

Photo: Calum Campbell

North Ross Deer Management Group Working Deer Management Plan

OPERATION OF THE GROUP

The historical North Ross Deer Management Plan (NRDMP) has been assessed against the Deer Management Group (DMG) Benchmark document developed by the Association of Deer Management Groups (ADMG) and SNH public interest actions.

This analysis of present operations has defined the management processes in place which in turn has resulted in a series of recommended actions that will during the lifetime of this plan allow the group to meet the ADMG benchmark for a DMP as well as SNH public interest actions.

Action points have been collated from operation of the group and public interest action sections and will be self-perpetuating during the life of the plan and are to be implemented during the lifetime of this plan with yearly reviews to ensure that real delivery is taking place.

1.Area & Boundaries

Action Points

- 1.1 The group promotes proactively the work of sub groups (3) to achieve the adoption and ongoing delivery of a competent whole group population model with regular reviews of sub group boundaries which will primarily be based on deer populations not geography. <u>Spring 2019</u>
- 1.2 The group will identify any smaller landowners and occupiers within the group area who are impacted by wild deer and may wish to join the group and promote the benefits of membership of the DMG to smaller landholders within the group area. Ongoing

2. Membership

Action Points

- 2.1 Encourage comment and full participation from all group members and ensure that if a primary member is not able to attend any meeting or sub-group meeting that a suitably mandated substitute attends in their place. <u>Ongoing</u>
- 2.2 Focus the structure of group meetings on 6 monthly sub-group working meetings and twice yearly whole group meetings. *Ongoing*
- 2.3 Where land within the group is under crofting tenure, engage with crofting grazing committees to encourage committee clerks to attend sub-group meetings and provide input to the DMP. *Spring* 2019

3. Meetings

- 3.1 Invite to meetings all local stakeholders, community leaders and where necessary Police and Governmental agencies, and those who have interests in the management of deer that are both professional and community oriented. <u>Ongoing</u>
- 3.2 Elect a chair for each sub-group from within its membership. Spring 2019
- 3.3 Create a small operational support group to share task delivery, including the advancement of the management plan, and ensure execution of action points

- between meetings. This group to be made up of both proprietors and deer managers employed within the group. *Summer 2019*
- 3.4 All members should ensure that if unable to attend meetings they are suitably represented by someone who has delegated decision making authority at all meetings of the DMG. <u>Ongoing</u>
- 3.5 The DMG will meet twice annually. All three sub groups will do likewise. Spring 2019

4. Constitution & Finances

Action Points

- 4.1 Group financial structures are to be agreed from those outlined in the constitution. Annual budgets to be agreed along with a group cost structure review and the level of funding held on account by the group. *Ongoing*
- 4.2 Identify if there are opportunities for the group through economic packages offered under support systems such as the Scottish Rural Development Program (SRDP). Ongoing
- 4.3 The group will maintain a constitution appropriate to the group's needs. <u>Ongoing</u>

5. Deer Management Plan

- 5.1 Complete plan refresh in accordance with benchmark report, review and seek adoption prior to 2019 SNH Deer Management Plan review. <u>March 2019</u>
- 5.2 Ensure that the plan provides for whole group management issues and is not defined by any requirements solely relating to the designated sites within the group boundary, which should have their own clearly identified management objectives as part of any management agreement. <u>Ongoing</u>
- 5.3 NRDMP to be subject to continual scrutiny and review in line with SNH Best Practice Guidance (BPG). This work to be completed by management group every spring during the lifetime of the DMP. Changes and next steps are to be achievable in set timeframes and agreed with all members. Spring 2020

5.4 Use of a five-year sub group population model fed into by a whole group format which is derived from SNH BPG and is to be subject to annual review with any changes made in line with accepted guidance from appropriate specialists. Ensure actual recruitment figures from counts of sample groups of hinds are used to maintain accuracy of model. Develop sub group population models where subpopulations can be identified to improve local population management. Sika deer populations, where they exist should also be subject to population modeling. *Spring* 2019

