

Subject: Mid-West DMG AGM
Date: 23 October 2017
Time: 14:00
Location: Strathmashie Lunch Hut
Our ref:
Attendees: Mid-West DMG

MINUTES

AGENDA ITEMS

**ACTION
OWNER**

1.0 Attendance and Apologies

Attendance

- Ross Dakers (Ben Alder)
- John MacKenzie (Ben alder)
- Ian Wilkinson (BH Sporting)
- Alison Austin (Ben Nevis, John Muir Trust)
- Ally MacKaskill (Ben Nevis, John Muir Trust)
- Johnny Stevenson (Dunan)
- Ian Sutherland (Camuseriucht)
- Graeme Taylor (SNH)
- Finlay Clark
- Lyndsay Sharp
- Dougie Langlands (Ardverikie)
- Kyle Stewart (Ardverikie)
- Phil Lloyd (Ardverikie)
- Roddie Feilden (Chairman & Ardverikie)
- George Eveleigh (Cruach)
- Cameron Loudon (Mamore)
- Jamie Hendry (Killiechonate)
- Donald Rowantree (Corroul)
- Philip Dean
- John Jackson (FES)

Apologies

- Hamish McCorquodale (Dunan)
- Malcolm Pearson
- Craig Barnett (BH Sporting)

2.0 Minutes of AGM – 21 October 2015

There was agreement by all that the minutes were true and accurate record of the meeting on 24 October 2016. These were proposed by Phil Dean and seconded by Phil Lloyd

3.0 Matters Arising

No matters were arising which would not be covered in the agenda.

4.0 2016/17 Cull

It was agreed by that people would confirm their culls with Lyndsay directly. These are the numbers which are used to calculate the Mid-West's subscription to ADMG.

RED DEER

All members to check correct

Estate	In Season			Out of Season		Total
	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Stags	Hinds	
Ardverikie - East Beat	36	29	10	0	0	75
Ardverikie - Middle Beat	38	41	8	0	0	87
Ardverikie - West Beat	36	56	17	0	0	109
Ardverikie	110	126	35	0	0	271
Camusericht	38					38
Ben Alder & Dalwhinnie						
outwith SPA / SSSI						0
winthin SPA / SSSI						0
Woodland						0
Ben Alder total						0
Dunan	34					34
Mamore	25	13	5	0	0	43
Mamore - Glen Nevis	0	10	6	0	0	16
Mamore - Caolasnacon	0	4	2	0	0	6
Mamore	25	27	13	0	0	65
Killiechonate - hill		50	22	0	0	72
Killiechonate - in SAC		36	10	0	0	46
Killiechonate total	56	86	32	0	0	118
Cruach	32	35	12	0	0	79
Corrou - Fersit	36	18	6	0	0	60
Corrou - Beinn Eibhinn (SAC area)	35	48	27	0	0	110
Corrou - Beinn a Bhric	35	39	20	0	0	94
corrou - Old Corrou	9	25	8	0	0	42
Corrou - Forest (enclosed Woodland)	24	26	19	39	3	111
Corrou Total	139	156	80	39	3	306
Ben Nevis - JMT	8	3	0	1	1	13
FES - Callart	9	0	0	0	0	9
FES - Glen Righ	79	6	4	0	0	89
FES Leanachan	48	19	12	0	0	79
FES - Nevis	16	1	1	0	0	18
FES - Blar a' Chaorainn	0	0	0	0	0	0
FES - Total	152	26	17	0	0	195
Glen Nevis Estate	6	5	3	0	0	14
Total	526	367	167	40	4	937

* note: FES can't separate between in & out of season

SIKA DEER

Estate	In Season			Out of Season		Total
	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Stags	Hinds	
Adverikie	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camusericht						0
Ben Alder & Dalwhinnie						
outwith SPA / SSSI						0
winthin SPA / SSSI						
Woodland						0
Ben Alder total						0
Dunan						0
Mamore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Killiechonate - hill	2	0	0	0	0	2
Killiechonate - in SAC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Killiechonate total	2	0	0	0	0	2
Cruach	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corrour - Fersit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corrour - Beinn Eibhinn	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corrour - Beinn a Bhric	0	0	0	0	0	0
corrour - Old Corrour	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corrour - Enclosed woodland	2	3	0	13	0	18
Corrour Total	2	3	0	13	0	18
Ben Nevis - JMT	0	0	0	0	0	0
FES - Callart	0	0	0	0	0	0
FES - Glen Righ	1	0	0	0	0	1
FES Leanachan	3	0	0	0	0	3
FES - Nevis	0	0	0	0	0	0
FES - Blar a' Chaorainn	0	0	0	0	0	0
FES - Total	4	0	0	0	0	4
Glen Nevis Estate	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	8	3	0	13	0	24

note: FES can't separate between in & out of season

ROE DEER

Estate	In Season			Out of Season		Total
	Bucks	Does	Kids	Bucks	Does	
Adverikie	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camusericht						0
Ben Alder & Dalwhinnie						
outwith SPA / SSSI						0
winthin SPA / SSSI						
Woodland						0

