

EAST LOCH SHIEL DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP

DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN

ACTION PLAN - WORKING DOCUMENT 1st EDITION

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Updates issued: -

January and April 2019

July 2020

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May 2023

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This update April 2025

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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 within the group area. A substantial plan review was completed in September 2018.

The 'Deer Management Plan: Background Information' 9th 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 in progress.

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.

CONTENTS

- 1 The DMG's Strategic Objectives
- 2 Actions Summary

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 NatureScot, ADMG and others. The actions will be reviewed and updated periodically, and others added, as appropriate.

2.1 Delivering the Benchmark and Public Interest

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 of the delivery of the "Benchmark" and "Public Interest".

SNH assessed the delivery of the "Benchmark" and "Public Interest" by the East Loch Shiel DMG in May 2019.

With the SNH office reported as 'undergoing personnel changes' and being 'in a state of flux' the promised SNH 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 SNH 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. Despite this, the ELSDMG moved from very close to the bottom of the SNH league table to being within the top quartile and the most improved DMG since the 2016 assessment.

At the SNH 2019 Assessment of the East Loch Shiel Deer Management Group, 90 criteria scored green and 11 scored amber, none red, with the Scottish agencies failing to deliver on at least 8 of the 11 amber-scored criteria.

Refer to the East Loch Shiel Deer Management Group – "Report on Criteria Scored Amber at the 2019 SNH Assessment" for more detail on the SNH scoring and evidence of delivery where the DMG relative comments/observations are recorded.

ELSDMG has been assessed against the DMG Delivery of “Benchmark” 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 “Benchmark” and where appropriate, correcting, new, and ongoing actions are listed.

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 required 'Evidence to demonstrate delivery'.

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 & 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. No changes are currently anticipated for 2025/26.	Chair, Vice Chair.
	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>	Keep Working Group and sub-population areas under review. No changes are currently anticipated for 2025/26.	Chair, Vice Chair.

		The Working Group areas each have their own sub-populations of deer with migration between the areas to be kept to a minimum.		
2. Membership	2.1 All property owners within a deer range should be members of a DMG, including private and public land owners; also, where possible, agricultural occupiers, foresters, crofters and others on adjoining land where deer may be present. In some cases, this may extend to householders with private gardens.	<p>Considered & 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 bodies or 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 DMPs, updates and DMG information is freely available online on the ELSDMG section of the ADMG website and all parties are advised to use these. http://www.deer-management.co.uk/</p>	Secretary

<p>3. Meetings</p>	<p>3.1 DMGs should meet regularly. Two formal meetings per year is the norm but more frequent interaction between members, between meetings, should be encouraged.</p>	<p>The ELSDMG normally hold 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. With the Spring 2023 meeting postponed awaiting the appointment of our new NatureScot WMO and the Autumn meeting largely abandoned due to an un-notified road closure of the A861 preventing attendance of most members the DMG business was kept going via email, telephone, and direct contact.</p>	<p>Secretary to ensure that where practical formal meetings take place twice per year.</p> <p>Post Covid, formal meetings have resumed WEF 19/04/2022 although we may revert to remote working in case of a Covid resurgence or similar.</p>	<p>Secretary</p>
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	<p>3.2 For effective collaborative management to take place it is important that all DMG Members should attend every meeting or be represented by someone authorised to make appropriate decisions on their behalf.</p>	<p>Where members cannot attend a meeting, they may elect to be represented in proxy by an agreed party.</p> <p>Section 11 of the ELSDMG Constitution (Appendix 1) sets out the proxy voting criteria.</p>	<p>All members and non-attending/engaging ELSDMG area landholders are encouraged to attend or be represented at every meeting.</p>	<p>Secretary</p>
	<p>3.3 In addition to landholding Members, including public sector owners, public agencies such as SNH and Forestry Commission Scotland should be in attendance and other relevant authorities such as Police Scotland may be invited to attend DMG meetings.</p>	<p>A full list of ELSDMG area members, landholders, agencies &etc. with contact details is maintained by the Secretary and is considered 'Confidential' to the DMG Office Bearers.</p> <p>The list includes those shown to the left.</p> <p>Neighbours and stakeholders also are included as appropriate.</p> <p>Those listed to the left are advised of the formal meetings and invited to attend as appropriate.</p>	<p>Police Scotland and other relevant authorities may be invited to attend in order to address specific issues e.g., poaching, sheep or deer worrying &etc.</p> <p>Those listed to the left are to be advised of the formal meetings and invited to attend. See 15.1.</p>	<p>Secretary</p>
	<p>3.4 Meetings should operate to an agenda and be accurately minuted. Attendees should be encouraged to participate and agreed actions and decisions should be recorded.</p>	<p>Draft Agenda are produced prior to the 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</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</p>	<p>Chair Secretary Agenda item</p>

		<p>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>http://elochsheildmg.deer-management.co.uk/</p>	<p>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>3.5 Group can demonstrate a capacity to deal with issues between meetings as they arise, and to provide an ongoing source of communication and advice as required.</p>	<p>Group members communicate as appropriate between meetings either in person or via telephone, email and etc.</p> <p>Deer & management issues &etc. are often addressed between the formal meetings either in person or via telephone and emails.</p> <p>Group officer's 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, and often are 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 as required.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair.</p>
<p>4. Constitution & Finances</p>	<p>4.1 All DMGs should have a Constitution which defines the area of the Group, sets out its purpose, its operating principles, membership and procedures, in addition to providing for appointing office bearers, voting, raising subscriptions and</p>	<p>The DMG Constitution was updated, consulted on and approved at our DMG meeting on 29/04/2019 and incorporates all those points listed to the left.</p> <p>Review of Constitution; Review details are included in 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</p>	<p>Our constitution is due for review. Voting members are invited to make any representations by 1st of June 2025. The procedure for interim review is set out in the Constitution.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair Secretary.</p>

	maintaining financial records.	<p>'Agenda – Progress' with dates summarises the ongoing DMG business.</p> <p>http://elochsheildmg.deer-management.co.uk/</p>		
	<p>4.2 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 an '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>5. Deer Management Plans</p>	<p>5.1 All DMGs should have an up to date, effective and forward-looking Deer Management Plan (DMP).</p>	<p>The current forward-looking ELSDMG Deer Management Plan, which was formally adopted at the 02/11/2018 ELSDMG meeting, is in three main sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a. The Background Information (9th Edition.) section of the DMP which normally covers five years from publication is periodically reviewed and updated as appropriate. b. The Action Plan – Working Document (1st Edition.) section of the DMP is periodically reviewed and updated as appropriate. c. Appendixes, Reports, and Supplements which are part of the DMP are issued and/or updated as appropriate. 	<p>The DMP 'Background Information', the 'Action Plan', Appendixes, Reports and Supplements will be periodically reviewed and updated as appropriate.</p> <p>The Background Information (9th Edition) is currently under review for update and is "rolled on" pending completion of the review and update.</p> <p>Specific information for the WWG FLS area is contained in the FLS LMPs (referred to below in BM 5.2)</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair Secretary WWG</p>

		<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 current ELSDMG DMP is posted on the ADMG website. http://elochsheildmg.deer-management.co.uk/</p> <p>The DMP details the “Benchmark” and how the group plans to deliver on it.</p> <p>Approved minutes from the ELSDMG formal meetings are publicly available published on the ELS section of the ADMG website. http://www.deer-management.co.uk/</p>		
	<p>5.2 The DMP should record all the land management objectives within the DMG area.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 7 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>ELSDMG area land management objectives are recorded in section 7 of the DMP Background Information.</p> <p>Changes in 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>Recorded changes to land management objectives will be included in the next update of the DMP-BI.</p> <p>The FLS Drimnatorran Forest and Glenhurich Land Management Plans (LMPs), which record all their land management objectives, are located on the FLS website within the West section: https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/planning/active</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p> <p>Agenda item</p>
	<p>5.3 Where applicable, the plan should include a rolling 5-year population model.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 19 DMP Background Information document and Working Action Plan Document.</p> <p>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 late Spring or summer.</p>	<p>Population targets etc. are discussed at the Group Management meetings twice yearly.</p> <p>A permanent Agenda item is to report on and gather up-to-date information for the Population Model.</p> <p>The periodically updated forward-looking Population Model and Targets summary information (Appendix 15) is published online in the ELS section of the ADMG website.</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>Vice Chair</p> <p>Agenda item.</p>

