
CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR INFORMATION

Title: LAND MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROJECT UPDATE

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Purpose:

To provide a summary of the achievements of the Land Management Training Project

Recommendations

That the Board acknowledges the successes of the project and the potential of the forward programme until December 2013 following publication of the research into the project.

Executive Summary

The Land Management Training Project brings together expertise to deliver bespoke training events for land based businesses within, or partly within, the Cairngorms National Park. It has successfully delivered a variety of courses since April 2011. The project also helps to identify training providers and direct people to relevant funding opportunities.

The CNPA is committed to supporting skills development and training to land based businesses in the National Park and is currently looking at how to do that more effectively in the long-term. This paper outlines the successes of the project from April 2012 to November 2012 (see Annex 1) and indicates the proposed Public Benefit courses until December 2013. The list of proposed courses at Annex 2 should be revised in line with the outcomes of the report.

THE LAND BASED BUSINESS TRAINING PROJECT FOR INFORMATION

Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan

1. The National Park Partnership Plan has identified a “sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities” as one of its main strategic objectives and skills development and training as a key activity in delivering this objective. The stated long term outcome highlighted in the Park Partnership Plan is:
 - a) “There will be more jobs and a wider range of employment opportunities for people in the National Park. People will be able to develop their skills from school onwards to meet their own and business needs.”
2. The Park Partnership Plan clearly outlines its ambition to support this area of work through a specific package of work:
 - a) “Many different organisations provide training, support and advice for business in and around the Park. This work package is about helping make sure that training, support and advice is tailored to the needs of businesses in the Park wherever possible, and particularly to provide focus on youth training and development through rural and wider business skills apprenticeships leading to employment within the Park.”
3. A key feature of the Project was the promotion of the wildcat as a nationally important species, and using the awareness-raising brand ‘Highland Tiger’, communicate to a wide audience the species’ rarity and the actions they could take to help conserve it. The project established a website (www.highlandtiger.com/) as well as other internet resources and promotional materials and stimulated much coverage in the print and broadcast media. Many educational talks were delivered at a local level and included targeted presentations to key audiences such as farmers and gamekeepers.

Background

4. The Land Management Training Project brings together expertise to deliver bespoke National Park. It has successfully delivered a variety of courses since April 2012. The project also helps to identify training providers and direct people to relevant funding opportunities.
5. The CNPA is committed to supporting skills development and training to land based businesses in the National Park and is currently looking at how to do that more effectively in the long-term.

6. There has been a different approach following completion of ESF project at end of June 2012 and the programme continued with Public Benefit Courses funded through CNPA (51.28%) and Leader (48.72%).

Project Costs ESF/LEADER/CNPA

7. ESF funding until July 2012 was £16,235.73 including salary costs.
8. The CNPA contribution until July 2012 to match funding ESF was £3,278.03.
9. LEADER funding until November 2012 was £17,824.57 including salary costs.
10. The CNPA contribution until November 2012 to match funding LEADER was £7,157.50.
11. The invoices for the final courses from September to November have still to be finalised and have been estimated on tendered costs.

Courses That Have Taken Place

12. The 15 courses that have taken place from April 2012 through to November 2012 are listed at Annex I. These have been well attended except for the Wildfire Prevention at Laggan with the majority of courses at capacity.

Autumn Training 2012	51.28%	48.72%	100%
	CNPA	LEADER	Total
Grassland	£564.08	£535.92	£1,100.00
Animal Nutrition	£564.08	£535.92	£1,100.00
Refreshments	£41.02	£38.98	£80.00
Wildfire			
Laggan & Glentinar	£3,584.47	£3,405.53	£6,990.00
Refreshments	£299.99	£285.01	£585.00
Total estimated spend	£5,053.64	£4,801.36	£9,855.00

These funds will be claimed as soon as possible.

Feed Back on Courses from April to November 2012

13. There has been an excellent attendance at the courses and the written feedback has been very positive on both the high quality of the courses/course providers and value to the attendees. This has been backed up in the feedback from the Land Managers in the research that has just been carried out on the project and the demand for more training courses in both basic skills (eg chainsaw, mole catching)

and conservation/compliance skills (eg Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011). The Public Benefit Courses could be improved with joined up partnership working with other agencies who could deliver training with minimal input from the CNPA for example the Hydro Renewables day at Blair Atholl organised by Scottish Land and Estates where we signposted their event.

