

ADMG Benchmark Assessment	DMG: Inveraray & Tyndrum	Date of Assessment Meeting: 25th April 2019
Criteria	Scoring and evidence of delivery	Future Actions for the Group
1. Area and boundaries		
1.1. Identify the appropriate boundaries for the group to operate in.	ITDMG have well defined boundaries which are sensible for the deer range in the area. There is regular contact with adjacent land managers out with DMG area.	Continue to review as required
1.2. Define appropriate sub populations where applicable	No actual need for setting sub populations to date, although this type of work has been used to help focus culls.	Continue to review as required
2. Membership		
2.1. All property owners within a deer range should be members of a DMG, including private and public land owners; also, where possible, agricultural occupiers, foresters, crofters and others on adjoining land where deer may be present. In some cases this may extend to householders with private gardens.	All property owners/ managers identified within DMP, invited to attend meetings, with the vast majority attending on a very regular basis. Several land managers have attended only 1 or 2 meetings in the last 3 years.	DMG has stated that they have are inclusive and promote attendance/ sharing of information, but if people are unable to attend then they are not going to continually chase individuals. Continue to review and if issues arise then attempt to engage through other means.
3. Meetings		
3.1. DMGs should meet regularly. Two formal meetings per year is the norm but more frequent interaction between members, between meetings, should be encouraged.	2 DMG meetings per year for overall group, others meetings of Ex Committee and ongoing other meetings where group members are present.	Meeting frequency is appropriate with plenty of engagement between meetings by members - sheep sales/ LLTNP meetings, deer counts etc.
3.2. For effective collaborative management to take place it is important that all DMG Members should attend every meeting or be represented by someone authorised to make appropriate decisions on their behalf.	within last 3 years all land managers have attended meetings. There are regularly 3 or 4 properties who's attendance is lacklustre. Although the share information and generally partake in the counts it would be an improvement to have more consistant attendance from these properties.	DMG made their position clear on non attendees at Nov 2018 meeting. continue to share information and encouragement attendance, but recognise that the group needs to move forward.
3.3. In addition to landholding Members, including public sector owners, public agencies such as SNH and Forestry Commission Scotland should be in attendance and other relevant authorities such as Police Scotland may be invited to attend DMG meetings.	SNH/ LLTNP attend meeting as advisors. Forestry Enterprise attend as landholders in their own right. FCS/ Police Scotland have not attended.	Continue to share information with wider agencies and as specific topics come up consider direct approach for attendance.
3.4. Meetings should operate to an agenda and be accurately minuted. Attendees should be encouraged to participate and agreed actions and decisions should be recorded.	wide ranging agenda produce prior to meeting and circulated. Agenda covers DMP key topics and encourages everyone to attend and discuss.	Continue to review as required
3.5. Group can demonstrate a capacity to deal with issues between meetings as they arise, and to provide an ongoing source of communication and advice as required.	Ex Committee set up for taking forward multiple DMP topics. Group also carry out annual count. No major issue brought to lighth that requires additional meetings at present.	Continue to review as required
4. Constitution & Finances		
4.1. All DMGs should have a Constitution which defines the area of the Group, sets out its purpose, its operating principles, membership and procedures, in addition to providing for appointing office bearers, voting, raising subscriptions and maintaining financial records	Group has its own constitution which was adopted in 2013 and amended in 2015.	continue to work the constitution and if required remind members that its in their interests to follow this.
4.2. Good management and budgeting of finances	all appears very good, regular meeting updates on finances	continue and review as required
5. Deer Management Plans		
5.1. All DMGs should have an up to date, effective and forward looking Deer Management Plan (DMP).	ITDMG have a 10 year plan that is aimed to move DMG forward, in line with the wider deer management discussion and deliver both private and public benefits.	Continue to review and update DMP and continue to ensure available online
5.2. The DMP should record all the land management objectives within the DMG area.	DMP does this and is continually requesting updates	continue to review and update as required
5.3. Where applicable, the plan should include a rolling 5 year population model	a 5 year population model is not ideal for ITDMG, however they are trialling population modelling to help enable more structured cull setting in line with DMG objectives.	assess use of population modelling of culls set against culls taken and try to review population modelling based on info. Recognising this is a long term objective. Provide summary of population model.
