

Chapter 8 SUSTAINING THE DEER RESOURCE

8.1 Introduction

Scotland's Wild Deer a National Approach set out “guiding principles for ways of working”, this section builds on those principles and provides a Cairngorms National Park context for *sustaining the deer resource* into the long-term.

The principles acknowledge the contributions that landowners have achieved to date. Deer stalking is a highly skilled job, often undertaken in challenging or even dangerous conditions. Without the stalkers in the National Park, many of which are privately funded, the deer and the habitats on which they depend would be in a significantly poorer state than they are now.

Ultimately the aim of the principles below is to **protect local employment, protect rural communities and protect the environment**. Like any business, estates must be run with an eye on profit and loss in both the short and the long-term. The principles are based on a collective spirit of **respect** for estate businesses, **respect** for landowners' role as stewards of the countryside and **respect** for the public interest.

8.2 Principles for managing wild deer and their range:

Management based on evidence

Deer culls are based on knowledge of habitat condition and grazing pressure provided by stalkers fully trained in up to date monitoring techniques.

Public benefits and public funding

The provision of public benefits, which may not be in the immediate interests of landowners, requires public funding assistance.

Integration and collaboration

Neighbouring landowners will not operate in isolation, but will seek to resolve competing objectives and involve other interest groups in decision making across the National Park area.

Geographic areas and timescales

Densities of deer across the National Park vary both geographically and through time to allow a range of objectives to be met.

Communication

Wider understanding of the importance of deer and the range they occupy to the local environment and economy will be promoted.

Marketing

All opportunities to optimise the positive benefits of wild deer for food, crafts, tourism, sport etc will be explored.