

CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

Title:	Tread Lightly- promoting responsible use of fire
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Purpose	This paper highlights the key messages currently targeted at wild and backcountry campers, and others who may be lighting a fire or using a barbecue.

Advice Sought

Members are invited to discuss the work which has already been done and advise on when, where and how key messages about responsible fire use should be targeted.

Background

1. Promoting and publicising the Scottish Outdoor Access Code has been an ongoing task over the last 8 years. However the CNPA decided to focus its attention on some key issues of responsible behaviour by recreational users in the countryside. Based on concerns expressed by land owners, conservation interests and the general public, the focus has been on the following issues:
 - a. *responsible dog ownership*
 - b. *responsible behaviour associated with backcountry access and camping*
 - c. *responsible mountain biking*
2. Under the auspices of “Tread Lightly” the CNPA and its partners has delivered the following:
 - a. *General responsible access theme*
 - A Tread Lightly concertina leaflet on responsible camping and journey-related outdoor behaviour and practices;
 - Daily information panels at key setting off points (i.e. Ranger Bases) with the tread lightly messages;
 - Sandwich boards for visitor attractions;
 - Adverts in publications such as the Ballater Walking Festival brochure;
 - Press releases in local media warning of the dangers of fire;

- b. *Dogs theme*
 - Banners for Dogs Events – Code messages on responsible access with dogs
 - A webpage dedicated to visitors with dogs on the www.visitcairngorms.com website
 - Support for Superdog Event, Pitlochry (late April) and Top Dogs Day Out, Glenmore (July)
 - Promotion of the Green Dog Walkers scheme amongst local residents and regular users at habitual dog walking areas
 - c. *Mountain biking theme*
 - A series of events or workshops designed to elicit further information about mountain biking in the CNP
 - Influencing at a national level about responsible use and promotion.
3. Promoting responsible dog ownership should and will continue to be the mainstay of the work being done to promote responsible behaviour especially in light of the challenges with Capercaillie conservation, the development of large scale housing sites and the aspiration to see the public enjoy the countryside.

Other SOAC related initiatives

4. As part of its ongoing commitment to support land managers with their visitor management the CNPA has also provided the blue and white land management signs on request. In the most part these have been targeted at dog owners.

National SOAC initiatives

5. Colleagues at Scottish Natural Heritage continue to promote responsible wild camping through two targeted campaigns. The first very much aimed at the outdoor fraternity with images and text reflecting traditional notions of wild camping. Here messages around fire strongly promote the use of stoves. The second is aimed very much at the party/roadside camper and with stronger messages around “don’t mess with nature”. Again the emphasis is on the use of stoves.
6. In 2014 SOAC campaigns nationally will continue to focus on responsible dog ownership with projects including new guidance for land managers and sharing good practice events.

Members invited to discuss the work already been done and advise on when, where and how key messages about responsible fire use should be targeted.

Adam Streeter-Smith
5th November 2013