5.4. Appropriate use of maps to illustrate relevant detail.	Maps are available as part of the DMP	revise maps as required to highlight work being done or focus areas
5.5. The DMP should identify the public interest aspects of deer management	DMP does identify PI's and how they fit with private objectives	see Part 2 of assessment
5.6. DMP should make appropriate reference to other species of deer within the DMG area, and provide a level of detail proportionate to this interest.	Roe & Sika highlighted within the plan. Presence and culled numbers relative to detail within DMP.	Continue to review and ensure members raise issues on other species as needed
5.7. It should include a list of actions that deliver the collective objectives of DMG Members as well as public interest objectives. These actions should be updated annually	DMP covers this and is delivering on them.	continue to update and ensure members are engaged in development/ changes of DMP
5.8. It is important that all DMG Members should play a full part in the planning process and in the implementation of agreed actions	All members were involved/ represented within reviewed DMP. All members are shared information and discussion relating to DMP.	DMG have agreed stance on those non-attendees and will continue to make decisions/ take forward actions at the DMG level. DMG to continue to circulate information and encourage feedback.
5.9. The DMP may identify potential conflicts and how they can be prevented or addressed to ensure an equitable approach to the shared deer population.	DMG have experience of dealing with potential conflicts and this was tied into the current DMP. Ongoing forest restructuring will require sensible collaborative discussion across the group in the coming years.	Continue to encourage open dialogue and early notification of changes/ delivery of objectives. Consider timescales of restructuring and how to prevent dramatic changes to management.
5.10. Relevant local interests should be consulted on new DMPs and advised of any changes as they come forward.	Community Councils were copied in or represented in the DMP process. Other groups are encouraged and both Draft and Current DMP were available for comment.	continue to engage with local groups as required.
6. Code of Practice on Deer Management		
6.1. The Code should be endorsed by all DMGs and referenced in both the Constitution and Deer Management Plan of every Group. The terms of the Code should be delivered through the Group Deer Management Plan.	The code is endorsed within the constitution/ DMP and delivery of the Code is done through the DMP	Continue to encourage delivery of the DMP
7. ADMG Principles of Collaboration		
7.1. The Principles of Collaboration should be incorporated into all DMG Constitutions and Deer Management Plans.	Principles of Collaboration within the constitution/ DMP.	continue to highlight the Principles of Collaboration, particularly during discussions about competing objectives.
8. Best Practice		
8.1. All deer management should be carried out in accordance with Best Practice.	Best Practice is well referenced within the DMP with the expectation placed on members to follow	promote and encourage discussion on Best Practice as required.
8.2. All Deer Management Plans should reference and follow WDBP which will continue to evolve.	Best Practice is well referenced within the DMP with the expectation placed on members to follow	promote and encourage discussion on Best Practice as required.
9. Data and Evidence gathering- Deer counts		
9.1. Accurate deer counting forms the basis of population modelling. An ethos that reflects this should be in evidence	DMG carry out some level of populaion modelling that fits in with the difficulties that ITDMG face with regards to open forestry and unknown numbers of deer within. However DMG have come up with a trial approach to population modelling to help direct culls across the DMG in a more structured fashion.	appraise and review population modelling method. Refine for the benefit of the group and ensure summarised version for wider circulation (i.e. providing that evidence lead approach). Amend population model within working plan & share wording on website / thinking on website.

