

# **West Sutherland Deer Management Group**

## **CONSTITUTION**

*Revised November 2015*

### **Name**

The Group name shall be the West Sutherland Deer Management Group (WSDMG).

### **Objectives**

The Group's objective is to promote the sustainable management of deer in the WSDMG area in accordance with the WSDMG Deer Management Plan.

### **Group Area**

The geographic area covered by the WSDMG is as depicted on the attached map. The boundary may be open to amendment should the Group so decide.

### **Membership**

The Members of WSDMG will be the owners of land within the Group area or their authorised representatives. For the avoidance of doubt private, public sector, voluntary body or corporate land owners are entitled to be members of the Group.

Representatives from relevant public bodies, NGOs and local bodies may be invited to attend meetings of the Group.

### **Members' obligations**

Members agree to support the effective running of the Group by:

- Attending or being represented at all DMG meetings.
- Supplying information required for the administration of the Group
- Supplying information required for the writing and review of the Group Deer Management Plan and for the other purposes of the Group.
- Paying an annual subscription to the WSDMG at such rates as may be agreed.
- Collaborating with other Members and other relevant interests as set out in the ADMG Principles of Collaboration (Appendix 1).
- Advising the Group of any relevant changes in terms of ownership or land management in respect of their individual landholdings.
- Carrying out deer management in accordance with all relevant legislation, the SNH Code of Practice for Deer Management and Wild Deer Best Practice.

### **Office Bearers**

Office bearers will comprise Chair and, if required, Vice Chair, who shall be elected annually at the Group AGM. Re-election on a rolling basis is permitted with no restriction on the period of time that an office bearer may serve.

The administrative positions of Secretary and Treasurer (which may be combined) are appointed positions and such appointments and any terms of employment shall be for approval annually at the Group AGM.

## Meetings

- The Group will meet twice annually or more frequently as may be necessary.
- The Secretary will take a Minute of all meetings and circulate copies to all Members.
- An Annual General (AGM) meeting shall be held at such a place, date and hour as the Group shall decide. Advance notice will be given to Members not less than 28 days in advance of the AGM.
- A voting majority shall be defined as two thirds of the full Membership of the Group.

## Funding and Financial Arrangements

The Group will be self financing and the subscription will be set annually at the AGM. The basis of subscription calculation shall be agreed by the Group and approved by members at an AGM. Subscriptions will be set a rate sufficient to cover all the operating expenses of the Group. Subscriptions will be payable at a date to be determined by the Group.

The Treasurer will operate a Bank Account for the Group and all financial transactions will be made on this account. Joint signatures of the Treasurer and Chair or Vice Chair will be required on all cheques or debits drawn on the account.

A financial Statement will be prepared by the Treasurer and presented at the AGM for approval by Members. In the event of funds being left upon the winding up of the Group the disbursement of these funds will be determined by the Members.

Members may request the annual accounts are audited. A minimum of five members is required to appoint an auditor.

## Conflict Resolution

It shall be the duty of all Members to seek agreement in respect of Group objectives and, where a dispute arises between Members, to resolve such dispute by negotiation and compromise. When agreement cannot be reached it shall be in the option of the Chairman to refer the matter to arbitration by the Chairman of the Association of Deer Management Groups or such other independent expert as the parties may agree.

## Membership Information, Records and Data

Storage of membership information will be the responsibility of the Secretary. Such information to be used solely for the administration of the Group and stored in accordance with the law.

The Group shall determine such deer management and related data as will be required to fulfil the objectives of WSDMG. Such data will be collected by all Members and submitted to the Secretary for storage and analysis and shall be regarded as the property of the Group.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Allison (Chair)

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Davies (Vice Chair)

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Date : \_\_\_\_\_