

General Details

You can use this Deer Management Plan (DMP) template if you are applying for direct entry into the [Sustainable Management of Forests \(SMF\) – Reducing Deer Impact](#) option or the SMF – [Low Impact Silvicultural Systems \(LISS\)](#) or [Native Woodland](#) options. You will also need to complete the supporting information template for each option, and for the SMF – Reducing Deer Impact option you will need to include details on recent damage assessments.

FGS Scheme Details

BRN:	259872		
Application name:	ACF SMF		
Application ref:	ACF SMF 1	Long Term Forest Plan / Management Plan number:	MPL300064
DMP Author:	ACF	Application Area (ha):	55.3
Date (dd/mm/yyyy):	11/5/2018	Main Grid Reference (e.g. NH 234 567):	NN080905 and NN124878
Woodland type:	Native pinewood and Upland birchwood BAP priority habitats		
Deer species present:	Red and Roe		

Summary

Please provide a summary of the proposed work within the application area. Include a description of the current deer control methods, clarify what sensitive areas and habitats are vulnerable and briefly describe what needs to be carried out during the five year duration of the DMP. Please be specific as FC Scotland will assess to what extent these plans have been achieved.

Control of red and roe deer within fenced enclosures to reduce browsing impacts on woodland vegetation and seedlings to a level compatible with management objectives.

Please attach a map(s) which clearly delineates the application area, adjacent land uses, the location of vulnerable species or habitats, and any intended monitoring areas.

Deer Management Plan Objectives

Please list your objectives for your woodland and deer management. Include a statement of the intended outcomes and target deer density.

Gradual transformation of planted non-native conifer stands to woodland dominated by native tree species. Restoration of peatland habitats and blanket bog on deep peat. Restoration and expansion of native woodland habitats alongside watercourses. Thinning and selective felling of existing native woodland and hybrid larch stands to provide firewood and construction timber for local use.

Browsing impacts upon Seedlings and Preferentially Browsed Shrubs reduced from 'High' or 'Very High' to 'Medium' or lower based on annual assessment using the Woodland Grazing Toolbox methodology.

Sustained yield of woodland venison for local consumption by Arkaig Community Forest members.

Target deer densities of <5 red and <5 roe deer per square km

Collaboration

Are you in an active Deer Management Group or a local equivalent? Yes

Have you discussed your management proposals with your neighbours? Yes

Are your neighbours actively managing deer? Yes

Please provide further details on your answers to the above questions.

Arkaig Community Forest SCIO and Woodland Trust Scotland are both members of West Lochaber DMG.

A meeting was held in July 2018 to discuss our deer management proposals with both Woodland Trust Scotland and Achnacarry Estate.

Woodland Trust Scotland and Achnacarry Estate are both actively managing deer on the adjacent properties.

Provide details on adjacent land use and how these may impact on the DMP. Detail how deer control is considered across the landscape.

Existing Woodland	Land outwith the fences managed for commercial deer stalking and agri-environment/BPS grants by Achnacarry Estate and tenants (e.g. Achnacarry Sporting Ltd.).
Mixture of Woodland / Arable Land	Land outwith the fences managed for commercial deer stalking and agri-environment/BPS grants by Achnacarry Estate and tenants (e.g. Achnacarry Sporting Ltd.).
Unimproved Pasture / Open Hill	Land outwith the fences managed for commercial deer stalking and agri-

		environment/BPS grants by Achnacarry Estate and tenants (e.g. Achnacarry Sporting Ltd.).
Other (Specify):	Everything around Loch Arkaig.	Land outwith the fences managed for commercial deer stalking and agri-environment/BPS grants by Achnacarry Estate and tenants (e.g. Achnacarry Sporting Ltd.).

Supporting Information

Provide details on the habitats types within your application area as listed. Include the name and condition of the habitat as appropriate.

Habitat	Area	Vulnerable to deer pressure?	Comments
SAC / SPA		n/a	
SSSI (geology, flora, fauna)		n/a	
Internal Open Ground	4	no	
Native Woodland	45	Yes	
Broadleaves		Yes	
Conifers	6	Yes	
Other		n/a	

Please tell us any other relevant information to support the area applied for.

