

GLENELG PENINSULA DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP

Minutes of Meeting 15 October 2017 Held at Kintail Lodge Hotel at 3pm

In the Chair	Julian Richmond-Watson
Secretary	Michael Laing
Present	Glenshiel
	Eilanreach
	Arnisdale
	Kinloch Hourn
	Glenquoich
	Druidaig
	Corriclair
	Cluanie
	SNH
	Angus Davidson Ltd

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from East Glenquoich, FES and PC Rhona Macdonald.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

3. Matters Arising

The flashing deer signs at Cluanie Inn and Torrlaoighseach have been reported to Bear Scotland. The secretary will monitor and update as necessary. **ACTION**

4. Deer

a) 2017 Stag Cull & Proposed Hind Cull

	Stags Shot to date	Intended Stag total by end of season	Proposed Hinds
Arnisdale	31	40	55
Bunloyne	-	-	-
Cluanie	5	7	20
Druidaig	0	4	8
East Glenquoich	3	6	20
Eilanreach	27	35	50
Glenquoich	32	32	55
Glenshiel	11	22	30
Kinlochhourn	11	11	18
Group Total	120	157	256
Corriclair	13	20	40
FCS Ratagan & Bernera	-	-	-
Kintail	-	-	-

In general it was commented that the stags were in good condition for the rut.

b) Deer Health Survey

Deer health testing packs to test the prevalence of STEC E. coli O157, Cryptosporidium and Chronic Wasting Disease have been distributed to all stalkers in the Glenelg group. Packs are sent directly back to Moredun who are running the programme with Edinburgh University. Results will be returned to respondents. The Secretary will arrange for two extra packs to be sent to Glenquoich. **ACTION**

c) Simpson Larder Visit

Arnisdale is to speak to Simpson's to find a suitable date to visit the processing plant. The secretary will liaise and circulate the date for those who wish to attend. **ACTION**

5. Deer Management Plan

Angus Davidson Ltd provided the group with an update on the political climate in respect of deer management and commented on our Deer Management Plan progress.

Habitat management is progressing with most estates now having provided habitat impact assessment records and these will be incorporated into plan. East Glenquoich had an official SNH habitat assessment carried out and this will be passed to AD Ltd for inclusion in the plan. **ACTION**

The population model needs to be considered. The model currently shows that the population is increasing. 220 hinds were shot in 2016/17 and the proposal is to shoot 256 in the 2017/18 season. Information from SNH suggests that by reducing hind numbers you can increase stag numbers. Records show the group is well below historic numbers and Angus will incorporate records from the 90's into the plan to demonstrate this. It was agreed that the plan should have a best and worst case population model. **ACTION**

Woodland expansion plans need to be incorporated into the plan. Angus requires information from individual estates to determine developments that are likely to take place. Angus will circulate a short questionnaire together with a map of each estate to collate this information. **ACTION**

The Scottish Government are keen for estates to utilise funding for improving peatland. By establishing if there is scope to carry out work within the group area the group will score points for the Deer Management Plan. It was agreed that Angus Davidson would submit an application to assess the peatland within the group area. If the application is successful and the subsequent assessment finds ground requiring peatland restoration discussions will be held at the group meeting. **ACTION**

The economic benefit deer forests within the group provide need to be quantified. Angus Davidson had provided a questionnaire which The Chairman will review and this will then be circulated for estates to complete. **ACTION**

6. Local Community Engagement

The group agreed that as much as possible was being done to engage with the community. PC Rhona Macdonald was due to attend but had to pull out at the last minute. Cllr Campbell will be invited to all future May meetings. Glenquoich can represent the Glengarry Community Council. Kate Forbes MSP has recently been shown around Glenquoich and will be invited to the next meeting.

7. Finances

The Secretary reported that the bank balance at the 12th of October 2017 was at an adequate level. Group subscriptions, which will remain the same as 2016 and are due to be sent out in December.

8. A. O. C. B.

Most estates should now have received their rateable value. Owners will have 6 months to appeal the valuation. Owners ought to seek the calculations for the valuation from the assessors to determine the basis for an appeal.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at Eilanreach on the 6th June at 11am.