- 5.5 Sika deer are recognized as having important economic value to some members and an economic cost to others and this is considered within the non-native species actions. Roe deer to be managed in accordance with BPG and local population levels. <u>Ongoing</u>
- 5.6 Ensure that all group members wider land management objectives are recorded and taken into consideration whilst coming to group decisions. This detail is appended to the NRDMG strategic document. <u>Ongoing</u>

6. Code of Practice on Deer Management

- 6.1 Members are to ensure that collectively and individually as members all parties adhere to the defined practices found in the code. <u>Ongoing</u>
- 6.2 At group meetings all members will have the opportunity to raise issues relating to the welfare of wild deer within the group area along with other issues which may affect the group. Lines of communication between office bearers and members should be open and inclusive to promote confidence within the group structure. Ongoing

7. ADMG Principles of Collaboration

Action points

- 7.1 NRDMG will share a commitment to economically sustainable, vibrant and thriving communities that are engaged with in regard to deer management within the group. <u>Ongoing</u>
- 7.2 The group accepts that there is a diversity of management objectives and respect each other's objectives while recognizing the need to work in collaboration to further the aims of the group. <u>Ongoing</u>
- 7.3 NRDMG commits to communicate openly with all relevant stakeholders. <u>Spring</u> 2019
- 7.4 There will be a commitment to recognize the rights of individual landowners to make reasonable changes in land use and agree steps including a review of the group DMP where necessary. <u>Ongoing</u>

8. Best Practice

Action points

8.1 All amendments that are required to be made to the DMP must be in line with Wild Deer Best Practice Guidelines. <u>Ongoing</u>

9. Data and evidence gathering - Deer Counts

- 9.1 The group will carry out an accurate annual deer count in collaboration with all members. This will be arranged under the guidance of the sub group chairs. Participation in the annual count will be mandatory for all members. <u>Ongoing</u>
- 9.2 Counting within enclosed woodland areas will be carried out on an individual need basis following recognised industry accepted methods which should meet best practice guidelines. <u>Annually</u>

9.3 The group will agree a range of baseline populations for the open hill range. Once agreed the group will rely on population modelling and habitat monitoring for the duration of this plan to agree annual culls. <u>Spring 2019</u>

- 9.4 In order to deliver robust population modelling that reflects habitat conditions and good deer husbandry it is proposed that a helicopter count should be undertaken of the whole group area on a five-year cycle dependent on funding and in collaboration with SNH. Spring 2024
- 9.5 Recruitment counting of sample groups of hinds and calves (late April/ early May) to be integrated so that an assessment can be made of deer population recruitment and health, post winter. This recruitment evaluation is to be carried out by all members with open hill range interests. <u>Annually May/June</u>

10. Data and evidence gathering - Culls

- 10.1 The group will utilise an agreed and fully adopted wild deer population model to form the baseline for annual cull figures. This is to be found within the final section of this document. Spring 2019
- 10.2 Population models, actual and forecasted cull levels are to be updated yearly with the use of recruitment and mortality data and amended where necessary to reflect findings. <u>Annually</u>
- 10.3 Any changes to deer population density to be agreed collaboratively in a way that best meets the needs of sporting interest, the economic benefits to members, habitat conditions and the public interest outcomes. <u>Ongoing</u>
- 10.4 Sex, age class and weights of all culled animals to be recorded with accuracy on a standardized NRDMG larder sheet to be used by all group members. <u>Autumn</u> <u>2019</u>
- 10.5 All cull data to be collated and reported promptly to sub group chair and group secretary at the end of each season. All species of wild deer culled should be fully recorded. *Ongoing*
- 10.6 Each property under membership of the DMG will be responsible for meeting its annual cull targets as agreed within the population model as set by the group. <u>Ongoing</u>

