

## SUMMARY OF PROGRESS WITH WDNA 2016/17 ACTIONS

### Introduction

Below is a list of the 92 actions delivered through the 2016/17 WDNA Action Plan. The following descriptions have been used to assess action status:

**Achieved:** Where a time bound project or activity has been achieved or a specific stage of a project or activity has been achieved;

**Carried Over:** Where an activity has not been achieved within the timescale but will be continued into the following year;

**Deferred:** Where an action has been postponed, the intention is still there to do it but not within the next year;

**Not achieved:** Where an action has not been achieved and there are no immediate plans to carry it out.

### WDNA Priority: Collaborative and Effective Deer Management Planning and Implementation

Action Title	Comment	Status
Hold a workshop for Deer Management Groups on implementing Deer Management Plans	This was held in 2015	ACHIEVED
Hold an open day for local Council Rangers on deer and their management at Glen Strathfarrar	This was held in 2015	ACHIEVED
Deliver 10 activity sessions for school pupils during a RHET event such as 'Food & Farming' & 'Countryside Day' Activity Days, with a focus on deer management and venison production	BUAS School Countryside day Kelso, Blairgowrie School, RHS Edinburgh	ACHIEVED
Promote the Cairngorms Deer Advisory Group to build knowledge and collective understanding in the Cairngorms National Park	Cairngorms Deer Advisory Group (CDAG) continues to function as the conduit between CNPA and the private deer sector. CDAG active in reviewing the development of Deer topic for inclusion in the National Park Partnership Plan 2017-2022, currently submitted to Scottish government for approval in Spring 2017. CDAG continues as the advisory body for consideration of wider land management proposals to be proposed and developed by CNPA.	ACHIEVED

Raise awareness of deer and their sustainable management at Scone & Moy Game Fairs, the Royal Highland Show and other events		<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Complete a GIS-based deer management layer map for the 10 Forest Districts to aid analysis and decision-making processes	GIS-based maps now in place for all 10 FES Districts but this is still work in progress	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Tender and award a new 3 year contract to continue Nearest Neighbour Damage Assessment and Effective Deer Utilisation survey work and data collection to inform deer management activities		<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Provide staff support to assist DMGs with developing and delivering Deer Management Plans which incorporate the Public Interests	The assessment of 44 upland Deer Management Groups, in the SNH Deer Review, showed that between 2014 and 2016, significant progress had been made in developing effective deer management plans.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Circulate a letter to Local Authorities explaining their responsibilities as part of the Deer Code and request they respond with details on how they are following the Code	A letter from the Chair of SNH was sent to all Local Authorities requesting they explain their responsibilities in relation to the Deer Code in February 2016.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Complete the DMG re-assessment of delivery of Public Interests	The DMG re-assessment was completed and a detailed analysis included in the SNH Deer Review.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Publish a report on wild deer research to support delivery of the WDNA 2015-2020 challenges	A contract was awarded to SRUC and a website was created as part of the Wild Deer Research project, a joint Scottish Natural Heritage/Forestry Commission Scotland/Scottish Government project awarded funding through the Scottish Government's Contract Research Fund.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Implement the Deer Code through day to day deer management activities across publicly owned land	FCS continues to promote the Deer Code both internally to FCS staff, and to external organisations and land owners who have a responsibility to manage the deer on their land.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>

