

From: Richard Cooke
Sent: 06 October 2016 14:43
To: Mark Wrightham
Cc: Finlay Clark
Subject: Re: Scoping a strategic vision for the uplands

Mark

Thank you for this. ADMG is supportive of the proposal to develop a Vision for the Uplands. Indeed it came up in a conversation I had with Graeme Dey, Convenor (ECCLR Committee) at the Scottish Parliament on Tuesday. I have little to say about your list of questions other than that they are the right questions. However in connection with question 7 to 11, can I emphasise the necessity of talking about herbivore impacts rather than deer impacts. So often sheep are completely overlooked when it comes to discussing grazing. For example the draft CNPA Plan currently under consultation is deficient in that respect.

In regard to question 10 I think the Vision should certainly be map based to identify land capability and current land use. For example the Scottish Government target of 10,000 hectares per annum of new woodland/forestry needs to take account of current economic land use and the opportunity cost of change in addition to identifying areas which could grow trees.

Finally on your possible approaches to a definition of the uplands, I agree that it is necessary to have a clear consensus on this. A discussion will be necessary at an early stage in the process you outline and I would not wish to take a stab at picking one of your options at this stage.

Apologies for such a sketchy response but ADMG will of course wish to be closely involved in whatever flows from this.

Kind regards

Richard