

Affric and Kintail Deer Management Group

Part 3: Working Plan 2016 -2017

(Summary of DMG Actions contained in Part 1 and Working Population Model)



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3.1 Introduction

This Working Plan sets out the most up to date information on culls, counts and population targets as well as a **summary of specific actions** the Deer Management Group (DMG) will undertake which are **detailed in Part 2** of the plan.

The Working Plan will be reviewed at least annually, with a systematic review of the whole plan taking place at the end of the five year period.

Affric & Kintail DMG covers an area of approximately **32,577** hectares (with the open range available to deer around 27,508 ha including the property of Corriclair which currently sits within Glen Moriston DMG). The DMG has 8 main management units (although cull and count figures for Corriclair have been incorporated throughout the plan):

- East Benula South (EBS) Estate
- Mullardoch Estate
- North Affric Estate (NA)
- NTS West Affric & NTS Kintail Estate (The National Trust for Scotland)
- National Forest Estate (NFE) South Affric, NFE Fasnakyle, NFE Strathglass: all managed by Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES).

Whilst recognised as a DMG in its own right, the Group is part of the wider South Ross cluster of DMGs which includes Glen Moriston DMG to the immediate south, Lochalsh DMG to the north-west and Glen Strathfarrar to the north east. Strathconnon DMG is also part of South Ross but is not an immediate neighbour. There is also communication with Glenelg DMG to the south.

3.2 Group Objectives and Target

The purpose of the Affric and Kintail Deer Management Group is to manage deer on a collective basis, in accordance with Scottish Government strategy (Scotland's Wild Deer: A National Approach, 2015), the [Code of Practice on Deer Management](#) (2012), and in a manner that integrates different land-use objectives, recognising that compromises over objectives may be required where conflict occurs.

The overall purpose of this Working Plan is to provide:

- The necessary up-to-date information to assist the DMG in making informed, collective management decisions at a landscape level;
- An agreed set of actions to ensure that deer management in the local area will be delivered according to the targets set out and agreed in the Collaborative Land Management Plan;
- An agreed pattern of collaborative arrangements to try and ensure that the actions are implemented and their effectiveness monitored.

3.3 Red Deer Open Range Counts

Count Type	Year	A & K Totals (including Corriclair)				
		Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
Heli Count (Unclassified)	2009	1697	1950	627	4274	15.5
Partial Count (Unclassified)	2011	1006	1123	335	2464	9.0
Heli Count	2012	853	1020	337	2210	8.0
Heli Count	2015	1465	1602	499	3566	13.0
Heli Count DMG						
Heli Count (including Inverinate & West Benula)	2016	1712	2984	953	5649	13.0
Population required to harvest 217 stags	2021	1628	1628	488	3744	8.6

The last full helicopter count of the DMG was conducted in 2016.

A target density for 2021 of **8.6 deer per km²** should deliver conservation objectives across the Group whilst still allowing a sustainable harvest of 217 stags annually. (Target densities are to be agreed annually and will be subject to on-going change). At present the target density fully incorporates the following individual Estate targets based on conservation objectives:

- Hind population targets of 150 hinds (East Benula South), 160 hinds (North Affric) and 9 deer Km² on Mullardoch: all agreed with SNH for management of Strathglass Complex SAC.
- The aspiration of National Trust Scotland to reduce deer densities to **7 deer per km²** on both West Affric and Kintail management units.
- The aspiration of Forest Enterprise Scotland to have an **average** density of **5 deer per km²** across all their management units. FES will use their own monitoring protocols in woodland to estimate the density of deer within fenced woodland areas.

Count information for 2016 has been included for Corriclair, Inverinate and West Benula and population model to include these properties is being trialled.

3.4 Population Model (2016 - 2021)

The DMG will use information gathered from habitat monitoring, population census and cull reporting to agree and set culls on an annual basis using population modelling. Each management unit is committed to implementing the necessary culls to achieve this although it is accepted that there may be specific geographical areas within the DMG area where deer management requires to be focussed.