<p>Provide mediation where needed to ensure all interests are represented in DMG Deer Management Plans</p>	<p>ADMG has an ongoing commitment to supporting the Deer Management Planning process and to facilitating an inclusive approach to the planning process where required. The Chairman regularly attends DMG meetings and the Birnam Workshops for Chairs and Secretaries provide an opportunity to promote a collaborative and inclusive approach, particularly with regards to community engagement. In 2016, ADMG provided all Deer Management Groups with a webpage linked to the ADMG site, to ensure deer management plans and minutes of meetings are widely available to the wider public and provide contact details for the Chair/Secretary.</p>	<p><b>ACHIEVED</b></p>
<p>Continue to encourage DMGs to use their DMG self-assessment to ensure full representation of the Deer Code in their DMPs</p>	<p>ADMG provides ongoing support to DMGs both in the planning and delivery phases of Deer Management Plans. Information on the Code is available on the ADMG website</p>	<p><b>ACHIEVED</b></p>
<p>Continue to encourage Deer Management Groups to adopt the principles of collaboration as part of their constitution</p>	<p>ADMG provides ongoing support to DMGs both in the planning and delivery phases of Deer Management Plans. Information is available on the ADMG website</p>	<p><b>ACHIEVED</b></p>
<p>Place articles in trade press e.g. SCOPE, Shooting &amp; Conservation, Gamewise, DEER and others</p>		<p><b>ACHIEVED</b></p>
<p>Review options to support Wild Deer Best Practice Guides</p>	<p>An agreement between SNH and the Deer Initiative is being considered and will provide project management support for the Steering Group in taking the guides forward. A business plan for their development is being drafted.</p>	<p><b>ACHIEVED</b></p>
<p>Scope and explore the future potential for the SWARD database as a tool for DMGs to manage habitat monitoring data.</p>		<p><b>CARRIED FORWARD</b></p>
<p>Continue to use the Deer Management Round Table to build knowledge and collective understanding</p>	<p>DMRT meetings continue to be used to engage stakeholders. With respect to the review of deer management the meeting was postponed to accommodate the shifting timetable of the Ministerial Response. This postponement was agreed with all members of the DMRT as logical to allow the</p>	<p><b>CARRIED FORWARD</b></p>

	DMRT to explore the way forward for all involved in delivering Deer Management and the public interests in it.	
Monitor compliance with the Deer Code	The Land Reform Act (Scotland) 2016 introduced changes to the way that the Deer Code should be monitored. The Act states that the extent to which the Code is followed should be assessed with a report put before the parliament every 3 years. This change in scope will be addressed in the 2017/18 WDNA Action Plan.	<b>CARRIED FORWARD</b>
Revise the Joint Agency Fencing Guidelines	This work was delayed due to lack of resources.	<b>CARRIED FORWARD</b>

### WDNA Priority: Healthy Ecosystems

Support DMGs to carry out Habitat Impact Assessments and use this data to revise and develop their DMPs	ADMG leading on updating BPG Guidance and continuing to develop SWARD as a tool for deer managers. The need for HIA emphasised to members through meetings (AGM and Regional Meetings) as well as publications in SCOPE magazine. ADMG currently developing an online tutorial to support Habitat Monitoring.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Facilitate cross-DMG collaborative deer management approach to ingress of deer onto proposed woodland regeneration scheme and designated site	Collaborative deer management approach developed and implemented to address potential ingress of deer onto woodland regeneration scheme during 2016/17 stag and hind seasons. Discussions continuing to build on collaboration for future, supported by population modelling data.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Identify where deer management can contribute to increasing habitat connectivity through FES Land Management Planning processes	Ongoing work. Our Wildlife Management teams work with our Planning teams to inform Land Management Planning regarding the interactions between deer, tree species choice and habitat development.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Continue to cull Sika deer on the NFE to minimise further spread	During 2016/17 FES culled approximately 2,800 Sika deer on the National Forest Estate.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>