Ancient Woodland Inventory and Caledonian Pinewood Inventory woodlands – core and buffer zone areas.

Indicate if the factors below might influence deer use in your woodland and provide details. This information will help inform of likely fluctuations in populations as well as the variable need of control resources at different time of the year.

Is the site part of a red deer wintering area?	No
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Provide information on any immigration and/or emigration of deer in your woodland.

Movement is limited by a perimeter deer fence which is maintained under agreement with our neighbours Woodland Trust Scotland and Achnacarry Estate.

Give evidence of historical / existing damage. Include information on damage to the woodland and habitats and also damage to natural heritage interests. Detail the presence of other herbivores (e.g. sheep, rabbits, hares).

State the method of assessment used (e.g. transects, fixed plots, fixed point photography) and include a map of monitored areas if appropriate.

Browsing impacts throughout each enclosure have been monitored using the Woodland Grazing Toolbox methodology in spring 2017 and 2018 - see reports attached.

Provide information relating to current deer densities. In many cases there will be useful information on local deer populations (for example: estate counts, dung counts, or helicopter count information from SNH). Other information such as the deer density indicators below can be used to inform the DMP. Ideally we need to know the population densities both within and adjacent to your woodland, including the open hill.

	Present	Density in woodland per 100ha	Density on open hill per 100ha	Source of count		Dung count info	Year of count
				DCS	Estate		
Red	Yes	<5	~10	yes			2018
Roe	Yes						
Sika	No						
Fallow	no						
Comments / Additional Information:							

Please mark the relevant boxes in each of the Woodland Deer Density Indicators. Tracks evidence is not expected if only Roe deer are present. These indicators should be observed over the winter months (i.e. January – March).

Evidence	4 – 8 Low density	8 – 15 Medium density	15+ High density
Tracks (for Red, Fallow, Sika)	Difficult to find deer slot marks or defined paths.	Defined paths slot marks easy to find in areas of soft ground.	Many well defined tracks and paths often black with constant use.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dung	Difficult to find with just the odd isolated pellet group.	Pellet groups relatively easy to find, particularly on woodland edges and good feeding areas.	Pellet groups very easy to find. Highly concentrated on favoured feed areas.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Browsing of Vegetation	Natural regeneration of broad-leaved trees taking place with no or little damage to	Broadleaved saplings present but showing significant damage.	No seedlings growing above dominant vegetation height. Often well-defined browse lines on

	Nominated controller	Owner	Estate Employee*	Contract Stalker	Shooting Tenant	Place of Residence	Firearms Certificate Number
1	Lewis Pate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Banavie	
2	Alex Macdonald	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Achnacarry	
3		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

*Section 26(i) of the deer act clarifies definition of "employee".

	State the Controller's relevant experience and if they have DSC1 or 2, and the calibre of rifles authorised.
1	DSC Level 2
2	DSC Level 2
3	
4	

Monitoring and Record Keeping

You must retain cull records as per [Best Practice Guidance](#). These must include date killed, species, sex, estimated age, body weight, and female reproductive status.

Describe the method(s) you will use to assess deer damage within your woodland. It is important that sample plot information, browsing levels, and factual evidence of deer damage is monitored prior to the commencement of the plan (as a baseline) and then annually to ensure there is a formal record of what is taking place and that culling is effective.

You must agree what method of monitoring will be used with FCS. This should be based on the [Best Practice Guidance](#) which defines suitable options.

Woodland Grazing Toolbox methodology, repeated annually in the period Feb-June.

Monitoring must be done annually and submitted with a supporting map to FCS to enable grant payment.

Give a brief description of the method you will use to evaluate and review the progress of your Deer Management Plan.

Annual review of herbivore impact survey results and cull data will enable progress to be measured in relation to our Deer Management Plan and our Woodland Management Plan.

Information Checklist

Please list the maps or any other documents that you will be uploading with your DMP:

Map 1_ACF SMF DMP map_Glenmallie
Map 2_ACF SMF DMP map_The Gusach

ACF SMF Arkaig 2017 WGT Herbivore Impact Assessment report
ACF SMF Arkaig 2018 WGT Herbivore Impact Assessment report

Forestry Grant Scheme



The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas

SRDP Scottish Rural
Development
Programme

The Scottish
Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba