9. *TARGETS AND ACTIONS*

9.1   **Target:** Reduction and/or Management Culls, 2016-2019
(MDMG Objective 1: Safeguarding deer welfare, Objective 2: Managing Deer Sustainably, Objective 4: Proactive deer management)

9.2   Deer populations: projections from Tables in Section 6.6 of demographics and cull numbers suggest a current density of 11.4/km² on the Moidart peninsula. HIA indicates that this is within the carrying capacity of the land. Long-term more than proportionate reductions may impact on social and economic benefits of employment or even compromise environmental benefits.

9.3   Population Modelling

Step 1- Input the following information.

Stag Cull Required	120
Calving Rate	30.00% **
Management Area (Ha)	20030

This gives you a target population

	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
Target Population	900	900	270	2070	10.3

Step 2- Input current population

	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
Current (Spring) Population	693	1224	36720.00	2284	11.4

Step 3- Input proposed culls and review likely performance against population targets

Population Model	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
Year 1 Spring Population	693	1224	367		
Year 1 Summer Population	877	1408	422		
Year 1 Cull	100	220	66		
Year 1 Mortality	18	28	25		
Year 2 Spring Population	759	1159	331		
Year 2 Summer Population	925	1325	397		
Year 2 Cull	110	220	66		
Year 2 Mortality	18	26	24		
Year 3 Spring Population	796	1078	308		
Year 3 Summer Population	950	1232	370		
Year 3 Cull	110	220	66		
Year 3 Mortality	19	25	22		
Year 4 Spring Population	821	988	281		
Year 4 Summer Population	962	1128	339		
Year 4 Cull	110	220	66		
Year 4 Mortality	19	23	20	Total	Density
Finish Population	832	886	266	1984	9.9
Target Population	900	900	270	2070	10.3
% of Target Population	92	98	98	96	

**Calving Rate= Number of calves born for every 100 hinds (1+Years) (Scottish Average 20-40%)
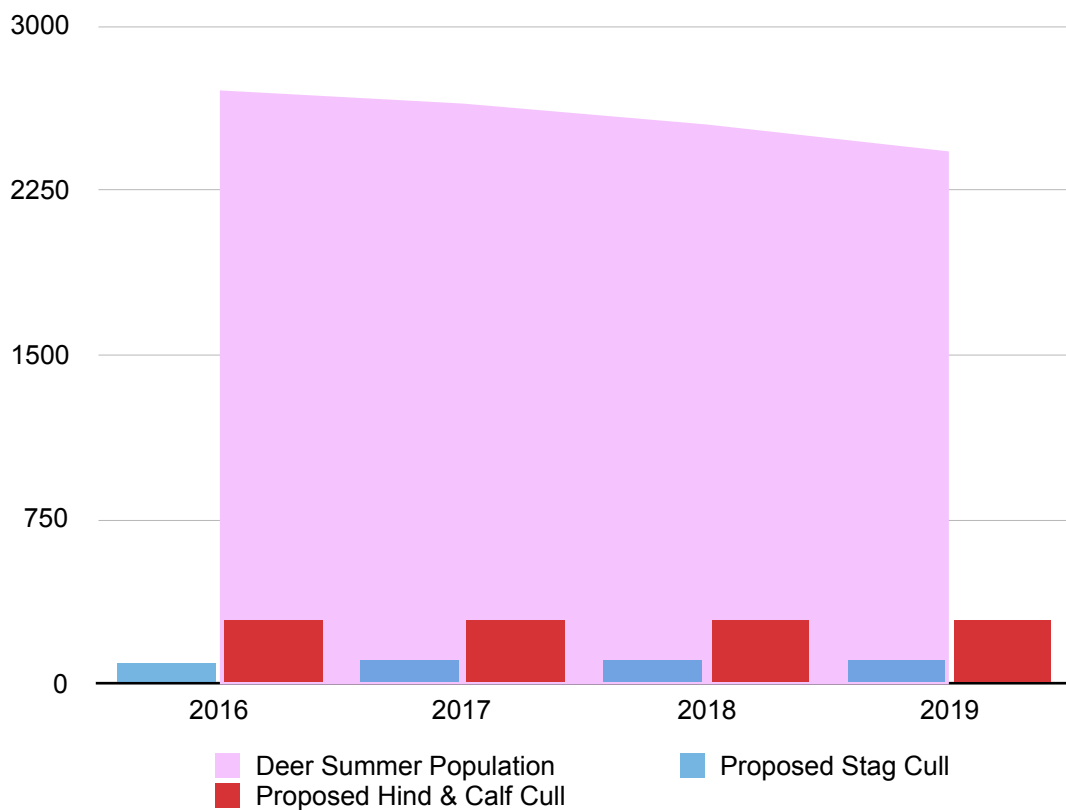
Modelling assumptions:
- 2% Stag Mortality each year
- 2% Hind Mortality each year
- 6% Calf Mortality each year
- 1 to 1 Hind/Stag Calf Ratio
- No immigration/emigration

