Document &amp;etc.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	

		<p>Approved minutes from the ELSDMG formal meetings are publicly available published on the ELS section of the ADMG website. <a href="http://deer-management.co.uk">East Loch Shiel DMG   (deer-management.co.uk)</a></p>			
<p><b>2. ACTIONS for the delivery of designated features into Favourable Condition.</b></p>	<p><b>2.1</b> Identify designated features, the reported condition and herbivore pressures affecting designated sites in the DMG area.</p> <p><b>Priority criterion –</b></p> <p><b>Green where the extent and condition of features is described in the DMP</b></p> <p><b>Captured in Plan or Action Plan</b></p>	<p>Designated sites and their feature conditions along with relevant maps have been considered &amp; data captured in Section 10 of the DMP Background Information document.</p>	<p>In the EWG area: -</p> <p>Conaglen Estate, in continuation of their programme of Designated Sites improvements are currently progressing with enclosures, planting and regenerating significant areas in accordance with their agreed 25-year LTP. Full details summarised separately all of which are to be included in the Background Information at the next update.</p> <p>In the WWG area: -</p> <p>The draft Drimnatorran Forest and Glenhurich Land Management Plans (LMPs), which contain details of their designated sites and the condition therein, are with Scottish Forestry awaiting approval. FLS are uncertain of the timescales for approval. However, both LMPs are located on the LMP consultation page on the FLS website within the West section: <a href="#">Land management plan consultations - Forestry and Land Scotland</a>. Once approved, the LMPs will sit in the Active LMP page on the FLS website.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary. SNH</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9&amp;10</p> <p>Appendix 15</p> <p>Appendix 11</p> <p>Appendix 13</p> <p>Minutes and Reports.</p>

	<p><b>2.2</b> 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>Actions clearly articulated in DMP/Action Plan/Meeting Minutes with associated timescales for delivery</p>	<p>Sections 9 and 10 of the DMP Background Information document details these sites.</p> <p><b>This Priority Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment.</b></p> <p><b>SNH; - Scoring and evidence of delivery:</b> - <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. 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.</i></p> <p><b>SNH; -Future action for the group:</b> - <i>Work with FLS and SNH to agree further actions to deliver favourable condition of designated features.</i></p> <p><b>At the date of the Assessment:</b></p> <p><b>Group comment:</b> -</p> <p>With DRAFT results for the Ardgour Pinewoods SSSI issued to the group in January this year and requesting feedback by the 7<sup>th</sup> February it would premature at least and not possible to address the proposed downgrading of Favourable Condition prior to the date of the assessment.</p> <p><b>DMG Eastern Working Group comment:</b> - Conaglen Estate since the 1960’s has implemented a programme of Designated Sites protection and improvement works. More recently, since 2014, various proposals have been put forward to FCS and SNH who are seemingly at odds over what to support. A further proposal for 3 Pinewood enclosures has been with SNH and FCS since 2018 which is as yet undecided, again delaying progress.</p>	<p>In the EWG area: -</p> <p>With the Scottish Forestry approval and support in 2021 the Conaglen Designated Sites, in continuation of their programme of Designated Sites improvements, are currently progressing with enclosures, planting and regenerating significant areas in accordance with their agreed 25-year LTP. Full details summarised separately all of which are to be included in the Background Information at the next update.</p> <p>In the WWG area: -</p> <p>The draft Drimnatorran Forest and Glenhurich Land Management Plans (LMPs), which contain details of their designated sites and the condition therein along with plans for features, are with Scottish Forestry awaiting approval. FLS are uncertain of the timescales for approval. However, both LMPs are located on the LMP consultation page on the FLS website within the West section: <a href="#">Land management plan consultations - Forestry and Land Scotland</a>. Once approved, the LMPs will sit in the Active LMP page on the FLS website.</p> <p>FLS advise of two new woodland enclosures at Callop being created during 2023. The larger block is inside</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9&amp;10</p> <p>Appendix 15</p> <p>Appendix 11</p> <p>Appendix 13</p> <p>Minutes and Reports.</p>
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		<p><b>DMG Eastern Working Group comment:</b> - ELS have appointed a consultant V Clements (VC) 05/04/2019 to prepare a collaborative woodland application. (SNH comment above incorrect.)</p> <p><b>DMG Western Working Group comment:</b> -</p> <p><b>Since the Assessment:</b> -</p> <p><b>DMG Eastern Working Group comment:</b> -</p> <p>With the Scottish Forestry approval and support in 2021 Conaglen , in continuation of their programme of Designated Sites improvements, are currently progressing with enclosures, planting and regenerating significant areas in accordance with their agreed 25-year LTP. Full details summarised separately.</p> <p><b>DMG Western Working Group comment:</b> -</p> <p>In 2023 FLS advise of two new woodland enclosures at Callop being created. The larger block is inside the designated Ardgour Pinewoods SSSI area and the new fence will close a clear-felled previously commercial area. Initially they hope to get good natural native tree regen away in both but will review after a couple of years and consider some possible enrichment planting of native species if required.</p>	<p>the designated Ardgour Pinewoods SSSI area and the new fence will close a clear-felled previously commercial area. Initially they hope to get good natural native tree regen away in both but will review after a couple of years and consider some possible enrichment planting of native species if required.</p>		
	<p><b>2.3</b> Monitor progress and review actions to manage herbivore impacts affecting favourable condition.</p> <p>Priority criterion – Green where mechanisms for adaptive management are</p>	<p>See Sections 9 and 10 of the DMP Background Information document for further details on these sites.</p> <p><b>This Priority Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment.</b></p> <p><b>SNH; - Scoring and evidence of delivery:</b> - <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</i></p>	<p><b>EWG comment:</b> -</p> <p>With the Scottish Forestry approval and support in 2021 Conaglen, in continuation of their programme of Designated Sites improvements, are currently progressing with enclosures, planting and regenerating significant areas in accordance with their agreed 25-year LTP. Full details summarised</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9&amp;10 Appendix 15 Appendix 11 Appendix 13 Minutes and Reports.</p>