9.2. As publicly funded aerial counts are now exceptional, DMGs should aim to carry out a regular well planned coordinated foot count of the whole open range deer population. The norm is to count annually.	DMG aim to count on an annual basis. Count can be affected by the level of snow pushing deer into the forestry. Ultimately some areas of DMG are very difficult to count. Last heli count in 2017.	continue to promote count at intervals agreed between members (currently annually). Encourage all members to participate. As with 2019 consider other avenues for ensuring complete count area is counted. If required review and refine counting protocol.
9.3. Recruitment and mortality counts are also essential for population modelling.	Several properties carry out Recruitment counts, with many doing mortality checks as part of other duties. Information is gathered and shared.	recognise that this does not need to a formal count and encourage those to do it as part of other duties, but to report information to DMG for wider consideration.
9.4. Other census methods may be required in some circumstances, e.g. dung counting in woodland or other concealing habitats or on adjoining open ground.	FCS have carried out Dung Count Assessments. Unaware of other properties carrying this out at present.	DMG used this information in considering population modelling, potential to use other counting techniques if issues arise and further information is required.
10. Data and evidence gathering- Culls		
10.1. All DMGs should agree a target deer population or density which meets the collective requirements of Members without detriment to the public interest.	DMG has a required stag cull, a target hind population for the open hill and commentary on why they are working as they are.	amend population model within plan
10.2. The cull should be apportioned among Members to deliver the objectives of the DMP and individual management objectives while maintaining the agreed target population and favourable environmental condition.	DMG are trialling a method of ensuring more transparency for culls to be taken in the areas they should be taken. Only recently attempting this so time will tell if a success.	add this to the DMP/ website and ensure members are aware of expectations both in terms of current years culling and future years.
10.3. The Group cull target should be reviewed and, if necessary, adjusted annually.	This is ongoing and reflected in DMG discussions.	continue as current, depending on 2018/19 cull information consider whether more focussed discussions on culling is required and whether input from SNH/ LLTNP/ FCS is required.
11. Data and evidence gathering- Habitat Monitoring		
11.1. DMGs should carry out habitat monitoring. Habitat Impact Assessments (HIA) measure progress towards agreed habitat condition targets on both designated sites and the wider deer range.	DMG arranged a group wide HIA project in 2018. There were already several properties carrying HIA out, but this now shows that nearly 100% of open range properties have gathered some HIA information.	Use HIA information as part of discussion for assessing population levels/ setting culls. Ensure members are aware of what this means for each individual land ownership
11.2. HIAs should be carried out on a systematic and regular basis. A three year cycle is the norm but many find annual monitoring useful.	Agreement to revisit HIA (although may be extended to 2021 to provide 3 year gap?).	(agree a timescale??), update protocol and deliver.
11.3. Data is required on other herbivores present and their impact on the habitat.	DMP provides information on sheep across whole group - further information has been requested to provide group wide information and assist with HIA analysis.	Ensure information on livestock numbers is complete and involve info in decision making on HIA work. SNH can provide further advice if required.
11.4. DMPs should include a section on habitat monitoring methods and procedures and record annual results so as to measure change and record trends.	This is within the HIA report and is being digested by the members/ ex comm at present. Discussion to be taken forward on HIA in due course.	Ensure HIA protocol is updated as required and followed through. Provide a summary of information.
12. Competence		
12.1. It is recommended that in addition to DSC 1 deer managers should also attain DSC 2 or equivalent.	DSC 1 promoted as minimum within plan and statement that all involved in 2015 were to Level 1 standard.	provide an audit of where members are at with competence (most recent info). Promote and continue to update information.
12.2. Deer managers supplying venison for public consumption are required to certify carcasses as fit for human consumption to demonstrate due diligence. "Trained Hunter" status is required for carcass certification.	DMP promotes trained hunter status and provides this information to members	provide an audit of where members are at with competence. Promote knowledge and understanding of need for TH status.
13. Training		
13.1. All DMGs should have a training policy and incorporate it in the DMP	DMP includes a training policy - improving awareness and encouraging uptake of DMQ and other related H&S requirements. Training delivered in the following - HIA (April 2019), discussion on carcass handling / contamination carried out at FCS larder (Dec 2018)	members to continue to highlight areas of training needs and promote improvements where required.