		<i>Stags</i>	<i>Hinds</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Density</i>
2016	<i>Spring Counted Population</i>	1712	2984	953	13.0
	<i>Summer Population</i>	2189	3461	1038	15.4
	<i>Cull</i>	450	800	240	
	<i>Mortality</i>	44	69	62	
2017	<i>Spring Population</i>	1695	2591	736	11.5
	<i>Summer Population</i>	2063	2959	888	13.6
	<i>Cull</i>	400	700	210	
	<i>Mortality</i>	41	59	53	
2018	<i>Spring Population</i>	1621	2200	625	10.2
	<i>Summer Population</i>	1934	2512	754	11.9
	<i>Actual Cull</i>	235	550	165	
	<i>Mortality</i>	39	50	45	
2019	<i>Spring Population</i>	1660	1912	543	9.5
	<i>Summer Population</i>	1932	2184	655	11.0
	<i>Proposed Cull</i>	235	400	120	
	<i>Mortality</i>	39	44	39	
2020	<i>Spring Population</i>	1658	1740	496	8.9
	<i>Summer Population</i>	1906	1988	596	10.3
	<i>Proposed Cull</i>	235	320	96	
	<i>Mortality</i>	38	40	36	
2021	<i>Spring Population</i>	1633	1628	465	8.6
	<i>Summer Population</i>	1865	1861	558	9.8

3.5 Culls

	Total Open Range Cull					Total Cull			
	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total		Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total
2005-2006	304	349	110	763	2005-2006	465	444	158	1067
2006-2007	267	292	96	655	2006-2007	397	364	136	897
2007-2008	283	362	121	766	2007-2008	445	436	160	1041
2008-2009	242	301	93	636	2008-2009	405	355	129	889
2009-2010	332	508	193	1033	2009-2010	375	558	211	1144
2010-2011	505	465	153	1123	2010-2011	764	541	195	1500
2011-2012	236	363	86	685	2011-2012	424	426	114	964
2012-2013	206	317	102	625	2012-2013	359	410	155	924
2013-2014	225	320	109	654	2013-2014	383	403	161	947
2014-2015	248	345	111	704	2014-2015	516	461	171	1148
2015-2016	247	313	99	659	2015-2016	353	389	137	879
2016-2017									
2017-2018									
2018-2019									
2019-2020									
2020-2021									

	Corrielaire				East Benula South				Kintail					West Affric					Mullardoch					North Affric								
	S	H	C	T	S	H	C	T	S	IN	S	OUT	H	C	T	S	IN	S	OUT	H	C	T	S	IN	S	OUT	H	C	T	S	H	C
2005-2006	24	56	14	94	16	27	14	57	84	0	80	24	188	40	0	52	10	102	19	12	9	11	51	42	35	16	93					
2006-2007	17	51	22	90	9	27	9	45	83	3	56	13	155	34	2	35	11	82	19	12	7	6	44	38	44	15	97					
2007-2008	14	47	20	81	14	33	14	61	81	19	105	34	239	34	0	51	16	101	12	15	12	6	45	42	31	11	84					
2008-2009	16	24	4	44	11	47	34	92	66	33	87	15	201	39	0	57	16	112	17	1	5	2	25	0	0	0	0					
2009-2010	20	29	15	64	20	56	28	104	110	8	92	40	250	40	0	78	23	141	10	2	7	3	22	35	39	12	86					
2010-2011	18	43	16	77	13	36	16	65	98	8	72	25	203	33	27	73	30	163	7	2	4	5	18	30	30	5	65					
2011-2012	19	42	17	78	12	21	6	39	75	0	39	9	123	28	0	54	8	90	11	0	6	0	17	28	50	10	88					
2012-2013	18	41	10	69	15	25	11	51	45	0	39	7	91	24	0	45	9	78	9	0	3	3	15	21	31	7	59					
2013-2014	21	42	28	91	17	25	7	49	45	0	35	7	87	25	0	42	9	76	12	0	5	3	20	23	30	5	58					
2014-2015	17	44	24	85	11	25	8	44	50	0	41	5	96	25	0	51	10	86	14	0	5	3	22	20	30	6	56					
2015-2016	17	29	7	53	13	21	9	43	80	0	44	4	128	40	0	80	14	134	11	0	5	0	16	18	28	10	56					
2016-2017																																
2017-2018																																
2018-2019																																
2019-2020																																
2020-2021																																