		The Population Model includes deer density, count figures, cull figures, recruitment, and mortality, and considers deer condition, availability of shelter and forage, HIA data &etc. at each update to arrive at a Population Target.		
	5.4 Appropriate use of maps to illustrate relevant detail.	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Appropriate maps 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 the inclusion of any other relevant mapping as appropriate.</p> <p>Action: - Vice Chair to periodically review and update the maps in the DMP Appendixes to reflect the new enclosures and LMP on Conaglen Estate.</p>	Chair Vice Chair
	5.5 The DMP should identify the public interest aspects of deer management.	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Identified also in Section 2.2 of the Action Plan – Working Document below.</p> <p>Public Interest aspects of deer management are included in Section 2.2 of this Action Plan.</p>	Periodic DMP reviews will capture and update changes to 'Public Interest' aspects.	
	5.6 DMP should make appropriate reference to other species of deer within the DMG area and provide a level of detail proportionate to this interest.	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 15 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>The policy on Non–Native and Secondary Native Species is contained in Section 15 of the DMP Background Information.</p> <p>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>A shoot on sight policy has been agreed upon with all members in relation to muntjac, sika deer, and feral pigs/wild boar subject to the period of maximum dependency, licensing and ethical culling.</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>	
	5.7 It should include a list of actions that deliver the collective objectives of DMG	Considered & data captured in Section 7 of the DMP Background Information document.	The DMG will ensure continued development and periodic review of the DMP Background Information document, the Action Plan - Working Document,	Chair, Vice Chair

	Members as well as public interest objectives. These actions should be updated annually.	<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, &etc.</p>	Reports, Appendixes, Supplements & etc. to provide an up-to-date and evolving DMP.	
	<p>5.8 It is important that all DMG Members should play a full part in the planning process and in the implementation of agreed actions.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in 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>Some 98% by area of the identified properties of the ELSDMG area are regularly represented at the DMG meetings and participating in the planning process and implementation of agreed actions.</p> <p>This Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment. Refer to the “Report on Criteria scored amber at the 2019 SNH Assessment” for more detail.</p>	<p>All DMG members and area landholders are encouraged to play their part in the DMP process.</p> <p>The Background Information (9th Edition) is currently under review/update for re-issue in which the DMG members will play a full part in the planning process and ongoing implementation of agreed actions.</p> <p>During late 2022 and early 2023 FLS invited representations during the consultation periods for the Drimnatorran and Glenhurich Land Management Plans. The ELSDMG Chair responded on behalf of the group and members were given the opportunity to make their own representations.</p> <p>In the WWG area: -</p> <p>The FLS Drimnatorran Forest and Glenhurich Land Management Plans (LMPs) are located on the FLS website within the West section: https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/planning/active</p>	<p>Secretary SNH FLS WWG</p>
	<p>5.9 The DMP may identify potential conflicts and how they can be prevented or addressed to ensure an equitable approach to</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 7 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>No policy can anticipate every conceivable situation or exceptional circumstance which officers may face.</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>Eastern Working Group comment: - It is hoped that FLS will give serious consideration to the proposals</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair Secretary FLS</p>

	the shared deer population.	It is often not possible to identify potential conflicts that may or may not occur in the future. The DMP sets out a conflict and grievance procedure at 17.4 that allows the DMG to address issues in a structured manner.	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. ¹ 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.	
	5.10 Relevant local interests should be consulted on new DMPs and advised of any changes as they come forward.	Considered & data captured in Section 17 of the DMP Background Information document. Local interests were consulted on the new ELSDMG DMP's. A consultee/stakeholders list is included at 17.1 in the Background Information section of the DMP. The DMP and approved meeting minutes are published on the ADMG website. http://elochsheildmg.deer-management.co.uk/ The most up to date DMP's, revisions and updates etc. are freely available online and all parties are advised to use these. http://elochsheildmg.deer-management.co.uk/	An open and transparent process is followed and the DMP is accessible to all on the ADMG website. During late 2022 and early 2023 FLS invited representations during the consultation periods for the Drimnatorran and Glenhurich Land Management Plans. The ELSDMG Chair responded on behalf of the group and members were given the opportunity to make their own representations. Input required from Western Working Group: - Provide contact details including email addresses for local interests in the Western Working Group area to be included on the circulation list.	Secretary FLS WWG
6. Code of Practice on Deer Management	6.1 The Code should be endorsed by all DMGs and referenced in both the Constitution and Deer Management Plan of every Group. The terms of the Code should be delivered through the Group Deer Management Plan.	Considered & data captured in Section 2 of the DMP Background Information document. The Code is endorsed and referenced in the ELSDMG Constitution at 2.ii All ELSDMG members are aware of and working to Code of Practice on Deer Management. The link to the document was circulated via group email on 29/11/2018 and is copied here.	Members are to continue to deliver on the terms of the Code in their work.	Chair Vice Chair Secretary

		https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/land-and-sea-management/managing-wildlife/managing-deer/code-practice-deer-management		
7. ADMG Principles of Collaboration	7.1 The Principles of Collaboration should be incorporated into all DMG Constitutions and Deer Management Plans.	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 4 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>The ADMG Principles of Collaboration are referenced in the ELSDMG Constitution at 2.ii</p> <p>All ELSDMG members are aware of and working to these Principles of Collaboration.</p> <p>The link to the Principles of Collaboration was circulated via group email on 29/11/2018 and is copied here. http://www.deer-management.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/ADMG-PRINCIPLES-OF-COLLABORATION.pdf</p>	The DMG members are to continue to adhere to the ADMG Principles of Collaboration.	Chair Vice Chair Secretary
8. Best Practice	8.1 All deer management should be carried out in accordance with Best Practice.	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 3 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Wild Deer Best Practice aims to provide guidance on relevant legislation and on how best to reinforce the three central aims of public safety, food safety and deer welfare. With over a hundred guides including several hundred pages of information, the Best Practice Guides provide you with information on wild deer management.</p> <p>All ELSDMG members are aware of and are working to Wild Deer Best Practice.</p> <p>The link to the Best Practice Guides was circulated via group email on 21/09/2018 repeated on 09/07/2020 and copied here. https://www.bestpracticeguides.org.uk/</p>	<p>Members are to continue to carry out deer management in accordance with Best Practice.</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: Since May 2018 Best Practice have no longer disseminated new guides, updates or news either by post or email. It is now for the user to find out any changes.</p>	Chair Vice Chair Secretary
	8.2 All Deer Management Plans should reference and follow WDBP which will continue to evolve.			Chair, Vice Chair Secretary

<p>9. Data and evidence gathering- Deer Counts</p>	<p>9.1 Accurate deer counting forms the basis of population modelling. An ethos that reflects this should be in evidence.</p> <p>PRIORITY CRITERION 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. DMP/WP/Minutes captures this information on counting programme ; using this as the basis for population modelling</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 8 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Due to remoteness, aerial counts are considered the only practical and effective method of counting our open hill range.</p> <p>The aim is to complete a full, coordinated 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 March 2010 of the Open Range.</p> <p>A privately funded helicopter count was completed in March 2016 of the Open Range after SNH offers of 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. The DMG supports this move and awaits the NatureScot proposals and funding of an alternative method of achieving compliance with this criterion.</p> <p>A NatureScot-funded helicopter count was carried out in February 2022.</p>	<p>With a helicopter count in 2022, the next group-wide 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>Nature Scot advise of a move away from helicopter counts citing cost and carbon concerns. The DMG supports this move and awaits the NatureScot proposals and funding of an alternative method of achieving compliance with this criterion.</p> <p>Discuss and agree on the timing of the next deer count and methods with foot counts being unsuitable over much of our area.</p> <p>The NS WMO confirms that with the next full count not yet required there are no plans for an aerial count this year.</p>	<p>Chair Vice Chair Secretary</p>
	<p>9.2 As publicly funded aerial counts are now exceptional, DMGs should aim to carry out a regular well planned coordinated foot count of the whole open range deer population.</p>	<p>Considered & 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>Nature Scot advise of a move away from helicopter counts citing cost and carbon concerns. The DMG supports this move and awaits the NatureScot proposals and funding of an alternative method of achieving compliance with this criterion.</p>	<p>Chair Vice Chair Secretary NatureScot</p>

	<p>The norm is to count annually.</p> <p>PRIORITY CRITERION Green where counting is undertaken on 3-5 year basis; rationale and justification set out where this is not the case as a minimum. Figures and discussion evidenced and captured in Minutes/WP</p>	<p>Members aim to complete at least one full, coordinated 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. The DMG supports this move and awaits the NatureScot proposals and funding of an alternative method of achieving compliance with this criterion.</p> <p>Discuss and agree on the timing of the 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>With a helicopter count in 2022, the next open-range deer population count is scheduled for 2027.</p> <p>Discuss and agree on the timing of the next deer count and methods with foot counts being unsuitable.</p> <p>The NS WMO confirms that with the next full count not yet required there are no plans for an aerial count this year.</p>	
	<p>9.3 Recruitment and mortality counts are also essential for population modelling.</p> <p>PRIORITY CRITERION Green where undertaken annually and overall Group figure calculated.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 8 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>DMG to follow this updated procedure for 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>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 is to include the Recruitment and Mortality assessment methods shown to the left. Action Point: - Chair, Vice-Chair</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>Vice Chair</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>Agenda item.</p> <p>Deer managers.</p>