	<p>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>Actions clearly articulated in DMP/Action Plan/Meeting Minutes with associated timescales for delivery; Evidence that actions/ progress being reviewed i.e. update in published Minutes or updated Working Plan</p>	<p><i>meetings in Jan 2019. Group has taken on woodland advisor to resolve these issues.</i></p> <p><b>SNH; -Future action for the group:</b> - <i>Update working plan with time bound actions for each designated site which will resolve designated site issues.</i></p> <p><b>At the date of the Assessment</b></p> <p><b>Group comment:</b> -</p> <p>With DRAFT results for just the Ardgour Pinewoods SSSI issued to the group in January this year and requesting feedback by the 7<sup>th</sup> February it would premature at least and not possible to address the proposed downgrading of Favourable Condition prior to the date of the assessment.</p> <p><b>DMG Eastern Working Group comment:</b> - Conaglen Estate since the 1960's has implemented a programme of Designated Sites protection and improvement works. More recently, since 2014, various proposals have been put forward to FCS and SNH who are seemingly at odds over what to support. A further proposal for 3 Pinewood enclosures has been with SNH and FCS since 2018 which is as yet undecided, again delaying progress.</p> <p><b>DMG Eastern Working Group comment:</b> - ELS have appointed a consultant V Clements (VC) 05/04/2019 to prepare a collaborative woodland application.</p> <p><b>DMG Western Working Group comment:</b> -</p> <p><b>Since the assessment:</b> -</p> <p><b>DMG Eastern Working Group comment:</b> -</p> <p>With the Scottish Forestry approval and support in 2021 Conaglen, in continuation of their programme of Designated Sites improvements, are currently progressing with</p>	<p>separately all of which are to be included in the Background Information at the next update.</p> <p>In the WWG area: -</p> <p>The draft Drimnatorran Forest and Glenhurich Land Management Plans (LMPs) are with Scottish Forestry awaiting approval. FLS are uncertain of the timescales for approval. However, both LMPs are located on the LMP consultation page on the FLS website within the West section: <a href="#">Land management plan consultations - Forestry and Land Scotland</a>. Once approved, the LMPs will sit in the Active LMP page on the FLS website.</p> <p>FLS advise of two new woodland enclosures at Callop being created during 2023. The larger block is inside the designated Ardgour Pinewoods SSSI area and the new fence will close a clear-felled previously commercial area. Initially they hope to get good natural native tree regen away in both but will review after a couple of years and consider some possible enrichment planting of native species if required.</p>		
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		<p>enclosures, planting and regenerating significant areas in accordance with their agreed 25-year LTP. Full details summarised separately.</p> <p><b>DMG Western Working Group comment: -</b></p> <p>FLS advise of two new woodland enclosures at Callop being created during 2023. The larger block is inside the designated Ardgour Pinewoods SSSI area and the new fence will close a clear-felled previously commercial area. Initially they hope to get good natural native tree regen away in both but will review after a couple of years and consider some possible enrichment planting of native species if required.</p>			
<p><b>3. ACTIONS to manage deer to retain existing native woodland cover and improve woodland condition in the medium to long term.</b></p>	<p><b>3.1</b> Establish overall extent of woodland and determine what proportion is existing native woodland.</p> <p><b>Priority criterion –</b></p> <p><b>Green where the extent of the woodland is described through the DMP.</b></p> <p><b>Captured in Plan or Action Plan using NWSS data, or otherwise where alternative data has been collated</b></p>	<p>Considered &amp; 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, 9 for further details on NWSS regarding these sites also for further details on LTFP and woodland expansion proposals.</p>	<p>In the WWG area: -</p> <p>The draft Drimnatorran Forest and Glenhurich Land Management Plans (LMPs) which include details on the extent of their woodlands including the proportion that is existing native woodland, are with Scottish Forestry awaiting approval. FLS are uncertain of the timescales for approval. However, both LMPs are located on the LMP consultation page on the FLS website within the West section: <a href="#">Land management plan consultations - Forestry and Land Scotland</a>. Once approved, the LMPs will sit in the Active LMP page on the FLS website.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9&amp;10</p>

	<p><b>3.2</b> Determine current condition of native woodland.</p> <p><b>Priority criterion –</b></p> <p><b>Green where DMP/WP sets out% of impacts in V. High, High, Medium or Low categories. Green based on process of understanding condition and not the condition itself.</b></p> <p><b>Captured in Plan or Action Plan using NWSS data, or otherwise where alternative data has been collated and is favoured by the group; clearly articulating fencing developments in Meeting Minutes</b></p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Sections 9 and 10 of the DMP Background Information document and (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>Native Woodlands are assessed under the NWSS programme. SNH advised in 2017 that a Woodland Monitoring method and training suitable for use by deer managers is under development. Some progress is reported in this regard by NatureScot and FLS with field trials of WHIAlite in 2022 and 2023. This is still to be finalised, rolled out and training given.</p> <p>Resipole farm have an ongoing woodland monitoring programme their Sunart Oakwoods.</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 unacceptable impacts are found, then any animals which have accessed these enclosures are either driven out or culled as soon as possible.</p>	<p>Native Woodlands are assessed under the NWSS programme. SNH advised in 2017 that a Woodland Monitoring method and training suitable for use by deer managers is under development. Some progress is reported in this regard by NatureScot and FLS with field trials of WHIAlite in 2022 and 2023. This is still to be finalised, rolled out and training given.</p> <p>Refer to the HIA Log Appendix 13.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary. SNH</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9&amp;10 Appendix 15 Appendix 11 Appendix 13 Minutes and Reports.</p>
	<p><b>3.3</b> Identify actions to retain and improve native woodland condition and deliver DMG woodland management objectives.</p> <p><b>Priority criterion –</b></p> <p><b>Green where Plan/Working Plan/Meeting minutes demonstrates evidence of strategic group consideration and captures actions, including rationale where action to</b></p>	<p>Considered &amp; 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><b>This Priority Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment.</b></p> <p><b>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</b></p>	<p>In the EWG Area: -</p> <p>With the Scottish Forestry approval and support in 2021 the Conaglen Designated Sites, in continuation of their programme of Designated Sites improvements, are currently progressing with enclosures, planting and regenerating significant areas in accordance with their agreed 25-year LTP. Full details summarised separately all of which are to be</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9&amp;10 Appendix 15 Appendix 11 Appendix 13 Minutes and Reports.</p>

	<p>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>Clear actions articulated in Plan/Action plan or captured through meeting minute; Group to demonstrate evidence base</p>	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><b>SNH; -Future action for the group:</b> - <i>Specific time bound actions to deliver on this section needed.</i></p> <p><b>At the date of the Assessment:</b> -</p> <p><b>DMG Eastern Working Group comment:</b> - Conaglen Estate since the 1960's has implemented a programme of Designated Sites protection and improvement works. More recently, since 2014, various proposals have been put forward to FCS and SNH who are seemingly at odds over what to support. A further proposal for 3 Pinewood enclosures has been with SNH and FCS since 2018 which is as yet undecided, again delaying progress.</p> <p><b>DMG Eastern Working Group comment:</b> - ELS have appointed a consultant V Clements (VC) 05/04/2019 who is preparing a collaborative woodland application.</p> <p><b>DMG Eastern Working Group comment:</b> - 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><b>Since the Assessment:</b> -</p> <p><b>Eastern Working Group comment:</b> -</p> <p>With the Scottish Forestry approval and support in 2021 Conaglen, in continuation of their programme of Designated Sites improvements, are currently progressing with enclosures, planting and regenerating significant areas in accordance with their agreed 25-year LTP. Full details summarised separately.</p>	<p>included in the Background Information at the next update.</p> <p>In the WWG area: -</p> <p>The draft Drimnatorran Forest and Glenhurich Land Management Plans (LMPs), including actions to retain and improve native woodland condition and deliver DMG woodland management objectives, are with Scottish Forestry awaiting approval. FLS are uncertain of the timescales for approval. However, both LMPs are located on the LMP consultation page on the FLS website within the West section: <a href="#">Land management plan consultations - Forestry and Land Scotland</a>. Once approved, the LMPs will sit in the Active LMP page on the FLS website.</p> <p>FLS advise of two new woodland enclosures at Callop being created during 2023. 'The larger block is inside the designated Ardgour Pinewoods SSSI area and the new fence will close a clear-felled previously commercial area. Initially they hope to get good natural native tree regen away in both but will review after a couple of years and consider some possible enrichment planting of native species if required.'</p> <p>An inspection and maintenance/repair regime to ensure deer fenced enclosures remain secure is advised.</p>		
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		<p><b>Western Working Group comment: -</b></p> <p>FLS advise of two new woodland enclosures at Callop being created during 2023. The larger block is inside the designated Ardgour Pinewoods SSSI area and the new fence will close a clear-felled previously commercial area. Initially they hope to get good natural native tree regen away in both but will review after a couple of years and consider some possible enrichment planting of native species if required.</p> <p><b>Group Comment: -</b> The DMG have discussed and targeted some areas that need improved. ELSDMG encourages its members to complete a 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><b>3.4</b> Monitor progress and review actions to manage herbivore impacts.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; 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>The reduction in sheep numbers by over 13,000 plus followers and 350 breeding cows plus followers from the ELSDMG area over recent years will be delivering significant reductions of herbivore impacts.</p> <p>Additionally, the group have removed livestock from areas such as parts of Resipole Farm, have successfully agreed with the crofting tenant at Achaphubuil to remove livestock and also at Part of Duisky and North Garvan which were areas deemed to be subject to high or very high herbivore impact levels.</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>Compensatory culls and rotational fencing will be kept under consideration to manage herbivore impacts.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9&amp;10</p> <p>Appendix 15</p> <p>Appendix 11</p> <p>Appendix 13</p> <p>Minutes and Reports.</p>