	NFE Fasnakyle				NFE Gleann Na Ciche					NFE South Affric						NFE Strathglass						NFE Affric Enclosure			
	S	H	C	T	S IN	S OUT	H	C	T	S IN	S OUT	H IN	H OUT	C	T	S IN	S OUT	H IN	H OUT	C	T	S	H	C	T
2005-2006	16	44	10	70	0	0	0	0	0	46	5	46	0	11	108	86	75	58	37	48	304	0	0	0	0
2006-2007	15	32	12	59	0	0	0	0	0	33	2	39	1	8	83	57	73	47	25	40	242	0	0	0	0
2007-2008	17	36	10	63	0	0	0	0	0	34	1	43	4	10	92	39	123	46	28	39	275	0	0	0	0
2008-2009	23	38	9	70	0	0	0	0	0	34	2	41	2	13	92	43	120	21	33	36	253	0	0	0	0
2009-2010	30	84	41	155	0	0	0	0	0	57	0	123	0	31	211	43	0	50	0	18	111	0	0	0	0
2010-2011	27	52	16	95	53	0	0	0	53	49	140	138	17	40	384	62	197	45	31	42	377	0	0	0	0
2011-2012	31	46	10	87	20	0	0	0	20	11	1	99	6	26	143	66	122	26	37	28	279	0	0	0	0
2012-2013	26	30	5	61	34	0	2	7	43	13	1	100	1	43	158	39	114	56	37	53	299	0	0	0	0
2013-2014	24	38	9	71	22	0	0	0	22	30	1	103	0	41	175	28	130	47	36	52	293	5	0	0	5
2014-2015	24	34	9	67	1	32	11	1	45	50	0	100	0	45	195	31	237	60	56	60	444	4	4	0	8
2015-2016	9	24	5	38	32	0	0	0	32	1	0	80	0	50	131	106	0	76	0	38	220	26	2	0	28
2016-2017																									
2017-2018																									
2018-2019																									
2019-2020																									
2020-2021																									

3.6 Cull Targets for 2016 -2017

A meeting will be held in Summer 2016 to finalise individual cull targets.

3.7 Group Actions

Note that these are collated from the Public Interest Actions detailed in Part 2 of the plan.

Actions to develop mechanisms to manage deer	When?	Who?	How?
3.7.1 Group will meet quarterly:	March, June, September & November Annually	DMG Members	<i>Group will meet in March (to discuss previous hind cull), June (to discuss count information and agree stags culls), September (to discuss stags culls and agree hind culls), November (to discuss on-going culls).</i>
3.7.2 Final Plan and Minutes of Meetings will be made publically available and published on DMG Website.	By Spring 2016 and ongoing	DMG Secretary	<i>DMG Website.</i>
3.7.3 Repeat DMG Assessment.	By Spring 2016 and ongoing	DMG Chair and Secretary	<i>Use baseline DMG Assessment carried out in 2014.</i>
3.7.4 Working plan will be reviewed and updated annually. Management actions will be adjusted and agreed accordingly. An annual report will be produced.	Annually	DMG Secretary and DMG Members	<i>Provision of data from DMG members in advance of and during Bi-annual meetings. Secretary will update Working Plan and produce an Annual Report to be published on the DMG Website.</i>
3.7.5 Culls will be delivered and reported on accurately. Cull targets will set and agreed based on information relating to habitat condition, population census, deer welfare and any other relevant information (i.e. where deer are impacting negatively on the Public Interest).	Annually	DMG Members	<i>Population models will be updated annually and cull targets set, agreed and delivered according.</i>
3.7.6 The helicopter count conducted in 2016 will be repeated in Year 3.	Spring 2019	Chair & DMG Members	<i>DMG will ensure adequate resources in place for repeat helicopter count in 2019 and liaise with neighbouring DMGs to coordinate count at the same time if possible.</i>
3.7.8 Recruitment counts will be carried out annually.	Ideally first two weeks in April but by May.	DMG Members	<i>Stalkers will undertake sample counts of groups of deer recording stags, hinds and calves.</i>