	DMP/ Minutes/ Working Plan captures count programme - group to deliver in accordance with milestones against this	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	A request to ELSDMG landholders has been issued at the 2025 Spring meeting to carry out the mortality assessments and recruitment counts.	
	9.4 Other census methods may be required in some circumstances, e.g. dung counting in woodland or other concealing habitats or on adjoining open ground.	<p>Considered & 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>This Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment even though a repeat DPA was in hand. Refer to the “Report on Criteria scored amber at the 2019 SNH Assessment” for more detail.</p> <p>The DMG has used the 2009 FES DPA data as the datum for our population modelling with further inputs from FES/FLS &etc. at each update of the population model.</p> <p>FLS provided the ‘FLS 2019-20 DPA Report – Ardnamurchan Complex DRAFT 060421’ to the DMG in June 2021.</p> <p>FES/FLS advise that carbon footprint and cost considerations prohibit more frequent DPA’s.</p>	Census data is included in the forward-looking Population Models where our responsive and adaptive cull planning is summarised.	<p>Chair</p> <p>Vice Chair</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>FLS</p>

<p>10. Data and evidence gathering- Culls</p>	<p>10.1 All DMGs should agree a target deer population or density which meets the collective requirements of Members without detriment to the public interest.</p> <p>PRIORITY CRITERION 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. Agreed in DMP/Minutes</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 19 of the DMP Background Information document. ¹</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, summary information which is updated periodically (published online) and the FLS 2019-20 DPA Report – Ardnamurchan Complex DRAFT 060421.</p>	<p>Chair Vice Chair Secretary</p>
	<p>10.2 The cull should be apportioned among Members to deliver the objectives of the DMP and individual management objectives while maintaining the agreed target population and favourable</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>This Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment. Refer to the “Report on Criteria scored amber at the 2019 SNH Assessment” for more detail.</p> <p>Summary information including the Working Group cull apportionment target is shown in the Population Model – Appendix 15 and meeting minutes (both published online). Individual landholding cull apportionment is</p>	<p>Proposed and actual cull information is summarised in the Population Model and Targets (Appendix 15).</p> <p>ACTION: Cull apportionment is a permanent agenda item which is discussed at the DMG twice yearly formal meetings and informally between as appropriate.</p> <p>It is noted that individual sporting interests’ objectives are constrained while significant</p>	<p>Chair Agenda item</p>

	<p>environmental condition.</p> <p>PRIORITY CRITERION Green where the groups overall cull, and apportionment of it in terms of distribution is appropriate to securing objectives set out in DMP. Proposed and actual culls captured in DMP/WP/Minutes</p>	<p>discussed at the DMG formal meetings and informally between as appropriate. 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. ¹</p> <p>Refer also to the FLS 2019-20 DPA Report – Ardnamurchan Complex DRAFT 060421.</p>	<p>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 Glenhurich LMPs expressing the concerns regarding the failing FLS fences and the negative impacts on the FLS neighbours.</p> <p>Eastern Working Group comment: - It is hoped that FLS will give serious consideration to the proposals made by the open range members to address the fencing issue. The proposals have benefits for Sustainable Deer Management, the ‘Public Interest’, all DMG members and to the environment. Action Point FLS.</p>	
	<p>10.3 The Group cull target should be reviewed and, if necessary, adjusted annually.</p> <p>PRIORITY CRITERION Green where the Group is operating to an up to date population model Update population model included within Action Plan</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Sections 19 and 20 of the DMP Background Information.</p> <p><u>Cull targets</u></p> <p>Summary detail including the Group and Working Group cull targets are 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 forward looking ELSDMG 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 and informally between as appropriate.</p>	<p>Chair, Agenda Item.</p>

<p>11. Data and evidence gathering- Habitat Monitoring</p>	<p>11.1 DMGs should carry out habitat monitoring. Habitat Impact Assessments (HIA) measure progress towards agreed habitat condition targets on both designated sites and the wider deer range.</p> <p>PRIORITY CRITERION 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 & data captured in Section 18 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Summary information is provided in DMP HIA Monitoring Plan (ELS Appendix 11) and HIA Log (ELS Appendix 13) both published online.</p> <p>This Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment. Refer to the “Report on Criteria scored amber at the 2019 SNH Assessment” for more detail.</p> <p>Appendix 11, the indicative HIA map has been updated with information up to the issue date.</p> <p>Appendix 13 which describes the detail and analysis has been updated periodically incorporating results and information to the issue date.</p> <p>The draft FLS Drimnatorran (2022) and Glenhurich (2023) LMPs contain HIA data for these areas.</p>	<p>Refer to Appendix 11, the indicative HIA map which is updated periodically incorporating information to the issue date.</p> <p>Refer to Appendix 13, the HIA Log that summarises the detail and analysis and which is updated periodically incorporating results and information to the issue date.</p> <p>Refer also to the FLS Drimnatorran and Glenhurich approved LMPs which contain HIA data for these areas.</p> <p>See also Public Interest 5. Below.</p>	Chair Agenda item
	<p>11.2 HIAs should be carried out on a systematic and regular basis. A three year cycle is the norm but many find annual monitoring useful.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 18 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>11.2 BPG 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-year cycle.</p>	<p>Refer to Appendix 11, the indicative HIA map which is updated periodically incorporating information to the issue date.</p> <p>Refer to Appendix 13 the HIA Log which describes the detail and analysis which is updated periodically incorporating results and information to the issue date.</p> <p>See also Public Interest 5. Below.</p>	
	<p>11.3 Data is required on other herbivores present and their impact on the habitat.</p>	<p>11.3 It is noted that apart from hare dung presence, other herbivore's 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 on 03/04/2024</p>		

	<p>11.4 DMPs should include a section on habitat monitoring methods and procedures and record annual results so as to measure change and record trends.</p>	<p>nor is there any recording of insect or other environmental damage.</p> <p>11.4 Considered and captured in Section 18 of the ELSDMP Background Information and the periodically updated Appendix 13 HIA Log.</p> <p>Appendix 11, the indicative HIA map incorporates information up to the issue date.</p> <p>Appendix 13, the HIA Log describes the detail and analysis up to the issue date.</p>		
<p>12. Competence</p>	<p>12.1 It is recommended that in addition to DSC 1 deer managers should also attain DSC 2 or equivalent.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>A Skills, Experience, 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' qualification 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 member's Skills, Experience, Knowledge, Training and Certification that is updated periodically.</p>	
	<p>12.2 Deer managers supplying venison for public consumption are required to certify carcasses as fit for human consumption to demonstrate due diligence. "Trained</p>	<p>Considered & 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>Refer to the Appendix 10 Training Log which details member's 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>Agenda item.</p>

	<p>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>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>The DMG is to support members with identified training and certification needs as appropriate.</p>	
13. Training	<p>13.1 All DMGs should have a training policy and incorporate it in the DMP.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>A training policy is included in Section 13.1 of the DMP Background Information. Discussed and agreed with members as part of DMP.</p> <p>The Skills, Experience, 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>13.2 All DMG Members or those acting on their behalf should undergo the necessary training to demonstrate Competence.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>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>13.3 The training policy should promote and record continuing professional development through Best Practice Guidance.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>There is a group undertaking to deliver the terms of WDBP.</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>PLEASE NOTE: Since May 2018 Best Practice have no longer disseminated new guides, updates or news either by post or email. It is now for the user to find out any changes.</p> <p>BPG awareness and BPG availability are 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>The DMG is to support members with identified training and certification as appropriate.</p>	
<p>14. Venison Marketing</p>	<p>14.1 Membership of the Scottish Quality Wild Venison scheme is recommended by ADMG.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 13 and 16 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Members are encouraged to join the SQWV or similar 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
	<p>14.2 There is evidence of collaborative venison production within the Group.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 16 of the DMP Background Information document.</p>	<p>Venison marketing and selection of Game Dealers for venison collection are to be considered by the members and consensus is sought periodically. See minutes.</p>	Chair.