		<p>Members have carried out compensatory culls where appropriate to manage herbivore impacts.</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>With the Scottish Forestry approval and support in 2021 the Conaglen Designated Sites, in continuation of their programme of Designated Sites improvements, are currently progressing with enclosures, planting and regenerating significant areas in accordance with their agreed 25-year LTP. Full details summarised separately.</p>	<p>An inspection and maintenance/repair regime to ensure deer fenced enclosures remain secure is advised.</p> <p>In the EWG area: -</p> <p>With the Scottish Forestry approval and support in 2021 Conaglen , in continuation of their programme of Designated Sites improvements, are currently progressing with enclosures, planting and regenerating significant areas in accordance with their agreed 25-year LTP. Full details summarised separately all of which are to be included in the Background Information at the next update.</p> <p>In the WWG area: -</p> <p>The draft Drimnatorran Forest and Glenhurich Land Management Plans (LMPs) are with Scottish Forestry awaiting approval. FLS are uncertain of the timescales for approval. However, both LMPs are located on the LMP consultation page on the FLS website within the West section: <a href="#">Land management plan consultations - Forestry and Land Scotland</a>. Once approved, the LMPs will sit in the Active LMP page on the FLS website.</p> <p>FLS advise of two new woodland enclosures at Callop being created during 2023. The larger block is inside the designated Ardgour Pinewoods</p>		
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			SSSI area and the new fence will close a clear-felled previously commercial area. Initially they hope to get good natural native tree regen away in both but will review after a couple of years and consider some possible enrichment planting of native species if required.		
<p><b>4. ACTIONS to demonstrate DMG contribution to the Scottish Government woodland expansion target of 25% woodland cover.</b></p>	<p><b>4.1</b> Identify and quantify extent of recent woodland establishment (through SRDP (last 5 years) and through other schemes.</p> <p><b>Priority criterion –</b></p> <p><b>Green where planning process is clearly articulated and minuted/ incorporated into Working Plan; Detail of schemes being entered into are shared at DMG meeting, minuted and incorporated into Working Plan ; delivery is judged against planning process - not the amount being contributed.</b></p> <p>Captured in Plan or Action Plan</p>	<p>Considered &amp; 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><b>Eastern Working Group Comment:</b> - With the Scottish Forestry approval and support in 2021 the Conaglen Designated Sites, in continuation of their programme of Designated Sites improvements, are currently progressing with enclosures, planting and regenerating significant areas in accordance with their agreed 25-year LTP. Full details summarised separately.</p> <p><b>Western Working Group Comment:</b> -</p>	<p>New planting schemes should be put forward to the Group and implications for deer management discussed</p> <p>With the Scottish Forestry approval and support in 2021 the Conaglen Designated Sites, in continuation of their programme of Designated Sites improvements, are currently progressing with enclosures, planting and regenerating significant areas in accordance with their agreed 25-year LTP. Full details summarised separately all of which are to be included in the Background Information at the next update.</p> <p>FLS advise of a plan including two new blocks at Callop which had fencing material flown out on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023.</p> <p>‘These 2 new enclosures as you will be aware are going to be far easier fence lines to construct and more importantly, far easier to keep deer proof and maintain.</p>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	<p>DMP BI Section 9&amp;10</p> <p>Appendix 15</p> <p>Appendix 11</p> <p>Appendix 13</p> <p>Minutes and Reports.</p>
	<p><b>4.2</b> Identify and quantify opportunities and priorities for woodland expansion over the next 5-10 years.</p> <p><b>Priority criterion –</b></p>				Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.

	<p>Green where DMG have implement actions agreed through the planning process (i.e. the actions set out in 4.2).</p> <p>Clearly articulate in DMP/Action Plan/Meeting Minutes with associated timescales for delivery.</p>		<p>Both these new enclosures will be entirely on FLS ground.</p> <p>Initially we hope to get good natural native tree regen away in both but will review after a couple of years and consider some possible enrichment planting of native species if required.'</p>		Minutes and Reports.
	<p><b>4.3</b> Consider at a population level the implication of increased woodland on deer densities and distribution across the DMG.</p> <p><b>Priority Criterion –</b></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>Discuss at DMG meeting and clearly articulate discussion and capture actions in Meeting Minute/Action Plan.</p>	<p>4.3 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>4.3 – 4.4 Are considered in the Population Model (Appendix 15)</p>	<p>The larger block is inside the designated Ardgour Pinewoods SSSI area and the new fence will close a clear-felled previously commercial area, so this is another positive move from a SSSI position for the DMG.</p> <p>The implications of deer densities are considered within woodland expansion proposals and agreed actions will be carried out to mitigate against undesirable impacts as/if the schemes come through.</p>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	Appendix 15
	<p><b>4.4</b> Implement actions to deliver the DMG woodland expansion proposals and review progress.</p>			Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	DMP BI

	<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>Clear actions articulated in Plan/Working plan or captured through meeting minute. Group to demonstrate evidence base</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>Captured in Plan or Action Plan</p>	<p>Considered &amp; 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>This will be reviewed at the next update of the Background Information document.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9</p>