<p>3.7.9 Larder data to be included.</p>	<p>Annually at March meeting</p>	<p>DMG Members</p>	<p><i>FES Template data sheet to be used. Members to record reproductive data (ie sex of calves and sex of foetus, pregnant hinds), average carcass (larder) weight of hinds and stags, aging of stags into four categories, cull grid references. Stags aged as Calf and yearling, Medium/Mature and Old.</i></p>
<p>3.7.10 Group will carry out a review of deer movements within the DMG and contribute to wider discussions on deer movements within the wider South Ross area .</p>	<p>Autumn 2016</p>	<p>DMG Members</p>	<p><i>Deer count data from 2016 and 2019 will be reviewed by the DMG and by wider South Ross DMGs. DMG boundaries will be reviewed and amended if necessary.</i></p>
<p>3.7.11 DMG will liaise with Glen Moriston DMG to carry out a review of current DMG boundaries and membership of respective DMGs following the deer count in 2016.</p>	<p>Autumn 2016</p>	<p>DMG Chair and Chair of Glen Moriston DMG</p>	<p><i>DMG Chairs will consult with membership to review current DMG boundaries.</i></p>
<p>3.7.12 Group will encourage representation at meetings of the local community as well as local agricultural/crofting interests. FES deer management tenants & contractors within the DMG area invited to attend a DMG event.</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>DMG Chair. NTS and FES.</p>	<p><i>Meeting dates and Agendas will be publically available on DMG website and circulated to community councils in advance. National Trust will invite agricultural/crofting representation to attend. All stakeholders/deer managers including FES shooting tenants & contractors invited to attend one event a year.</i></p>

3.8 Designated Site Actions

Actions for the delivery of designated features into Favourable Condition	When?	Who?	How?
3.8.1 Strathglass Complex SAC: Current action underway to maintain "Unfavourable Recovering" Condition status of features according to management targets agreed with SNH. Group to discuss management actions for Mountain Willow Scrub to bring into Unfavourable Recovering condition.	2016 and On-going	East Benula South, NFE Fasnakyle, Mullardoch, North Affric	<i>Repeat HIA (summer 2016) and deer count information (spring 2016) will be used to inform on-going deer management. Current agreement with SNH to achieve hind targets on SAC.</i>
3.8.2 Affric and Cannich Hills SSSI: Current action underway to maintain "Unfavourable Recovering" Condition status of Upland Assemblage features according to management targets agreed with SNH.	2016 By 2021	East Benula South, NFE Fasnakyle, Mullardoch, North Affric & SNH	<i>Members will use 2016 SAC Habitat Assessment results (to be conducted by SNH) to inform management. Individual members will discuss and implement agreed management with Agencies including use of Agri-Environment Climate Schemes through SRDP.</i>
3.8.3 Affric and Cannich Hills SSSI: Members to work with SNH and Forestry Commission Scotland to implement "appropriate management" on the 'Unfavourable' Native Pinewood feature. Woodland monitoring to be implemented.	By 2017	Mullardoch & SNH/FCS	<i>Individual members will discuss and implement agreed management with Agencies including use of Forestry Grant Schemes through SRDP. Any proposed use of fencing will be discussed with the DMG. Mullardoch to implement woodland monitoring</i>
3.8.4 Glen Affric SSSI: to implement actions to maintain 'Favourable' Condition of features.	Ongoing	FES	<i>FES will implement actions set out in the Designated Sites Action Plan (2011 to 2016).</i>
3.8.5 In areas where Designated Sites are believed to be under threat, to foster cooperation between neighbouring estates to manage deer numbers and densities as appropriate.	Ongoing	All DMG Members	<i>Deer managers will communicate on an on-going basis with regards to deer movements and identify opportunities for collaborative management.</i>
3.8.6 Properties to continue to target deer management on sensitive areas to reduce localised impacts.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Deer managers will use local knowledge to target deer management where required.</i>
3.8.7 Consider impact of future deer management activities (i.e. fencing) on Designated Sites.	DMG Members	On-going	<i>Through formal consultation process.</i>

