

TRAINING FOR LAND MANAGERS

Skills for now; preparation for the future

Ultimately, training for land managers is designed to strengthen the local rural economy while also conserving our ecologically vital landscape. And since the project started ten years ago, the focus has changed: it now provides proactive and strategic courses that improve skills and knowledge today while helping people prepare for the future. This way, land owners in the Cairngorms National Park can be ahead of the game, meeting the many demands of the rural economy, climate change and government policies. These three recent courses illustrate the point:

- 'Wildfire' helped managers know how to prevent, contain and extinguish wildfires that could otherwise destroy fragile areas.
- 'Peatland Management' helped managers protect this precious habitat and contextualise it as a carbon storage asset.



- 'Deer Stalking Certificate' – Level One helped estates and freelance stalkers to follow best practice and prepare for possible legislative changes.

Training is only one of several different ways that we work with those who manage the land in the Park, although many managers tell us they feel it's the most important way we help. Other support includes help with communications and networks such as forums and management advisory groups; research and monitoring; guiding appropriate policy development; advice and where possible direct funding and practical assistance.

Over 4,800 land managers have taken part in our courses and seminars over 10 years

Did you know?

- More than 200 land-based businesses have been strengthened through training
- 50% of the National Park is designated as being of international importance for nature conservation
- Dedicated CNPA advisors have supported over 60 farms and estates since 2008
- A Monitor Farm has been set up; information is shared between farmers via a new Farmers Forum and Land Management Forum, improving business viability
- Deer management issues are tackled by the wide range of partners in the Cairngorms Deer Advisory Group
- 77% of sites for endangered species are now in favourable or recovering condition, thanks to good land management
- Strategic projects are tackling climate change, eg catchment management groups and piloting low carbon land management initiatives

Focus on: Deer Stalking Certificate – Level One

The sensitive and complex issues surrounding the sport of deer stalking and the need to cull deer for managing sensitive habitats means that this is already closely



regulated. Recent legislative change has highlighted the need for Scotland to demonstrate high standards in deer management to maintain high safety and animal welfare standards. Currently a deer management qualification is voluntary but it's possible in the future this will become mandatory. For both newcomers and experienced stalkers this course provided a good basis for ensuring best practice. Running this course, and subsidising those who live within the National Park by 50%, means that Cairngorms National Park Authority and other partners are enabling people to reach higher standards that will help them through their careers.