<p><b>5. ACTIONS to monitor and manage deer impacts in the wider countryside.</b></p>	<p><b>5.2</b> Identify required impact targets for habitat types.</p> <p><b>Priority criterion –</b></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>Clearly articulate in DMP/Action Plan/Meeting Minutes with associated timescales for delivery</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>ELSDMG will progress the group-wide HIA monitoring programme, updating the HIA Log – Appendix 13 to show the progress and results of HIA monitoring.</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 and on a number of occasions since.</p> <p>BPG Blanket Bog and Dwarf Shrub Heath (BB and DSH) are the HIA methods promoted by SNH/NatureScot with training in these methods given by them. Other methods of assessment may be used by landholdings with the onus where this is the case is for these landholdings to confirm whether their deer impacts are within the DMG target or not.</p> <p><b>SNH; - Scoring and evidence of delivery:</b> - DMP states "Impacts should be predominantly low/moderate" across all wider countryside habitats - understanding in the group that this translates as &gt;50% impacts low/moderate.</p> <p><b>Group comment:</b> - The HIA Log impacts target has been updated detailing predominantly as 'at least 50% low or medium' for clarity as agreed with SNH.</p>	<p>See the Appendix 13 HIA Log which is updated annually and contains the actions relevant to this criterion.</p>	<p>SNH Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9&amp;10 Appendix 15 Appendix 11 Appendix 13 Minutes and Reports.</p>
	<p><b>5.3</b> Quantify a sustainable level of grazing and trampling for each of these habitat types.</p> <p><b>Priority criterion –</b></p> <p>Green where DMG have set out process for assessing current impacts, setting desired impact</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Section 18 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p><b>This Priority Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment.</b></p> <p><b>SNH; - Scoring and evidence of delivery:</b> - <i>Appendix 13 of DMP (online) summarises the current situation regarding HIA. Most estates have carried out some HIA though there are</i></p>	<p>See the Appendix 13 HIA Log which is updated annually and contains the actions relevant to this criterion.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9&amp;10 Appendix 15 Appendix 11 Appendix 13</p>

	<p>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>Discuss at DMG meeting and clearly articulate discussion and capture actions in Meeting Minute/Action Plan</p>	<p><i>currently gaps. 110 complete, another 75 to complete 2019/2020 (Inversanda, SGRPID). Population target 10 deer/km2.</i></p> <p><b>SNH; -Future action for the group:</b> - <i>Updated figures should be sought to show number of plots visited by year, results and onward program of HIA.</i></p> <p><b>At the date of the Assessment:</b> -</p> <p><b>DMG comment:</b> -</p> <p>BPG Blanket Bog and Dwarf Shrub Heath (BB and DSH) are the HIA methods promoted by SNH/NatureScot with training in these methods given by them. Other methods of assessment may be used by landholdings with the onus where this is the case is for these landholdings to confirm whether their deer impacts are within the DMG target or not.</p> <p>The HIA Log (Appendix 13) published online showed the HIA monitoring carried out to date, onward program, and the summary HIA assessment with a timebound commitment to analyse all the results by the end of July 2019 and use these results to inform the population model during August 2019.</p> <p>110 Baseline HIA plots have been established on the privately owned open range. With other information also used as proxies the results are within the DMG targets. Subsequent monitoring, which is not yet due, in relation to objectives will determine whether impacts are sustainable.</p> <p>However, with no HIA's carried out on the publicly owned land there are no results to review in the WWG area other than those presented by the privately owned Resipole Farm.</p> <p>The DMG had requested HIA guidance from SNH but this has not been delivered. SNH were to provide broad guidance on sustainable densities across difference habitat types.</p>		<p>Minutes and Reports.</p>
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	<p><b>In the Eastern Working Group area:</b> - 100 open range BPG HIA plots reported carried out (Private ownership) which exceeds the plot density agreed with the SNH WMO.</p> <p><b>In the Western Working Group area:</b> - 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><b>Summary:</b> -</p> <p>It is the agencies failure to deliver that has led to this criterion being scored down as Amber at the SNH Assessment in May 2019.</p>			
	<p>Following the assessment: -</p> <p>SGRIPD committed to, and have established in 2019 60 BPG HIA plots with a report submitted to the DMG.</p> <p>NatureScot established 12 BB and 9 DSH baseline plots on Claish Moss during summer 2021 with a spreadsheet and report submitted to the DMG.</p> <p>The draft FLS Drimnatorran (2022) and Glenhurich (2023) LMPs contain HIA data for these areas.</p> <p>See also Notes Pages 5 and 6 of Appendix 13.</p>			



	<p><b>5.4</b> 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>Clear actions articulated in Plan/Action plan or captured through meeting minute; Group to demonstrate evidence base</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p><b>This Priority Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment.</b></p> <p><b>SNH; - Scoring and evidence of delivery:</b> - <i>As 5.2 and 5.3 incomplete so the group has not been able to progress this action.</i></p> <p><b>SNH; -Future action for the group:</b> - <i>No future action advised.</i></p> <p><b>At the date of the Assessment:</b> -</p> <p><b>DMG Comment:</b> -</p> <p>The DMG had requested HIA guidance from SNH but this has not been delivered. SNH were to provide broad guidance on sustainable densities across difference habitat types.</p> <p>5.2 is complete and scored green. SNH comment incorrect.</p>	<p>The HIA Log (Appendix 13) sets out impact (grazing) targets and highlights specific areas for localised management.</p> <p>With the Non-Designated areas herbivore impacts within the DMG targets, the issue is one of maintenance and of addressing any localised areas of unacceptable high deer impacts on an Estate-by-Estate basis.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Appendix 15</p>
	<p><b>5.5</b> 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 are clearly articulated i.e. if they're delivering against milestones set out in DMP but</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p><b>This Priority Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment.</b></p> <p><b>SNH; - Scoring and evidence of delivery:</b> - <i>Some HIA complete, no evidence of collective assessment of results in order to assess these against impact ranges. Impact ranges not agreed or recorded in DMP background or working plan.</i></p> <p><b>SNH; -Future action for the group:</b> - <i>No future action advised.</i></p> <p><b>At the date of the Assessment:</b> -</p> <p><b>DMG comment:</b> - At the date of the assessment: -</p>	<p>Refer to:</p> <p>Appendix 11 HIA Monitoring Plan, Appendix 13 – HIA Log and Targets, Appendix 15 Population Model.</p> <p>HIA is used to inform the Population Model (Appendix 15) including the cull plan.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 18. HIA log. Appendix 13. HIA Plot Plan Appendix 11.</p>

	<p>haven't yet used data to inform cull planning then still green.</p> <p>Clear actions articulated in Plan/Action plan or captured through meeting minute; Group to demonstrate evidence base</p>	<p>The HIA Log (Appendix 13) published online showed the HIA monitoring carried out to date, onward program, and the summary HIA assessment with a timebound commitment to analyse all the results by the end of July 2019 and use these results to inform the population model during August 2019.</p> <p>110 Baseline HIA plots have been established on the privately owned open range. With other information also used as proxies the results are within the DMG targets. Subsequent monitoring, which is not yet due, in relation to objectives will determine whether impacts are sustainable.</p> <p>However, with no HIA's carried out on the publicly owned land there are no results to review in the WWG area other than those presented by the privately owned Resipole Farm.</p> <p>The DMG had requested HIA guidance from SNH but this has not been delivered. SNH were to provide broad guidance on sustainable densities across difference habitat types.</p> <p><b>In the Eastern Working Group area:</b> - 100 open range BPG HIA plots reported carried out (Private ownership) which exceeds the plot density agreed with the SNH WMO.</p> <p><b>In the Western Working Group area:</b> - 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><b>Summary:</b> -</p>			
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		<p>It is the agencies failure to deliver that has led to this criterion being scored down as Amber at the SNH Assessment in May 2019.</p> <p>Following the assessment: -</p> <p>SGRIPD committed to, and have established in 2019 60 BPG HIA plots with a report submitted to the DMG.</p> <p>NatureScot established 12 BB and 9 DSH baseline plots on Claish Moss during summer 2021 with a spreadsheet and report submitted to the DMG.</p> <p>The draft FLS Drimnatorran (2022) and Glenhurich (2023) LMPs contain HIA data for these areas.</p>			
	<p><b>5.6</b> Regularly review information to measure progress and adapt management when necessary.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p>	<p>ACTION: DMP Background Section 18, update to include HIA cycle, analysis and what to do with data outcomes.</p> <p>DMP will be programmed for update upon receipt of WWG specifics for inclusion.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section18. Meeting</p> <p>HIA log Appendix 13</p> <p>HIA Plot Plan Appendix11</p>
<p><b>6. ACTIONS to improve Scotland’s ability to store carbon by maintaining or</b></p>	<p><b>6.1</b> Quantify the extent of the carbon-sensitive habitats within the DMG range.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Sections 9 and 14 of the DMP Background Information document.</p>	<p>See Action Plan Public Interest 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6 above.</p> <p>Information will be reviewed with the next DMP BI update.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9 &amp; 14.</p> <p>Reports</p>

