**WEST GRAMPIAN DMG**

**MEETING 24th OCTOBER 2016**

**1400 CASTLE LIBRARY**

1. **ATTENDEES**

Rory Stormont-Darling – Chair

Julian Clarke – Secretary

Steven Wade – Straloch

Maggie Lascelles – Straloch

Graham Milne – Balnakeilly

Mark Wood – Pitcarmick

Sarah Troughton – Atholl

Steve Halliday – Dalmunzie

Anthony Groegen – Dalmunzie

David Woodcock – Dalmunzie

Mike Cottam – Cairngorms National Park Authority

Duncan Gordon – Lude

Andrew Gordon – Lude

Alastair Gemmell – Dalnarcardoch

Kevin Simpson – Dalnarcardoch

Ronnie Hepburn – Atholl

Jim Todd – Tarvie

Tom Mckenzie – Fealar

Linzi Seivewright – DMP Consultant

1. **APOLOGIES**

Donald Isles – Blair Atholl Community Council

Iain Hope - SNH

Bob Connolly - Ashintully

David Heathcot Amory – Glenfernate

Graeme Cumming – Atholl

Ryan Cumming – Atholl

Benjamin Rhodes – Atholl

David Fergusson – Atholl

Sandy Lean - Lude

1. **MATTERS ARISING**

Will be dealt with during the course of the meeting.

The constitution was approved for adoption by David Woodcock of Dalmunzie and seconded by Duncan Gordon of Lude.

1. **PART 1 and 2 of PLAN**

Linzi Seivewright gave a further overview of the current plan, and advised that it was now available to view on the WGDMG website.

The plan was formally adopted at the meeting, being proposed by Andrew Gordon and seconded by David Woodcock.

Details of this can be found at

<http://wgrampiandmg.deer-management.co.uk/>

1. **SNH ASSESSMENT**

Iain Hope had given his apologies, but Linzi was able to give an overview of the reassessment of the WGDMG plan.

The plan was reviewed in 2016 by SNH, and the consensus was that there was significant progress being made, with the challenge would be to ensure that this continues throughout the life of the plan.

A report on the review of DMP’s would be made available to the Minister in November 2016, which once it was published would be made available to the group.

1. **INFORMATION RECORDING**

New form to be trialled – once a year recording – this will be issued in March each year.

A discussion was held on the possibility of hosting this information on the Cloud – so it could be viewed by all estates.

1. **DMG WEBSITE**

A brief overview of the new website was given. It can be found at:

<http://wgrampiandmg.deer-management.co.uk>

ADMG had borne the costs of developing the template for the websites, but it was expected that each group would maintain and update their website. There would be a cost going forward on this – which would fall due by the group.

1. **SUB GROUPS**

There was a discussion on the split of the groups – and it was agreed we have three smaller subgroups (East / West and Cross Border DMG).

Population modelling should be carried out in each of these sub groups, before the main meeting in March 2017.

1. **DEER COUNT**

The Secretary had spoken to Iain Hope before the meeting, about the planned Deer Count in 2017.

Iain Hope had confirmed that SNH would be funding the count, which the group were extremely grateful for this. The CNPA are contributing to this cost – for which the group are grateful too.

The group needs a number of co-ordinators, and it was agreed that Ronnie Hepburn, Kevin Simpson and Steven Wade would act as co-ordinators.

The secretary was to revert to SNH on whether there was a possibility of using heat seeking cameras in woodland.

1. **AGENCY REPORTS**

Mike Cottam – gave a brief overview on the Cross Border DMG discussions that had taken place. A further meeting of these estates is to be held on 3rd November.

Long term modelling will be undertaken to show whether the current system is sustainable.

The consultation, to end of September, was on the National Park Partnership Plan 2017-2022 and included Deer Management within CNP as a topic

Iain Hope was unfortunately unable to attend, but he asked that the group be made aware of the review of authorisations that had recently been published.

1. **A.O.C.B**

A review of how the stag season had progressed was discussed throughout the group.

Habitat Monitoring was discussed, and the training day that was carried out in 2016. A consensus was reached to investigate a further training day in 2017, or for those that were unable to commit to this training a proposal should be sought from a suitable contractor to undertake this.

1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

A doodle poll to be set up for a meeting in February / March 2017