		Venison marketing and selection of Game Dealers for venison collection is considered by the members and agreed periodically.		
15. Communications	15.1 DMGs should include a Communications Policy in their DMP. External communication should be directed at parties not directly involved but with an interest in deer management including individuals, local bodies such as community councils, local authorities, local media and other specialist interests.	<p>Considered & 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 &etc. with contact details is maintained by the Secretary and is considered 'Confidential' to the DMG Office Bearers.</p> <p>Neighbours and stakeholders also are included as appropriate.</p> <p>The most up-to-date DMPs, updates and DMG information is freely available online on the ELSDMG section of the ADMG website and all parties are advised to use these. http://www.deer-management.co.uk/</p>	<p>Continue communication between Community Councils, stakeholders and ELSDMG.</p> <p>ELSDMG should keep their communications policy updated.</p> <p>The secretary will circulate information as agreed.</p> <p>Also included in the Spring 2024 ELSDMG report: ELSDMG is updating its external communications list. If you wish to receive communications that may be relevant to your interests, please opt in by confirming your email address for the DMG to use by writing to this email eastlochshielchair@gmail.com and briefly say why you are interested in deer management for this area. 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 DMPs, updates and DMG information is freely available online on the ELSDMG section of the ADMG website and all parties are advised to use these. http://www.deer-management.co.uk/</p>	Secretary
	15.2 An annual communication programme suitable to local circumstances is advised. This might include a DMG website or a page on www.deer-	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 17 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>The most up-to-date DMPs, updates and DMG information is freely available online on the ELSDMG section of the ADMG website and all parties are advised to use these. http://www.deer-management.co.uk/</p>	<p>The most up-to-date DMPs, updates and DMG information is freely available online on the ELSDMG section of the ADMG website and all parties are advised to use these. http://www.deer-management.co.uk/</p>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary

	management.co.uk, an annual Newsletter, annual open meeting, or attending local meetings by invitation.	<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>15.3 A Deer Management Plan should be accessible and publicly available, and local consultation during its development is advised.</p> <p>Priority criterion – no additional guidance. DMP published on ADMG website or an alternative site.</p>	<p>Periodic ELSDMG Group Reports in the form of a newsletter are distributed and freely available and published on the ELSDMG section of the ADMG website. http://www.deer-management.co.uk/</p> <p>The most up-to-date DMPs, updates and DMG information is freely available online on the ELSDMG section of the ADMG website and all parties are advised to use these. http://www.deer-management.co.uk/</p>		Secretary

2.2 Delivering the Public Interest

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.

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 required 'Evidence to demonstrate delivery'.

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 were 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 assessments of the ELSDMG effectiveness against the Benchmark.</p>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary SNH.
	1.2 Develop a series of actions to be implemented and assign roles.	<p>Considered & data captured in the DMP Background Information Document, the DMP Action Plan – Working Document and the ELSDMG Constitution (Appendix 1).</p> <p>The ELS DMG Constitution sets out the office bearer's and member's 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</p>	<p>Actions to be implemented and responsible parties detailed through the Constitution, meeting minutes, the DMP Background Information, the Action Plan – Working Document, Supplements &etc.</p> <p>The delivery of key priority actions is reviewed at each DMG meeting.</p>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary Agenda item

		<p>Background 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 &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 may draw information from the Constitution, meeting minutes, the DMP Background Information and the Action Plan – Working Document &etc.</p>		
	<p>1.3 Produce and publish a forward-looking, effective deer management plan which includes public interest elements relevant to local circumstances. The plan should contain an action plan which sets out agreed actions and monitors delivery. Minutes of DMG meetings should be publicly available.</p> <p>Priority Criterion</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</p>	<p>The ELSDMG has had formal DMPs 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a. The Background Information (9th Edition.) section of the DMP which normally covers five years from publication is periodically reviewed and updated as appropriate. b. The Action Plan – Working Document (1st Edition.) section of the DMP is periodically reviewed and updated as appropriate. c. Appendixes, Reports, and Supplements which are part of the DMP are issued and/or updated as appropriate. <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 current ELSDMG DMP is posted on the ADMG website. http://elochsheildmg.deer-management.co.uk/</p>	<p>The DMP 'Background Information', the 'Action Plan', Appendixes, Reports and Supplements will be periodically reviewed and updated as appropriate.</p> <p>The Background Information (9th Edition) is currently under review for update and is "rolled on" pending completion of the review and update.</p> <p>Specific information for the WWG FLS area is contained in the FLS LMPs (referred to above in BM 5.2)</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>

	<p>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 DMP details the “Public Interest” and how the group plans to deliver on it.</p> <p>Approved minutes from the ELSDMG formal meetings are publicly available published on the ELS section of the ADMG website. http://www.deer-management.co.uk/</p>		
<p>2. ACTIONS for the delivery of designated features into Favourable Condition.</p>	<p>2.1 Identify designated features, the reported condition and herbivore pressures affecting designated sites in the DMG area.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where the extent and condition of features is described in the DMP</p> <p>Captured in Plan or Action Plan</p>	<p>Designated sites and their feature conditions along with relevant maps have been identified, considered & data captured in Section 10 of the DMP Background Information document. The Background Information (9th Edition) is currently under review for update and is “rolled on” pending completion of the review and update.</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. A brief summary is shown below. ²</p> <p>In the WWG area: -</p> <p>The Drimnatorran Forest and Glenhurich Land Management Plans (LMPs), which contain details of their designated sites and the condition therein, are on the FLS website within the West section: https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/planning/active</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p> <p>SNH</p>
	<p>2.2 Identify and agree actions to manage herbivore impacts affecting the favourable condition of designated features.</p> <p>Priority Criterion –</p> <p>Green where action plans for features are in place, with milestones</p>	<p>Sections 9 and 10 of the DMP Background Information document details these sites. The Background Information (9th Edition) is currently under review for update and is “rolled on” pending completion of the review and update.</p> <p>This Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment. Refer to the “Report on Criteria scored amber at the 2019 SNH Assessment” for more detail.</p> <p>DMG Eastern Working Group: -</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. A brief summary is shown below. ²</p> <p>Conaglen Estate is currently consulting on “A Long-Term Forest Plan Renewal is currently being</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>

	<p>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>With a decades-long history of delivering landscape-scale habitat and environmental benefits by way of domestic livestock reductions, livestock and deer exclosures, woodland planting, &etc. within our area, further woodland protection, creation and regeneration projects are underway and progressing to secure yet more areas on designated features. These continue with the use of rotational fencing to provide a mosaic of landscape management, as opposed to a mono-culture.</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 under their agreed 25-year LTP. A summary is shown below. ²</p> <p>DMG Western Working Group: -</p> <p>In 2023 FLS advised 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>developed for Conaglen Estate. This is a 10-year plan that details proposed operations from 2025 until 2034 and includes a further 10 years in outline for felling and restocking. Any factors that influence management decisions need to be taken into account.” Responses please by the 14th of June 2024.</p> <p>FLS advised 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>In the WWG area: -</p> <p>The Drimnatorran Forest and Glenhurich Land Management Plans (LMPs), which contain details of their designated sites and the condition therein, are on the FLS website within the West section: https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/planning/active</p>	
	<p>2.3 Monitor progress and review actions to manage herbivore impacts affecting favourable condition.</p>	<p>See Sections 9 and 10 of the DMP Background Information document for further details on these sites.</p> <p>This Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment. Refer to the “Report on Criteria scored amber at the 2019 SNH Assessment” for more detail.</p> <p>In the EWG area: -</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</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>

	<p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where mechanisms for adaptive management are agreed in the DMP and being delivered in line with milestones set out in the DMP; Green judged against actions set out in DMP, rather than all actions necessary to deliver the site into favourable condition</p> <p>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>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 under their agreed 25-year LTP. A summary is shown below. ²</p> <p>FLS advised 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>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: Land management plan consultations - Forestry and Land Scotland. Once approved, the LMPs will sit in the Active LMP page on the FLS website.</p>	<p>regenerating significant areas under their agreed 25-year LTP. A summary is shown below. ²</p> <p>Conaglen Estate is currently consulting on “A Long-Term Forest Plan Renewal is currently being developed for Conaglen Estate. This is a 10-year plan that details proposed operations from 2025 until 2034 and includes a further 10 years in outline for felling and restocking. Any factors that influence management decisions need to be taken into account.” Responses please by the 14th of June 2024.</p> <p>FLS advised 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>In the WWG area: -</p> <p>The Drimnatorran Forest and Glenhurich Land Management Plans (LMPs), which contain details of their designated sites and the condition therein, are on the FLS website within the West section: https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/planning/active</p>	
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<p>3. ACTIONS to manage deer to retain existing native woodland cover and improve woodland condition in the medium to long term.</p>	<p>3.1 Establish overall extent of woodland and determine what proportion is existing native woodland.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where the extent of the woodland is described through the DMP.</p> <p>Captured in Plan or Action Plan using NWSS data, or otherwise where alternative data has been collated</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Sections 9 and 10 of the DMP Background Information document. See DMP Background Information document Appendices 4a, 4b, 5, 6, 7, 8, 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 Drimnatorran Forest and Glenhurich Land Management Plans (LMPs), which contain details of their designated sites and the condition therein, are on the FLS website within the West section: Land management plan consultations - Forestry and Land Scotland.</p> <p>Conaglen Estate is currently consulting on “A Long-Term Forest Plan Renewal is currently being developed for Conaglen Estate. This is a 10-year plan that details proposed operations from 2025 until 2034 and includes a further 10 years in outline for felling and restocking. Any factors that influence management decisions need to be taken into account.” Responses please by the 14th of June 2024.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>
	<p>3.2 Determine current condition of native woodland.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where DMP/WP sets out% of impacts in V. High, High, Medium or Low categories. Green based on process of understanding condition and not the condition itself.</p> <p>Captured in Plan or Action Plan using NWSS data, or otherwise where alternative data has</p>	<p>Considered & 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.</p> <p>Resipole farm have an ongoing woodland monitoring programme in 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</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.</p> <p>Refer to the H&IA Log Appendix 13.</p> <p>Best Practice have published a new WHIA Lite guide.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p> <p>SNH/ NatureScot</p>