<p>improving ecosystem health.</p>	<p><b>6.2</b> Conduct herbivore impact assessments and assess these against acceptable impact ranges for these sensitive habitats. Identify and implement actions to attain impacts within the range.</p>	<p><b>This Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment.</b></p> <p><b>At the time of the assessment: -</b></p> <p><b>SNH; - Scoring and evidence of delivery: -</b> <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. &gt;50% blanket bog plots complete. Overall low blanket bog cover within group.</i></p> <p><b>SNH; -Future action for the group: -</b> <i>No future action advised.</i></p> <p><b>DMG comment: -</b> At the date of the assessment: -</p> <p>The HIA Log (Appendix 13) published online showed the HIA monitoring carried out to date, onward program, and the summary HIA assessment with a timebound commitment to analyse all the results by the end of July 2019 and use these results to inform the population model during August 2019.</p> <p>The majority of the group area blanket bog is situated on the public owned Claish Moss (SNH) and Longrigg (SGRIPD) neither of which has carried out HIA's to date. The private members have established plots on the remaining BB areas.</p> <p>The HIA Log (Appendix 13) published online showed the HIA monitoring commitments and the summary HIA assessment with a timebound commitment to analyse all the results by the end of July 2019 and use the results to inform the population model during August 2019.</p> <p>110 Baseline HIA plots have been established on the privately owned open range. With other information also used as proxies the results are within the DMG targets. Subsequent monitoring, which is not yet due, in relation to objectives will determine whether impacts are sustainable.</p>	<p>Refer to:</p> <p>Appendix 11 HIA Monitoring Plan, Appendix 13 – HIA Log and Targets, Appendix 15 Population Model.</p>		
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		<p>However, with no HIA’s carried out on the publicly owned land there are no results to review in the WWG area other than those presented by the privately owned Resipole Farm.</p> <p>The DMG had requested HIA guidance from SNH but this has not been delivered. SNH were to provide broad guidance on sustainable densities across difference habitat types.</p> <p><b>In the Eastern Working Group area:</b> - 100 open range BPG HIA plots reported carried out (Private ownership) which exceeds the plot density agreed with the SNH WMO.</p> <p><b>In the Western Working Group area:</b> - 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><b>Summary:</b> -</p> <p>It is the agencies failure to deliver that has led to this criterion being scored down as Amber at the SNH Assessment in May 2019.</p> <p>Following the assessment: -</p> <p>SGRIPD committed to, and have established in 2019 60 BPG HIA plots with a report submitted to the DMG.</p> <p>NatureScot established 12 BB and 9 DSH baseline plots on Claish Moss during summer 2021 with a spreadsheet and report submitted to the DMG.</p>			
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		<p>The draft FLS Drimnatorran (2022) and Glenhurich (2023) LMPs contain HIA data for these areas.</p>			
	<p><b>6.3</b> Identify opportunities for the creation/restoration of peatlands.</p> <p><b>Priority criterion –</b></p> <p><b>Green where planning process is clearly articulated and minuted/ incorporated into Working Plan; Detail of schemes being entered into are shared at DMG meeting, minuted and incorporated into Working Plan ; delivery is judged against planning process - not the amount being contributed</b></p> <p><b>Captured in DMP; ongoing monitoring and update through Meeting Minute/DMP update ; Group to demonstrate evidence of schemes currently underway</b></p>	<p>Considered &amp; 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 interest 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>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 Group Reports.</p>	<p>SNH were invited to promote peatland restoration at meeting 02/11/2018, 29/04/2019 and 12/11/2019. See minutes.</p> <p>SNH WMO t advised that the Lochaber Fisheries Trust peatland officer can advise on peatland restoration projects.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> 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. SNH WMO has passed on within SNH for Action. Still awaited at May 2023.</p> <p>The draft Drimnatorran Forest and Glenhurich Land Management Plans (LMPs) which include details on opportunities for peatland creation/restoration, are with Scottish Forestry awaiting approval. FLS are</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 9.7 &amp; 14</p> <p>Reports</p>

			uncertain of the timescales for approval. However, both LMPs are located on the LMP consultation page on the FLS website within the West section: <a href="#">Land management plan consultations - Forestry and Land Scotland</a> . Once approved, the LMPs will sit in the Active LMP page on the FLS website.		
	<b>6.4</b> Contribute as appropriate to River Basin Management Planning.	Considered & data captured in Section 9.8 of the DMP Background Information document.	ELSDMG have considered this topic and deemed that no further action is required on this matter, however the members will of course respond to any communications received from SEPA in relation to issues relating to RBMP or water quality if any such issues arise.	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	DMP BI Section 9.8
<b>7. ACTIONS to reduce or mitigate the risk of establishment of invasive non-native species.</b>	<b>7.1</b> Manage invasive non-native species (e.g. muntjac) to prevent their establishment and spread e.g. report sightings of muntjac to SNH.	Considered & data captured in Section 15 of the DMP Background Information document.	A shoot on sight policy has been agreed with all members in relation to Muntjac, Wild Boar and Sika Deer. Subject to the period of maximum dependence restrictions.	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	DMP BI Section 15.
	<b>7.2</b> 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.	A shoot on sight policy has been agreed with all members in relation to Muntjac, Wild Boar and Sika Deer. Wild Goats are not to be culled if they return to the DMG area.		Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	DMP BI Section 15.
<b>8. ACTIONS to protect designated historic and</b>	<b>8.1</b> Identify any historic or cultural features that may be impacted by deer and undertake	Considered & data captured in Section 11 of the DMP Background Information document.	Members considering new forestry schemes or forestry expansion have and will follow guidance on historical and cultural features and all new	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	DMP BI Section 11.1 Letter to Historic