3.9 Woodland Actions

Actions to manage deer to retain existing native woodland cover and improve woodland condition	When?	Who?	How?
<p>3.9.1 FES will continue to reduce deer numbers to less than 7 deer per km² within the fenced exclosures in order to achieve good condition in its native woodlands.</p>	By 2021	FES	<p><i>FES will use their own monitoring of herbivore impacts as well as woodland population census/utilisation methodology to inform on-going management.</i></p>
<p>3.9.2 For properties with SRDP Natural Regeneration Schemes in place, provide evidence of woodland condition in the form of an appropriate survey report if available.</p>	Year 3	DMD Members	<p><i>Woodland Survey reports.</i></p>
<p>3.9.3 To use ECAF bid to undertake a review of native woodland condition in the Group area (including Riparian woodland), consolidating existing survey reports and implementing woodland herbivore impacts assessment monitoring protocols where required. See monitoring Schedule in Working Plan.</p>	Year 3	DMG Members & Consultant	<p><i>Subject to successful ECAF bid, delivery of DMG Native Woodland Review Report and recommended actions.</i></p>
<p>3.9.4 To implement management to reduce negative impacts including use of Forestry Grant Schemes where practical and appropriate.</p>	By 2021	SG Members	<p><i>Monitoring results used to inform management actions. Entry into SRDP Schemes.</i></p>
<p>3.9.5 FES will implement the Land Management Plan for Upper Beaully (2010 to 2020)</p>	By 2020	FES	<p><i>FES will consult with DMG on the deer management implications of actions to deliver the LMP.</i></p>
<p>3.9.6 FES to collaborate with the DMG to implement a regeneration/extension programme for Montane Willow colony on NFE South Affric.</p>	By 2021	FES	<p><i>FES will consult with DMG on the deer management implications for any future Montane Willow regeneration programme within Gleann nan Ciche.</i></p>

Actions to demonstrate DMG contribution to the Scottish Government woodland expansion target of 25% woodland cover.	When?	Who?	How?
3.9.7 FES will establish 45 ha of new native woodland at Allt a' Chomlain, South Affric.	2017	FES	<i>New fenced enclosure completed in 2015.</i>
3.9.8 FES will establish a new montane woodland at Fasnakyle (30 ha)	By 2021	FES	<i>15 ha to be completed in 2016/17. A second enclosure will be completed by 2021.</i>
3.9.9 FES will increase the rate of regeneration in the Glean nan Ciche enclosure.	By 2021	FES	<i>FES will ensure herbivore impacts are minimised within the enclosure.</i>
3.9.10 FES will continually look for opportunities to expand native woodland and improve habitats across all NFE management units.	Ongoing	FES	<i>FES will keep the DMG informed of any new woodland expansion proposals and of progress with existing projects.</i>
3.9.11 To inform the DMG about any future woodland proposals and incorporate in the DMP - taking account of potential implications for deer management.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Members will circulate/present proposals to DMG for discussion.</i>
3.9.12 DMG to use ECAF bid carry out a strategic review of potential opportunities for new woodland schemes using the Scottish Government's Forestry Strategy. Review will consider need from a DMG perspective ie shelter provision for deer population at landscape scale.	Year 2	DMG Members & Consultant	<i>Subject to ECAF bid, delivery of DMG Woodland Expansion Report and recommended actions.</i>

3.10 Wider Habitat Impact Actions

Actions to monitor and manage deer impacts in the wider countryside	When?	Who?	How?
3.10.1 NTS to reduce deer densities to 7 deer per km ² to reduce herbivore impacts across 5 key habitats.	By 2021	NTS	Reduction culls in collaboration with the wider group will be implemented by the Trust.
3.10.2 Using revised BPG Guidance undergo training, set up plots and carry out a baseline habitat impact assessment (HIA) of the current grazing and trampling impacts on blanket bog & dwarf shrub heath.	May & June 2016	DMG Members & Consultant	<i>Subject to ECAF bid, Consultant will work with DMG to set up random plots and to provide assistance with data analysis and the production of a report.</i>
3.10.3 Members with existing habitat monitoring will share results with DMG where appropriate.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Members will circulate monitoring results to DMG.</i>
3.10.4 Summary of habitat assessment results reported to DMG. DMG will implement a deer reduction programme to reduce deer impacts to improve overall habitat condition. Targets and management actions to be agreed.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>DMG will agree management decisions based on Habitat Impact Assessment Reports.</i>
3.10.5 Repeat HIA and management actions agreed.	May & June 2019	DMG Members	<i>Members will collect repeat monitoring data. Consultant will provide assistance with data analysis and the production of a report. Members will use report to inform management.</i>
3.10.6 DMG will run a demonstration event to share best practice management for open habitats and woodland management in the absence of deer fences.	FES	By 2021	<i>FES will organise for members to visit an appropriate site.</i>