Continue to focus effective deer management on woodland creation sites across the National Forest Estate (NFE)	FCS supports the work of FES on the National Forest Estate, and through grants available through SRDP, targets deer management planning and activity on land adjacent to NFE.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Carry out a deer census programme to support collaborative deer management		<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Implement the Invasive Non-Native Species Code as and when necessary and monitor and act upon any reported sightings of Muntjac		<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Ensure that DMG DMPs address the need for maintaining deer populations that ensure that designated features are in favourable or recovering condition	ADMG has an ongoing commitment to supporting the Deer Management Planning process and to ensuring that all those involved in the development and delivery of plans are aware of and understand their responsibilities in delivering the local Public Interest relating to deer management. Responsibilities emphasized to members through regular meetings (annual AGM and quarterly Regional Meetings) as well as publications in SCOPE magazine.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Support DMGs in setting out how they may contribute to native woodland targets in their Deer Management Plans		<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Encourage DMGs to consider opportunities for woodland expansion in their areas and incorporate into their DMPs		<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Encourage DMGs to carry out HIA on peatland habitats	Topic at last Birnam Workshop, speaker from SNH invited to talk to members at the ADMG AGM in 2017, topic for next Birnam Workshop scheduled for July 2017	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Finalise mechanisms for delivery of Action plan to improve woodland condition in accordance with 2020 route map	This is a joint project, with SNH taking the lead, under the SBS Route Map to 2020. Assessment of the native woodland restoration target suggests that the achievement of this ambition may also be at risk, in part due to overgrazing by deer. The SNH report on deer management, published in October 2016, will help us work with land managers and other stakeholders to agree the best way to increase restoration.	<b>CARRIED FORWARD</b>

Manage deer densities on the NFE to reduce unacceptable deer damage impacts to native woodland	Our efforts to reduce unacceptable deer damage impacts continue with the degree of success varying across the National Forest Estate.	<b>CARRIED FORWARD</b>
Manage deer across the NFE to low densities appropriate to the protection of peatlands, the delivery of woodland restructuring and restocking objectives and the establishment and protection of riparian woodland	Ongoing work. Deer densities have been reduced in some areas of the National Forest Estate but remain above acceptable levels in other areas.	<b>CARRIED FORWARD</b>
Support the Highland Perthshire Community Land Trust in creating new woodland		<b>CARRIED FORWARD</b>
Publish and distribute new Wild Deer Best Practice Guides on grassland covering tussock and smooth grassland	Work is on-going in developing these guides. SNH has made constructive input into methodology fit for purpose	<b>CARRIED FORWARD</b>

#### **WDNA Priority: Lowland and Urban Deer**

Share information and work with partner organisations to improve the co-ordination of data sets to facilitate analysis and gain a better understanding of deer impacts and protection requirements	FES has been represented on a range of DMGs and deer-related organisations in which it has shared a range of information and data to improve stakeholder understanding of deer management activities on the National Forest Estate.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Raise awareness of wild deer interactions in the low ground	FES has been represented on LDNS and local Deer Groups sharing information and data with neighbours, partners and other stakeholders.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Use culling data, deer density and deer damage impact survey methodologies, plus technology such as thermal imaging, to better understand the population dynamics of lowland deer on the NFE, including the effect of the ongoing FES woodland creation program	Ongoing work with increased use of survey data, GIS maps and thermal imaging across the National Forest Estate continues to increase our knowledge of deer activity and direction of our culling operations.	<b>CARRIED FORWARD</b>
Carry out a mapping exercise to identify and locate Local Authority areas with high deer impacts	Risk analysis of LA with individual maps is being done as part of 2016 - 2018 project which is underway - carried into current project.	<b>CARRIED FORWARD</b>

Undertake pilot study to better understand what measure can be used to assess the delivery of public interests	Despite attempts to progress this pilot project last year, a suitable contractor to undertake the work was not available in the timescale required. This pilot will be carried forward into next year.	<b>CARRIED FORWARD</b>
Explore opportunities for creating shared larder facilities for Deer Groups in the central belt to facilitate more roe venison going into the food chain		<b>CARRIED FORWARD</b>

### WDNA Priority: Economic and Community Development

Publish the results of the Public and Corporate Economic Consultants (PACEC) survey on the contribution of the Deer Industry to the Scottish Economy		<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Promote awareness of chronic wasting disease	Information published on ADMG and BDS websites and circulated to members. ADMG kept up to date through executive committee members leading on this issue.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Ensure Deer Managers are aware of notifiable diseases		<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Encourage DMG members to participate and contribute to the Heading for the Scottish Hills Website		<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Continue to offer all estates within CNP signage explaining the need for deer management and responsible access	CNPA signage explaining the need for deer management continues to be offered to estates within CNP. Signs explaining the processes and benefits of moorland management (including deer), and the responsibilities of public access, particularly during the ground nesting/lambing season, offered to estates through representative Moorland Groups. 190 signs produced, delivered and implemented through end March 2017.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Continue to prepare and supply Scottish Quality Wild Venison assured carcasses to the venison industry and for local sales from direct deer management activities	FES supplied around 28,300 SQWV carcasses to the venison industry and local sales during 2016/17	<b>ACHIEVED</b>