10.7 The DMG will agree a population target which will be built from individual estate needs. <u>Autumn 2019</u>

11. Data and evidence gathering - Habitat Monitoring

Action Points

- 11.1 A full schedule of habitat and designated site monitoring will be provided within the working DMP to cover 2019 2024. <u>Spring 2019</u>
- 11.2 Sufficient resources will be put in place over the period of the DMP to ensure the high quality of delivery of habitat monitoring across the whole group area. <u>Ongoing</u>
- 11.3 Each group member will commit to have a trained resource to carry out habitat monitoring ground work within their property. <u>Spring 2020</u>
- 11.4 Group members to share information timeously on changes to agricultural practices and stock numbers which may have an impact on habitat. <u>Ongoing</u>

12. Competence & Training

Action Point

12.1 DMG members will ensure that DMQ Level 1 and Trained Hunter status are the minimum group standard, and promotion of DMQ level 2 for appropriate staff would be undertaken in order to promote continued professional development (CPD). The groups training policy is detailed within the Strategic document. Ongoing

12.2 Table 12.0

Accreditation	Achieved by Group Professionals			
DMQ Level 1	18			
DMQ Level 2	10			
Trained Hunter Status	14			

12.3 Staff and contractors to be encouraged to take up opportunities in gaining deer management qualifications and be better informed on the definition of trained hunter status. (Trained Hunter status can be through DMQ1 (later versions) or through a Wild game (large) Handling course). <u>Ongoing</u> 12.4 Habitat assessments are a fundamental tool in defining the status of land cover in the DMG. Staff should be trained and able to describe techniques and processes as well as describe specific outcomes from this process. <u>Spring 2020</u>

13. Carcass Handling Facilities & Venison Marketing

Action Points

- 13.1 In the short term all members to review handling and cooling facilities and investigate where improvements can be made following BPG. <u>Summer 2019</u>
- 13.2 Group to consider a long-term collaborative marketing strategy for venison that fits with the aims and objectives of Scottish Quality Wild Venison standards (SQWV) which exist to maintain, develop and promote quality assurance standards throughout the industry. Spring 2021
- 13.3 The group will encourage all members to evaluate the merits of joining SQWV. Ongoing
- 13.4 Where practicable group members will consider the development of shared larder and handling facilities prior to undertaking improvements to existing facilities. <u>Summer 2021</u>

14. Communications

- 14.1 A communications process has been outlined in the constitution and is to be used to promote ongoing business between meetings. <u>Ongoing</u>
- 14.2 All DMG meeting minutes are to be communicated to designated stakeholders, by being displayed on the NRDMG portal of the ADMG website. Copy of the minutes to be circulated to the community councils within the group area. Spring 2019
- 14.3 This DMP will be made available to the general public via ADMG web portal following ratification by the group. The public will have the opportunity to make representations on the plan and these can then be actioned where appropriate to the DMG plan. Spring 2019

14.4 Avenues of communication to the wider public to be investigated, and to include areas such as newsletters, open meetings on members properties and through use of different online vehicles such as websites and social media accounts.