13.2. All DMG Members or those acting on their behalf should undergo the necessary training to demonstrate Competence.	Promoted within DMP as being DSC level 1 minimum, preferably level 2.	Provide information on where competence is now compared to previously.
13.3. The training policy should promote and record continuing professional development through Best Practice Guidance.	DMP promotes self motivation for improving standards. Discussions at DMG meetings (sharing experiences) also supports this, particular focus on carcass handling over last 12 months.	Continue to promote and review as required.
14. Venison Marketing		
14.1. Membership of the Scottish Quality Wild Venison scheme is recommended by ADMG.	DMP promotes SQWV	promote and audit current uptake of SQWV
14.2. There is evidence of collaborative venison production within the Group	DMP provides an overview of this but DMG are well serviced by multiple venison dealers and key road networks to the west therefore constant collection services.	keep under review and consider options in due course for promotion of DMG/ Local area.
15. Communications		
15.1. DMGs should include a Communications Policy in their DMP. External communication should be directed at parties not directly involved but with an interest in deer management including individuals, local bodies such as community councils, local authorities, local media and other specialist interests.	DMP references communications as being key to improving education of the local and wider public. Several opportunities have been suggested within the plan. Over the last 2 years - discussion with MSPs, representation at Community Councils.	clarify if any school visits etc (I think there has been some work but cant find any support for it). Strone Estate Visits/ engagement with public at other events.
15.2. An annual communication programme suitable to local circumstances is advised. This might include a DMG website or a page on www.deer-management.co.uk , an annual Newsletter, annual open meeting, or attending local meetings by invitation.	ITDMG have a website where information (DMP/ meeting minutes etc) are shared. Meetings are promoted via this and are open.	continue to update website with meeting minutes and future agendas. Ensure other key DMP elements are online - i.e. cull setting as this is critical to rebuff criticism.
15.3. A Deer Management Plan should be accessible and publicly available, and local consultation during its development is advised.	DMP available via the above website.	continue with current approach

	Delivery is good
	Delivery is partial/variable in quality
	Delivery is poor
	Priority criteria

	DMG Public Interest Assessment	DMG: Inveraray & Tyndrum	Date of Assessment Meeting: 25/04/2019
Public interest categories 1-14	Criteria	Scoring and evidence of delivery	Future Actions for the Group
1. ACTIONS to develop mechanisms to manage deer	1.1. Carry out an assessment of effectiveness against the Benchmark	Carried out April 2019	
	1.2. Develop a series of actions to be implemented and assign roles	Actions have been created, prioritised and worked though. Clearly there are critical elements that the DMG has focussed on, but some level of thought has gone into all aspects of the DMP. Ex Committee has been set up to help drive forward DMG/ DMP.	continue to deliver on key selected priorities initially, whilst also keeping an overview of other DMP private/ public objectives.
	1.3. Produce and publish a forward-looking, effective deer management plan which includes the public interest elements relevant to local circumstances. The plan should contain an action plan which sets out agreed actions and monitors delivery. Minutes of DMG meetings should be made publicly available.	DMP was amended in 2015 to fit with the drive from the wider deer sector and local objectives, taking into account the delivery of Public Interests. Action plan is part of this and minutes etc are available via website along with engagement with both local and wider public as required.	update DMP as required, continue to encourage awareness of DMP and consideration of short/ long term objectives.
2. ACTIONS for the delivery of designated features into Favourable Condition.	2.1. Identify designated features, the reported condition and herbivore pressures affecting designated sites in the DMG area.	DMP identifies designated sites with separate focussed appendix (updated 2017). DMG meetings has provided a relevant discussion/ update on designated sites which is appropriate to the level of condition/ work required.	continue to update and review as required.
