

Dunkeld Deer Management Forum Minute

7th Nov 2018, 10.00 am Birnam Institute.

Attendees: see Appendix 1

1 Introductions and Overview,

Stuart Paton (Chair) welcomed all attendees, a commemoration to Simon Pepper OBE was given by Stuart, Raymond Simpson also added a few words, recognising Simon's contribution to both the forum and his further works with various deer mgt groups and government.

2 Returns forms, risk assessment and cull figures.

A feedback session detailed our cull figures for 2016/2017 and to date 2017/2018 numbers. There is an increasing cull taking place year on year rising from 887 to a planned 1035. All cull returns have not been returned (around 60% return), but indications are that this figure will be exceeded.

Discussion took place around deer density, and the effectiveness of culling effort. Cull numbers are at 10 animals culled per sq km. Discussion around what the population density is took place with differing views of how to achieve this, thermal vision counting, dung counting, herbivore impact assessments or by theoretical modelling of the cull.

Discussion around road traffic accidents took place with Police Scotland providing figures for the previous five years, based on carcasse uplifts on the A9 and also trunk roads over Scotland. This data is a good indicator and group discussion took place around how we get accurate data.

Year	Number carcasse uplifted A 9 Trunk	Number carcasse uplifted Scotland Trunk Rds
2013	8	276
2014	12	243
2015	13	267
2016	8	194
2017	18	204
2018 (6 month data)	15	91

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Deer Management planning was discussed and for the forum there was differing views regarding planning and who does it. The forum numbers that we have for cull are a basic indicator, but some direction needs to be found for overall and collaborative planning.

ACTION: Determine a way forward in how to assess the deer population with cost against benefit for each method. Core Group

ACTION: Determine a way of measuring road traffic collisions, Perth and Kinross for side roads and possibly the Insurance Association for the general postcode around Dunkeld. Core Group

ACTION: Raise issue with Perth and Kinross regards signage on hot spot areas for RTC's. Chairman

ACTION: Determine a deer mgt planning strategy for the forum.
Core Group

3 I Hope, Wildlife Manager, SNH.

SNH perspective on Dunkeld Deer Management Forum.

Iain gave an informative presentation on SNH and their responsibilities. Key points being collaboration within a group to manage deer numbers is the best outcome, but legislation does sit behind this to ensure deer mgt planning and culling is carried out effectively.

Iain indicated a few areas that the forum needs to address and these will be taken as actions to the steering group.

Iain covered the checking of deer management effectiveness and that in 2019 there will be a full review and audit of Deer Mgt Groups and inclusion of any Deer forums in some way. This will be reported to government to determine effectiveness of controls on deer management in Scotland.

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Iain mentioned the lowland deer panel which Simon Pepper had led, which may align to some extent with the Dunkeld forum as we have a mainly forested environment, this was to report back 2019.

Iain identified three key areas for the forum,

Deer road traffic collisions, increasing.

Fallow population, a significant cull is reqd to control population.

Who is going to do what ?

ACTION: Determine where the Dunkeld forum scores against measures used in 2018 for effectiveness of forum. Core Group

ACTION: Ensure landowners are aware of the legislative reqts and the governmental actions on going. Core Group

ACTION: Review Iains key points. Core Group

3 Richard Hammock, Chair of the Howe of Alford Wildlife Management Forum.

Overview of Howe of Alford Wildlife Management Forum.

Richard gave a very informative talk on the Howe of Alford Wildlife Management forum was formed and operates. The operation of the group is a core working group reporting to the forum on a regular basis.

Richard described the immigration of red deer to the area and the issues regarding crop damage. Richard described collaborative culling effort and working together to achieve their aims.

Richard described the group as a wildlife forum, although predominant issues with deer are the current issue, all wildlife issues are taken in to consideration.

ACTION: Review the Howe of Alford group constitution.

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Core Group

4 Individual stakeholders open forum - round table.

A round table discussion took place with various items being raised with each stakeholder.

Browse levels in woodland at a high level.

Deer visible in Dunkeld although qualified with deer have been visible in Dunkeld for many years.

Browse on gardens in Dunkeld area.

Culling levels established through monitoring herbivore impacts.

Incremental culling being ineffective.

Indiscriminate culling off high numbers being unacceptable to sporting tenants.

Boundaries with South Perthshire Group are still unresolved in the West of our boundary.

Do we have details of all forum range, stakeholders and their aims.

How regular does the group meet and is there adequate representation from landowners, understanding of our aims is essential.

ACTION: Steering group currently only actively three people, a core group needs established with key group representatives from the stakeholders. Core Group

ACTION: Share the aims of each stakeholder and their assessment of current position. (see appendix 2)

ACTION: Determine cull level and any common aims, which can be accepted and implemented. Core Group

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5 AOB.

Kelsey Wilson, PhD Student.

Outline of study on beaver and deer interaction

Kelsey outlined her study on beaver and deer interactions, describing her methodology and requirement for study areas and possible exclusion sites (10m sq plots). There was some positive feedback for Kelsey and her e mail address is available if you can assist in her studies. (contact ddmfsecretary@aol.com)

Next Meeting will be steering group in January 2019. Date t.b.a.

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Appendix 1

Attendees 7th Nov 2018
Community Council Chair, Stuart Paton(ddmf chair) .
<u>Atholl Estates:Manager: Julian Clarke.</u>
<u>Forest Manager Atholl Estates: Malcolm Whyte.</u>
<u>HRW Ian Carmichael.</u>
<u>Steering Group, Raymond Simpson.</u>
Dunkeld House Hotel, Douglas Reader .
Forestry Commission Scotland, Scott Ferguson, John Montgomery .
<u>Police Scotland Traffic PC Neil Drummond.</u>
Remony and South Perthshire DMG, James Duncan Miller.
<u>Scottish Wildlife Trust , Rab Potter, Sarah Rasmussen.</u>
SNH, Iain Hope.
Strutt and Parker, Michael Laing .
Strathcaulaid, Douglas Campbell.
Chair Deer Forum Richard Hammock.
Student PhD Beavers Kelsey Wilson.
Local resident and Ecologist, Adrian Davis.
Ballindrum Woodlands, Ian Davidson.

Appendix 2