Ongoing

<u>DELIVERY OF PUBLIC INTEREST OUTCOMES</u>

1. Contribute to the delivery of designated features into Favorable Condition

Action points

- 1.1 The DMG to establish baseline population densities for sub groups and whole group taking into consideration sporting requirements, habitat impacts and designated sites condition. <u>Spring 2019</u>
- 1.2 The group will maintain its population model following each five yearly count and members will use all endeavors to ensure that annual cull targets are met for the duration of the life of the DMP. *Spring 2019*
- 1.3 The following estates will maintain a spring population of no more than 10 deer per Sq Km on the open range: Alladale, Braemore, Corriemulzie, Croick, East Rhidorroch, Glencalvie, Inverlael Deer Forest, Inverlael Farm Estate, Langwell, Leckmelm Hill, Ledmore, Loch Droma, Loubcroy, Strathvaich, West Rhidorroch. The equates to a density of 8600 red deer on the open hill range.
 - The same group of estates will aim to achieve Habitat Impact Assessment results of no less than 90% of sample points are in the Low to Low/Moderate Impact Classes and no more than 10% of sample points are in the Moderate, Moderate/ Heavy or Heavy Impact Classes must be achieved when the reference habitats are reassessed in 2023.
 - East Rhidorroch will secure their woodland through an agreed fencing and deer control programme funded through the Forestry Grant Scheme in 2019.
 - West Rhidorroch will secure their woodland through an agreed fencing and deer control programme funded through the Forestry Grant Scheme in 2019.
 - Wyvis, Clach Liath and Wyvis NNR will maintain a spring population of no more than 1200 red deer on the open range, a density of 10 deer per square km.
 - Wyvis, Clach Liath and Wyvis NNR will aim to achieve Habitat Impact Assessment results of no less than 90% of sample points are in the Low to Low/Moderate Impact Classes and no more than 10% of sample points are in the Moderate Impact Classes must be achieved when the reference habitats are reassessed in 2023.

Ben Wyvis SAC habitats will also be assessed in 2019 and the results will be used to inform cull levels and targeting and potential changes to deer feeding areas. <u>Autumn 2019</u>

1.3 The group members will work closely with SNH to help deliver shared objectives for the Beinn Dearg SAC, including expanding the extent of the Section 7 agreement as appropriate. <u>Summer 2019</u> 1.4 The group members involved will give consideration to and adoption of a plan for the expansion of the Beinn Dearg Section 7 management agreement. *Spring* 2019

2. Contribute to the Scottish Government woodland expansion target of 25% woodland cover.

Action points

2.1 A feasibility survey will be carried out by a forestry consultant in spring 2019 enabled by support funding via the forestry cooperation scheme currently available to DMGs. Group members will be expected to engage positively in this survey and actively seek opportunities for woodland expansion. *Spring 2019*

3. Manage deer to retain existing native woodland cover and improve woodland condition in the medium to long term.

Action points

- 3.1 Review existing Native woodland survey of Scotland maps and identify priorities for actions necessary that may encourage future regeneration. Areas identified as having high or very high herbivore impacts are on Alladale, Croick, East Rhidorroch FCS Torrachilty, Glencalvie, Kildermorie, Novar, Strathvaich, West Rhidorroch and Wyvis. <u>Summer 2019</u>
- 3.2 Group members will identify next steps to mitigate against herbivore impacts on open habitats that can be achieved through support mechanisms such as SRDP.
- 3.3 All members to ensure that recently established woodlands are managed to full establishment potential. <u>Ongoing</u>

4. Monitor and manage deer impacts in the wider countryside (not improved agricultural land)

Action Points

4.1 A professional herbivore impact assessment following best practice guidelines will be carried out across the whole open range every 3 years. The initial site monitoring will commence in late Spring 2019. Group to adopt habitat impact targets of no less than 90% of sample points are in the low to low/moderate impact

classes and no more than 10% sample points are in the Moderate impact classes. Group to agree to maintain a deer density of 10 deer per square km across the open hill range unless habitat impact assessments suggest varying this. <u>Spring</u> 2019

- 4.2 Group members will undertake to supplement this with their own estate monitoring between professional assessments. <u>Summer 2020</u>
- 4.3 Habitat assessment data to be used to support identification of grazing levels and whether changes are required on a site-specific basis. Identify next steps to mitigate against herbivore impacts on open habitats that can be achieved through support mechanisms such as SRDP. *Autumn* 2019
- <u>4.4</u> Habitat extents are tabulated within the DMG strategic document. <u>Ongoing</u>