	<p>been collated and is favoured by the group; clearly articulating fencing developments in Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>animals which have accessed these enclosures are either driven out or culled as soon as possible.</p> <p>Refer to the HIA Log Appendix 13.</p>		
	<p>3.3 Identify actions to retain and improve native woodland condition and deliver DMG woodland management objectives.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where Plan/Working Plan/Meeting minutes demonstrates evidence of strategic group consideration and captures actions, including rationale where action to improve woodland condition are Group priority or Group have demonstrated limitations to current delivery e.g. through exploring grant availability ;delivery focused on the group</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Sections 9 and 10 of the DMP Background Information document. See DMP Background Information document (Appendices 4a, 4b, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 for further details on NWSS regarding these sites also for further details on LTFP and woodland expansion proposals.</p> <p>This Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment. Refer to the "Report on Criteria scored amber at the 2019 SNH Assessment" for more detail.</p> <p>Eastern Working Group: -</p> <p>ELS DMG appointed and instructed a consultant who completed a Collaborative Woodland project addressing four EWG estates including the EWG designated sites which has identified actions to retain and improve native woodland condition and deliver DMG woodland management objectives.</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 under their agreed 25-year LTP. A summary is shown below. ²</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 under their agreed 25-year LTP. A summary is shown below. ²</p> <p>Conaglen Estate is currently consulting on "A Long-Term Forest Plan Renewal is currently being developed for Conaglen Estate. This is a 10-year plan that details proposed operations from 2025 until 2034 and includes a further 10 years in outline for felling and restocking. Any factors that influence management decisions need to be taken into account." Responses please by the 14th June 2024.</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</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>

	<p>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>FLS advised 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>Group Comment: - The DMG have discussed and targeted some areas that need improvement. ELSDMG encourages its members to complete a fencing audit and repair program, followed by a culling regime in 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>some possible enrichment planting of native species if required.'</p> <p>In the WWG area: -</p> <p>The Drimnatorran Forest and Glenhurich Land Management Plans (LMPs), including actions to retain and improve native woodland condition and deliver DMG woodland management objectives are located on the LMP page on the FLS website within the West section: https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/planning/active</p> <p>An inspection and maintenance/repair regime to ensure deer fenced exclosures remain secure is advised.</p>	
	<p>3.4 Monitor progress and review actions to manage herbivore impacts.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Sections 9 and 10 of the DMP Background Information document. See DMP Background Information document (Appendices 4a, 4b, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 for further details on NWSS regarding these sites also for further details on LTFP and woodland expansion proposals.</p> <p>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, has successfully agreed with the crofting tenant at Achaphubuil to remove livestock and also at Part of Duiskey and North</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>An inspection and maintenance/repair regime to ensure deer fenced exclosures remain secure is advised.</p> <p>In the EWG area: -</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>

		<p>Garvan which were areas deemed to be subject to high or very high herbivore impact levels.</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. A brief summary is shown below. ²</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 under their agreed 25-year LTP. A summary is shown below. ²</p> <p>Conaglen Estate is currently consulting on “A Long-Term Forest Plan Renewal is currently being developed for Conaglen Estate. This is a 10-year plan that details proposed operations from 2025 until 2034 and includes a further 10 years in outline for felling and restocking. Any factors that influence management decisions need to be taken into account.” Responses please by the 14th of June 2024.</p> <p>FLS advised 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>In the WWG area: -</p> <p>The Drimnatorran Forest and Glenhurich Land Management Plans (LMPs) are on the FLS website within the West section: https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/planning/active</p>	
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<p>4. ACTIONS to demonstrate DMG contribution to the Scottish Government woodland expansion target of 25% woodland cover.</p>	<p>4.1 Identify and quantify extent of recent woodland establishment (through SRDP (last 5 years) and through other schemes.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where planning process is clearly articulated and minuted/ incorporated into Working Plan; Detail of schemes being entered into are shared at DMG meeting, minuted and incorporated into Working Plan ; delivery is judged against planning process - not the amount being contributed.</p> <p>Captured in Plan or Action Plan</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 9 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>See DMP Background Information document for further details on recent woodland establishment and woodland expansion proposals.</p> <p>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 under their agreed 25-year LTP. A summary is shown below. ²</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 under their agreed 25-year LTP. A summary is shown below. ²</p> <p>Conaglen Estate is currently consulting on “A Long-Term Forest Plan Renewal is currently being developed for Conaglen Estate. This is a 10-year plan that details proposed operations from 2025 until 2034 and includes a further 10 years in outline for felling and restocking. Any factors that influence management decisions need to be taken into account.” Responses please by the 14th of June 2024.</p> <p>FLS advised of a plan including two new blocks at Callop which had fencing material flown out on 13th 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> <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>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>
	<p>4.2 Identify and quantify opportunities and priorities for woodland expansion over the next 5-10 years.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where DMG have implement actions agreed through the planning process (i.e. the actions set out in 4.2).</p>			<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>

	Clearly articulate in DMP/Action Plan/Meeting Minutes with associated timescales for delivery.	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.	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>4.3 Consider at a population level the implication of increased woodland on deer densities and distribution across the DMG.</p> <p>Priority Criterion –</p> <p>Green where Group have demonstrated re-calculation of densities associated with different scenarios and considered implications of woodland proposal on deer movement where proposals are put forward; actions to monitor and mitigate against undesirable impacts agreed and minuted.</p> <p>Discuss at DMG meeting and clearly articulate discussion and capture actions in Meeting Minute/Action Plan.</p>	4.3 – 4.4 Are considered in the Population Model (Appendix 15)	<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.

	<p>4.4 Implement actions to deliver the DMG woodland expansion proposals and review progress.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green is judged against delivery of deer management measures associated with schemes as/if they come through (rather than delivery of the scheme itself which rests with individual properties - i.e. not judging implementation of actions to get LTFPs etc. agreed etc).</p> <p>Clear actions articulated in Plan/Working plan or captured through meeting minute. Group to demonstrate evidence base</p>			Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.
5. ACTIONS to monitor and	<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</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 9 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>See Section 9 of the DMP Background Information document for further details on habitat resources by type.</p> <p>Identified in Appendix 3 – Land Cover Scotland map 1988.</p>	<p>See the Appendix 13 H&IA Log which is updated periodically and sets out the impact targets in the wider countryside and contains the detail and actions relevant to this criterion.</p>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.

manage deer impacts in the wider countryside.	described within the DMP Captured in Plan or Action Plan			
	<p>5.2 Identify required impact targets for habitat types.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where DMGs have agreed impact targets in DMPs/Minuted; delivery is assessed against the planning process of setting these targets and the appropriateness of these targets in delivering the objectives within their DMP; SNH to provide broad guidance on sustainable densities across difference habitat types - DMG to rationalise operating out with these parameters where this is the case; broad SNH targets as ultimately where all DMGs should aim for, but groups will be assessed against having interim stepping stone targets to getting there.</p> <p>Clearly articulate in DMP/Action</p>	<p>Considered & 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 on 08/04/2019, the Chair requested guidance via email on 15/04/2019 from SNH in time to prepare for the meeting on 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>SNH; - Scoring and evidence of delivery: - DMP states "Impacts should be predominantly low/moderate" across all wider countryside habitats - understanding in the group that this translates as >50% impacts low/moderate.</p> <p>Group comment: - The H&IA Log impacts target has been updated detailing predominantly as being 'at least 50% low or medium' for clarity as agreed with SNH.</p>	<p>See the Appendix 13 H&IA Log which is updated periodically and sets out the impact targets in the wider countryside and contains the detail and actions relevant to this criterion.</p>	<p>SNH Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>