	2.2. Identify and agree actions to manage herbivore impacts affecting the favourable condition of designated features.	All designated sites within the area are currently either under a agreed management plan or involved in discussions between land managers and SNH. Focus on local management at present which appears appropriate	continue to promote awareness of designated sites from within DMG. Ensure that if local management is not having desired affects then land managers are aware to raise concerns within DMG particularly if improved neighbourly discussions needed.
	2.3. Monitor progress and review actions to manage herbivore impacts affecting favourable condition.	DMP has been recently amended with Designated site condition. Discussion at meetings to provide updates. DMG cull setting has recently provided a more focussed approach to increased culls in specific areas.	members to review culling / count info in line with HIA (Open range or Woodland) as required. Reflect and if required adjust plans/ discuss with DMG.
3. ACTIONS to manage deer to retain existing native woodland cover and improve woodland condition in the medium to long term.	3.1. Establish overall extent of woodland and determine what proportion is existing native woodland.	DMP has provided information on this within main DMP.	Continue to revise/ update DMP as required
	3.2. Determine current condition of native woodland.	DMP summaries native woodland condition (NWSS survey data) providing a short summary of what is meant by an impact and has circulated maps showing sites and recorded damage. Raised at meetings to encourage land managers to engage in work for this, however DMG have other priorities to focus on.	once some breathing space from other priorities then encourage members to focus on woodlands further. A number of areas showing high impacts are probably not red now and vice versa. In due course build in woodland monitoring to more regular discussion as is currently happening with open range HIA.
	3.3. Identify actions to retain and improve native woodland condition and deliver DMG woodland management objectives.	DMG have focussed priority on other aspects of DMP to date, with some promotion of woodland events/ training carried out. DMP/ DMG has discussed how woodland improvements can be carried out, with previous experience of land managers taking forward various work to promote woodland condition.	as above - not current main focus of DMG but is for several properties. All land holdings have some level of native woodland within property and better recognition of this will ensure improved long term vision.
	3.4. Monitor progress and review actions to manage herbivore impacts.	Open range monitoring is seen as priority at present. However DMP and discussion is progressing actions on this PI at individual property level.	Continue to promote woodland management to improve condition and a longer term plan - how many land ownerships have LTFP as this will be covered within these?
4. ACTIONS to monitor and demonstrate DMG contribution to the Scottish Government woodland expansion target of 25% woodland cover.	4.1. Identify and quantify extent of recent woodland establishment (through SRDP (last 5 years) and through other schemes).	Quantified within DMP for pre 2016. Ongoing restructuring and planting work under LTFP. However ultimately DMG not prioritising increased cover.	continue to update DMP as required
	4.2. Identify and quantify opportunities and priorities for woodland expansion over the next 5-10 years.	Approx 30% of DMG area is already woodland. with significant resource focussed on restructuring of current woodlands. DMP encourages early notification of such schemes. Further information requested from members (March 2019)	Ensure early awareness and open dialogue on consideration for such new forestry schemes.
	4.3. Consider at a population level the implication of increased woodland on deer densities and distribution across the DMG.	Recognised within DMP. Not been trialled as no large schemes in last several years with discussions focussing on open range habitats.	Ensure early awareness and open dialogue on consideration for such new forestry schemes.
	4.4. Implement actions to deliver the woodland expansion proposals and review progress.	DMP not prioritising promotion of woodland expansion due to current cover levels. Promotion is left to the individual land manager. This is deemed an appropriate stance.	monitor, amend and promote as required. Provide support through discussion forum for early notification of intentions to increase woodland cover.
5. ACTIONS to monitor and manage deer impacts in the wider countryside.	5.1. Identify and quantify the habitat resource by broad type.	DMP quantifies habitat types, and has used mapping to help identify locations.	if improved information then consider updating
	5.2. Identify required impact targets for habitat types.	Impact targets not identified within DMP (confirm). Several individual estates have set their own targets. Larger group wide HIA project has provided baseline information and needs interpreted/ analysed. There are recommended targets within report for DSH & BB habitats. There has been discussion on these at both meetings and training days and this is to be taken forward in 2019. at present no formal agreement by DMG.	discuss and agree range of impact targets for delivery of group wide (and individual) objectives.
