



DRAFT Minutes
from the meeting of
The Chairman's Working Group
held at
RSPB Scotland,
on **Friday 11th May 2018**

- 1 Welcome, Introduction and Apologies
 - 1.1 Duncan Orr-Ewing & the RSPB were thanked for hosting and providing lunch.
 - 1.2 Apologies were received from Mark Aitken, Julia Stoddart, Tim Baynes and Anne Gray.
 - 1.3 JMT will be rejoining the Forum; Scottish Land Commission have declined at present but wish to remain engaged with the Forum.

- 2 Summer Meeting Plans, Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere – 1st June
 - 2.1 This has been arranged in conjunction with Ed Forrest, Co-ordinator of the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere.
 - 2.2 It will take place in Carsphairn community hall with a site visit nearby.
 - 2.3 Francesca Osowska, Chief Executive of SNH, will be attending.
 - 2.4 Invitations have been sent to representatives of the Biosphere, Galloway Glens, the National Park campaign, local councillors and local agencies.
 - 2.5 The aim is to use the community of Carsphairn and its surrounding land-use pressures as a focus for discussion around the merits of a Regional Land Use Forum.
 - 2.6 The following information will be circulated to Forum members prior to the meeting to 'set the scene': **Action: Administrator**
 - 2.6.1 Bruce Wilson, SWT, has written a blog on Regional Land Use Forums recently, which will be put onto the website.
 - 2.6.2 Details about the proposal for a Galloway National Park
 - 2.6.3 Consultation on a new Enterprise Agency for the South of Scotland
 - 2.6.4 A link to the Biosphere website
 - 2.6.5 National ecological networks in the Biodiversity Plan 2020
 - 2.7 SG provide a small amount of funding to Biospheres. A brief outline of how SG view Biospheres will be provided. **Action: Hugh Dignon**
 - 2.8 Invitations will also be sent to (**Action: Administrator**):
 - Calum MacDonald, SEPA
 - Karen Ramoo, SL&E
 - Theresa Dougal, local NFU representative
 - Local forest district manager
 - Representative from FCS ~ Julia Garrett or Nicola Shepherd.
 - Jo O'Hara, FCS
 - 2.8.2 Professor Russel Griggs, Chair Scotland Economic Partnership and Chair of the Greening Panel would receive a personal invitation from

c/o The Heather Trust, PO Box 7749, Lochmaben, Lockerbie DG11 9AE

web site: www.moorlandforum.org.uk e-mail: info@moorlandforum.org.uk

Tel: 01387 723201

Chairman: Lord Lindsay

Director: Simon Thorp

Administrator: Anne Stoddart

Lord Lindsay and be invited to say a few words. **Action: Lord Lindsay** (*Post meeting note: Russel Griggs is not able to attend the meeting.*)

- 2.9 In discussion about the issues that are likely to be raised during the meeting the following points were made:
- 2.9.1 At 25% cover, Dumfries & Galloway is the most heavily forested part of Scotland.
 - 2.9.2 There is a lack of clarity as to how all the various interests fit together.
 - 2.9.3 This visit provides an opportunity to pull land use and land management issues and trade-offs together and provide input to the forestry strategy.
- 2.10 A framework would be created to ensure information from discussions during the visit was gathered to produce a short post-event statement, and it might be appropriate to forward this to the Cabinet Secretaries. **Action: Director**

3 Strategic Issues

- 3.1 Cabinet Secretary Roseanna Cunningham's response to the Forum's recent Upland Vision letter will be made available to members on the website. **Action: Administrator**
- 3.2 There was discussion about how the development of an Uplands Vision might fit with other reviews that are taking place concerning a need for regulation for the uplands.
- 3.2.1 For many years ministers have had many conflicting views put to them about sporting estates.
 - 3.2.2 The commissioned reviews are an attempt to get an evidential base for policy decisions by looking at the economic and biodiversity costs and benefits to Scotland of large sporting estates.
 - 3.2.3 The issues in relation to grouse moors is very different to those of deer forests. The Grouse Management Review is a starting point to establish a methodology that can then be applied to other sporting interests.
 - 3.2.4 An economic review of land use in the uplands is about to be commissioned through RESAS.
 - Comparisons will be made between agricultural, forestry, tourism, and abandoned land.
 - Currently, a desk study is being carried out to highlight what information already exists and the report is not expected until the New Year.
- 3.3 There were concerns that some form of vision for the uplands was required to aid the post-Brexit agenda to deliver a broader wishlist of support that would benefit the uplands.
- 3.4 During a future for the uplands conference, held in Birmingham earlier in the week, it had been re-iterated that as the uplands are very different in the various parts of UK, any decisions on priorities should be regional.
- 3.4.1 An overall framework is required for regional partnerships to refer back to when setting their priorities.
 - 3.4.2 Scotland requires its own overarching framework.
- 3.5 As agreed at the last meeting, a small task group would be convened to come up with a short proposal - 'a Forum Manifesto' - on what the uplands can deliver and the support needed to maintain this. **Action: Director**