	Plan/Meeting Minutes with associated timescales for delivery			
	<p>5.3 Quantify a sustainable level of grazing and trampling for each of these habitat types.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where DMG have set out process for assessing current impacts, setting desired impact range and considered population targets which will deliver these (quite a crude approach); as per 5.2., DMG will be judged against whether these grazing levels will likely deliver the Group's agreed impact target.</p> <p>Discuss at DMG meeting and clearly articulate discussion and capture actions in Meeting Minute/Action Plan</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 18 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>This Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment. Refer to the "Report on Criteria scored amber at the 2019 SNH Assessment" for more detail.</p> <p>See the Appendix 13 H&IA Log which is updated periodically and contains the actions relevant to this criterion.</p>	<p>See the Appendix 13 H&IA Log which is updated periodically and sets out the impact targets in the wider countryside and contains the detail and actions relevant to this criterion.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>

	<p>5.4 Identify where different levels of grazing may be required and prioritise accordingly.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where the Group identify and set out actions for localised management to deliver 5.2 and 5.3.</p> <p>Clear actions articulated in Plan/Action plan or captured through meeting minute; Group to demonstrate evidence base</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>This Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment. Refer to the “Report on Criteria scored amber at the 2019 SNH Assessment” for more detail.</p>	<p>See the Appendix 13 H&IA Log which is updated periodically and sets out the impact targets in the wider countryside and contains the detail and actions relevant to this criterion.</p> <p>With the non-designated wider countryside 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>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.
	<p>5.5 Conduct herbivore impact assessments and assess these against acceptable impact ranges. Identify and implement actions to attain impacts within the range.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where HIA is being undertaken at appropriate DMG scale and mechanisms for using this data to inform cull planning are clearly articulated i.e. if they're</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>This Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment. Refer to the “Report on Criteria scored amber at the 2019 SNH Assessment” for more detail.</p> <p>The draft FLS Drimnatorran (2022) and Glenhurich (2023) LMPs contain HIA data for these areas.</p>	<p>See the Appendix 11 HIA Monitoring Plan which is updated periodically.</p> <p>See the Appendix 13 H&IA Log which is updated periodically and sets out the impact targets in the wider countryside and contains the detail and actions relevant to this criterion.</p> <p>HIA is used to inform the Population Model (Appendix 15) including the cull plan.</p>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.

	<p>delivering against milestones set out in DMP but 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>5.6 Regularly review information to measure progress and adapt management when necessary.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p>	<p>Refer to Appendices 13 and 15 for more detail.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>
<p>6. ACTIONS to improve Scotland's ability to store carbon by maintaining or improving ecosystem health.</p>	<p>6.1 Quantify the extent of the carbon-sensitive habitats within the DMG range.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Sections 9 and 14 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Refer also to Appendix 13 H&IA Log which contains more detail including a link³ to this area soil map.</p>	<p>Refer also to Appendix 13 H&IA Log which contains more detail including a link³ to the ELS area soil map.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>
	<p>6.2 Conduct herbivore impact assessments and assess these against acceptable impact ranges for these sensitive habitats. Identify and implement actions to attain impacts within the range.</p>	<p>This Criterion scored AMBER at the SNH 2019 Assessment. Refer to the "Report on Criteria scored amber at the 2019 SNH Assessment" for more detail.</p> <p>The draft FLS Drimnatorran (2022) and Glenhurich (2023) LMPs contain HIA data/plans for these areas.</p>	<p>See the Appendix 11 HIA Monitoring Plan which is updated periodically.</p> <p>See the Appendix 13 H&IA Log which is updated periodically and sets out the impact targets in the wider countryside and contains the detail and actions relevant to this criterion.</p> <p>HIA is used to inform the Population Model (Appendix 15) including the cull plan.</p>	

	<p>6.3 Identify opportunities for the creation/restoration of peatlands.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where planning process is clearly articulated and minuted/ incorporated into Working Plan; Detail of schemes being entered into are shared at DMG meeting, minuted and incorporated into Working Plan ; delivery is judged against planning process - not the amount being contributed</p> <p>Captured in DMP; ongoing monitoring and update through Meeting Minute/DMP update ; Group to demonstrate evidence of schemes currently underway</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Sections 9 and 14 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Peatland Action funding will be considered if it becomes available and undertaken where possible benefits to public interest can be identified and a workable scheme implemented.</p> <p>FES/FLS have reported separately on their peatland restoration projects and the draft FLS Drimnatorran (2022) and Glenhurich (2023) LMPs contain details of opportunities for these areas.</p> <p>With Blanket bog/Peatland covering 3.4% of our group area there may be limited opportunity for restoration projects. A significant proportion of this is within the Claish Moss SSSI which is reported as being in “Favourable condition all designated features/species”</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>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 advised that the Lochaber Fisheries Trust peatland officer can advise on peatland restoration projects.</p> <p>ACTION: On 06/12/2019, with later reminders in 2020, 2021 and 2022, 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 April 2025.</p> <p>The Drimnatorran Forest and Glenhurich Land Management Plans (LMPs)’ which include details on opportunities for peatland creation/restoration are located on the FLS website within the West section: https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/planning/active</p>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.
	<p>6.4 Contribute as appropriate to River Basin Management Planning.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 9.8 of the DMP Background Information document.</p>	<p>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 concerning issues relating to RBMP or water quality if any such issues arise.</p>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.

7. ACTIONS to reduce or mitigate the risk of establishment of invasive non-native species.	7.1 Manage invasive non-native species (e.g. muntjac) to prevent their establishment and spread e.g. report sightings of muntjac to SNH.	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 15 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Red and roe deer are normally resident in our area. Sika and feral pigs/boar occur very occasionally. Fallow, muntjac, and Chinese water deer are not known to be in the area.</p>	<p>A shoot-on-sight policy has been agreed upon with all members in relation to muntjac, sika deer, and feral pigs/wild boar (subject to the period of maximum dependency, licensing and ethical culling).</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>
	7.2 Agree on local management of other non-natives which may be utilised as a resource e.g. sika, fallow, goats, to reduce their spread and negative impacts.	<p>A shoot-on-sight policy has been agreed upon with all members in relation to muntjac, sika deer, and feral pigs/wild boar (subject to the period of maximum dependency, licensing and ethical culling). Wild Goats are not to be culled if they return to the DMG area.</p>		<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>
8. ACTIONS to protect designated historic and cultural features from being damaged by deer e.g. by trampling.	8.1 Identify any historic or cultural features that may be impacted by deer and undertake deer management to retain these features.	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 11 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>ELSDMG are open to contact from community groups, other stakeholders, &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 monitors 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</p>	<p>Members considering new forestry schemes or forestry expansion have and 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>No issues have been notified by HC Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>Historic Environment Scotland monitors 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>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>

		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. Generally, if a stone gets knocked off it's likely to have been caused by cattle or people.		
	8.2 Consider the implications of fencing on the landscape with due regard to the Joint Agency Guidance on Fencing.	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 11 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Members considering new fencing, forestry schemes or forestry expansion will follow guidance on historical and cultural features and all new planting schemes will be assessed for any negative impacts to cultural and historic features.</p> <p>Members considering new forestry schemes or forestry expansion will follow Joint Agency Guidance on Fencing.</p>	<p>Potential negative impacts of historic and cultural features were considered during the preparation of the Conaglen woodland projects.</p> <p>Members considering new forestry schemes or forestry expansion will follow Joint Agency Guidance on Fencing.</p>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.
9. ACTIONS to contribute to delivering higher standards of competence in deer management.	9.1 Undertake a skills and training assessment to establish current skill levels applicable to deer management within the DMG.	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>A training policy is included in Section 13.1 of the DMP Background Information. Discussed and agreed with members as part of DMP.</p> <p>The Skills, Experience, Training and Certification schedule (Appendix 10) is appended to the DMP.</p> <p>The DMG has full coverage of industry minimum standards.</p> <p>The DMG will support members with training and certification if needed.</p>	<p>The Appendix 10 Training Log records Skills, Experience, Training and Certification 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 needs as appropriate.</p>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.

