



## Appendix VII - Deer Management Plan (DMP) – Meall Mor, Moy & Farr

### Background

This DMP should be used as a supporting document/annex for the Land Management Plan (LMP). The DMP should also relate/be used in conjunction with FLS Deer Management Strategy.

### National & Local objectives

- Detailed local objectives can be found in the LMP.
- A mixture of restocking, natural regeneration and peatland restoration is planned for the LMP area.
- National objective contributions
  - Contributing to [Scottish Forestry - Forestry Strategy](#) (also includes Climate Change)
  - Deer Management Strategy [Deer management strategy - Forestry and Land Scotland](#)
  - Scottish Biodiversity Strategy [Biodiversity strategy: consultation - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

### What are we going to protect?

This Deer Management Plan is required in order to manage the deer population in a sustainable way whilst protecting and establishing the local forest management objectives and in turn achieving Forestry and Land Scotland national objectives.

### Deer Species (and other herbivores/feral pigs)

The predominant deer species in the LMP area are Sika Deer and Roe deer. There is an occasional red deer seen and maybe one a year shot. FLS have had no reports of other herbivores in the DMP area.

There are regular incursions of Hill sheep into the area which should be considered when discussing extra protective measures. Although the local livestock owner is readily available to retrieve them, they are likely to cause some damage.

## What have we done to date?

Historic Cull - in the previous 5 years FLS have produced an average cull of around 500 deer per annum.

## An evidence based approach

FLS will endeavor to obtain an up to date deer population density by way of drone/dung count surveys carried out by an independent third party. This information will enable FLS to set an evidence based cull through population modelling alongside impact assessments' and cull data obtained from the Wildlife Management System.

The deer team undertake Nearest Neighbour (NN) surveys and ongoing internal restock surveying, which informs deer culling throughout the year. If the evidence proves necessary culls will be increased.

The environment team undertakes Herbivore Impact Assessments (HIA) and inputs the data into the Deer Dashboard, used by all teams involved in site restocking.

Most of the data used to create this DMP can be found in the Deer Dashboard.

## Population Modeling and Future Culls

Until FLS have more up to date deer density information we cannot provide a population model. The proposed cull for 22-23 is 465 animals all carried out by contract resource. Cull targets are informed through habitat/crop damage assessment and population modelling.

## Geography

The terrain type encountered in the LMP and surrounding area is classed as Upland rolling with some areas of steep ground. See LMP for more information.

## Protection Options – cull/fence/tubes

In addition to culling, certain tree species in vulnerable locations will be protected with tubes. A mix of deer and stock fencing is used throughout the LMP area. The fencing ranges in age and quality. In some areas, especially near the wind farm end, there are multiple points where deer and livestock can breach the fence.

There is no internal fencing in the LMP area. The boundary march fencing is maintained with a 50/50 contribution from FLS and the appropriate neighboring landowner, where each party is responsible for regular monitoring and maintenance. Deer intrusions are dealt with via culling.

## How will objectives be met? Staff, contractors?

- At this time the culling is carried out by contractor resource in the LMP area, although FLS may decide in the future to supplement this with our own Wildlife Ranger staff.
- There is no Recreational Deer Management Permissions within the DMP/LMP area
- Both 5.6 (out of Season) and 18.2 (night shooting) authorisations are used to meet objectives. Night shooting takes place from the 1<sup>st</sup> September to the end of March. Male deer are shot throughout the year and female deer only shot from 1<sup>st</sup> of September to the 31<sup>st</sup> of March
- All deer controllers are DSC 2 qualified.

## Infrastructure? Roads/ATV tracks/glades/larders/equipment

- The LMP has significant road access and there are open areas as well as restock and clearfell areas to cull/control deer. There is also significant high forest areas where deer can be seen and dispatched. Restock areas will continue to require ATV/pedestrian access to provide access for stalking into deer, culling and extraction of carcass's. Ongoing roadside vegetation will be required to enable safe and successful night shooting operations.
- There is significant amounts of shared access in the LMP area ranging from local access agreements with local estates to road usage by contract workers for the wind farm.
- The local larder in use is at Inshriach but there are future plans for a new larder at Daviot.
- The dualling of the A9 in the future will also have an impact on culling activity.

## Collaborative working opportunities

The surrounding area to the forest has mixed land usage including sporting and agriculture. It is unlikely that any neighbors would look to work closely with FLS on deer management. There may be opportunities in the future as we currently have a good dialogue with most local estates and are in regular contact. The LMP falls into the Monadhliath Deer Management Group area.

## Venison

FLS subscribe to the Scottish Quality Wild Venison (SQWV) scheme. All venison is quality assured and sold to Highland Game