<p><b>cultural features</b> from being damaged by deer e.g. by trampling.</p>	<p>deer management to retain these features.</p>	<p>ELSDMG are open to contact from community groups, other stakeholders, &amp;etc. to identify and 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 ask that should they become aware of any negative deer or deer management impacts in our management area that they make contact with the ELSDMG via the contact details on the website so that we may address any issues. (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>With the reductions of domestic livestock and in some cases the exclusion of livestock and deer many historical features are suffering from a lack of grazing and are, or in danger of, being swamped by vegetation with many sites being invaded by bracken, willow herb, brambles, tree re-gen and/or etc. Generally, historical features benefit from the vegetation control by grazing animals with deer in particular unlikely to cause any damage.</p>	<p>planting schemes will be assessed for any negative impacts to cultural and historic features.</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>DMG members are to address any issues raised by HC or Historic Scotland.</p>	<p>environment team 27/06/2018</p>
	<p><b>8.2</b> Consider the implications of fencing on the landscape with due regard to the Joint Agency Guidance on Fencing.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; 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>Potential negative impacts of historic and cultural features were considered during preparation of the Conaglen woodland projects.</p> <p>Members considering new forestry schemes or forestry expansion will follow Joint Agency Guidance on Fencing.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>



<b>9. ACTIONS to contribute to delivering higher standards of competence in deer management.</b>	<b>9.1</b> Undertake a skills and training assessment to establish current skill levels applicable to deer management within the DMG.	Considered & data captured in Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document.  A training policy is included in Section 13.1 of the DMP Background Information. Discussed and agreed with members as part of DMP.  The Skills, Experience, Training and Certification schedule (Appendix 10) is appended to the DMP.  The DMG has full coverage of industry minimum standards.  The DMG will support members with training and certification if needed.	The Appendix 10 Training Log records Skills, Experience, Training and Certification is reviewed periodically to establish if there are any further training requirements.  The DMG is to support members with identified training and certification needs as appropriate.	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	DMP BI Section13  Training log appendix 10.
	<b>9.2</b> Identify training and development needs/requirements of DMG members including opportunities for Continued Professional Development (ie in relation to Best Practice).	Considered & data captured in Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document.  The Skills, Experience, Training and Certification schedule (Appendix 10) is appended to this Working Plan.  The DMG will support members with training and certification if needed.	The Appendix 10 Training Log records Skills, Experience, Training and Certification is to be updated periodically and reviewed to establish if there are any further training requirements which satisfies the audit requirement  The DMG is to support members with identified training and certification needs as appropriate.	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	DMP BI Section13  Training log appendix 10.
	<b>9.3</b> Ensure all those who actively manage deer are “competent” according to current standard.  Priority criterion –  Green where mechanisms for ongoing audit are in place (i.e. meeting agenda item and minuted).  Captured in DMP; ongoing monitoring and update through Meeting Minute/DMP update.	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.  Uptake of relevant formal and CPD training is encouraged and will be supported by the ELSDMG.		Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	Training log appendix 10 Action Plan.  DMP BI Section 13

	<p><b>9.4</b> Promote and facilitate the uptake of formal and CPD training opportunities for those participating in deer management.</p>			<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section13 Training etc log.</p>
<p><b>10. ACTIONS to Identify and promote opportunities contributing to public health and wellbeing.</b></p>	<p><b>10.1</b> Identify &amp; quantify public safety issues associated with deer within the DMG area. e.g. DVCs, etc.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; 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 ELSDMG meetings where they may raise public safety issues such as DVC's &amp;etc.</p> <p>There are few DVC's reported for the ELSDMG area on the National Deer-Vehicle Collisions Project which can be viewed on this link <a href="http://deercollisions.co.uk">Figure XX : (deercollisions.co.uk)</a></p> <p>There are no trunk roads, railways or airports within the ELSDMG area.</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>DVC information is gathered and recorded at the DMG formal management meetings.</p>	<p>DVC information is requested on the DMG formal meeting agenda with reported DVC's recorded in the minutes</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section11.</p>
	<p><b>10.2</b> Identify actions with landowners, Local Authority, DMG to reduce or mitigate public safety risk and monitor effectiveness of actions.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Section 11 of the DMP Background Information document.</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 including Community Councils, other stakeholders, public &amp;etc may contact the group secretary directly or attend ELSDMG formal</p>	<p>Any public safety risks that are identified are to be addressed promptly with monitoring of the effectiveness of any actions taken.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 11.</p>

		group management meetings to raise any public safety risks they have identified.			
	<p><b>10.3</b> 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>Captured in DMP; ongoing monitoring and update through Meeting Minute/DMP update</p>	<p>Considered &amp; 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 members and their cull is covered by, and operating under the SQWV scheme which satisfies the audit requirement.</p> <p>The DMG will support members with training and certification as appropriate.</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.  <a href="http://www.deer-management.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Deer-Health-Survey-STEC-0157-Results.pdf">http://www.deer-management.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Deer-Health-Survey-STEC-0157-Results.pdf</a></p>	<p>Deer managers within the ELSDMG area are to follow BPG in relation to meat hygiene.</p> <p>The Appendix 10 Training Log records Skills, Experience, Training and Certification is reviewed periodically to establish if there are any further training requirements in regard to food safety in carcass handling and venison processing and compliance with BPG in relation to meat hygiene.</p> <p>The DMG is to support members with identified training and certification needs as appropriate.</p> <p><b>PLEASE NOTE: 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.</b></p>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	Training log appendix 10 Action Plan
	<p><b>10.4</b> Ensure deer managers are familiar with notifiable diseases, that a system for recording is in</p>	Considered & data captured in Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document.	ELSDMG meetings, reports and/or group emails are used to inform ELS deer managers of notifiable diseases.	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	DMP BI Section 13

	<p>place and all deer managers are familiar with course of action to take.</p> <p><b>Priority criterion –</b></p> <p><b>Green where mechanisms for ongoing audit are in place</b></p> <p><b>Captured in DMP; ongoing monitoring and update through Meeting Minute/DMP update</b></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. has been included periodically in the Group Reports.</p> <p>Notifiable diseases are detailed in the BPG Health and Welfare section which can be found at the following link <a href="https://www.bestpracticeguides.org.uk/health-welfare/">https://www.bestpracticeguides.org.uk/health-welfare/</a></p>	<p>BPG sets out the symptoms of and actions to be taken in the case of any notifiable disease in deer. <a href="#">Notifiable diseases   Best Practice Guidance (bestpracticeguides.org.uk)</a> Deer managers are reminded to be aware and promptly act on any occurrence and to follow up by reporting the details to the DMG.</p> <p>A further reminder to the group area deer managers reminding them to be aware and of the actions they should take regarding: - Notifiable Diseases – Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) – Ticks and Lime Disease will be included in the next ELSDMG Report.</p> <p><b>PLEASE NOTE: 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.</b></p>		
	<p><b>10.5</b> Ensure that appropriate bio security measures are enacted when visitors from areas where CWD is present are involved with deer management activities.</p> <p><b>Priority criterion –</b></p> <p><b>Green where mechanisms for ongoing audit are in place (i.e. meeting agenda item and minuted)</b></p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in DMP Background Information document &amp; DMP Action Plan document and members to inform relevant guests and staff of issues.</p> <p>DMG has 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 <a href="https://www.bestpracticeguides.org.uk/health-welfare/">https://www.bestpracticeguides.org.uk/health-welfare/</a></p> <p>The British Deer Society (BDS) has a more detailed section regarding Chronic Wasting Disease on this link: - <a href="#">Chronic</a></p>	<p>The BDS leaflet: - <a href="#">Chronic-Wasting-Disease-Leaflet-2-final-final-12-March-2021-BRANDED.pdf (bds.org.uk)</a> should be issued to all guests in advance of their arrival.</p> <p>BPG sets out the symptoms of and actions to be taken in the case of Chronic Wasting Disease in deer. Deer managers are reminded to be aware and promptly act on any occurrence</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 13</p>