	<p>9.2 Identify training and development needs/requirements of DMG members including opportunities for Continued Professional Development (ie in relation to Best Practice).</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>The Skills, Experience, Training and Certification schedule (Appendix 10) is appended to this Working Plan.</p> <p>The DMG will support members with training and certification if needed.</p> <p>ELSDMG recognises DSC1 as a minimum and sets DSC2 as an aspiration for all. There currently is a good overall coverage of DSC1 and DSC2 and, notably, all members with properties within the ELSDMG area have at least one owner or member of staff, who completes the culling activities, trained to a minimum of DSC Level 1 and many have attained the Level 2 DSC. There are several DSC2-accredited witnesses within the ELSDMG area.</p> <p>Uptake of relevant formal and CPD training is encouraged and will be supported by the ELSDMG.</p>	<p>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 satisfy the audit requirement</p> <p>The DMG is to support members with identified training and certification needs as appropriate.</p>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.
	<p>9.3 Ensure all those who actively manage deer are “competent” according to current standard.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where mechanisms for ongoing audit are in place (i.e. meeting agenda item and minuted).</p> <p>Captured in DMP; ongoing monitoring and update through Meeting Minute/DMP update.</p>			Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.
	<p>9.4 Promote and facilitate the uptake of formal and CPD training opportunities for those participating in deer management.</p>			Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.
10. ACTIONS to Identify and promote	<p>10.1 Identify & quantify public safety issues associated with deer</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 11 of the DMP Background Information document.</p>	<p>DVC information is requested on the DMG formal meeting agenda with reported DVCs recorded in the minutes</p>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.

opportunities contributing to public health and wellbeing.	<p>within the DMG area. e.g. DVCs, etc.</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 DVCs &etc.</p> <p>There are few DVC reported for the ELSDMG area on the National Deer-Vehicle Collisions Project which can be viewed on this link Figure XX : (deercollisions.co.uk)</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 DVCs 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>10.2 Identify actions with landowners, Local Authority, DMG to reduce or mitigate public safety risk and monitor effectiveness of actions.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 11 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>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 &etc may contact the group secretary directly or attend ELSDMG formal group management meetings to raise any public safety risks they have identified.</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>10.3 Identify means of ensuring food safety is maintained in carcass handling and venison processing and compliance with BPG in relation to meat hygiene</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>The Skills, Experience, Training and Certification schedule (Appendix 10) is appended to this Working Plan. This shows the DSC1, DSC2, appropriate additional training and certification status.</p> <p>Members are encouraged to join the SQWV scheme.</p>	<p>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 concerning food safety in carcass handling and venison processing and compliance with BPG in relation to meat hygiene.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</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>More than 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 a 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 witnesses 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 concerning the sale of wild venison. The results of the Scottish Deer Health Survey re E. coli STEC 0157 were circulated via member's email on 10/01/2019. http://www.deer-management.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Deer-Health-Survey-STEC-O157-Results.pdf</p>	<p>The DMG is to support members with identified training and certification needs as appropriate.</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: Since May 2018 Best Practice have no longer disseminated new guides, updates or news either by post or email. It is now for the user to find out any changes.</p>	
	<p>10.4 Ensure deer managers are familiar with notifiable diseases, that a system for recording is in place and all deer managers are familiar with course of action to take.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where mechanisms for ongoing audit are in place</p> <p>Captured in DMP; ongoing monitoring and</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>The Skills, Experience, Training and Certification schedule (Appendix 10) is appended to this Working Plan. This shows the DSC1, DSC2, appropriate additional training and certification status.</p> <p>The DMG will support members with training and certification if needed.</p> <p>ELSDMG recognises DSC1 as a 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 witnesses 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</p>	<p>ELSDMG meetings, reports and/or group emails are used to inform ELS deer managers of notifiable diseases.</p> <p>BPG sets out the symptoms of and actions to be taken in the case of any notifiable disease in deer. Notifiable diseases Best Practice Guidance (bestpracticeguides.org.uk) 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 of the actions they should take regarding: - Notifiable Diseases – Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) – Ticks and Lime</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>

	update through Meeting Minute/DMP update	<p>emails regarding 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 https://www.bestpracticeguides.org.uk/health-welfare/</p>	<p>Disease will be included in the Spring/Summer 2024 ELSDMG Report.</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: Since May 2018 Best Practice have no longer disseminated new guides, updates or news either by post or email. It is now for the user to find out any changes.</p>	
	<p>10.5 Ensure that appropriate bio security measures are enacted when visitors from areas where CWD is present are involved with deer management activities.</p> <p>Priority criterion – Green where mechanisms for ongoing audit are in place (i.e. meeting agenda item and minuted)</p> <p>Captured in DMP; ongoing monitoring and update through Meeting Minute/DMP update</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document & DMP Action Plan document and members to inform relevant guests and staff of issues.</p> <p>DMG has circulated CWD information to all members for onward distribution.</p> <p>CWD information is detailed in the BPG Health and Welfare section which can be found at the following link https://www.bestpracticeguides.org.uk/health-welfare/</p> <p>The British Deer Society (BDS) has a more detailed section regarding Chronic Wasting Disease on this link: - Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) - The British Deer Society (bds.org.uk) which also contains this link to their CWD leaflet: - Chronic-Wasting-Disease-Leaflet-2-final-final-12-March-2021-BRANDED.pdf (bds.org.uk) This leaflet should be issued to all guests in advance of their arrival.</p>	<p>The BDS leaflet: - Chronic-Wasting-Disease-Leaflet-2-final-final-12-March-2021-BRANDED.pdf (bds.org.uk) 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 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 among visitors and guests. The Ticks and Lime Disease leaflet should be available to visitors and guests. 1 tick-lyme-disease-infosheet-20170810.pdf (windows.net)</p>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.
	10.6 Identify opportunities to raise awareness of the risks associated with Lyme Disease.	<p>Remind and update all members and stakeholders of the potential threats from CWD and Lyme Disease or other similar diseases and advise on preventative measures.</p> <p>CWD leaflets to members at 26/07/2016 meeting and group email re CWD, Field Guide to Disease, Ticks and Lyme Disease 22/07/2018.</p>	<p>A further reminder to the group area deer managers reminding them to be aware 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>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.

		A Scottish NHS Lyme Disease can be viewed on this link: - 1 tick-lyme-disease-infosheet-20170810.pdf (windows.net)		
	10.7 Identify main access and recreational activity within the DMG area and assess how this fits with deer management activity.			Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.
	10.8 Identify actions to mitigate any effects of public access and recreation activities during peak periods of deer culling e.g. use of hill phones and websites.	Considered & data captured in Section 11 of the DMP Background Information document & DMP Action Plan Working Document. Responsible access in our DMG area is encouraged. Members subscribe to the Outdoor access code Which can be viewed via this link https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/		Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.
	10.9 Facilitate public access and promote positive communication between visiting public and wildlife managers. Priority criterion – Green where - DMGs articulate the initiatives planned and implemented to meet responsibilities on access and initiatives to promote the messages around the deer management. Captured in DMP; ongoing monitoring and	Members maintain communications with the public, hill walkers &etc. via the 'Heading for the Scottish Hills' website with entries posted for Ardgour, Conaglen, Druim Laith, FLS, Glenscaddle, and Resipole.. On FLS, NatureScot and other public land there are no stalking issues noted. In addition to DMP information a summary of 'ELSDMG Public Access Facilitation' is included at is included at Appendix 14.	See DMP Background information 11.2 and Spring 2019 report. In addition to DMP information a summary of 'ELSDMG Public Access Facilitation' is included at is included at Appendix 14.	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.

	update through Meeting Minute/DMP update			
11. ACTIONS to maximise economic benefits associated with deer.	11.1 Identify and quantify the main sources of revenue related to deer (sport, tourism etc.)	<p>Considered & 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, &etc &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>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.
	<p>11.2 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</p>	<p>Considered & 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>	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.

	Minute/Action Plan update.			
	<p>11.3 Identify opportunities to add value to products from deer management (SQWV, venison branding).</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 16 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Members are encouraged to join the SQWV 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 it but decided against it.</p> <p>The Sporting Estates add significant value from deer management in let stalking, provision of accommodation, tourism, and continue to consider opportunities to further add value &etc.</p> <p>Promote DMG discussions to maximise the economic benefits of deer management.</p>	<p>Members are encouraged to join the SQWV or similar QA scheme.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>
	<p>11.4 Explore options for larder sharing, infrastructure improvement and carcass collection to ensure maximum benefit from venison production</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 16 of the DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Venison marketing and selection of a Game Dealer for venison collection is considered by the members and agreed upon 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</p>	<p>Venison marketing and selection of Game Dealers for venison collection are to be considered by the members and consensus is sought periodically.</p>	<p>Chair</p>

	whilst reducing carbon costs.	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. Game dealers ensure that whenever practical, collection vans are sized and timed to ensure maximum benefit from venison production whilst reducing carbon costs.		
12. ACTIONS to minimise the economic costs of deer, and ensure deer management is cost-effective.	12.1 Identify and quantify capital investment in deer management related infrastructure.	Considered & data captured in Section 12 of the DMP Background Information document. Information in plan regarding losses of deer into woodland, agricultural damage, and DVCs included.	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.	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.
	12.2 Identify where deer are impacting on other land uses and include all relevant stakeholders to assist the group in understanding costs of deer within the DMG (e.g. woodland, agriculture, DVCs). Priority criterion – 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	Consideration will be given to ways of preventing deer migrating on to agricultural or forest land; when this is deemed not to be appropriate. Fencing regimes will be considered and cull targets will be set taking agricultural and woodland interests into account. 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.		Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.

