

Scotland's Moorland Forum Programme for Delivery 2019

The Forum provides a platform for the discussion of issues related to Scotland's moorlands. This includes more traditional moorland management practices such as farming, crofting, country sports management, such as for grouse and management of wild deer, conservation interests (both more traditional and newer agendas such as rewilding), neighbouring and related land uses and outputs such as forestry and water management, and newer interests such as renewables. Enabling such discussion remains a core function of the Forum.

The Forum has always sought to provide additional value however, in the form of defined outputs. Forum discussions in late 2018 and early 2019 indicate that members wish to focus activity into two main strands of work, these can be categorised as:

- Future Land Use and Management Policy work
- The development of good practice guidance

In addition the Chairman and Director will seek to promote the work of the Forum to government and politicians where this is appropriate, and the Director will maintain contact with a number of related fora such as: the English Uplands' Stakeholder Forum, the Scottish Wildfire Forum and the National Access Forum, and respond to consultations on issues that are relevant to the work of the Forum.

With regard to 2019, specific activity will include the following programme of meetings and events:-

Month	Date	Meeting	Venue
January	22-Jan-19	PoMM Steering Group meeting	Battleby, Perth
February	08-Feb-19	Chairman's Working Group Meeting	SEPA, Stirling
March	01-Mar-19	Full Forum Meeting	Dewars, Perth
April			
May	17-May-19	Chairman's Working Group	BASC, Trochry
June	05-June-19	Full Forum Summer Meeting	Cairngorms National Park
	20 - 23 Jun 19	Royal Highland Show – opportunity to promote PoMM	Edinburgh
July	5 - 7 Jul 19	Scottish Game Fair – opportunity to promote PoMM	Scone
August			
September			
October	11-Oct-19	Chairman's Working Group	RSPB, Edinburgh
November	01-Nov-19	Full Forum Meeting	Dewars, Perth
December	02-Dec-19	Publication of Forum Annual Progress Report	

It will also include, work which will contribute to Future Land Use and Management Policy development as it relates to moorlands, as follows:-

Title	Lead	Status
Create programme of work	Future Land Use and Management Focus Group	Group to be convened
Aspirations for the Uplands	Director	Initial paper being finalised with further work to be agreed by the focus group.
Land use change (choices and trade-offs) case studies	Director	First case study to be drawn from summer meeting to Cairngorms Connect

Development of the Principles of Moorland Management series as follows:-

Topic	Lead Organisation	Status
Proposed		
Mountain Hare Counting	GWCT	Draft report with Guidance Group for comment
Fire Danger Assessment	Heather Trust	Guidance Group brief agreed
Under Consideration		
Tick Control	GWCT	Guidance Group brief drafted
Wader Management	WFW	With WFW Facilitation Team
Muirburn Code – Supplementary Guidance	Heather Trust	
Trapping Code of Practice	SNH	
Common grazings	SRUC	
Herbivore Impact Assessment	SNH	
Conflict Resolution	SACS	
Effective Local community engagement	SACS	
Wildcat-Friendly Predator Control Protocol	SACS	Input from Scottish Wildcat Action
Use of Leaf Blowers	SGA	
Draft Guidance provided for Publication		

Deer Stalking - Communicating with Access Users	SLE	To be adapted for publication by PoMM. Action: Project Manager
Peatland Restoration	SLE	
Pest and predator control - traps, snares and general licences	SLE	
Steering Group Proposals for additional guidance		
Night Shooting	BASC	
Snares & Spring Traps	GWCT	Project Manager to confirm topic not covered by other guidance.
Red Grouse counting to include Black grouse lek counts	GWCT	Information from the GWCT green guide
Bracken Control	Heather Trust	
Juniper Management	SLE	
Update of MF Task Group guidance from 2008	Project Manager	e.g. guidance on electric fence design
Proposals for consideration at a later date		
Management of areas for re-wilding – including montane scrub		
BTO - Bird Survey Techniques		
Hill Tracks		

It is also intended that the Forum explore opportunities:

- to promote PoMM;
- to work with moorland managers to evaluate the most useful format for guidance, and
- to explore complementary awareness raising media such as short videos and delivery of guidance through training courses.