	5.3. Quantify a sustainable level of grazing and trampling for each of these habitat types.	as above - both individual and group wide HIA provides some indication of what targets are required. At present no formal agreement by DMG.	discuss and agree range of impact targets for delivery of group wide (and individual) objectives.
	5.4. Identify where different levels of grazing may be required and prioritise accordingly.	Not captured in DMP at present but is highlighted within group wide HIA report. Discussion yet to be taken on impacts.	as above consider further discussion as required. Ensure members can be directed to somewhere for support if needs be.
	5.5. Conduct herbivore impact assessments, and assess these against acceptable impact ranges. Where necessary identify and implement actions to attain impacts within the range.	5 properties of DMG were carrying out HIA prior to 2018. in 2018 a group wide HIA project was undertaken to provide information - nearly 100% of properties with open range will have some level of HIA conducted. Results only shared with DMG in Nov 2018. Further discussion and training in April 2019, with monitoring carried out and then repeat assessment by HIA expert in 2020.	Revise & take forward HIA policy.
	5.6. Regularly review information to measure progress and adapt management when necessary.	in 2018 DMG commissioned a summary of HIA info from members to help highlight impacts across group. This has provided a baseline for those people and has encouraged further members to carry out HIA. Need to ensure that members are aware of different methods and ensure a level of consistency on how information is shared if this is to be carried out in future.	share, promote and use report to make better informed management decisions.
6. ACTIONS to improve Scotland's ability to store	6.1. Quantify the extent of the carbon-sensitive habitats within the DMG range.	Area of Peatland quantified within DMP. DMG also taking part in (nearly) group wide assessment of peatland habitats.	As new information becomes available update DMP
	6.2. Conduct herbivore impact assessments, and assess these against acceptable impact ranges for these sensitive habitats. Identify and implement actions to attain impacts within the range.	HIA work has been carried out in 2018 (and in some previous years). Targets and understanding of these results to be taken forward in 2019.	use information to discuss and tackle local areas of concerns

carbon by maintaining or improving ecosystem health.	6.3. Identify opportunities for the creation/restoration of peatlands	Group Wide peatland assessment recently completed (March 2019) with the intention of helping inform whether opportunities to carry out some carbon sequestration work.	assess project and see if peatland work is feasible.
	6.4. Contribute as appropriate to River Basin Management Planning	No local RBMP, but multiple other work ongoing with regards to flood management, fishery management etc.	
7. ACTIONS to reduce or mitigate the risk of establishment of invasive non-native species	7.1. Manage invasive non-native species (e.g. muntjac) to prevent their establishment and spread e.g. report sightings of muntjac to SNH	clear statement of intent with regards to invasive non native species.	review and raise awareness as required.
	7.2. Agree on local management of other non-natives which may be utilised as a resource e.g. sika, fallow, goats, to reduce their spread and negative impacts.	clear policy on non natives/ feral animals which fits with local objectives (both land holdings & wider community - i.e. sika	continue with current practice and review as required.
8. ACTIONS to protect designated historic and cultural features from being damaged by	8.1. Identify any historic or cultural features that may be impacted by deer and undertake deer management to	DMG have identified a variety of features within DMG that are both supported by deer management and potentially could be affected by deer management.	members to be mindful of activities and how they may impact upon features.
	8.2. Consider the implications of fencing on the landscape with due regard to the Joint Agency Guidance on Fencing.	DMP promotes Joint Agency Guidance on Fencing directly, but also references to many of the key components of the JAGF.	continue to review and promote as required for management involving fencing.