	<p>deer this requires some analysis of the information which should be evidenced in form of actual reporting - i.e. group discussion paper.</p> <p>Captured in DMP/Action Plan; periodic review and update through Meeting Minute/Action Plan update</p>			
	<p>12.3 Where there are management changes, assess the likely economic impacts across the DMG.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document.</p> <p>Our DMP's are adaptive and the group or properties within the area will respond to changes or circumstances as they arise. We do not at this stage attempt to cover every possible eventuality that may or may not occur. Management changes to the DMG are included on the meeting Agenda.</p> <p>The re-introduction of Sporting Rates has had a major negative economic impact across the DMG.</p>	<p>Our DMPs 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 minimise any negative impacts identified.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>
	<p>12.4 Formulate a strategy to minimise the negative economic impacts in an equitable way.</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>The imposition of further regulations and restrictions on holiday lets and the doubling of rates on second homes</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>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>

		<p>is having further negative financial implications for the sporting estates.</p> <p>Promote DMG discussions to minimise the negative economic impacts of deer management.</p>		
<p>13. ACTIONS to ensure effective communication on deer management issues.</p>	<p>13.1 Provide regular opportunity for wider community and public agency engagement in planning and communications.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 17 of the DMP Background Information document & DMP Action Plan – Working Document.</p> <p>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 DMP, Approved Meeting Minutes DMG business &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 DMPs, updates and DMG information is freely available online on the ELSDMG section of the ADMG website and all parties are advised to use these. http://www.deer-management.co.uk/</p> <p>Meeting minutes refer to e.g., police attendance and engagement with Ardgour CC &etc.</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 comments.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>
	<p>13.2 Identify and implement actions to address community issues on deer or deer management activity.</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where Group can provide evidence of efforts to engage Community Council and providing regular opportunity for this, and wider interest groups.</p> <p>Captured in DMP/Action Plan; periodic review and update through Meeting Minute/Action Plan update</p>			<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>

	<p>13.3 Support and promote wider opportunities for further education on deer.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in Section 13 of the DMP Background Information document & DMP Action Plan document.</p> <p>The DMG will support members with training and certification as appropriate.</p> <p>Uptake of relevant formal and CPD training is encouraged and will be supported by the ELSDMG as appropriate.</p> <p>Conaglen regularly offers week-long high school coordinated work placements to local teenagers who want to experience the gamekeeper's 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>14. ACTIONS to ensure deer welfare is taken fully into account at individual animal and population level.</p>	<p>14.1 Agree, collate and review data available within the DMG which might be used as a proxy for deer health/welfare i.e. recruitment, winter mortality, larder weights etc.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document & DMP Action Plan document.</p> <p>Members will set appropriate cull targets 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 -</p>	<p>Deer welfare indicators are collated and include – Changes to and condition of cover and forage available – population counts/models – population density - recruitment counts – mortality assessments – HIA – deer condition reports, &etc. This information is collated either in advance of, or at the DMG meetings where it is reviewed.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>

		<p>recruitment counts – mortality counts – HIA – deer condition reports, &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>14.2 Take reasonable actions to ensure that deer culling operations safeguard welfare; for culled and surviving animals (e.g. for example by following BPG).</p> <p>Priority criterion –</p> <p>Green where the DMGs acts as a forum to openly discuss and promote compliance with BP and to openly discuss issues and identify concerns raised by interested parties, and to response to the concerns appropriately.</p> <p>For the group to set out the evidence base - so about more than just referencing in DMP.</p>	<p>Considered & data captured in DMP Background Information document & DMP Action Plan document.</p> <p>Ongoing DMG promotion of BPG in DMP and commitment from members.</p> <p>Good overall coverage of DSC 1 and 2 and notable that all members with properties within the ELSDMG area have at least one owner or member of staff, who complete the culling activities, trained to a minimum of DSC Level 1 and many have attained the Level 2 DSC.</p> <p>The period of maximum dependency, 01st April to the 31st August will be observed with no females over one year of age culled during this period (other than for welfare considerations e.g., RTA injured deer &etc).</p>	<p>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>PLEASE NOTE: Since May 2018 Best Practice have no longer disseminated new guides, updates or news either by post or email. It is now for the user to find out any changes.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>

	<p>14.3 Take reasonable actions to ensure that the welfare of surviving populations is safeguarded (e.g. provision and access to food and shelter)</p> <p>Priority criterion –</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 & 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 the welfare for culled and surviving animals.</p> <p>The period of maximum dependency, 01st April to the 31st August will be observed with no females over one year of age culled during this period (other than for welfare considerations e.g., RTA injured deer &etc).</p> <p>However, FES will continue to reserve the right to employ both Section 6 and Section 18(2) authorised cull as they deem necessary.</p>	<p>Deer welfare considerations are included in the formal meeting Agenda. These include: - Condition reports, Changes in land management objectives, HIA, Shelter & Forage, DVC's, Recruitment & 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 enclosures 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>PLEASE NOTE: Since May 2018 Best Practice have no longer disseminated new guides, updates or news either by post or email. It is now for the user to find out any changes.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.</p>
	<p>14.4 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>DMG to provide evidence base and ensure that they are discussing at meetings</p>	<p>Considered & 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, 01st April to the 31st August will be observed with no females over one year of age culled during this period (other than for welfare considerations e.g., RTA, injured deer, etc.).</p> <p>Historically, compensatory culls have been carried out as appropriate as access to feed and shelter have</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>Compensatory culls will be evaluated and applied going forward as access to feed and shelter change or be deemed insufficient.</p>	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary</p>

		changed, or been insufficient. This policy will be evaluated and applied going forward		
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¹ 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.

² Below is a brief summary of some of Conaglen Estate's woodland management and habitat enhancement work completed in the East Loch Shiel DMG area in the past 10 years.

Within the Doire Donn SSSI, Conaglen Estate has completed the installation and planting in March 2023 of a new woodland creation scheme

Consent was granted in 2021 for the establishment of 3 new woodland creation blocks for native woodland planting and native regeneration to provide expansion options and to enhance Oak recruitment and also for the reopening of a regeneration block which had been secure for the past 20+ years.

The new enclosures extend to 64.43ha of fenced SSSI, which equates to 52% of the 122.80ha Forest Area.

The old regeneration block which has now been opened extended to 21.39ha, which equated to 17% of the 122.80ha Forest Area.

As such 69% of the designated area has or is now in active woodland creation/protection blocks, it should be noted that at least a further 20% of the designated area is unsuitable due to ground conditions to ever carry trees.

The new 2022/23 enclosures include 10ha of low-density broadleaves planting and a further 33.18ha is expected to naturally regenerate new woodland.

The three blocks were identified and designed to incorporate as much of the land as possible where it was deemed there was a strong feasibility for natural regeneration to occur was a strong possibility.

The overall woodland area will now be managed and results observed going forward for perhaps the next 20 years.

Within the Ardgour Pinewoods SAC/SSSI, Conaglen Estate has installed 3 new woodland creation enclosures during 2022 & 2023, at which planting was again completed in March 2023.

Consent was granted in 2021 for establishment of 3 new woodland creation blocks for native woodland planting and native regeneration to provide expansion options.

These enclosures extend to about 101ha of fenced land, 57.41ha has been planted, comprised of an area of 20.00ha planted with low-density broadleaves and 27.41ha planted with broadleaves.

Of the remaining area enclosed area, a further 37.90ha is suitable land and is expected to naturally regenerate new woodland.

On-going observation, control of deer numbers and the continuation of the rolling program of woodland fence enclosures will be maintained.

Commercial Forestry Land Management Objective Changes

In the next 2-5 years, Conaglen Estate will be restocking almost 300ha of clear-felled mono-culture commercial conifer woodland at Duiskey & in Glenscaddle with much more diverse planting.

Until 2022, deer have had access to all established commercial woodland on the Estate for Shelter.

The majority of Duiskey was closed from deer movements in late 2022 and a number of deer jumps installed in locations to allow deer to leave the block.

A cull is proposed within the block in 2023 & 2024 prior to restocking commencing of an area extending to approximately 270ha and over the next 5 years the number of deer outside the enclosure will be monitored and a compensation cull completed accordingly if deemed necessary.

On-going fence inspections and maintenance will be completed regularly to prevent deer from re-entering the area.

Conaglen Estate is currently (May & June 2024) consulting on "A Long-Term Forest Plan Renewal is currently being developed for Conaglen Estate. This is a 10-year plan that details proposed operations from 2025 until 2034 and includes a further 10 years in outline for felling and restocking. Any factors that influence management decisions need to be taken into account." Responses please by the 14th of June 2024.

³ Link to the ELSDMG area soil map. https://map.environment.gov.scot/Soil_maps/?layer=1&extent=165442,757301,222368,785049