Modelling assumptions are simplified for this version of the DMP; in reality, net migration could be observed and recorded, and a natural calving ratio would assume a 55% Stag to 45% Hind ratio. Modelling assumptions might be varied marginally in the DMP although experience shows that two meetings of the MDMG per year with sharing of information and discussion is the most practicable means of handling variables and unpredictability and of responding to the actual deer situation on the ground.

9.4   (MDMG Objective 6: Agreed cull numbers)

Reduction and/or management culls 2015-2018

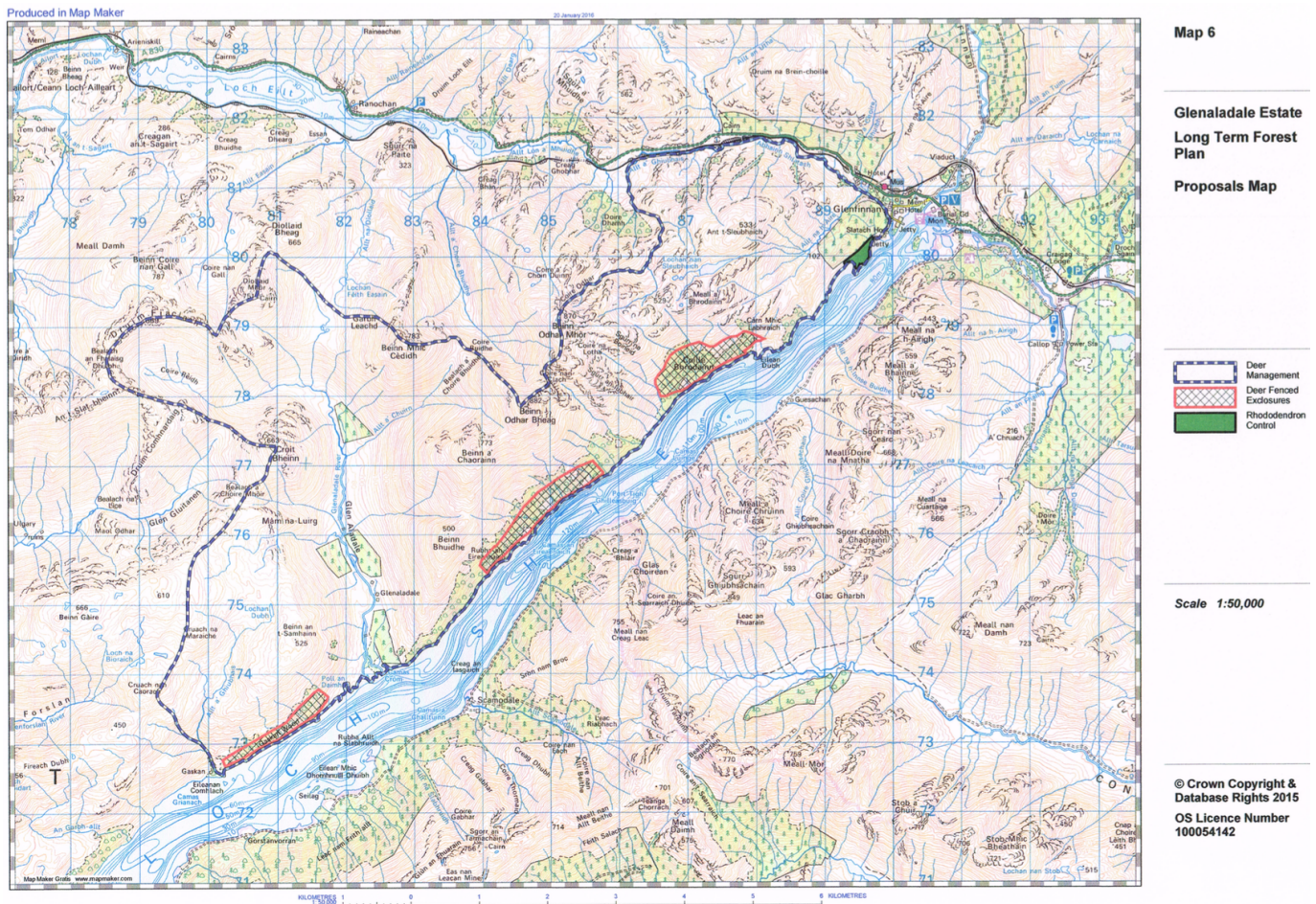| Year	Deer Summer Population	Proposed Stag Cull	Proposed Hind Cull	Calves to be culled
2016	2707	100	220	66
2017	2647	110	220	66
2018	2552	110	220	66
2019	2429	110	220	66