5. Improve Scotland's ability to store carbon by maintaining or improving ecosystem health

- 5.1 Carbon sensitive sites require to be identified using the Land Cover Scotland map, and this document will continue to be referred to for any changes to land management. <u>Ongoing</u>
- 5.1 Data from habitat assessments can be used at estate or group level according to any future agreements. This data will be used to support changes to land management that can positively influence carbon storage. <u>Autumn 2019</u>
- 5.2 Peatlands restoration while an important driver of carbon sequestration will be reviewed in the context of ensuring that natural capital for all species is maintained, and financial support using SRDP or peatland action funding pathways would be sought if it was felt that restoration is to be an appropriate next step. The group through its members undertakes to identify from aerial imagery where hill drains are located and will instigate drain blocking where this is necessary for site restoration if funding sources can be secured. Spring 2019
- 5.3 NRDMG will maintain a target deer density of 10 deer per sq. km across the area. Any changes to this will be taken after consultations between NRDMG and the appropriate agencies. <u>Autumn 2020</u>
- 5.4 Muirburn will be used in a manner that meets existing regulations and in a way that is compatible with maintaining local environments in good condition. It is

understood by group members that any burning of deep peatland sites is detrimental to maintaining them in good condition and could lead to long term negative impacts on biodiversity. Group members shall not burn on areas of deep peat. *Ongoing*

- 5.5 Any decisions to review woodland generation in the NRDMG area is to be taken with the appropriate advice from woodland specialists, and against a background of minimizing any impacts on carbon storage and the protection of river basins.

 Spring 2019
- 5.6 The group will contribute to River Basin Management planning where requested either as a group or as individuals and given the importance of atlantic salmon fishing within parts of the group boundaries regular meetings (once a year minimum) should be held between DMG office bearers and Salmon fisheries management groups within group area who will also be invited to attend DMG meetings. Ongoing
- 5.7 Recorded details of completed peatland restoration works to March 2019

Table 20.0

Group member	Area Restored (Hectares)			
Alladale Estate	110h			
Braemore Estate	105h			
Croick Estate	85h			
Corriemulzie Estate	160h			
Strathvaich Estate	225h			

6. Reduce or mitigate the risk of establishment of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)

- 6.1 Existing collaborative estate policies are in place for the culling of non-native species through unrestricted cull practices. This policy will continue for the life of this plan. <u>Ongoing</u>
- 6.2 With regard to Sika deer, it is accepted that they play a significant minor role in the economic activities of some group members. It is agreed that while the economic value should be seen as a benefit the group culling would take place in relation to

- a population model based on populations present outwith enclosed woodland areas. <u>Autumn 2019</u>
- 6.3 The group is encouraged to discuss INNS data with SNH on a regular basis in order to provide a bigger picture in the region on species distribution. *Ongoing*
- 6.4 Any sightings of deer species other than red, roe, fallow or sika are to be reported to the group secretary and SNH wildlife unit manager immediately. Feral goats are present in small numbers, primarily around Beinn Dearg. The group will ensure that numbers are managed accordingly. Feral pigs are present within the group area and are likely to increase in numbers and range over the period of this plan. The group will agree a management strategy for feral pigs to minimise negative impacts. Ongoing

7. Protect landscapes and historic features from deer and deer management activity

Action points

- 7.1 Any developments such as changes in land management, construction or other impacts on the landscape that may impact Historic and Cultural Features are to be assessed against current legislation guidance. <u>Ongoing</u>
- 7.2 The DMG will access the Historic Environment Records HER Highland website to ascertain the location of historical and cultural features within the landscape and take action to ensure that management does not impact on their integrity. <u>Ongoing</u>
- 7.3 The DMG will ensure that any deer fencing proposed is subject to the joint agency guidance on fencing. *Ongoing*

ECONOMY

8. Optimize economic benefits of deer management in Scotland

Action Points

8.1 Discuss with local representatives the potential benefits that Deer have on local communities, and how that can be maximized to support the economic spinoffs for local businesses. *Ongoing*