Manage recreational stalking opportunities to help deliver environmental, biodiversity and business objectives and assess the potential for stag shooting Permissions on the NFE in the Red deer range	Recreational stalking opportunities were provided across the National Forest Estate with around 330 recreational stalkers participating in, and enjoying stalking on a wide range of forest and open hill sites.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Continue to raise awareness amongst staff and deer cullers of deer-related human disease risks such as Lyme disease from ticks	FES provides its Wildlife Management staff with tick resistant clothing and information on preventing ticks/Lyme disease. FES is also supporting ongoing current research into the distribution of ticks.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Continue to facilitate open and responsible access on the NFE whilst deer culling is underway by taking a risk-managed approach and by raising awareness amongst cullers and users of the NFE	During 2016/17 approximately 31,700 deer were culled on the National Forest Estate which remained open and accessible to the public. Health, safety & well-being of forest users remains a high priority for FES.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Through the annual business planning process, assess and adjust capacity to manage deer impacts effectively across the NFE through competent and cost-effective deer management and procurement actions	Through the business planning process FES monitored and adjusted the capacity and direction of its deer management operations on the National Forest Estate via a mix of culling and deer fencing.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Promote stalking opportunities via website and social media channels		<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Provide venison from National Nature Reserves and National Parks for local events and sales		<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Make collated DVC records available on Natural Spaces website for other agencies to access	A report on 'Deer-Vehicle collisions in Scotland - data collection and collation to end 2015' was published. This included making the DVC records available on the Natural Spaces website.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Promote reporting of DVCs by DMGs through inclusion of data collection within revised Deer Management Plans		<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Undertake DVC data analysis at Local Authority scale	The report published on Deer-Vehicle collisions in Scotland - data collection and collation to end 2015 includes this analysis.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Support responsible access and responsible land management by operating the Heading for the Scottish Hills web service		<b>ACHIEVED</b>

Facilitate the annual Spring and Autumn Deer Campaign to help raise awareness amongst road users of the likelihood of deer movements in and around the network during the Spring period		<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Enhance quality assurance processes with venison production	Enhanced SQWV producer and processor quality standards	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Collate DVC records from main data sources of Road operating companies, SSPCA records and Human injury records		<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Continue to provide opportunity for stakeholders, including communities, to engage with deer management planning	ADMG has an ongoing commitment to supporting the Deer Management Planning process and to facilitating an inclusive approach to the planning process where required. The Chairman regularly attends DMG meetings and the Birnam Workshops for Chairs and Secretaries provide an opportunity to promote a collaborative and inclusive approach, particularly with regards to community engagement. In 2016, ADMG provided all Deer Management Groups with a webpage linked to the ADMG site, to ensure deer management plans and minutes of meetings are widely available to the wider public and provide contact details for the Chair/Secretary.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Include prominent Deer Stalking panel, linking to Deer Stalking page on front page of MCoFS website		<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Promote Scottish Outdoor Access Code advice relating to stalking to members and to the general public via the website linking to the HFSH/Hill phones when the scheme is launched each summer	We carried a feature link on our Scottish homepage throughout the stalking season which linked through to HFSH	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Take opportunities to publicise and promote the rights and responsibilities of the public with regard to walking during the stalking season		<b>ACHIEVED</b>