9.5   Cull targets are reviewed annually at twice yearly meetings and may be revised from time to time in the light of deer count numbers, deer vehicle collisions, railway and other perceived causes of mortality, general weather patterns, instances of particularly severe weather and observed conditions of deer on the ground.
Longer-term plans such as woodland creation, woodland habitat management plans, deer fencing of designated woodlands etc. are likely to have consequences for deer management within the MDMG area. This will be assessed following the publication of the 2016 woodland plan.

9.6   Record Keeping (as per Wild Deer Best Practice Guide): Cull Records will continue to include date killed, species, sex, estimated age, body weight, female reproductive status (MDMG Objective 4: Proactive deer management and 'Best Practice').

9.7   **Target:** Management of Herbivore Impact
(MDMG Objective 1: Safeguarding deer welfare, Objective 3: Maintain balance between deer and other land uses)

9.8   Measurement of progress towards SNH's Habitat Impact Targets to take place on a three-year monitoring cycle. For the next round of HIA in 2018, Kinlochmoidart, Roshven and Glenuig will be asked to assess 20 sites and West Roshven, Eilean Shona and Shona Beag and Kyleswood will each assess 10. This will allow closer scrutiny of deer behaviour on a greater extent of the peninsula. Through this MDMG will help to draw in additional stakeholders (MDMG Objective 2: Coordination of input)

9.9   Deer browsing pressure is currently light on open ground, with small areas of high pressure from cattle. The next round of HIA (2018) will be compared to the data in this plan to assess whether the habitats are improving, static or declining.

9.10   A woodland plan or Long-Term Forest Plan [LTFP] is being submitted for Glenaladale in 2016. The stated aim of the LTFP can be applied to future woodland plans: *moving the woodland designated habitats back towards favourable ecological condition.* This is to be achieved through the following:

- *Creation of deer-fenced exclosures within the native woodland areas to provide suitable conditions for successful establishment of natural regeneration of the native trees. It is proposed that new exclosures are significantly larger than those previously erected and that their size & location will be agreed with SNH;*

- *Implementation of a deer management regime which aims to achieve a deer herd size in balance with the available feeding and shelter and allows for the successful native woodland enhancement proposals to sit alongside the stalking requirements;*

- *Management of the invasive Rhododendron & bracken to check that these species do not have significant negative impacts on the woodlands or open ground habitats;*

- *Implementation of an interpretation and information policy to promote responsible public access which seeks to avoid further wildfire incidents and damage to designated woodlands.*

LTFP 3 proposed fenced exclosures by Loch Shiel

9.11   **Target:** MDMG Participation (MDMG Objective 2: Coordinated management, Objective 8: Clarifying objectives outwit the MDMG)

9.12   Responsible contacts for West Roshven, Kyleswood, Eilean Shona/Shona Beag have been identified by MDMG Chair for building deer management data.

