

DEER FRAMEWORK for the CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK

MONITORING OVERVIEW

The table below provides a very brief overview of progress on the delivery section of the Cairngorms National Park Deer Framework

Updated October 2012.

ACTION	PROGRESS
Estates and Deer Management Groups	
Monitor health and condition of deer	Carried out fairly comprehensively, but variably across the NP
Conduct annual systematic comparable counts of deer numbers	Most estates carry out counts. Variable methods and standards.
Use best practice methods to annually monitor the effects of herbivore grazing, browsing and trampling	Many estates monitor habitat and deer impacts, but standards vary considerably and some do no monitoring. Training in habitat assessments planned for 2013.
Ensure each DMG has an agreed Deer Management Plan which guides and informs deer management	Most DMGs have a deer management plan. Variable standards reflect variable needs. Mapping of deer managers' aspirations has assisted two DMGs in the NP.
Openly and amicably resolve deer related issues arising from competing land management objectives	Deer Management Groups, aspiration mapping, CDAG and e.g. Mar Lodge Review all helping in this regard.
Scottish Natural Heritage	
Continue to provide guidance and advice, when requested, to those involved in managing deer in the Park, including land owners, farmers, foresters and Deer Management Groups.	Ongoing and carried out on demand. Deer fencing and RTA topic covered in Nov 2012
Work with others with an interest in deer management to implement the Code of Practice for Deer Management, associated with the forthcoming Wildlife and Natural Environment Act. The Code and the Act will cover matters such as deer welfare, sustainable deer management and public safety.	Progressed through CDAG and Deer Management Round Table.
Help raise awareness of Best Practice methods for monitoring habitats and deer populations	Best practice event held in the National Park during 2011 further events planned.

Work with deer managers to implement practical, affordable and effective monitoring of habitats and deer populations.	Training to be delivered by SNH through the CNPA Land Management Training Project in 2013
When appropriate, SNH resources may be used to carry out deer population assessments, herbivore impact assessments and Site Condition Monitoring; all of which is expected to provide information that will assist in the deer management decision making process.	Ongoing and carried out as required and finances permit in particular on Section 7 Priority sites.
Raise awareness of the scope to use public funding, for example under the Scotland Rural Development Programme, to allow deer managers to better deliver public and private benefits.	New CNPA Land management advisor to assist in co-ordination.
Through routine SNH case work, and through the Joint Working process, work in partnership with deer managers to ensure that designated habitats in the Park are either maintained in 'favourable' condition or achieve 'recovering' condition.	Ongoing and in particular on Section 7 Priority sites.
In the context of national policy, provide guidance aimed at assisting deer managers to formulate practical strategies for dealing with non-native deer present in the Park.	SNH assisting with costs of Sika hybridisation research
Continue working with those involved in deer-related research to identify and implement a programme of research that is of direct relevance to deer management matters.	Ongoing and carried out on demand.
Cairngorms National Park Authority	
Support the Cairngorms Deer Advisory Group	CDAG meets two to four times a year and covers topics of immediate importance/relevance whilst overseeing the delivery of the deer framework.
Stimulate improved understanding of deer management objectives across the National Park through mapping	Mapping of deer managers aspirations has led to other areas of mapping work, all of which is improving mutual understanding. East Grampian and Cairngorms Speyside DMGs have made good use of this.
Promote awareness and understanding of the role deer management plays in the local economy and the management of important habitats.	High profile coverage in Autumn-watch 2011, public awareness training through the land management training project, articles in Park life etc.
Promote venison and other deer related products	Undertaken through the Scottish Venison

	Partnership. Scholl/community awareness raising events in the National Park encouraged
Ensure there is an active website presence explaining the importance of deer and their management in the National Park	CNPA website has sections on deer and their management with particular reference to the NP.
Work with rangers to encourage links with local schools to promote understanding of deer management and stalking	Rangers in the CNP are encouraged to undertake work with schools specifically on deer through use of tried and tested methods.
Promote new opportunities for more people to understand and experience deer management and stalking	DSC courses offered through CNPA training scheme, also encouraged through the Country Sports Tourism group.
Encourage co-operation in marketing of sport and venison	Some marketing through ADMG, Scottish Venison Partnership, Royal Deeside Venison Festival.
Conduct research into the value of deer and associated economic importance in the National Park	Some work done, but more detailed work to follow.
Publish and promote the Deer Framework to appropriate audiences	Published, widely distributed, promoted.
Cairngorms Deer Advisory Group	
Promote better communication and mutual understanding between all organisations with an interest in deer and their management in the National Park	CDAG bring together a range of interest groups and helps to break down barriers between them through open discussion.
Advise the CNPA on deer and their management in the National Park	CDAG is highly valued by the CNPA Board. The Board is represented on CDAG to ensure feedback between both.
Advise CNPA, SNH and other public agencies on local application of National initiatives relating to deer, such as the Code for Deer Management	A CDAG consensus is not sought, but they are consulted for advice on matters of national significance.
Maintain an overview of health, welfare and population density of all deer species in the National Park	To date CDAG has not attempted to do this comprehensively, but it is developing its purpose to provide more of an overview in this regard.
Support deer managers and deer management groups across the National Park	DMGs are represented on CDAG and part of CDAG's purpose is to provide a wider view that may assist individual DMGs.

Improve understanding of Deer Management Plans across the National Park by consulting with DMGs to produce a map of deer managers' aspirations.	Deer manager's aspirations mapping has been developed in two DMG areas. Aim is to cover all of the National Park if possible and encourage DMG's to update.
Review the effectiveness of deer management planning in the National Park	A comprehensive review has not been carried out by CDAG, but SNH have been progressing extensive work on the subject.
Co-ordinate and stimulate new research into deer and their management in the National Park	Further research into Sika deer hybridisation is being carried out. More research is intended to develop a better picture of the economics of all field sports in the CNP.
Monitor the value and effectiveness of the Deer Framework	This table assists a comprehensive evaluation by CDAG members of all of the delivery section of the deer framework.