Liaise over issues relating to access and stalking through the National Access Forum	We promoted this on social media and in our e-newsletter to our Scottish members	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Raise awareness of wild deer interactions in urban woodlands through education events	FCS have contributed to events organised and run under the LDNS including promotion of key projects such as deer on your doorstep, and a sharing good practice event targeted at encouraging public bodies to understand their responsibilities under the deer code.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Deliver a programme of events and promotion centred around Eat Scottish Venison Day		<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Ensure each of the four trunk road operating companies prepare a Deer Management Plan related to their area of operation	The DMP process is an iterative process and will continue. TS will continue to work with Operators to develop and improve on the DMPs for trunk roads.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Pilot a Red Stag and a pilot Roe Buck, Deer Management Permission 'business opportunity' to develop the suite of Deer Management Permissions	Preparatory work on a draft Agreement has been completed with the intention to progress a pilot site during 2017/18	<b>CARRIED FORWARD</b>
Work via FES Land Mgmt Planning processes to better understand how ecosystem services, such as timber production, carbon storage, clean water, wild food, and related benefits are delivered through effective and environmentally responsible deer mgmt		<b>CARRIED FORWARD</b>
Raise awareness of roads safety issues amongst professional and recreational cullers, and manage wild deer on the NFE to low densities, in order to help reduce the risk of DVCs locally	Ongoing work. FES will make use of SNH/Transport Scotland 2017 data to inform deer culling on the National Forest Estate. FES culled approximately 31,700 deer during 2016/17.	<b>CARRIED FORWARD</b>
Develop an increased understanding of the interactions of deer on other land uses, on and adjacent to the NFE	Ongoing work. The new GIS-based deer management maps will help FES increase its knowledge of deer movements in and around the National Forest Estate.	<b>CARRIED FORWARD</b>
Develop a WDBP Guide on principles of economic damage associated with local deer management		<b>CARRIED FORWARD</b>

Submit application for Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) status for Scottish wild venison to the Scottish Government		<b>CARRIED FORWARD</b>
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### WDNA Priority: Training and Deer Welfare

Provide update/refresher training for Wildlife Management staff and encourage contractors and recreational stalkers to participate in CPD	FES provides training for its staff in a range of topics such as firearms handling, carcass preparation, first aid and safe driving. It encourages, via its contract and Permission tenders, bidders to have up to date qualifications and skills.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Through deer management permissions provide opportunity for stalkers with DSC to develop their skills and knowledge to contribute towards their DSC	FES has provided opportunity via its Deer Management Permissions for stalkers with DSC 1 to work towards their DSC 2.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Continue promoting and implementing deer welfare as a fundamental principle of wild deer management activities	Deer welfare remains a cornerstone and key principle of our deer management operations and is monitored regularly.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Work with Police Scotland regarding wildlife crime on the NFE relating to deer, such as poaching and anti-social behaviour	The FES Wildlife Management team has worked with Police Scotland as and when the need has arisen.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Work to influence the Skills Action Plan for Scotland's Forest and Timber Technologies industries, including curriculum developments, talent attraction, support for new entrants and supporting workforce development	Lantra are reviewing the SVQ 2 & 3 (SCQF Level 5 & 6) in Trees and Timber and the Modern Apprenticeships Levels 2 & 3 in Trees and Timber, as well as SVQ 2 & 3 (SCQF Level 5 & 7) and the Modern Apprenticeships Levels 2 & 3 in Game & Wildlife Management	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Promote Scotland's land-based and environmental conservation industries as a positive career choice, and help celebrate the achievements of learners and new entrants	Videos produced and made available on Lantra YouTube channel highlighting careers in land-based sector, including Game & Wildlife Management. Lantra's annual Land-based and Aquaculture Learner of the Year Awards celebrated the achievements of Scotland's top trainees.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Hold a WDBP Demonstration Day for colleges	Event was held on Creag Meagaidh NNR at end of April	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
Review the impact of training on the welfare of wild deer		<b>ACHIEVED</b>

Update the WDBP Guide on Wild Deer Welfare principles and develop a WDBP Guide on assessing welfare	A Draft has been produced and will be taken to the steering group	<b>CARRIED FORWARD</b>
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