

Meeting of Glenmoriston Deer Management Group  
Held at Glenmoriston Memorial Hall, Invermoriston  
on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at 6.00 pm

## Present

Martin Girvan	DMG Chair. Ceannacroc
Martin Girvan Jnr	Ceannacroc
Lynda Campbell	DMG Treasurer, Corriclair
Doug Gilbert	Dundreggan, Trees for Life
Allan Common	Dundreggan, Trees for Life
Heather Ward	Dundreggan, Trees for Life (Trainee)
Graham Wood	Community Representative
Jimmy Gibb	Balmacaan
Rory Macleod	Balmacaan
Alex Dunnings	Achlain
Russell Cooper	Forest Enterprise
Steven Gray	Glenmoriston
Watt Forbes	Corrimony
Tom Girvan	Tomchrasky
Simon Mclaughlin	RSPB Corrimony
Robin Poore	Balmacarn
Ed Poore	Balmacarn
Sinclair Coghill	SNH
Linzi Seivwright	DMG Secretary

## 1. Apologies

Alex Grigg	Hilton/Guisachan
Steven Miller	Achlain
Ian Reynard	Wester Guisachan
Alan McIntosh	Wester Guisachan
Nout Kwint	Wester Guisachan
Willie Fraser	Affric and Kintail DMG

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## 2 Draft Minutes of Meeting of held on 26<sup>th</sup> March

Paper: 2019/1a

The minutes were approved -proposed by L. Campbell and Seconded by D. Gilbert.

## 3 Matters Arising from Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> March

Paper: 2019/1b

Action	Who	Progress
1. Members to provide recruitment information	<b>DMG Members</b>	<b>Actioned</b>
2. SNH to check extent of count and MG to contact neighbouring estates to Achlain	<b>SNH &amp; MG</b>	<b>Covered under Agenda Item 6</b>
3. LS to circulate a map of Peatland in relation to a possible feasibility study.	<b>LS</b>	<b>Covered under Agenda Item 6</b>
4. The Chair to discuss fences with FE and include as an Agenda item at next meeting	<b>RC &amp; MG</b>	<b>Covered under Agenda Item 6</b>
5. Economic information to be completed for Group	<b>LS</b>	<b>Actioned</b>
6. Members to provide larder information if possible	<b>DMG Members</b>	<b>Covered under Agenda Item 6</b>
7. LS to produce Access Map	<b>MG/RC</b>	<b>Actioned</b>
8. MG to check out First Aid Courses	<b>MG</b>	<b>Covered under Agenda Item 10</b>
9. LC to circulate revised subscriptions and liaise with HIA Consultant	<b>LC</b>	<b>Actioned</b>

## 4. Final DMG Assessment

Paper: 2019/2

The SNH DMG Assessment had been completed on 7<sup>th</sup> May by Sinclair Coghill and Tamara Lawton with input from The DMG Chair and Secretary. The Group has scored very well achieving all Green except one amber out of 101 criteria. The Group discussed and acknowledged the progress made. One of the issues discussed in the assessment was the need for the Group to continue to monitor and discuss Feral Pigs.

## 5. Funding Update

Since the last meeting, the funding application for the completion of the HIA report and the monitoring of the SSSI woodland had been accepted. The contract was about to be signed by the Consultant which would draw down the funding. It was hoped that the HIA report would be completed in time for the Autumn meeting. It was noted that there were conditions attached to the funding namely that all reports be shared and that a training day would be set up for members of the local community. LS to organise this for the Spring.

**Action 1: LS**

## 6. Updated Working Plan

### 6.1 Cull Updates

Members provided proposed cull numbers at the meeting. These were as follows:

Property	Stags	Hinds
Corriclair:	20	40 -50
Ceannacroc	31	50
Tomcrasky	25	50 (including calves)
Balmacaan	40	32
Balmacarn	1	5
Wester Guisachan	20	25
RSPB Corrimony	5	10
Dundreggan	25	45
Corrimony	12	Will wait and see
<i>Hilton</i>	5	0
Glenmoriston	25	65
FLS	450 deer in total	
Achlain	15	20

### 6.2 Winter Mortality & Recruitment Counts

It was noted that calving had been better than last year.

### 6.3 Updated Population Models & Targets

LS to update working plan and population models and circulate to the Group.

**Action 2: LS**

### 6.4 South Ross Count 2019

SNH confirmed that the South Ross Count was still on track to be counted Winter 2019/20 and that it would likely take place between January and the end of March ideally with snow cover. The Group will be expected to contribute 50% of the cost. SNH to check whether Achlain and Inverwick are to be counted also. The Chair to contact the Glen Garry group and see if they might be interested in collaborating. **Action 3:SNH & MG**

### 6.5 Native Woodland Condition and Woodland Expansion – Forestry Cooperation Grant

Dundreggan updated the Group on a 285 ha proposed enclosure to be completed this autumn at the far N East of the property. They would be looking to fund this privately. This will take in a high elevation to incorporate montane species such as willow and birch.

Glenmoriston updated the Group on plans for a 150 ha enclosure also. They had been asked to reduce the size of the enclosure and were updating plans.

### 6.6 Habitat Impact Assessment

The Group had received an offer for funding from Beinneun Windfarm Community Benefit Fund towards completion of the HIA report and monitoring of the SSSI Woodland at Leveshie. The Group just had to send

a signed contract from the Consultant to draw down the funds. The Funds were also conditional on Reports being made publicly available and training in HIA being offered to the local community.

