

Summary of Actions Arising from the West Lochaber Deer Management Plan

DMP 2015 ACTION SUMMARY			UPDATES	
Action	Who by	Timescale	May 2019	
Review and update deer management plan targets and actions annually and carry out a full review of the plan after 5 years.	WLDMG	At each AGM	Review carried out during ADMG audit. Full review due next year (2020)	
Update Constitution in line with ADMG's Template for DMG Constitutions.	WLDMG	End June 2016	Constitution will be reviewed in 2020	
All members to adhere to the Code of Practice in Deer Management.	All members	On going	On going	
Keep up to date with Best Practice Guidance.	All members	On going	Continuous	
Consider the option of forming two sub groups and the pros and cons of such an approach.	WLDMG	End June 2016	Considered and rejected idea but two population models suggested to demonstrate differences in management regimes between E and W	
Carry out actions arising from Communications Policy including making relevant data and documents publically available through the ADMG web portal.	Chair and Secretary	End Aug 2016	All Minutes etc made available on ADMG web portal.	
All stalkers to attain DSC1 and work towards DSC2. Identify training needs within the DMG and organise training courses where necessary. Consider inviting other rural workers to participate in training courses where possible. Carry out actions arising from Training Policy.	All members	End Dec 2017	100% of keepers surveyed at end of 2018 had DSC1 and DSC2	
Organise annual co-ordinated foot count of DMG, discuss results at June meeting and make results publically available through the ADMG web portal.	Stalkers, all Members, Chair, Secretary	In winter/ spring annually	Counts are bi-annual as per Constitution. Helicopter count in 2018 so next count due in 2020.	
Use count data to develop the simple population model within the deer management plan.	Secretary	Before June meeting annually	Count data being applied to population model currently being tested and agreed within DMG	
Consider whether methods to estimate deer populations within woodlands are necessary.	All members with significant areas of woodland	End Dec 2016	Not considered necessary but cull data is recorded as some transition between forests and open hill.	
Carry out annual mortality searches and recruitment counts and use data to update the population model within the deer management plan.	Stalkers, Secretary	Before June meeting annually.	Carried out on sample basis by members with commercial sporting activity.	
Work towards attaining SQWV standards and ensure a supply of venison is available for local sale.	All members who process deer.	On-going.	Annual increase in SQWV	
West Lochaber DMG will initiate a habitat monitoring scheme which will fall in line with SNH best practice guidance. Habitat Impact Assessments will be completed every 3 years.	All members	Start 2016. Repeated every 3 years.	Habitat monitoring commenced in 2017 with native woodlands, progressing onto open hill habitats in 2018. Much data to be analysed and applied to the population models.	
The DMG will organise a group training event for habitat impact assessment if required.	WLDMG	2016	Habitat training carried out during contract monitoring process.	
Consider the provision of woodland shelter available for deer now and in the future.	All members	2016	Woodland shelter is available in most areas incl in native woodland areas.	
Discuss the initial target population, develop thinking about target populations and agree a new target and the culls that are required to achieve it.	WLDMG	End June 2016.	Target culls by estate to be agreed following agreement on parameters to be applied to the population model.	
Consider approaches to minimising stag mortality from sources other than sport stalking.	WLDMG	End June 2016.	Stag mortality on roads has reduced by managed fencing and winter feeding away from high risk areas	
Agree and implement simple plans to bring designated sites into favourable condition or maintain them in favourable condition.	All relevant members	End Dec 2016.	Glen Beasdale SSSI condition under review and plans are being considered to improve the health of the designated site. Meeting held in late 2018 with SNH and follow up work is ongoing.	

With regards to native woodlands each estate to use NWSS results to prepare condition assessments of each wood within the High or Very High impact categories and produce management proposals to improve condition or justify current management.	All members with native woodlands assessed as having High or Very High herbivore impacts.	End Dec 2017.	Native woodland habitat monitoring carried out to a more detailed level than provided by the NWSS. Data to be considered and actions discussed.	
Carbon storage action points including identifying the extent of degraded peat on blanket bog.	All members	End Dec 2017.	Peatland identified during the 2018 open land habitat monitoring process. Much of it is located on croftland and farmland.	
Continue to resist colonisation by feral pigs and by sika through culling all observed individuals where possible. Small resident populations of sika at the west end of the DMG will continue to be culled as a resource but there will be no increase in numbers.	All members	On-going	Sika and Feral Pig continue to be shot on sight	
Ensure DMG is open to communication with regard to concerns of damage to historic and cultural features.	WLDMG	On-going	Few historic or cultural features are identified and none considered to be at risk from deer.	
With regard to deer vehicle collisions, Fassfern to explore fencing options including public funding. Consider ways of increasing driver awareness of the risk of deer vehicle collisions. Argue for road verge vegetation management.	WLDMG	End Dec 2017.	Discontinuous roadside deer fence discussed and agreed to allow deer to escape from the public road. In addition, shooting of deer found close to roadside or railside areas	
Ensure estate guests are aware of the risks and symptoms of Lyme disease. Ensure First Aid kits include appropriate tick removal equipment.	All members	On-going	Lyme disease records kept ref RIDDOR and all aware. Survey in 2018 of incidence showed a high awareness and infection incidence (45% of estates)	
Consider establishing commercial deer related activities other than deer stalking. These might include deer viewing, photography etc.	All members	On-going	42% of member estates run wildlife tourism ventures as well as 50% doing venison retail activity to local hotels.	
Ensure crofting and Grazing Committee representatives are invited to DMG meetings and that any concerns they may have are fully discussed.	Chair and Secretary	End June 2016.	Muirshearlich crofters, Stron farm, Fassfern farm, Corriebeg crofts, and Kinloid farm invited or contacted for any comments.	
Consider deer welfare issues at each DMG meeting and consider the implications for deer welfare when taking management decisions.	WLDMG and all members	On-going.	Deer welfare matters are considered in condition reporting at each DMG meeting.	
Consider the use of a signed Declaration form in relation to Chronic Wasting Disease for stalking guests from North America.	WLDMG and all members	End June 2016.	N. American guests few and are informed in relation to Chronic Wasting Disease risk.	