Ben Alder total						0
Dunan						0
Mamore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mamore - Glen Nevis	0	2	1	0	0	3
Mamore - Caolasnacón	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mamore	0	2	1	0	0	3
Killiechonate - hill	1	2	0	0	0	3
Killiechonate - in SAC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Killiechonate total	1	2	0	0	0	3
Cruach	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corrou - Fersit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corrou - Beinn Eibhinn	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corrou - Beinn a Bhric	0	0	0	0	0	0
corrou - Old Corrou	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corrou - Enclosed Woodland	8	20	5	6	0	39
Corrou Total	8	20	5	6	0	39
Ben Nevis - JMT	0	0	0	0	0	0
FES - Callart	11	7	5	0	0	23
FES - Glen Righ	29	12	8	0	0	49
FES Leanachan	40	19	13	0	0	72
FES - Nevis	15	5	3	0	0	23
FES - Blar a' Chaorainn	0	0	0	0	0	0
FES - Total	95	43	29	0	0	167
Glen Nevis Estate	2	6	0	0	0	8
Total	106	73	35	6	0	220

note: FES cant separate between in & out of season

5.0 2017 Stag Cull plus any proposed out of season stag culls & season report

- **Ben Alder & Dalwhinnie:** 40 stags (21 in SAC) & 1 sika stag. Wet, lost a few days to weather, early rut which stopped before re-starting. Average: 14st, which is 7lbs down on last year. Heaviest 17st4lbs.
- **Camusericht:** 30, average:13st10lbs, heaviest: 16st 1lbs, mild, damp season. Mortality overserved: 3 hinds
- **Cruach:** 30, 13st2lbs, ½ stone down on last year, heaviest: 16st
- **Dunan:** 47, heaviest: 17st5lbs, very slow until last 2 weeks, couple of gored stags. Average 14st.
- **FES:** Figures for 2017 not yet available. John added that the FES intend to reduce sheep no.s on Blar a' Chaorinn from 500 to 150. New planting is planned. This will be fenced.
- **JMT Ben Nevis:** 7, will get rest of target out of season. Utilise contractors to undertake cull and they take the meat off the hill.
- **Corrou:** 300 and another 100 are planned out of season. Low cloud has been unhelpful.
- **Ardverikie,** 110 (35 from within SAC & buffer area) average: 14st2lbs, heaviest: 18st8lbs, looked like an early rut, then stopped and picked up again. Stags in good condition, wet and

All members to check correct

mild.

- **Mamore:** 50, average: 13st, heaviest 18st9lbs, wet, windy and mild season.
- **Killiechonate:** 60, average: 13st9lbs, heaviest 19st. Wet, mild season.

6.0 Proposed 2016/17 Hind Cull & Deer Models

Graeme Taylor confirmed that he has discussed the model put forward by the Group with Chris Donald (SNH Operations Manager). If the model is followed then the Group's number should decrease back to the 2011 density levels. He stressed that these levels of population will only be ok if the habitat impact assessment results show that these population levels can be supported.

The population model for the Group is attached to the minutes.

7.0 Spring 2017 Deer Count

The count was undertaken on the 23, 24th & 4th the April over the Mid-west DMG except for Caolasnac and Cruach. It was unfortunate that a helicopter cancelled on the 24th which meant Killiechonate wasn't counted till the 4th April.

A copy of the count report is attached to the minutes. Members have agreed that the Group should re-count in 3 years' time (Spring 2020).

8.0 Designated areas update

Cathy Mayne is no longer with SNH and Graeme Taylor is covering her role till her position is filled. The Ben Nevis SAC group have a meeting planned for the 15 November. Graeme Taylor confirmed that Habitat Impact Assessment will be carried out on the Ben Alder SAC during 2018. The last Habitat Impact Assessment was carried out in 2013.

9.0 Cairngorms National Park Authority

The decision was made to remove this from the agenda. The Cairngorms National Park do organise useful training and it is worth keeping a look out for courses.

10.0 SNH Report

DMG's are still very much in the spotlight with plans to review the code of practise and DMGs in 2019. Many DMP's were funded through SNH grants and the government will want to see that this has assisted groups to work effectively in delivering public interest. Graeme Taylor added that further funding will be available early next year to assist groups with habitat monitoring.

11.0 ADMG Report

The next ADMG regional meeting is on 23rd November 2017 at Kingsmills Hotel in Inverness. The AGM will be held in the last week of February in Aviemore. Date will be confirmed nearer the time. Sporting Rates is a key theme which the ADMG are taking forward. It appears that there are factual errors in the rates which have been presented to landowners.

12.0 Venison Market

There were no comments under this item.

13.0 Mid-West DMP

The group have focused recently on addressing the results of the helicopter counts and Lyndsay Sharp confirmed that the intention would be to hold a separate meeting to focus on other parts of the Deer Management Plan. Habitat monitoring is a key action which needs to be addressed early in 2018. Community engagement also requires attention with Ardverikie suggesting that it

might be worth doing something with the Laggan Heritage Trust. It was agreed that the next DMP review meeting will be held on 16th February 2018.

14.0 Election of Office Bearers

FC confirmed that Bidwells are willing to continue to act as secretary but are equally happy to stand down. It was agreed by all that those in current position remain in their current position.

15.0 Date of next meeting

It was proposed that the next AGM meeting be held on Mon 22nd October.

16.0 AOCB

There was a brief discussion on Wild Boar. The FES have been tasked with looking at trapping methods. The Scottish Government are still to decide on whether to eradicate Wild Boar or not.