	<p>Captured in DMP; ongoing monitoring and update through Meeting Minute/DMP update</p>	<p><a href="https://www.bds.org.uk">Wasting Disease (CWD) - The British Deer Society (bds.org.uk)</a> which also contains this link to their CWD leaflet: - <a href="https://www.bds.org.uk/Chronic-Wasting-Disease-Leaflet-2-final-final-12-March-2021-BRANDED.pdf">Chronic-Wasting-Disease-Leaflet-2-final-final-12-March-2021-BRANDED.pdf (bds.org.uk)</a> This leaflet should be issued to all guests in advance of their arrival.</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>and to follow up by reporting the details to the DMG.</p> <p>Deer managers are reminded to be aware of the risks of Lime Disease and to raise awareness with visitors and guests. The Ticks and Lime Disease leaflet should be available to visitors and guests. <a href="https://www.windowsofnet.co.uk/tick-lyme-disease-infosheet-20170810.pdf">1 tick-lyme-disease-infosheet-20170810.pdf (windows.net)</a></p>		
	<p><b>10.6</b> Identify opportunities to raise awareness of the risks associated with Lyme Disease.</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: - <a href="https://www.windowsofnet.co.uk/tick-lyme-disease-infosheet-20170810.pdf">1 tick-lyme-disease-infosheet-20170810.pdf (windows.net)</a></p>	<p>A further reminder to the group area deer managers reminding them to be aware and of the actions they should take regarding: - Notifiable Diseases – Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) – Ticks and Lime Disease will be included in the next ELSDMG Report.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	
	<p><b>10.7</b> Identify main access and recreational activity within the DMG area and assess how this fits with deer management activity.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Section 11 of the DMP Background Information document &amp; DMP Action Plan Working Document.</p> <p>Responsible access in our DMG area is encouraged.</p>		<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 11.</p>
	<p><b>10.8</b> 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>Members subscribe to the Outdoor access code Which can be viewed via this link <a href="https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/">https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/</a></p> <p>Members maintain communications with the public, hill walkers &amp;etc. via the 'Heading for the Scottish Hills' website with entries posted for Ardgour, Conaglen, Druim Laith, FLS, Glenscaddle, and Resipole..</p>	<p>See DMP Background information 11.2 and Spring 2019 report.</p> <p>In addition to DMP information a summary of 'ELSDMG Public Access Facilitation' is included at is included at Appendix 14.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 11.</p>
	<p><b>10.9</b> Facilitate public access and promote positive communication between visiting public and wildlife managers.</p>	<p>On FLS, NatureScot and other public land there are no stalking issues noted. In addition to DMP information a summary of</p>		<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 11.2 Appendix 14</p>

	<p><b>Priority criterion –</b></p> <p><b>Green where - DMGs articulate the initiatives planned and implemented to meet responsibilities on access and initiatives to promote the messages around the deer management.</b></p> <p>Captured in DMP; ongoing monitoring and update through Meeting Minute/DMP update</p>	<p>‘ELSDMG Public Access Facilitation’ is included at is included at Appendix 14.</p>			
<p><b>11. ACTIONS to maximise economic benefits associated with deer.</b></p>	<p><b>11.1</b> Identify and quantify the main sources of revenue related to deer (sport, tourism etc.)</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Section 12 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Many local businesses, enterprises and people are reliant on the income, employment and the diverse benefits generated from and around deer management.</p> <p>The sporting estates adding significant value to deer management and generate substantial income for our local area in e.g., let stalking, provision of accommodation, tourism, &amp;etc &amp;etc.</p>	<p>Members 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.</p> <p>A discussion on the ‘Economic Benefits and Costs of Deer’ has identified significant and ongoing emigration of deer through failing FLS forestry fences into the enclosed forestry areas as diminishing the main source of revenue related to deer in sport and tourism etc. within the East Loch Shiel DMG area.</p> <p>The officers of the ELSDMG are working on a summary of the Economic and Other Benefits and Costs of deer management for our DMG and draws together all the information already contained in the</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 12.</p>

			DMP and that gleaned from ongoing discussions. This further satisfies the 'Public Interest' criteria 11.1 to 11.4 and 12.1 to 12.4.		
	<p><b>11.2</b> Identify and quantify deer-related employment. Identify opportunities to increase and improve prospects throughout the DMG.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where mechanisms for ongoing audit of associated with Deer Management are in place.</p> <p>Captured in DMP/Action Plan; periodic review and update through Meeting Minute/Action Plan update.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Section 12 of the DMP Background Information document.</p>	<p>A discussion on the 'Economic Benefits and Costs of Deer' has identified significant and ongoing emigration of deer through failing FLS forestry fences into the enclosed forestry areas has been identified as diminishing the benefits whilst at the same time increasing the costs of deer within the East Loch Shiel DMG area. This in turn reduces the opportunity for deer related employment throughout the East Loch Shiel DMG area.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 12</p>
	<p><b>11.3</b> Identify opportunities to add value to products from deer management (SQWV, venison branding).</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Section 16 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Members are encouraged to join the SQWV or similar QA scheme.</p> <p>In excess of 80% of the ELSDMG members and their cull are covered by and operating under the SQWV or similar QA scheme.</p> <p>The DMG will support members with training and certification as appropriate.</p> <p>There is a local venison processing/retailing business and brand established over 25 years in the DMG area. Others have considered but decided against.</p>	<p>Members are encouraged to join the SQWV or similar QA scheme.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 16.</p>

		<p>The Sporting Estates add significant value from deer management in let stalking, provision of accommodation, tourism, &amp;etc.</p> <p>Promote DMG discussions to maximise the economic benefits of deer management.</p>			
	<p><b>11.4</b> Explore options for larder sharing, infrastructure improvement and carcass collection to ensure maximum benefit from venison production whilst reducing carbon costs.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; 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 periodically.</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 a single larder. In other cases, deer management is carried out by a neighbour who processes all deer carcasses from each landholding through a single larder.</p> <p>Game dealers ensure that whenever practical collection vans are sized and timed to ensure maximum benefit from venison production whilst reducing carbon costs.</p>	<p>Venison marketing and selection of a Game Dealer for venison collection is to be considered by the members and consensus sought periodically.</p>	Chair	DMP BI Section 16.
<p><b>12. ACTIONS to minimise the economic costs of deer, and ensure deer</b></p>	<p><b>12.1</b> Identify and quantify capital investment in deer management related infrastructure.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Section 12 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Information in plan regarding losses of deer into woodland, agricultural damage, DVCs included.</p> <p>Consideration will be given to ways of preventing deer migrating on to agricultural or forest land; when this is</p>	<p>A discussion on the ‘Economic Benefits and Costs of Deer’ identified significant and ongoing emigration of deer through failing FLS forestry fences into the enclosed forestry areas has been identified as diminishing the benefits whilst at the</p>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.	DMP BI Section 12