Actions to improve Scotland's ability to store carbon by maintaining or improving ecosystem health.	When?	Who?	How?
<p>3.10.7 Using revised BPG Guidance set up plots and carry out a baseline habitat impact assessment (HIA) of the current grazing and trampling impacts on blanket bog and native woodland.</p>	<p>As per monitoring schedule in the Working plan</p>	<p>DMG Members</p>	<p><i>As per Actions for woodland and managing impacts in the wider countryside. Members to provide existing survey reports or conduct baseline monitoring and reports.</i></p>
<p>3.10.8 Potential areas for Peatland Restoration identified and options for Peatland restoration or management through the Peatland Action Fund promoted to DMG Members</p>	<p>By end 2016</p>	<p>DMG Members DMG Chair and Secretary</p>	<p><i>Members to use Blanket Bog monitoring results as well as assistance from SNH to identify opportunities for Peatland Restoration.</i></p>
<p>3.10.9 FES/NTS will complete a survey of damaged peatland which will point the way to a programme of peatland/bog restoration work.</p>	<p>End of 2017</p>	<p>FES/NTS</p>	<p><i>Completion of survey work on NFE/NTS land and implementation of recommended actions.</i></p>
<p>3.10.10 Contribute to River Basin Management Planning as appropriate</p>	<p>By end of 2016 and ongoing</p>	<p>DMG Members</p>	<p><i>Subject to ECAF bid, include a review of the potential for riparian woodland improvement e.g. practicalities, landscape assessment, water quality and fisheries benefit.</i></p>

3.11 Non-native Species Actions

Actions to reduce or mitigate the risk of establishment of invasive non-native species	When?	Who?	How?
3.11.1 Muntjac Deer managed as per the Non-native Species Policy (Part 2 of plan).	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Members will contact local SNH Wildlife Management Officer immediately on suspected sighting of Muntjac.</i>
3.11.2 Sika Deer managed to prevent their establishment within the DMG area and managed as per the Non-Native Species Policy (Part 2 of plan).	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Where Sika Deer not currently established, Members will report sightings to DMG and will prevent their establishment shoot (within current legal restrictions).</i>
3.11.3 Feral Pigs managed according to Policy Guidelines currently being agreed by SNH.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Members will report sightings of feral pigs and shoot on sight (subject to welfare considerations) within DMG area. Implement Feral Pig management policy once agreed by SNH. FES currently has a control policy for this species.</i>
3.11.4 Feral goat management policy to be agreed.	By end 2016	DMG Members	<i>Group will use meeting in June to agree a policy for the management of Feral Goats.</i>
3.11.5 Record invasive plants species and encourage their control.	Annually	DMG Members	<i>Members will inform DMG of invasive plant species at annual meetings and will report on control undertaken.</i>

3.12 Historic and Cultural Features Actions

Actions to protect designated historic and cultural features from being damaged by deer e.g. by trampling.	When?	Who?	How?
3.12.1 Identify any features within DMG area that may be impacted on by deer.	By end of 2016	DMG Members	<i>DMG members to report at Autumn DMG meeting on features identified.</i>
3.12.2 If features identified, ensure the appropriate management is implemented and report to DMG.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Verbal report/update to DMG.</i>

3.13 Competency and Training Actions

Actions to contribute to delivering higher standards of competence in deer management.	When?	Who?	How?
3.13.1 DMG will adopt the training policy statement (Part 3 of plan).	Spring 2016	DMG Members	<i>Adopted as part of DMP.</i>
3.13.2 Report on training levels and progress on an annual basis.	By Autumn 2016 & Annually	DMG Secretary and Members	<i>All members asked to provide an update of staff qualifications to DMG Secretary. Verbal report at Spring meeting.</i>
3.13.3 Develop and implement a training programme to assist in the provision of training for DMG Members who lack the necessary qualification or for individuals who wish to enhance their skills.	Annually	DMG Chair and Secretary	<i>Annual training programme to be agreed at Spring meeting. Secretary to organise courses/events. Opportunities for CPD events to be explored by members.</i>