- 3.5.1 This proposal will aim to:
 - Flag areas of disagreement
 - Link to documents already available
 - Not necessarily seek consensus
 - Look at the main drivers and outputs from the uplands as opposed to individual views
- 3.5.2 The National Ecological Assessment could be used as a starting point for discussions.
- 3.6 SRUC has a meeting with DEFRA on 4th July.
- 3.7 Whitehall should be informed and it was noted that Iain Duncan has offered to support an event.
- 3.8 Updates on the Grouse Moor Management Review will be flagged to Forum members when available. **Action: A Smith / Administrator**

4 Activity Update

- 4.1 Principles of Moorland Management: production of guidance on the following topics has been proposed:
 - 4.1.1 Wader management – there is a willingness from the Working for Waders initiative to do this quickly and Chris Bailey, RSPB has been asked to help this happen.
 - 4.1.2 Trapping code of Practice – Ben Ross, SNH. Due to the nature of the topic, it is likely that a slightly different approach will be required for this topic, with more control being exercised by SNH.
 - 4.1.3 Sheep ticks – GWCT, BASC, SLE will work together on this. The Moredun Institute recently published advice on how to best to treat sheep, and this will be adapted to produce practitioner guidance for management of grouse and other bird life.
 - 4.1.4 Fire danger warning – Michael Bruce is working on how to interpret some of the fire danger warning information available on the web and make it ‘user friendly’.
 - The information available on the Internet from the European Forest Fire Information Service (EFFIS) is not very user-friendly but it provides information that can be used as a starting point for a warning system. It is not tailored for UK conditions but with appropriate interpretation it can provide an indication of increasing wildfire risk and times when muirburn would not be advised.
 - Recording wildfires is a recurring problem which the wildfire community is aware of. There is discussion about improving the FRS reporting system.
 - There is potential to learn from this summer’s incidents in Scotland. Bruce Farquharson, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, has produced a report on wildfire incidents.
 - 4.1.5 Open Land – Andrew Bachell, JMT, has been approached to lead on this. This topic could address the issues raised by SGA last year.

- 4.1.6 'Worm control in Grouse' guidance has had feedback from the veterinary medical directorate. Some minor changes have been made which will be incorporated into the guidance.
- 4.2 Muirburn Code Review
- 4.2.1 The Supplementary Information will be developed as part of PoMM.
- 4.2.2 A development plan is being produced and progress will be made over the summer.
- 4.3 Working for Waders
- 4.3.1 Action Groups have submitted proposals for work to take place in the financial year up to April 2019 and this is being considered.
- 4.3.2 SNH has provided a Challenge Fund of £75,000 to fund project work this financial year. Many projects involve in-kind contributions and funding from other sources is also being sought.
- 4.3.3 Momentum is building and a note about projects that will be happening in the next financial year will be issued soon.
- 4.3.4 There will be a link to PoMM
- 4.3.5 A separate SLA with The Heather Trust is being proposed to provide the administrative support for WfW
- 4.3.6 Tension is developing around the challenge posed to WfW by the Strathbraan Raven Licence. WfW is being associated with this and the Facilitation Team are seeking to mitigate the impact of this on WfW to avoid withdrawal by some sectors. The Facilitation Team will be meeting later in the month to iron out processes to follow in such circumstances and a short statement is being prepared.
- 4.3.7 The success and impact of funded projects will be monitored. This is a long-term initiative and data will be gathered.
- 4.3.8 RPID are unlikely to provide funding but research funding can be applied for via Hugh Dignon's office. RESAS funding is open for bids but needs to come through a government partner. **Action: Adam Smith / Duncan Orr-Ewing.**
- 4.3.9 Buy-in from farming and crofting sectors continues to be problematic but it is hoped that once specific projects are up and running in particular areas this will ease gaining local support. Janette Sutherland, SAC, has been a great support.
- 4.3.10 Andrew Midgley has replaced Andrew Bauer at NFUS and could be a useful contact in the future.
- 4.3.11 Once projects are set up and running WfW will be looking for individual organisations within the Forum to actively promote the WfW Initiative.
- 4.3.12 Mary Colwell is being contacted to discuss how the WfW initiative can engage with the Curlew Conference she is planning to run in Stirling, in September.
- It was suggested that, as Mary has specifically focussed on low ground farming systems, this could be a 'side-door' PR opportunity for WfW to engage with a farming audience.
- 4.3.13 The Chairman recently provided input to a conference in Dartmoor on the WfW initiative in Scotland.