8.2 Review ways forward to identify the economic possibilities to be obtained by the group including any opportunities for collaboratively managing sporting and accommodation opportunities across the group through use of, and reference to the PACEC (2014) survey. Summer 2019

- 8.3 Look at ways in which to add value to group product such as venison via collaborative marketing. <u>Autumn 2019</u>
- 8.4 Discuss ways to manage carcass handling including future sharing of central handling units. <u>Autumn 2020</u>

9. Minimize the economic costs of deer management

Action Points

- 9.1 Review areas where management changes are potentially going to have a negative economic impact on the DMG and formulate a way forward that will help to alleviate those changes. <u>Ongoing</u>
- 9.2 Review areas where management is impacting on neighbouring interests such as farming, crofting and forestry. *Ongoing*
- 9.3 NRDMG to identify an ongoing process whereby capital investment in deer management and infrastructure can be quantified in a manner that is acceptable. <u>Summer 2020</u>
- 9.4 Review areas where individual estate management changes are potentially going to have a negative economic impact on the NRDMG and formulate a way forward that will help to alleviate those changes. <u>Winter 2019</u>

10. Contribute to delivering higher standards of competence in deer management

Action Point

10.1 Review all staff training in regard to deer management so that within a reasonable timeframe to be set by NRDMG, all relevant staff will be trained to at least DMQ Level 1 and Trained Hunter status as a minimum group standard. Promotion of DMQ level 2 for appropriate staff would be undertaken in order to promote CPD. Ongoing

10.2 All members of NRDMG to ensure that they have systems to keep training records up to date and to ensure employees and contractors are competent and qualified in undertaking the core functions of their role. <u>Ongoing</u>

- 10.3 All members of NRDMG to ensure that they have a suitable and sufficient risk assessment to control physical hazards. *Ongoing*
- 10.4 All members to actively encourage staff to participate in further training in areas appropriate to their role. <u>Ongoing</u>

11. Identify and promote opportunities contributing to public health and wellbeing benefits

- 11.1 Group meetings are to be used to highlight any issues with Deer Vehicle Collisions (DVCs) and to look at ways in which risk can be mitigated. DVC details (location, species, sex & age class) will be recorded by agreed group members and collated and mapped. DVCs will also be logged on the deer collisions website. Where hotspots are identified the DMG will take actions to reduce these. This may involve working with roads authorities to reduce the risk to public safety as well as deer welfare. Summer 2019
- 11.2 All members are to have in place a policy of regular updates on issues that may impact staff, guest and public health. The primary issues are Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) of Deer and Lyme's disease, but may include other health risks such as operating in poor weather conditions, walking in difficult terrain and the appropriate use and deployment of firearms. Ongoing
- 11.3 All staff are to be aware of any agreed policies on the escalations required by best practice guidance in the case of notifiable diseases. *Ongoing*
- 11.4 The group are to discuss any safety issues and impacts on deer welfare with the appropriate Highland council outdoor access officer. <u>Spring 2019</u>
- 11.5 All group members are asked to review any local access issues and to work with the public in order to minimize any conflicts through provision of better information on the Scottish outdoor Access Code. Signage, websites and Heading to the Scottish hills website will be used to engage with the public. Group members will review entries to Heading to the Scottish hills website annually. Ongoing

11.6 Food safety and carcass handling to be managed in line with BPG and current legislative guidance. *Ongoing*

11.7 The DMG will identify opportunities to increase employment within the deer sector both directly and indirectly across the group area. <u>Ongoing</u>

12. Ensure effective communication in deer management issues

Action Point

- 12.1 Group to formalize a communications policy with agreed stakeholders such as public agencies, community groups and nominated individuals. *Spring 2019*
- 12.2 Group to record concerns over deer management expressed by communities and the actions it takes to address those concerns. <u>Ongoing</u>
- 12.3 Identify opportunities such as site visits with schools and other community groups to raise awareness of group activities with community groups and the wider public.