9. ACTIONS to contribute to delivering higher standards of competence in deer management.	9.1. Undertake a skills and training assessment to establish current skill levels applicable to deer management within the DMG.	Assessment of skills was carried out in 2015 with all involved in Deer Management having Level 1.Update requested March 2019 and gathering info.	continue to review and encourage uptake to Level 1 standard
	9.2. Identify training and development needs / requirements of DMG members including opportunities for Continuous Professional development (i.e. in relation to Best Practice).	ongoing discussion and events on DMQ, carcass handling, larder hygiene, HIA etc	review and encourage members to arrange training as required.
	9.3. Ensure all those who actively manage deer are "competent" according to current standard	DMP states that DSC level 1 should be attained by everyone carrying out deer management, but also promotes Level 2,	continue to review and encourage uptake to Level 1 standard
	9.4. Promote and facilitate the uptake of formal and CDP training opportunities for those participating in deer management.	DMP encourages uptake of other training of group members. Training discussion and opportunities have been taken forward by members focusing on several key topics - HIA/ Carcass Handling/ Larder Hygiene	continue to review and promote, encourage sharing of course training.
10. ACTIONS to identify and promote opportunities contributing to public health and wellbeing.	10.1. Identify and quantify public safety issues associated with deer within the DMG area. e.g. DVCs, airports etc.	DVC map circulated and discussed at Nov 2018 meeting. Local specific issues due to nature of woodland at sides of roads.	continue to review DVC situation on local roads.
	10.2. Identify actions with landowners, Local Authority, DMG to reduce or mitigate public safety risk and monitor effectiveness of actions.	Discussion where members agreed local hotspots, but where culling is already being taken forward. Culling identified as action for reducing DVCs around Glenlochry & Arrochar.	continue to review and promote as required
	10.3. Identify means of ensuring food safety is maintained in carcass handling and venison processing and compliance with BPG in relation to meat hygiene	DMP promotes high standards in carcass handling. Ongoing discussion and awareness raising of new food safety protocols.	continue to review and promote as required
	10.4. Ensure deer managers are familiar with notifiable diseases, that a system for recording is in place and all deer managers are familiar with course of action to take.	All deer managers are Level 1, DMP summarizes what isrequired of individuals when come across notifiable diseases	continue to review and promote as required
	10.5. Ensure that that appropriate bio security measures are enacted when visitors from areas where CWD is present are involved with deer management activities	DMP and DMG has promoted updated procedures to ensure minimal risk from CWD etc.	continue to review and promote as required
	10.6. Identify opportunities to raise awareness of the risks associated with Lyme Disease	DMP highlights risk of ticks, and encourages individuals to be aware/ recognise these.	continue to review and promote as required
	10.7. Identify main access and recreational activity within the DMG area and assess how this fits with deer management activity.	DMG has considerable experienced of recreational activity due to location & part of LLTNP. Individual members have experience and discuss / take forward issues with authority. Some access issues (and associated anti social behaviour) raised at meetings.	continue to review and promote responsible access etc. Consider whether options for further education/ signage through DMG/ LLTNP/ SNH etc for sensitive areas.
	10.8. Identify actions to mitigate any public access and recreation activity during peak periods of deer culling e.g. use of Hill phones and web sites	HFTSH is used by a number of properties within the DMG area. Local signage is also used. Discussion with recreational groups also taking place .	discuss and see if improvements can be made.
	10.9. Facilitate public access promote positive communication between visiting public and wildlife managers.	Local Community Councils were invited to meetings and could promote more sensitive access through accommodation outlets. Some members are discussing engaging with local groups to improve understanding.	consider options for promoting education within schools/ on site public events/ willife tours and raise awareness of land management.
11. ACTIONS to maximise economic benefits associated with deer	11.1. Identify and quantify the main sources of revenue related to deer (sport, tourism etc.	Identified within DMP in 2015 (for the period 2013/14)	review and update DMP.