4.3.14 There are plans to take advantage of ‘Show Season’ to promote the WfW initiative.

5 Succession Planning

- 5.1 Will Boyd-Wallis has agreed to lead a conference call of Succession Task Group members on Tuesday 15th May.
- 5.2 Will is unable to attend the Forum Meeting on 1st June but will produce recommendations for consideration by the full Forum on 1st June about the options and the process to follow. **Action: Will Boyd-Wallis**

6 AOB

- 6.1 Links would be provided in the next forum newsletter to: **(Action: Administrator)**
 - 6.1.1 A final request for feedback on LORAWan
 - 6.1.2 New environmental proposals launched yesterday by DEFRA
 - 6.1.3 The Spring trap consultation, which is coming to an end. Legal implementation is a Scottish devolved issue.
- 6.2 Davy McCracken was thanked for providing information on:
 - 6.2.1 Post Brexit implications for agriculture and crofting in the Highlands & Islands (embargoed until after 14th May)
 - 6.2.2 Future of the Uplands Conference
 - 6.2.3 10 key questions for rural Scotland post Brexit
- 6.3 SNH have appointed two new Deputy Chairs with the following special interests:
 - 6.3.1 Angus Campbell ~ land use, agriculture and deer management groups
 - 6.3.2 Cath Denham ~ health, public enjoyment of the outdoors
- 6.4 The following ideas were suggested as topics for a future Forum Meeting:
 - 6.4.1 Forest Strategy, The Forum’s ‘Upland Manifesto’, PoMM, Fire, Renewables, Asset register update (European Nature Information System (EUNIS) Map), Ed Mackie Countryside Survey update, Ecosystem health indicators, Natural Capital Accounting (feedback from Andy Wells), Colin Campbell JHI data on heather cover, wireless sensing from Davy McCracken use for data management and Natural Capital accounting.

7 Next Meetings

- 7.1 Forum summer meeting – 1st June, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn
- 7.2 CWG – 12 Oct, SRUC Perth

8 Summary of Actions:

Ref	Item	Action
2.6	Circulate 'set the scene' information to members	Administrator
2.7	Provide brief outline SG view of Biospheres	Hugh Dignon
2.8	Issue additional invitations	Administrator
2.8.2	Invite Professor Russel Griggs	Chairman
2.10	Create information framework for post event statement	Director
3.1	Publish Cabinet Secretary response on website	Administrator
3.5	Convene small task group to produce short uplands proposal	Director
3.8	Flag updates on the Grouse Moor Management review to forum members	Adam Smith/Administrator
4.3.8	Apply for funding via Hugh Dignon's office	Adam Smith/Duncan Orr-Ewing
5.2	Produce succession recommendations for FF meeting on 1 st June	Will Boyd-Wallis
6.1	Provide links to listed documents in next forum newsletter	Administrator

Attendance:

Jamie	Lindsay	Chairman
Simon	Thorp	Director
Anne	Stoddart	Administrator
Duncan	Orr-Ewing	RSPB
Adam	Smith	GWCT
Chris	Wernham	BTO
Davy	McCracken	SRUC
Ronnie	Kippen	SGA
Hugh	Dignon	SG
Eileen	Stuart	SNH

Apologies

Mark	Aitken	SEPA
Julia	Stoddart	SACS
Anne	Gray	Heather Trust
Tim	Baynes	SL&E