 <u>Spring 2019</u>

13. Ensure Deer welfare is taken into account at individual animal and population level

- 13.1 Review habitat status across the DMG every 3 years on receipt of the group wide herbivore impact report and identify ways in tandem with BPG on bringing sites into favorable condition status. Summer 2019
- 13.2 During culling operations, ensure reasonable care in line with BPG is maintained.

 <u>Ongoing</u>
- 13.3 All members are to maintain appropriate records on the management of herbivores, communicate these to the group, and also to liaise with appropriate agencies so that steps are in place to ensure that good animal welfare is maintained. *Ongoing*
- 13.4 The group will work with individual land managers who are putting in place operations that may impact deer management and habitats, to ensure that steps are taken to mitigate any negative impacts. <u>Ongoing</u>

13.5 The Group will annually review the welfare of all deer within the group area with all members contributing to the collection of deer welfare data. These reviews will be based on core issues such as deer body weights, recruitment and mortality of deer across the open range along with condition of habitat. Ongoing

14. Develop effective mechanisms to manage deer

Action Points

- 14.1 The group are to publish the agreed version of the North Ross Deer Management Plan prior to the review against the ADMG and Public Interest benchmarks. <u>Spring</u> 2019
- 14.2 Group secretary to assign roles and responsibilities with achievable timelines for any given changes or actions resulting from plan reviews. *Ongoing*
- 14.3 Minutes from DMG meetings to be made publicly available via the group secretary and will be displayed publicly on the NRDMG portal of the Association of Deer Management Groups website along with circulation to the community councils within the group. Ongoing

Population Modelling

Population management is a core element of good deer management. Alignment of deer populations to the habitat and environment on which they exist is a fundamental requirement of the successful operation of the NRDMG.

There are a number of factors which determine the current levels of deer populations along with localised densities within the NRDMG. These vary dependant on the objectives of the constituent members and some of these are, without necessarily placing in order; economic benefit, habitat management, agricultural activities, woodland management and creation along with impacts on the wider public land access and use.

Within a collective management process there is a reliance on cooperation and a degree of harmony between the individual member interests which underpin the successful operation of the component elements of the group (individual landholdings) and that of the greater common good for the betterment of wild deer relative to those objectives previously mentioned.

Within the NRDMG there are added elements to be considered when setting population targets with the ongoing Section 7 management agreement relative to the Beinn Dearg SSSI, the restoration of the Rhidorrach ancient woodland SSI & SAC, Amat SAC all of which remain in unfavourable condition.

The setting of a population model that serves the needs of all members is a challenging task which requires the commitment of all members to attain positive outcomes on a number of fronts.

Table 31.0 Group Population model

				Area H	115,693
	<u>Stags</u>	<u>Hinds</u>	<u>Calves</u>	Total	<u>Density</u>
2019 Spring Pop	3972	6177	1820	11969	10.3
2019 Summer Pop	4882	7087	1772	13741	
2019/20 Cull	700	1000	500	2200	
2019/20 Mortality	49	71	18	138	
2020 Spring Pop	4133	6016	1254	11402	9.9
2020 Summer Pop	4760	6804	1701	13265	
2020/21 Proposed Cull	730	748	204	1683	
2020/21 Mortality	48	68	17	133	
2021 Spring Pop	3982	5987	1480	11449	9.9
2021 Summer Pop	4722	6727	1497	12946	
2021/22 Proposed Cull	730	740	135	1605	
2021/22 Mortality	47	67	15	129	
2023 Spring Pop	3945	5920	1347	11212	9.7
2023 Summer Pop	4618	6594	1648	12860	
2023/24 Proposed Cull	730	725	148	1604	
2023/24 Mortality	46	66	16	129	
2024 Spring Pop	3842	5802	1484	11128	9.6
2024 Summer Pop	4584	6544	1451	12579	
2024/25 Proposed Cull	730	720	160	1609	
2024/25 Mortality	46	65	15	126	