

Strathconon Deer Management Group Meeting

23/06/2016
at
Arcan Mains, Fairburn

Minutes

1. Attendees

Name	Estate / Organisation
Charles Aylesford	Chairman - Little Scatwell
Angus Kelly	Secretary
Linzi Seivwright	Caorann (DMP consultant)
Finlay Clark	ADMG / Treasurer
Troels Bavnhøj	Strathconon
Mike Watt	Little Scatwell
Glyn Robson	Lochluichart
Peter Hingston	Fairburn
Keith	Fairburn
Jamie Stewart	Lochluichart
Eric Downie	Glencarron

2. Apologies

2.1. Apologies from Douglas Orr & Colin Blyth (Olsson Woods), Derick MacAskill (FES), Alasdair Douglas (Glencarron).

3. Approval of minutes of meeting held on 24 April 2016

3.1. Minutes were approved and no comments from attendees.

4. Matters arising from previous minutes

4.1. None noted

5. Deer Management Plan –

5.1. Chair thanked all those who could attend at short notice.

5.2. Chair invited Linzi to provide a summary on the process and thinking for the members. Linzi again recapped on the background of the plan, the political framework and the structure of the Group plan.

5.3. Linzi reviewed the intianial draft of the DMG.

- 5.4. The model as detailed in Part 3 of the Deer Plan has an aspirational deer density from 17.3 to 14.7. Working in collaboration with neighbouring groups should assist in alleviating the impact of high density across the group. The primary tool the group should use is Habitat Impact Assessment. Glen Strathfarrar have agreed to cull 1000 hinds based on the outcome of the respective members HIA results. Strathconon Estate illustrated in their own HIA records that the Strathconon DMG deer population is also too high at 7 deer per km². However, this coincided with a heavy feed programme that has since been scaled back on the Estate.
 - 5.5. It was commented by FCC that the focus of the assessment of the DMG will be on the impact, with the target of 90% of impact should be low category as per the SNH guidance.
 - 5.6. Linzi introduced the proposal for collaborative work with Glen Strathfarrar DMG who have seen an increase in deer numbers since 2009. Therefore, running the population model in isolation does not work for Strathconon but combining with Glen Strathfarrar DMG give more realistic deer movements.
 - 5.7. Linzi confirmed that a meeting will be held with Sinclair Coghlan on the 25 June 2016 to look at the DGM targets. It was emphasised that the members need to have confidence that the mechanism to be put in place will be to manage impact.
6. Deer Management Plan proposed cull numbers;
 - 6.1. On the count figures this was discussed at length, and it was decided to accept the count at face value, and to assess annually based on collaborative approach of all members to discuss deer movement within the group and neighbouring DMG.
 - 6.2. On the stag numbers this was consistent with previous culls and overall the group though this sustainable.
 - 6.3. On the hind numbers it was discussed at some length that a larger cull was required with proposed number set at 800 hinds across the group. The model indicates that too many hinds in the group. Agreement on the day to stick with this number across the group.
7. Deer Management Plan Habitat Impact Assessment.
 - 7.1. Confirmed that majority of members have completed an assessment in 2016. Agreed to provide reports to Linzi/secretary.
8. Any Other Business
 - 8.1. N/A.
9. Date of next meeting
 - 9.1. TBC end of 2016