

ADMG Response to the Consultation on the Forestry and Land Scotland draft Corporate Plan

15 November 2021

I write to you on behalf of the Association of Deer Management Groups in response to your consultation on the Forestry and Land Scotland Draft Corporate Plan 2022-2025. ADMG represents deer managers with a variety of land management objectives. FLS are a valued member of ADMG and we thank you for the opportunity to comment.

We are pleased that the Corporate Plan is committed to negating the impacts of the Climate emergency and this has important parallels with the work of our membership. The protection of habitat, expansion of woodland and continued peatland restoration will all require landscape scale collaborative deer management.

ADMG also welcomes the commitments to an inclusive and sustainable rural economy, resilient communities and quality rural jobs. Deer management plays an important part in the rural economy and we feel that it is important this is reflected in the Corporate Plan. We agree that expanding woodland coverage is an important part of the fight against climate change and we feel that it is important to stress that this will bring with it increased challenges for deer management.

We note the reference to continued careful deer management and to working in partnership with others on deer management. We also welcome the reference to working collaboratively with adjoining landowners. ADMG would however encourage an action point that directly refers to a commitment to landscape scale deer management and an ongoing need to work with local Deer Management Groups.

ADMG would also urge FLS to consider the importance of providing local opportunities for community deer stalking as part of the commitment to engaging more people and communities in the creation of woodland. A greater opportunity for communities to engage with and learn about deer management should be encouraged and is currently missing from the draft corporate plan.

We note the reference to venison and the hope that the marketing of venison might offset the high costs of deer management a challenge for all deer managers following Covid. We would encourage FLS to continue to work with The Scottish Venison Association in respect of venison marketing. An enhanced venison price would be beneficial to all deer managers in Scotland and should be attainable given the sustainable qualities of venison.

ADMG thanks FLS for the chance to comment on the draft corporate plan and would encourage further direct reference to collaborative deer management and the important role Deer Management Groups will play in the future of deer management in the highlands.

Yours sincerely

Tom Turnbull
Chairman
Association of Deer Management Groups.