

BREADALBANE DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES

Spring Meeting incorporating Section 7 meeting

Friday 12th April 2013
at 2.00pm
at The Molteno Hall

1 **Welcome**

Present were:

Richard Barclay (Chair), Emma Paterson (*Auchlyne, Vice Chair*), Linzi Seivwright(*SNH*), Ian Dingwall & George Coyne(*Auchlyne*), Elaine Whewell & David Pirie (*Innerwick*), Robert Dalglish (prospective buyer of Innerwick) Morven Frost (*Boreland*), Alan Cory-Wright (*Auchessan*), George Eveleigh (*Coire Carie*), Steven Macdonald, Adam Jamieson & John Sinclair (*Meggernie/ Lochs*), Ewen Kennedy (*Innischoarach*), Ian La Sales de Terriere (*Crossmount*), James Duncan Millar (*ADMG*), Jeremy Robinson & Calum Gillies (*Dalchosnie/ Kynachan*), General & Will Ramsay and Hamish Rae (*South Chesthill & Inverinian*), Jimmy Lambie (*Glen Lyon Estate*), Roddy Billimore (*Roros*), John McNulty (*FE*), Victor Clements (*Secretary*)

2 **Apologies**

Lester Standen (*JMT*), Iain Wotherspoon (*Glenlyon Estate*), David Brown (*Innischoarach*), Mark Duncan (*FE*), Alastair Riddell (*North Chesthill*), Andrew Warwick (*NTS*), Lord Pearson (*Coire Carie*)

3 **Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes were taken as read. Proposed by Alan Cory Wright, seconded by Elaine Whewell.

4 **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

5 **Election of Office Bearers**

The current office bearers were returned.

6 **Accounts & Budget for 2013-14**

The accounts were passed, and it was agreed to keep the subscription level at £9 for another year, which would induce a small loss of £66 or so. We currently held a surplus of over £5800 in the bank.

Invoices for subscriptions would be sent out shortly.

7 **Reviewing the 2012- 13 Season**

The season gone by had been tough, with a number of properties having difficulty achieving their hind culls, but overall targets were reached. The overall cull was the highest ever reached by the Group.

8 Section 7 Agreement

2013-14 Cull arrangements

There were two years left of the Section 7 agreement, and there was a big job still required to bring down hind numbers in the northern part of the Group. SNH recognised the hard work and effort that had gone into achieving the agreed cull targets for 2012/13.

Across the Group as a whole, SNH were happy that the three designated sites to the west were progressing well, and that deer populations and culls were in line with what was required. The main issues on Ben Lawers were primarily related to management of sheep, and there were no implications there for the deer management group.

For 2013-14, stag cull numbers in the Mid and South Groups will remain the same. The increase in the northern group reflects estate requirements.

For hinds, for the Mid and South Groups, the current cull is fine, with even a reduced cull still giving the overall target required.

There had been some concern of over shooting in the north group, but the November 2012 helicopter suggested that there was in fact more deer in that part of the group than at the start of the Section 7 agreement. Achieving the necessary cull in 2013-14 would therefore require a more involved approach than in previous years.

There would be another Habitat Impact Assessment and count in 2014, with the S7 being reviewed in 2015.

9 Recruitment Counting 2013

All estates were requested to carry out a recruitment count in the last week of April/ first week of May, and return results to secretary by 10th May. Such an account was essential for fine-tuning the population model, and a small change in recruitment rate could have a significant change in numbers of deer on the ground at the end of the S7 agreement.

10 Health & Safety matters

There were no matters from the floor.

There had been a house fire at Innerhadden in which the keeper's cottage had been completely destroyed. No-one had been hurt. The fire had been caused by a battery charger, which apparently now were giving rise to about 80% of house fires. Battery chargers should therefore only be kept on for as short a time as possible, and at a time when they could be supervised.

11 Wider Deer Management Issues

SNH Update

SNH are inviting feedback on the Heading to the Scottish Hills website.

The system of general authorizations for shooting deer out of season was settling in.

2013 was the Year of Natural Scotland, and red deer were one of the Big Five.

ADMG Comment

There had been a well attended seminar for DMG secretaries and Chairs in Birnam on 15th March, focused on leadership, co-operation and communication.

Paul Wheelhouse was now the Environment Minister.

The Land Reform Review Group would be reporting shortly.

There would now be a competition for working stalking ponies at Scone Game Fair, to be presented with the Fred Taylor memorial Trophy.

Heading for the Scottish Hills would not be rolled out any further, due to lack of funding.

Venison production was up 25%, with a spike during the Olympics. 100 farms with 100 hinds each would be required to produce the required 1000 extra tonnes/ year by 2020.

Estate owners should pressure their dealers to make sure they are paying the 1p/ kg levy.

The Rannoch joint marketing initiative seemed to be working very well.

DMQ1 was now the accepted level of competence, with many professional deer managers having DMQ2 as well. Farmers and crofters were not so well qualified.

The Country Sports Tourism Group website was receiving 7000 hits per month.

12 Next meeting (s)

The next meeting would be on **Friday 25th October**, 2pm at the Molteno Hall.

13 AOCB

Estates were reminded to forward all information re: mortality along with their recruitment count data.

The deer in South Perthshire seemed to be in good condition in February.

VC would write to the Loch Tayside owners to see if we could encourage them to join the Group.