9.13   **Target:** Competence and training (MDMG Objective 1: Safeguarding deer welfare, Objective 4: Best Practice)

9.14   Implementation of Training Policy:
MDMG members and those acting on their behalf are considered competent for the tasks undertaken in the conduct of business. Deer management in Moidart is in the hands of a group of experienced full-time workers. 'Traditional skills' are kept under review and are updated, such as when criteria for measuring skills are changed. For example 'The Code of Practice on Deer Management' (2012) has updated the skills needed to embrace not only the managing of deer sustainably, but also the enhancing of public benefit and serving the public interests. It is recognized that sustainable deer management is a key element in a rural economy where public benefit is understood principally in terms of rural communities and the local economy. Training policy concentrates on increasing people's skills and abilities to suit the task of enhancing a significant rural asset for Scotland in a particular environment which contains some of the most rugged country in Scotland. The training proposed should amplify competence to serve the various interests in this environment [see APPENDIX 10]

Scotland. The training proposed should amplify competence to serve the various interests in this environment [see APPENDIX 10]

9.15   Conduct a Skills Audit in 2016-17, to identify training requirements and to match training opportunities to them. This will take as its starting point DSC 1 and 2. We shall be seeking a widening of skills and new standards of competence and professionalism towards the enhancement of Public Benefit, with training for issues in public safety and public relations. We have been in touch with West Highland College UHI and have identified appropriate short and refresher courses in 'traditional skills' of mechanical and engineering skills as well as Health & Safety and First Aid, and have already booked onto First Aid courses.

9.16   **Target:** Venison Marketing (Objective 2: Sustainable deer management, Objective 7: Safe and healthy environment)

9.17   MDMG landholdings that cull over 25 deer annually to become members of Scottish Quality Wild Venison scheme.

9.18   **Target:** Maximisation of economic benefits associated with deer (Objective 7: Safe and healthy environment)

9.19   MDMG to explore opportunities for and promote local sale of venison. Currently Moidart landholdings sell to Glenfinnan House Hotel, Prince's House, Glenuig Inn, Lochailort Inn and Ardshealach Lodge

9.20   **Target:** Minimisation of economic cost associated with deer (Objective 5: Minimise costs and impacts)

9.21   MDMG chair canvassing opinion and assembling data on the impact of deer browsing on common grazings (2016-17).

9.22   **Target:** Ensure effective communication on deer management issues (Objective 8: Clarify objectives and resolve conflict)

9.23   Individual landholder efforts as well as the work of the MDMG lends significant support to appropriate and effective collaboration with neighbours, neighbouring DMGs and the local communities; and supports appropriate and effective two way dialogue. MDMG activity is reported via an annual communication programme at www.glenaladale.co.uk. The submitted DMP will be made available here (July 2016).

9.24   **Target:** Mortality record keeping (MDMG Objective 1: Safeguarding deer welfare, Objective 2: Coordinated deer management)

9.25   In pursuit of deer welfare and of statistical evidence for the updating of public documents such as WDNA, produce a guideline document for the plotting and recording of deer mortality from causes other than DVCs (2016-17). This will define a policy and methodologies for regular monitoring such as annual searches on established transects by deer managers. Managers to gather data on Spring mortality and MDMG to maintain annual records. These can be used in next round of population modelling (2018).

10. *MONITORING AND BENCHMARK ASSESSMENT FOR 'DELIVERING THE PUBLIC INTEREST'*

   See following tables