

**Black Mount Deer Management Group
Deer Management Plan Review Meeting**

Thursday 1st March 2018
10:30am at Black Mount Lodge

Richard Schuster (RS)	Chairman, Glenstrae	John Jackson	FCS
Susanna Thomson (ST)	Secretary	Davy Thomas	Black Corries
Finlay Clark (FC)	Black Mount/ADMG	Calum Proctor	Black Mount
Philip Fleming	Black Mount		
Ali Macdonald	Black Mount	Mark Brown	Glenstrae & Crunachy
Colin Fraser	Dalness	Andrew Servant	Glenoe
Johnny MacDonald	NTS	Graeme Taylor	SNH
Scott McCombie	NTS	Alasdair Ross	Glenkinglass
David Harvey	Black Mount		
Steven Sloss	FCS		

1. Apologies

Sarah Troughton	Ardchattan	Peter Huddleston	Castles
Dottie Fleming	Inverliever	Torquil McAlpine	Dalness
David Colthart	Appin area		

2. Approval of minutes of meeting held on 11 August 2017.

Approved

3. Matters arising from previous minutes

Expansion into Appin was discussed. Confirmed that contact had been made with David Colthart, further suggestions made that contact should be made with David Stewart from this area. SNH referred to the mobile deer herd getting into forestry blocks. SNH & FCS agreed to pick up on this as an action point leasing with those in the Appin area.

Group was reminded that Sporting Rates appeal deadline for the notices issued in September 2017 is March.

4. Review of 2017/18 cull

	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Comments
Ardchattan	25	25	8	Roe: 2 bucks, 1 doe, 1 calf
Black Corries	46	83	38	Average rut.
Blackmount (part)	80	113	35	Average stag weight 14st 1lb
Castles	2	0	0	
Crunachy	0	0	0	
Dalness	11	73	27	Mortality noted stag 44 (old), 13 hinds (old) + 33 calves
Glen Etive	24	45	20	Average stag weight 14st 8lb, heaviest 17st 5lb.
Glen Noe	6	2	2	Good stag season. Average stag weight 14st 7lb, av age 9.5 yrs
Glencreran	18	41	30	

Glenkinglass	22	36	12	Noted a decrease in stags
Glenstrae	13	12	12	Few mature stags; increase in younger stags.
Inverliever	4	14	8	
NTS	19	75	31	Morehinds that past near NTS visitor centre
Auch Estate & Invergounan	39	28	11	Roe: 2 bucks; 2 doe; 3 kids. 1 Sika
FC all blocks	312	292	177	All blocks

FC shot more than usual, particularly in Appin area. Snow caused pressure to increase cull due to crop damage.

GT (SNH) acknowledged there will be a lot of death and therefore recommended a late count before revising the population model. Recognised that more deer were shot than in the plan but advised not to overcompensate for mortality.

5. 2018 Count

Agreed that the count would be done late March, each section of group to coordinate a count for their area. FCC emphasised the importance of carrying out the count given the strong calving followed by high mortality.

It was also highlighted that there are a lot of deer on Glenleacnamuidhe and they should be encouraged to join the group.

6. SNH Update

Confirmation that Cathy Mayne has now left SNH. SNH are working with ADMG towards the Spring 2019 audit of DMGs, this will be using same criteria as the 2014 audit. There will be 27 priority criteria. It was recognised that some groups have made a lot of progress, others have to pick up. Black Mount DMG considered to be for 'advice and guidance' rather than 'regulatory intervention'.

7. ADMG Update

FCC highlighted it had been a busy year for the deer sector with the review of Deer Management Code results to come. The Deer Working Group review is looking at the regulatory framework under which deer are governed, it is likely results of this will come in 2019. Reminder that it is critical that agreed action points are focused upon and that DMGs understand what is expected of them. ADMG are offering an interim assessment to groups to assess if they are on track, it was agreed the group would sign up to this.

8. Public Interest - Designated Sites

Ardrilleachan is close to having FGS approved so may be in a position to have status improved. Rannoch moor is considered unfavourable recovering. Glencoe SSSI will have NTS ecologist assessing some features this year.

9. Habitat Impact Assessments

GT advised there is funding to assist with HIA and take on a contractor to collaborate information and train estates who have not completed. Group agreed to find a contractor to appoint and group will apply to SNH for funding by 31st March.

10. Any Other Business

Dalness advised that they are carrying out 175ha planting with Glenoe also planting.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Early August 2018.

A vote of thanks was given to Black Mount Estate for hosting.