

GLENELG PENINSULA DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP

Minutes of Meeting

10 October 2021

Held at Cluanie Inn at 14:30

In the Chair	Julian Richmond-Watson (JRW)
Secretary	Michael Laing (ML)
Present	Arnisdale Eilanreach Cluanie Druidaig Glen Quoich East Glen Quoich Glenshiel Kinloch Hourn Bunloinne Angus Davidson Ltd NatureScot Corrielaire

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: FLS.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of 10th May 2021 were unanimously accepted.

3. Matters Arising

All matters will be covered through the course of the meeting.

4. Deer Management Plan

a) Government update & helicopter house

NatureScot reported that we are still waiting for a brief from the Deer Working Group but it is likely that deer numbers will still be deemed to be high; there will be pressure for the sector to change to non-lead ammunition but the legislation timescales are unknown; due to cost cutting and net-zero ambitions NatureScot will focus helicopter counts on priority areas (where s.7's are in place). The technology for counting with drones is still some way off due to current limitations in Artificial Intelligence. The Group stated to NatureScot that we cannot afford to undertake our own helicopter count and foot counts are impossible due to the need for c20 experienced people which we do not have.

b) Working Group update

Glen Quoich reported that due to Covid restrictions the working group had not met recently but intends to meet in January and a date will be circulated.

c) Deer Management Plan update

AD Ltd reported that the current plan runs from 2016 to 2026. With climate change and biodiversity being more important than ever, a lot of groups are evolving Deer Management Plans into Integrated Land Management Plans. NatureScot do not have any ILMP templates but it was agreed that the Group should adapt the Glenelg Plan to meet current needs. AD Ltd to provide proposals and costs at the May Meeting **ACTION**

The East West Wild project being undertaken by Trees for Life which *“is based on combining the natural, social and economic qualities of the landscape and the people who live in it to benefit all three of these interdependent factors - nature, people and business”* may have an impact on the Group. The project has a core aim of rewilding. Glen Shiel is due to meet with Alan McDonnell and will update the Group thereafter.

d) Population Model

The population model has been working towards a 2022 spring population of 2,750 hinds. The Chairman requested that AD Ltd update the model for the next five years. **ACTION**

e) Habitat Monitoring

AD Ltd has received HIA data from most estates and will chase up any missing data. The monitoring has taken place every three years since 2012 and AD Ltd will experiment with ways to display the data on maps for the next meeting. **ACTION**

Bunloinne has never been assessed but NatureScot did provide points for assessment and AD Ltd will send these with Bunloinne. **ACTION**

Qlen Quoich noted that they have now been supplied with guidance on how to carry out HIA on grassland and is seeking permission to share with the group (**NatureScot please confirm**). Qlen Quoich noted that the procedure is very complicated and even an experienced stalker cannot be expected to understand the necessary techniques.

Bracken is becoming more widespread across the group.

f) Woodland Creation

Individually Estates continue to consider woodland schemes

- Glen Quoich has now fenced both sides of the Loch Quoich arm to create 85 hectares of native woodland;
- Glen Shiel cannot create any further forestry having enclosed all suitable ground;

- Cluanie is considering suitable ground for schemes;
- East Glen Quoich is struggling to find ground without deep peat to plant on but there may be opportunities along Loch Loyne. East Glen Quoich will send peat survey data to AD Ltd. **ACTION**
- Kinloch Hourn and Arnisdale have previously considered planting along Loch Hourn but the ground is too rocky.
- SSE will require compensatory planting to mitigate the scars created by the new pylon line.

5. Deer

a) Stag cull 2021

Estate	Stags (to date)	Likely Total	Comments
Arnisdale	21	35	Lack of mature stags, late rut
Bunloinne	4	8	Hill and woodland deer
Cluanie	7	10-15	
East Glen Quoich	23	30	Lots of disturbance
Eilanreach	14	30	Lack of mature stags, hinds without stags
Glen Quoich	18	30	Lack of mature stags
Glenshiel	16	30	
Kinloch Hourn	9	15	
Open range total	112	158-163	
Druidaig	0	8	
Eilanreach Woods	3	?	More to be shot in the woods
Beolary			
FLS			
Peninsula total	115	166-171	
Corriclair	4	12-14	

b) Proposed hind cull 2021/22

Estate	Hinds
Arnisdale	60
Bunloinne	5
Cluanie	30
East Glen Quoich	15
Eilanreach	70
Glen Quoich	50
Glenshiel	60
Kinloch Hourn	35
Open range total	325
Druidaig	15
Eilanreach Woods	
Beolary	

FLS	
Peninsula total	340
Corriclair	60

In line with previous years, a weekly hind cull update should be provided to the Secretary from the 1st December. **ACTION**

6. Local Community Engagement

Interested member of the community will be invited to the May meeting. Suggestions to the Secretary please. Currently on the list to be invited include Councillor Campbell and the Police Firearms Officer

7. Finances

The bank balance is currently at Subscription invoices will be sent as normal in December.

8. AOCB

General commentary from Stalkers was that Simpson Game have been very good with collections this year. Prices are currently £1.20 per kg or £1.40 per kg if SQWV assured.

9. Date of next meeting

Thursday 19th May 2022 at 11am at Cluanie Inn followed by lunch.