



Northern Periphery Programme Project - Deer Management

2nd Coordination meeting,

Deer Commission for Scotland, Inverness

20 April 2000

Objectives. To discuss and agree the Deer Commission element of “DEER”, establishing a work plan, milestones and budget details.

Present. John Milne (Project Coordinator)(JM), Jerry Laker (Project Administrator)(JL), Nick Reiter (Deer Commission for Scotland) (NR), Rognvald Taylor (The North Highland College, Thurso)(RT), Moira Baptie (Forest Enterprise)(MB).

Outline of discussions

a. Agreement on Project Steering Committee

It was agreed that the project steering committee should comprise Joar Bergin, John Milne, Dick Youngson and Jerry Laker.

b. Role of Scottish partner

The Deer Commission for Scotland will manage the completion of sub-tasks 5-7, and assist, where appropriate in the organisation of the planned meetings. The completion of all the tasks requires the involvement of other parties, in particular The North Highland College (formerly Thurso College of Further Education) and Forest Enterprise. Certain tasks are currently either in progress or already completed. For example, the review of previous and current research on the economic impacts of deer in woodlands, part of Sub-task 6 is already completed, and is published on the project web page.

Sub-action 5 will to a large extent be undertaken by FE, in collaboration with DCS. Venison marketing is outside the remit of DCS, but falls within the current research interests of FE.

Sub-action 6 will be carried out by FE in collaboration with DCS. The possible formats for a database were discussed. The sophistication of the data retrieval system will largely depend on the size, as yet unknown, of the database resource, but it was agreed that any resulting database should be available on the Internet. That media also provides the possibility that updates could be made directly by end users.

Sub-action 7 will be largely undertaken by The North Highland Colleg, this work is already in progress.

c. Meetings and conferences

The Scientific workshop will be held on a date to be agreed in the period 15 June- 15 July 2000. It was felt that there is an urgent need to bring interested parties together to lay out a framework for future research on the assessment of deer populations. A list of suitable persons to attend was tentatively drawn up, and it was estimated that approximately 12 key people would need to attend. Once a date is decided the Deer Commission will make the necessary arrangements to hold the meeting at a hotel in Inverness.

The national convention will be held in November 2001, linked in with a conference that Forest Enterprise is intending to hold at that time. The convention will therefore be jointly organised by Helen Armstrong (FE) and Jerry Laker (MLURI). The programme committee (MLURI, DCS, FE, & NHC) will agree the date, location and outline programme by November 2000. There was some discussion as to a suitable venue. MB felt that the range of woodland types close to Inverness, and the availability of suitable sized hotels would make it a good choice. NR felt that a location further south, e.g. Perthshire, would present a more representative picture of the range of Scottish deer species. Speyside was also suggested. It was agreed that the spirit of the NPP programme would be better favoured by a more northerly location, and that those present would consider the options before the next meeting.

The convention will be held over 2 days with a day for field visits, possibly sandwiched between the two session days. The issues felt to be important were: integrating management of deer and capercaillie, venison marketing, and

to present a series of case studies illustrating best practice – eg. The DCS sika project, a forest owners group, and a deer management pilot project.

d. Financial planning

The budget outline drawn up at the 1st coordination meeting in Norway was reviewed and agreed by all parties. A breakdown of budget commitments for each Scottish partnership members and each of the subtasks and its components to be drawn up by MLURI.