

Upland Management and Biodiversity- Knowledge Exchange Workshop

Towards integrated biodiversity policy: developing a shared understanding of the impacts of environmental and management change on biodiversity in upland ecosystems.

Tuesday 24th November 2009
Battleby conference centre, near Perth

Aim

The aim of the workshop is to debate the key issues for the future management of natural and semi-natural habitats in the British uplands from scientists, land managers and policy makers perspectives. We will focus particularly on the consequences of a changing climate, ongoing pollution impacts and the current desire to maintain and enhance biodiversity as drivers for upland management. What are the key issues to consider when making land management choices, how much influence does policy have and is science providing the information needed to underpin practical management decisions?

The presentations and subsequent discussion will focus on the upland and montane environment (above the treeline), although issues around forests at the tree line will also be considered.



Photo courtesy of Dave Riach

Workshop Programme

9:30 – 10:00 Coffee/tea on arrival (Poster session)

10:00 – 10:10 **Alison Hester** Welcome and introduction

Understanding the impacts of environmental and management change on biodiversity in upland ecosystems

Chair: **Lorna Dawson**

10:10 – 10:25 **Richard Lochhead** Scottish Government's perspectives and future priorities for upland management.

10:25 – 10:40 **Alison Hester** The only constant is change: long term biodiversity trends in the uplands

10:40 – 10:55 **Andrea Britton** Cold storage: climate change and carbon sequestration in the alpine zone.

10:55 – 11:10 **Rachel Helliwell** The nitrogen time bomb: Is nitrogen leaching a serious threat to the quality of soils and waters in remote mountain areas?

11:10 – 11:25 **Justin Irvine** Building consensus for managing biodiversity in the wider countryside.

11:25 – 12:00 Break

Stakeholders perspectives on the impacts of environmental and management change on biodiversity in upland ecosystems

Chair: **Glenn Iason**

12:00 – 12:15 **Simon Blackett** A practical assessment of the issues associated with land management in the uplands. What does the future hold?

12:15 – 12:30 **Shaila Rao** Conservation in mountain environments (Mar Lodge)

12:30 – 12:45 **Andrew Coupar** Views from a statutory agency

12:45 – 14:00 Lunch (film show of Mharcaidh research catchment)

What are the main impacts of environmental and management change on biodiversity in upland ecosystems and how can we manage them?

Facilitator: **Keith Marshall/Rachel Helliwell**

14:00-15:15 Breakout session

15:15 – 15:45 Report back

15:45 – 16:00 Final Synthesis.