



## Wildlife Estates Scotland update

### WES progress

- 12 accredited estates, covering 165,000 ha
- 60 Estates currently with applications – mix of farms, small and larger estates across Scotland covering low ground, mixed and upland properties
- Establishment of area meetings to introduce WES to prospective members and provide guidance on accreditation requirements to current members
- Build-up of new enquiries for WES membership so far in 2014
- Build-up of species and habitats information within WES database
- Collaboration with CNPA to assist WES members in collating information to support applications (e.g. game & wildlife mgt plans, woodland mgt plans, SRDP documents)
- SFQC running application and site visit assessments, Expert panel (GWCT, SNH, RSPB & WES) provide sounding board for evaluation queries, and monitoring
- Application process encouraging members to review sporting leases in terms of codes and best practice requirements
- Collaboration in 2014 with Heather Trust and GWCT to assess applications for Golden Plover Award

### Development areas

- Mapping & recording – discussions proceeding, aiming to provide accredited farms & estates with:
  - Secure access to facility
  - Farm and Estate area mapping
  - Species and habitats recording
  - Land management (snare & trap positioning, GPS)
- Building incentives to encourage wider membership. Links to SRDP:
  - Qualifying points for Rural Priorities projects
  - Help with whole farm / whole estate plans
- Updating application form as codes of practice are revised
- Focus on post-accreditation requirements. Maintenance of species and habitats records and particular tracking of signature species (tie-in with mapping)
- Submission of aggregated species records to NBN

### Where we hope WES will end up

- Integral part of the way Scotland's countryside is managed
- Confidence by all parties in the Accreditation system
- Build dialogue, encourage improvements in best practice, biodiversity gains & sustainable practices at little cost to public purse
- Collation of species information that facilitates conflict resolution