3.14 Health and Well-being Actions

Actions to Identify and promote opportunities contributing to public health and wellbeing.	When?	Who?	How?
3.14.1 Provide information on access, CWD and health information about tick awareness to visitors/clients.	By end of 2016 and ongoing	DMG Secretary	<i>Secretary to circulate leaflets/literature at Spring/Autumn meetings for members to distribute. Information made available on DMG website.</i>
3.14.2 Complete relevant Access information for the Heading For the Scottish Hills initiative.	By end 2016	Secretary & Relevant DMG Members	<i>Secretary to liaise with DMG members to coordinate information to SNH and ensure information is kept up to date. Information on Access to be made available on DMG web. site.</i>
3.14.3 Raise awareness of threats relating to Chronic Wasting Disease and sign up to CWD Biosecurity Policy (Part 2 of plan).	By end of 2016 and ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Members to raise awareness of CWD with Clients and Visitors from USA and Canada.</i>
3.14.4 Investigate opportunities for awareness raising/educational events for the local community.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Members to discuss opportunities at Spring meeting. Open events to be advertised on DMG website.</i>
3.14.5 Provide opportunities for any concerns from the local community to be addressed. Ensure Community Council representation at meetings.	Ongoing	DMG Chair and Secretary	<i>Meeting dates and Agendas will be publically available on DMG website and circulated to community councils in advance. DMG Chair and Secretary contact details will be available on website. DMG to consider holding an annual public meeting.</i>
3.14.6 Explore opportunities for greater liaison/collaboration with Scottish Mountaineering Club and other Organisations such as Mountaineering Council for Scotland.	By autumn 2016	DMG Chair and SMC Chair	<i>DMG and SMC to work together to improve information provision through social media.</i>
3.14.7 Investigate opportunities to carry out a visitor survey to assess visitor perceptions of deer and land management and identify areas for action.	By 2018	FES and DMG	<i>DMG to scope questions to be included in Visitor Surveys conducted by FES and local tourism initiatives.</i>

3.15 Economic Actions

Actions to maximise economic benefits associated with deer	When?	Who?	How?
3.15.1 Investigate opportunities for membership of SQWV Quality Assurance Scheme.	By 2021	DMG Members	<i>On-going discussion at DMG meetings.</i>
3.15.2 Investigate opportunities for more effective collection of carcasses and negotiation of prices. DMG to investigate possible collaborative opportunities for the processing of venison/game. Members to seek opportunities to market venison locally.	Annually	DMG Members with FCS	<i>Discussion at Spring meeting. Chair & Secretary to negotiate with Game Dealers on DMG behalf. DMG to discuss opportunities for development of venison processing facilities with FCS.</i>
3.15.3 DMG Members to continue to monitor sustainable harvest of stags for let stalking and to investigate opportunities for cross-property letting of stalking. Opportunities to collectively market stalking also explored.	Spring 2016 and Annually.	Chair & DMG Members	<i>Population model used to monitor sustainable harvest of stags. Members discuss stalking requirements at Spring meeting. Deer movement meetings following the deer count in 2016 used to monitor stag movements/distribution across the Group.</i>
3.15.4 DMG Members to explore the scope for opportunities for greater local community involvement in deer management on FCS land.	Prior to possible contract renewals.	FCS and Members	<i>FCS to discuss future deer management arrangements and possible potential opportunities with Group.</i>
3.15.5 DMG to carry out an economic survey of deer management in the area, including an assessment of investment, employment, infrastructure etc.	By end 2017	Secretary & DMG Members	<i>Questionnaire will be developed and completed by members to produce a DMG report of Local Economic Implications of Deer Management.</i>