Potential Courses that May Happen until December 2013

14. LEADER funding is scheduled to complete in December 2013. A meeting was held on Wednesday 10 October 2012 to agree the possible forward programme of Public Benefit events until December 2013 with Drew McFarlane Slack, Highlands and Islands Regional Manager of Scottish Land and Estates and Eleanor Mackintosh, Cairngorms National Park Authority Board member and farmer. Suggestions were then discussed and prioritised with Fiona Munro, Claire Ross and Will Boyd Wallis and are as follows below at Annex 2.

Next Steps

15. Following the last Board Paper Skills Development and Training in the Park on the 11th May 2012. The Board agreed the proposal at Paragraph 18 that a piece of work should be conducted to identify what was already available in respect of skills development and training in the Park so that the Board could have a further discussion on the role of the CNPA in contributing to what was clearly a very important need in the National Park.
16. This audit has recently been completed and the report summarises a mapping exercise, conducted between August and November 2012, to be used as a basis for decision-making on the CNPA's future role in training delivery in the Cairngorms National Park. It brings together evidence from desk-based research (into policy, current provision, past performance of the LMTP, and local stakeholders) with evidence from a wide range of expert and personal informants, and client questionnaires.
17. An informal discussion with the Board on Skills development and training will take place March 2013 followed by a paper in June.
18. The list of proposed courses should be revised in line with the outcomes of the report.

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December 2012

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Annex I

Courses from April 2012 until November 2012			Number of Attendees
Date	Course	Venue	
12-15 April 2012	Deer Stalker Certificate Level I	Laggan Gaskmore Hotel/Creag Meagaidh	27
16 April 2012	Safe use of Pesticides	Garth Hotel, Grantown on Spey	12
17 April 2012	Field Crop Sprayer – Hydraulic Nozzle,	Balnafettach Farm Cromdale	6
19 April 2012	Mole and rabbit Control	Balnafettach Farm, Cromdale	6
20 April 2012	Mole and rabbit control	Ben Alder Estate, Strathmashie	6
7 th June 2012	WANE Act and Wildlife Crime	Laggan Gaskmore Hotel	27
14 th June 2012	WANE Act and Wildlife Crime	Balmoral Estate	28
3 July 2012	Sheep Record Right	Grant Arms Hotel	31
11 Sept 012	Protecting Biodiversity during Forestry Operations	Boat of Garten Hall	26
19 th September 2012	Peatland Seminar	Abernethy Forest Lodge	30
25 September 2012	Grassland Seminar	Tullochgorum Farm, Boat of Garten	17
17 October	Hydro Renewables	Atholl Estate run by SLE	
24 October 2012	Animal Nutrition	Messrs Robertson, Fodderletter, Tomintoul, Ballindalloch, AB37 9HL	13
13 th November 2012	Wildfire Prevention	Laggan Gaskmore Hotel	12
22 nd November 2012	Wildfire Prevention	Glen Tanar Estate	29

Annex 2 - Potential courses for 2013

		51.28%	48.72%	
Timing	Course	CNPA	LEADER	Total
Feb	Funding Fair	£769.20	£730.80	£1,500.00
March	IACS refresher	£76.92	£73.08	£150.00
Spring	Water Management and Diffuse Pollution	£1,538.40	£1,461.60	£3,000.00
	Repeat of DSC 1	£1,538.40	£1,461.60	£3,000.00
	Diversification on farms - biomass	£1,538.40	£1,461.60	£3,000.00
	Modern predator control includes snaring	£1,538.40	£1,461.60	£3,000.00
	Habitat assessments	£769.20	£730.80	£1,500.00
	Vocational training eg gamekeeping, forestry	£1,025.60	£974.40	£2,000.00
	Cultural heritage training	£1,025.60	£974.40	£2,000.00
	Mole catching	£1,025.60	£974.40	£2,000.00
Summer	Hill tracks, footpath maintenance	£769.20	£730.80	£1,500.00
	Rare montane conservation	£769.20	£730.80	£1,500.00
Autumn	Wildlife Estate Seminar (park Plan)	£1,025.60	£974.40	£2,000.00
	Health & Safety	£1,025.60	£974.40	£2,000.00
	Muirburn	£1,025.60	£974.40	£2,000.00
	Cultural heritage training	£1,025.60	£974.40	£2,000.00
	Hedge Management SRDP	£1,025.60	£974.40	£2,000.00
		£17,512.12	£16,637.88	£34,150.00
Totals		£17,512.12	£16,637.88	£34,150.00