The Group were informed that their application to the Beinnuan Community Wind Benefit Fund was currently being considered and that the Group was due to hear any day.

Forestry and Land Scotland indicated to the Group that a management plan for Affric was being formulated and would be put online for consultation. FLS were in discussion with Affric and Kintail about what might be required to deliver the objectives of the plan, one element of which involves restoring Montane Willow in South Affric. The question was asked why, after all these years of the population of willow being stable was there a need for this action? Surveys had indicated that the Willow is currently confined and restricted to inaccessible crags with little opportunity under current grazing pressure to expand. FLS indicated that the population was only stable because it was inaccessible to browsing but that the population was vulnerable and should be given the opportunity to expand.

Surveys and also indicated that birch and juniper were also on their last legs. FLS had also recently undertaken surveys on the open ground on heather and results had indicated higher impacts than were desirable. It was reported that to bring the site in South Affric into favourable condition would require a considerable reduction in grazing pressure by over wintering stags. FLS had considered the use of fencing but it was not deemed possible due to the topography of the ground. The Group discussed possible options for fencing including restoration of an old metal march fence running along the ridge.

RC indicated that the Group members would be sent a link to the consultation and were encouraged to provide a response both from the Group and also as individuals. It was disused that the proposals provide an opportunity for neighbouring estates to reflect on what opportunities there might be to encourage deer to stay elsewhere and not to move into South Affric. TG indicated that South Affric always used to be a place for wintering stags.

**Action 4: LS**

It was discussed that it would be useful to organise a site visit to Affric to look at the site and discuss options including fencing.

**Action 5: MG**

## 6.7 Fencing Issues and Forestry and Land Scotland

As RC had to leave early, it was agreed to discuss Agenda Item 16. There followed a discussion about DMG boundaries and RC confirmed that the forestry around Glen Urquhart (from Drumnadrochit to Cannich) was currently not in a DMG. The Group discussed whether this should be included as part of the Glenmoriston DMG area. The revised area would potentially take in Glen Urquhart, Shooglie and local farms as well as ground at Benloit. Suggestions for a proposed revised boundary were discussed including the boundary being the road and it was agreed that The Chair would discuss with the Chair of Affric and Kintail as some of the suggestions would affect the current boundary between the groups.

**Action 6: MG**

## 6.8 Peatland Restoration

Caeanacroc indicated that they had submitted an application for a restoration scheme with SNH and were hoping that it would be approved soon to begin the work at the back end of the year. The scheme would be around 80 ha split into smaller projects and included drain blocking and re-profiling. There was no requirement for the work to be fenced off.

## 6.9 Deer Vehicle Collisions

The group agreed to look into how data could be recorded and collected more effectively within the Group.

## 6.10 CWD and Lyme Disease

The Group discussed the ongoing need for vigilance in preventing the introduction of CWD to the UK. There was nothing to report on Lyme Disease.

## 6.11 Venison Update

There was nothing to report.

## 6.12 Economic Survey

The group discussed the data that had been collected in the updated working plan and it was noted that it was important that wider public needed to know that estates were largely funded through private investment.

## 6.13 Deer Welfare -larder data

LS agreed to circulate a larder proforma to the Group to enable data to be collected and analysed at a group level. This would include ages, weights as well as information on reproduction in females.

## 7. Treasurers Report

The treasurer reported that the balance in March had been £2280.18. Income had been received of £1788 and expenditure was £2776 plus £120 for the DMG website and £84.25 for the meeting in Drumnadrochit. The balance was currently £1874.93 with £1460 due to come.

## 8. DMG AGM

MG indicated that he would be willing to continue as Chair and LC indicated that she was happy to continue as Treasurer. JG proposed and SM seconded. It was agreed that it would be useful to have a Vice Chair position with a view of MG standing down in time. MG Jr was proposed as Vice Chair. LC proposed and JG seconded the motion.

**9. Access Issues.** There were no access issues to discuss.

## 10. Training Update

Dungreggan noted that they have appointed a trainee who was present at the meeting.

## 11. Community Engagement

There were no Community issues to discuss. GW was thanked for organising the hall for the meeting and for the provision of cakes with the tea!

## 12. Out of Season Authorisations

MG reported on an OOS for Ceannacroc which would be used for agricultural damage as last year . Dundreggan indicated that they would be seeking an OOS/Night Shooting Authorisations as in previous years -for Sika and reds in exclosures.

## 13. SNH Update

SNH indicated that the review of deer management about to be submitted and that the Deer Working Group was also due to report soon. It would be up to Minister when it will be publicly available. SC felt that the SNH report was likely to be positive and would reflect significant progress having been made.

## 14. ADMG Update

LS reported that ADMG had published their own report on the DMG Assessments which had been circulated. ADMG Regional event planned for Inverness for 21<sup>st</sup> November.

## 15. Other DMG Update

The helicopter count for the whole of the South Ross area is still being planned for late winter 2020. LS to circulate an idea of breakdown of costs to the Group.

**Action 7: LS**

**16. Any Other Business** – A meeting to discuss East-West Wild Project to be held at Dundreggan on 29<sup>th</sup> August . LS to circulate details.

**Action 8: LS**

**17: Date and Time of Next Meeting.** The next meeting would be held to discuss the FCS plans at Glen Affric and to enable the Group to formulate a response to the consultation. Date and time to be agreed. It was suggested that the next meeting should be held during the daytime.