

Subject: Mid-West DMG AGM  
Date: 24 October 2016  
Time: 14:00  
Location: Strathmashie Lunch Hut  
Our ref:  
Attendees: Mid-West DMG

## MINUTES

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### AGENDA ITEMS

**ACTION  
OWNER**

#### 1.0 Attendance and Apologies

##### Attendance

- Ross Dakers (Ben Alder)
- Craig Barnett (BH Sporting)
- Brian Smith (Camusericht)
- Alison Austin (Ben Nevis, John Muir Trust)
- Hamish McCorquodale (Dunan)
- Ian Sutherland (Dunan)
- Cathy Mayne (SNH)
- Finlay Clark
- Lyndsay Sharp
- Dougie Langlands (Ardverikie)
- Phil Lloyd
- Roddie Feilden
- James Feilden (Ardverikie)
- Colin Lavin (FES)
- Duncan Richardson (Cruach)
- Cameron Loudon (Mamore)
- Jamie Hendry (Killiechonate)
- Donald Rowantree (Corrour)
- Peter Allison (Corrour)

*All members to  
check correct*

##### Apologies

- Jim Beattie (Rio Tinto)
- Philip Dean
- Graeme Taylor (SNH)
- Ewen Cameron (Glen Nevis Estate)
- Malcolm Pearson
- Colin Campbell (Grazing Clerk)
- John Jackson (FES)
- Rik Eppins (Killiechonate Woodlands)

#### 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 21 October 2015.

#### 3.0 Matters Arising

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

4.0 2015/16 Cull

All members to check correct

RED DEER

Estate	In Season			Out of Season		Total
	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Stags	Hinds	
Adverikie	106	139	27	0	0	272
Camusericht	38	40	17	5		100
Ben Alder & Woodland	37	73	19	0	0	129
Dalwhinnie						
Dunan	45	31	7	0	0	83
Mamore	17	12	6			35
Killiechonate	63	75	20	0	0	158
Cruach	36	35	11			82
Corrou	119	243	71	27		460
Ben Nevis - JMT	3	18	7	0	0	28
FCS	30	16	12	110	13	181
	<b>Total</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>1528</b>
Glen Nevis Estate		8	1	4		13

SIKA DEER

Estate	In Season			Out of Season		Total
	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Stags	Hinds	
Adverikie	2	1	0	3	0	6
Camusericht	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ben Alder & Woodland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dalwhinnie						
Dunan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mamore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Killiechonate	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cruach	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corrou	0	2	0	5	0	7
Ben Nevis - JMT	0	0	0	0	0	0
FCS	0	0	0	5	0	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>
Glen Nevis Estate						0

ROE DEER

Estate	In Season			Out of Season		Total
	Bucks	Does	Kids	Bucks	Hinds	
Adverikie	0	12	0	8	0	20
Camusericht	6	4	0	0	0	10
Ben Alder & Woodland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dalwhinnie						
Dunan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mamore	0	6	0	0	0	6
Killiechonate	0	3	2	0	0	5
Cruach	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corrou	7	9	3	7	0	26
Ben Nevis - JMT	2	0	0	0	0	2
FCS	31	51	24	36	10	152
	<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>221</b>
Glen Nevis Estate		7	2	4		13

## 5.0 2016 Stag Cull plus any proposed out of season stag culls & season report

- Ben Alder & Dalwhinnie: 45 stags (28 in SAC)
- Camusericht: 38, average weight 13st, heaviest stag 16st 2lbs, 1st roar heard on 11sept, good dry season overall, Stags in good condition.
- Dunan: 34, heaviest: 20st7lbs, slow to get going. East winds pulled stags away.
- FES: 91
- JMT Ben Nevis: 7 and maybe 3 out of season
- Corrou: 114, may shoot a few out of season.
- Ardverikie, 107, average: 13st12lbs, heaviest: 20st6lbs
- Mamore: 24, average: 14st6lbs
- Killiechonate: 56, average:13st9lbs

*All members to check correct*

## 6.0 Proposed 2016/17 Hind Cull

- Ben Alder & Dalwhinnie: 80 hinds + calves. There is lot of deer on the home beat, so will aim to shoot hinds here. This helps push deer onto Ardverikie.
- Camusericht: 40 hinds + calves
- Dunan: 40 hinds + calves, though may adjust as it looked like there was a good calving
- FES: 30 hinds + calves
- JMT Ben Nevis: 20 hinds + calves
- Corrou: 130 hinds + calves
- Ardverikie. The usual, in the region of 130 / 140 but will keep in touch with Ross
- Mamore: 20 -25 hinds + calves
- Killiechonate: 75 hinds + calves

*All members to check correct*

## 7.0 Spring 2017 Deer Count

A quotation was obtained last year of £34,365 but it was decided to delay it a year. It was agreed that a helicopter count would go ahead spring 2017. Drone technology is not quite there but is definitely getting better and CM commented that the Mountain Rescue are using Drones in the mountain environment.

LS is to update the quote and arrange. The group will need the help of SNH staff and their equipment.

*LS*

## 8.0 Designated areas update

CM has carried out the fieldwork on the Ben Alder and Ben Nevis SA. The sites are looking pretty good though results are still to be written up. There is no other update within SNH other than they are looking at reporting site condition per landholding rather than per designation but this could be a long way off if it happens. CM hopes to have the reports for designated areas completed by the end of the year.

*CM*

## 9.0 Cairngorms National Park Authority

There is little to add here but decided to keep on the agenda for future meetings. The Cairngorms National Park do organise useful training and it is worth keeping a look out for courses.

## 10.0 SNH Report

SNH are in the process of writing the report to the Scottish Government on the review of the deer management in Scotland. This has to be completed by the end of the month and the Scottish Government will respond when ready. On behalf of the Graeme Taylor, CM confirmed that the group needs to ensure that it has clear actions and that these should form the agendas of meetings and be recorded. LS added that the Group intend on holding a deer management plan review meeting after the hind season.

## **11.0 ADMG Report**

FC remains as secretary to the ADMG. ADMG are awaiting publication of the review on Deer Management. On the Land Reform Bill, the detail is still to be released. There is still the ambition to put sporting rates in place and all holding will be assessed during 2017. Small business rates relief may still be applicable. The AGM will be held at Kingussie in February.

## **12.0 Venison Market**

Following the outbreak of E.Coli. traced to venison, the industry has recommended strict adherence to best practise when gralloching as this is when there is the highest risk of contamination. It was discussed that Highland Game may purchase Yorkshire Gamer and it was commented that this would not be helpful to have few game dealers.

## **13.0 Mid-West DMP**

The Centre for Mountain Studies (UHI) and Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) and have been conducting a review for the Scottish Government, SNH and FCS of existing research on wild deer management. A seminar on preliminary results is to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November at SNH Battleby. The aim of the project is to identify gaps in the existing knowledge-base through gathering the views of stakeholders and reviewing existing material. The project has been developed to facilitate more effective exchange of knowledge, provide a fuller understanding of the issues involved in deer management and help deliver targeted, informed and sustainable deer management in Scotland.

## **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 23<sup>rd</sup> October. This will be confirmed nearer the time.

## **16.0 AOCB**

It was asked if there was any protocol in dealing with feral pigs. FES & SNH are currently looking at methods of estimating their population through camera trapping. Densities are currently low. Corrou have had sightings near the lodge, the station and the west of the estate, near Fersit.

Corrou added that they are to erect small fenced enclosures to assist in the established of small schemes.