<p><b>management is cost-effective.</b></p>	<p><b>12.2</b> 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 style="color: red;">Priority criterion –</p> <p style="color: red;">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 style="color: green;">Captured in DMP/Action Plan; periodic review and update through Meeting Minute/Action Plan update</p>	<p>deemed not to be appropriate. Fencing regimes will be considered and cull targets will be set taking agricultural and woodland interests into account.</p> <p>Members will periodically 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>SNH agreed actions to address the issues at Clovullin croft are shown in the ELS Spring 2019 report.</p>	<p>same time increasing the costs of deer within the East Loch Shiel DMG area.</p> <p>The officers of the ELSDMG are working on a summary of the Economic and Other Benefits and Costs of deer management for our DMG and draws together all the information already contained in the DMP and that gleaned from ongoing discussions. This further satisfies the ‘Public Interest’ criteria 11.1 to 11.4 and 12.1 to 12.4.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI section 12</p>
	<p><b>12.3</b> Where there are management changes, assess the likely economic impacts across the DMG.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; 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>Our DMP’s are adaptive with the group or properties within the area responding to changes or circumstances as they arise.</p> <p>Where there are management changes the DMG members will assess the likely economic impacts and will formulate strategies to</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 12.</p>
	<p><b>12.4</b> Formulate a strategy to minimise the negative economic impacts in an equitable way.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; 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>Where there are management changes the DMG members will assess the likely economic impacts and will formulate strategies to</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 12.</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>minimise any negative impacts identified.</p> <p>A discussion on the ‘Economic Benefits and Costs of Deer’ identified significant and ongoing emigration of deer through failing FLS forestry fences into the enclosed forestry areas has been identified as diminishing the benefits whilst at the same time increasing the costs of deer within the East Loch Shiel DMG area.</p>		
<p><b>13. ACTIONS to ensure effective communication on deer management issues.</b></p>	<p><b>13.1</b> Provide regular opportunity for wider community and public agency engagement in planning and communications.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Section 17 of the DMP Background Information document &amp; DMP Action Plan – Working Document.</p> <p>The ELSDMG twice yearly formal management meetings are open to Members, stakeholders, and the public including Community Councils and other local representative organisations.</p>	<p>The ELSDMG twice yearly formal management meetings are open to members, stakeholders, and the public including Community Councils and other local representative organisations where they may table any community issues. If they are unable to attend, issues may be communicated to the DMG secretary who can table them on behalf of the community.</p> <p>A permanent Agenda item allows for neighbours, stakeholders and the public to raise issues or comment.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>ADMG website. DMP BI Section 17</p>
	<p><b>13.2</b> Identify and implement actions to address community issues on deer or deer management activity.</p> <p><b>Priority criterion –</b></p> <p><b>Green where Group can provide evidence of efforts to engage Community Council and providing regular opportunity for this, and wider interest groups.</b></p>	<p>The DMP, Approved Meeting Minutes and DMG business &amp;etc. are publicly available, all posted on the ELSDMG section of the ADMG website.</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 most up to date DMP’s, updates and DMG information are freely available online on the ELSDMG section of the ADMG website and all parties are advised to use these. <a href="http://www.deer-management.co.uk/">http://www.deer-management.co.uk/</a></p>		<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 17</p>

	<p>Captured in DMP/Action Plan; periodic review and update through Meeting Minute/Action Plan update</p>	<p>Meeting minutes refer to e.g., police attendance and engagement with Ardgour CC &amp;etc.</p>			
	<p><b>13.3</b> Support and promote wider opportunities for further education on deer.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document &amp; 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 as appropriate.</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>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>The DMG supports and promotes opportunities for further education on deer and deer management.</p> <p>Trade bodies or similar (e.g., ADMG, BASC, BDS, BPG, LDNS, NGO, SGA, etc.) to which our members often subscribe offer or promote suitable training and education opportunities.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>DMP BI Section 13</p>
<p><b>14. ACTIONS to ensure deer welfare is taken</b></p>	<p><b>14.1</b> Agree, collate and review data available within the DMG which might be used as a proxy</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in DMP Background Information document &amp; DMP Action Plan document.</p>	<p>Deer welfare indicators are collated and include – Changes to and condition of cover and forage</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Population model.</p>

<p><b>fully into account at individual animal and population level.</b></p>	<p>for deer health/welfare i.e. recruitment, winter mortality, larder weights etc.</p>	<p>Members will set appropriate cull targets in advance of each season.</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>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, &amp;etc.</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>available – population counts/models – population density - recruitment counts – mortality assessments – HIA – deer condition reports, &amp;etc. This information is collated either in advance of, or at the DMG meetings where it is reviewed.</p>		
	<p><b>14.2</b> 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><b>Priority criterion –</b></p> <p><b>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 interested parties, and to response to the concerns appropriately.</b></p> <p><b>For the group to set out the evidence base - so about more than just referencing in DMP.</b></p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in DMP Background Information document &amp; 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>The period of maximum dependency, 01<sup>st</sup> April to the 31<sup>st</sup> 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>Deer managers are aware of and continue to follow Best Practice in culling.</p> <p>Having considered and reviewed the data on deer welfare, agreed actions are taken by the DMG deer managers in accordance with BPG to safeguard the welfare of culled and surviving deer.</p> <p><b>PLEASE NOTE: 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.</b></p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Training log appendix 10</p> <p>Action Plan DMP BI Section 13</p>

	<p><b>14.3</b> 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 –</p> <p>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>For DMG to provide evidence base on how they are doing this</p>	<p>Considered &amp; 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 applied as appropriate 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, 01<sup>st</sup> April to the 31<sup>st</sup> 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>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>Deer welfare considerations are included in the formal meeting Agenda. These include: - Condition reports, Changes in land management objectives, HIA, Shelter &amp; Forage, DVC's, Recruitment &amp; Mortality, Population model/density.</p> <p>Changes to and the condition of cover and forage available are considered at the formal meetings and also when drawing up plans for woodland expansion and exclosures etc. Actions that may be taken to ensure the ongoing welfare include e.g., the potential requirement for compensatory culls.</p> <p>ACTION: Implementation of new plans are to include assessment and action to ensure welfare</p> <p><b>PLEASE NOTE: 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.</b></p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>	<p>Training log appendix 10</p> <p>Action Plan DMP BI Section 13 reports.</p>
	<p><b>14.4</b> Periodically review information on actions to safeguard welfare, identify and implement changes as required.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>No additional guidance.</p>	<p>Considered &amp; data captured in Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document and the Action Plan - Working Document.</p> <p>Deer managers are aware of and follow Best Practice and the Deer Code.</p> <p>The period of maximum dependency, 01<sup>st</sup> April to the 31<sup>st</sup> August will be observed with no females over one year of age</p>	<p>Deer welfare information is a permanent agenda item at each formal meeting at which time information on agreed actions to safeguard welfare is reviewed and any required changes identified are implemented.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary</p>	<p>Training log appendix Action Plan DMP BI Section 13 Reports</p>

	<p>DMG to provide evidence base and ensure that they are discussing at meetings</p>	<p>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 culls will be evaluated and applied going forward as access to feed and shelter change, or be deemed insufficient.</p>		
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<sup>1</sup> 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'. 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 increased impacts on habitats & etc. are detrimental to the mainly publicly owned forestry business interests.