	11.2. Identify and quantify deer-related employment. Identify opportunities to increase and improve prospects throughout the DMG.	DMP quantifies FTE jobs and highlights other jobs involved in deer management. Potential opportunities identified	review and update as required
	11.3. Identify opportunities to add value to products from deer management (SQWV, venison branding)	highlighted within DMP - deer watching, local labelling etc.	members to continue to consider options and raise for discussion as needed.
	11.4. Explore options for larder sharing, infrastructure improvement and carcass collection to ensure maximum benefit from venison production whilst reducing carbon costs.	DMG is well serviced by venison dealers due to location and access to the rest of Argyll.	assess whether properties have adequate lardering facilities, consider local options if needed.
12. ACTIONS to minimise the economic costs of deer, and ensure deer management is cost-effective	12.1. Identify and quantify capital investment in deer management related infrastructure.	not done to any detail within DMP, although recognising that properties are primarily functioning for deer management	review DMG position and update DMP if required
	12.2. Identify where deer are impacting on other land uses and include all relevant stakeholders to assist the group in understanding costs of deer within the DMG (e.g. woodland, agriculture, DVCs)	conflicting objectives identified within DMP, but not quantified in financial terms. However DMP does aim to mitigate against any one objective significantly impacting upon another.	review as required. If needed members to continue to engage in forward thinking discussion regarding delivery of objectives. Open dialogue - following along the three Cs is key to supporting this.
	12.3. Where there are management changes, assess the likely changes to the economic costs across the DMG	Not currently required by DMG, but ongoing risk of forest restructuring impactign on group wide objectives.	members to continue to review/ engage in a sensible way to deliver objectives.
	12.4. Formulate a strategy to minimise the negative economic impacts in an equitable way.	cull planning is aiming to tackle this and ensure a equitable split.	consider and review depending on updated count/ cull info.
13. ACTIONS to ensure effective	13.1. Provide regular opportunity for wider community and public agency engagement in planning and communications.	DMP has been shared with wider community during drafting stage, and is shared for local information. DMG has a comms policy as part of DMP.	Ensure this is carried as required during periodic review of DMP

Ensure effective communication on deer management issues.	13.2. Identify and implement actions to address community issues on deer or deer management activity.	local Community Councils invited to DMG meetings or represented by group members. Local issues can be raised/ filtered back in as required.	continue to engage and share info. Take forward local concerns for discussion and improvement.
	13.3. Support and promote wider opportunities to further education on deer.	several local properties considering local events/ school visits to help promote education.	audit and amend DMP as required.
14. ACTIONS to ensure deer welfare is taken fully into account at individual animal and population level.	14.1. Agree, collate and review data available within the DMG which might be used as a proxy for deer health/welfare i.e. recruitment, winter mortality, larder weights etc.	DMG collates and discusses mortality/ calving rates/ HIA condition. No major welfare issues identified at group level, however sometimes local concern at individual estate level.	encourage analysis of larder information to allow assess impact of management on welfare. Identify welfare indicators in due course.
	14.2. Take reasonable actions to ensure that deer culling operations safeguard welfare; for culled and surviving animals (e.g. for example by following BPG)	DMP promote best practice and open discussion on culling	continue to promote and encourage raising of issues which may be considered not within DMG welfare parameters.
	14.3. Take reasonable actions to ensure that the welfare of surviving populations is safeguarded (e.g. provision and access to food and shelter)	ample woodland provided within DMG, with a couple of estates also now providing winter forage .	consider welfare when taking into account management changes for woodland. and also when changing feeding patterns.
	14.4. Periodically review information on actions to safeguard welfare, identify and implement changes as required.	annual discussion on welfare, no requirement to amend management at present. Gather of estate level detail at a group wide scale to see if local differences in deer condition.	as required review information and take action to improve welfare.

	<i>Delivery is good</i>
	<i>Delivery is partial/variable in quality</i>
	<i>Delivery is poor</i>
	<i>Priority criteria</i>