Actions to minimise the economic costs of deer, and ensure deer management is cost-effective	When?	Who?	How?
3.15.6 DMG to consider the future costs of maintaining fences and financial provision for repairs.	By end of 2016	FCS & DMG Members	<i>Those responsible for fences report on current condition and likely repair timetable.</i>
3.15.7 Ensure local agricultural/ forestry interests are consulted on DMP and invited to/represented at DMG meetings.	Spring 2016	DMG Chairman and Secretary	<i>DMG Chair will correspond with relevant parties. Possible representation of Kintail Crofting interests on DMG.</i>
3.15.8 Set up monitoring and reporting of DVCs through website, DMG meetings and local Police contact.	Spring 2016 and ongoing	DMG Secretary	<i>Members of the public asked to report DVCs to DMG Secretary on www.deercollisions.co.uk website. Members record and report DVCs to meetings.</i>
3.15.9 Implement actions to mitigate against DVC hotspots including localised deer management, use of signage, fencing etc.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Where hot-spots occur, DMG to discuss appropriate actions at meetings.</i>
3.15.10 Report on out of season and night shooting authorisations.	Annually	DMG Members	<i>Members to inform DMG Chair/Secretary in advance of intention to apply for authorisations. Members to report numbers of deer culled under authorisation at meetings.</i>

3.16 Communication Actions

Actions to ensure effective communication on deer management issues	When?	Who?	How?
3.16.1 Stakeholders consulted on draft plan.	Spring 2016	DMG Secretary	<i>Draft DMP made available on public website. Relevant stakeholders identified and invited to consult. Interested parties invited to attend a consultation meeting on 5th February in Cannich.</i>
3.16.2 Final Plan and Minutes of Meetings will published on DMG Website.	Spring 2016	DMG Secretary	<i>DMG Website.</i>
3.16.3 DMG Constitution and ADMG Principles of Collaboration adopted (Part 2)	Spring 2016	DMG Members	<i>Adopted as part of DMP.</i>
3.16.4 Agree and adopt a DMG Communications Policy	Spring 2016	DMG Members	<i>Adopted as part of DMP.</i>

3.17 Deer Welfare Actions

Actions to ensure deer welfare is taken fully into account at individual animal and population level	When?	Who?	How?
3.17.1 Agree and adopt welfare policy (Part 2 of plan).	Spring 2016	DMG Members	<i>Implemented through every day Best Practice in deer management.</i>
3.17.2 Consider opportunities for CPD/Training in relation to deer welfare.	Autumn 2017	FES	<i>FES will run at least one event to share Best Practice Management for open habitats and woodland management in the absence of deer fences.</i>
3.17.3 Provide information on welfare indicators annually. Baseline information established in year 1 of DMP and welfare indicators reported on annually. Any resulting management actions agreed and implemented by members.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Deer managers to provide information on hind reproduction and average larder weights.</i>
3.17.4 Any new fencing in DMG area will consider welfare implications in design and extent and the appropriate management undertaken.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>New fencing proposals will be consulted with DMG.</i>
3.17.5 Monitoring and reporting of significant levels of winter mortality.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Deer managers will provide information (figures & location) on winter mortality.</i>
3.17.6 Carry out a review of fencing and wintering ground and identify opportunities to open up woodland to deer.	Year 2	DMG Members & Consultant	<i>Subject to ECAF bid, carry out as part of the delivery of the DMG Woodland Expansion Report and recommended actions.</i>

3.18 Monitoring and Review Schedule

Actions	Who?	Year 1 2016-17	Year 2 2017-18	Year 3 2018-19	Year 4 2019-20	Year 5 2020-21
Helicopter Deer Count	DMG Members	Winter Count		Winter Count		
Recruitment Count	DMG Members	Spring & Summer	Spring & Summer	Spring & Summer	Spring & Summer	Spring Summer
Habitat Training	DMG Members	Spring/ Summer				
Habitat Monitoring Blanket Bog	DMG Members	Summer			Summer	
Habitat Monitoring Dwarf Shrub Heath	DMG Members	Summer			Summer	
Habitat Monitoring Native Woodland Review	DMG Members			Summer		
Woodland Expansion Review			Summer			
Review Habitat Results	DMG Members	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
Set & Agree Culls	DMG Members	Spring & Autumn	Spring & Autumn	Spring & Autumn	Spring & Autumn	Spring & Autumn
Collate DMG Information & Review Working Plan Actions	DMG Secretary	Bi-annually	Bi-annually	Review DMP- Spring	Bi-annually	Review DMP- Spring
Produce Annual Report	DMG Secretary	Spring	Spring	Spring	Spring	Review DMP - Spring