

## Proposed Stag Cull Figures for 2019

This intention of this document is to suggest the 2019 Stag Cull figures for the Assynt Peninsula Sub Group, APSG.

In its preparation I have sought advice from various parties including Holly Deary of SNH, Bob Cooke of ACT, Calum Millar of ACT and Don O'Driscoll of JMT. The population modelling spreadsheet upon which the figures are based was confirmed with Holly Deary who also confirmed to me the baseline population starting figures to be used in the model based on the latest helicopter count.

### **Figures Used in Population Model**

I have used the following figures for the actual 2018/2019 Cull figures

Stags – 130, Hinds – 172, Calves – 67. These figures include non-commercial figures from ACT.

Based on numbers from JMT and ACT I have reduced recruitment from 33% to 28%. Many parties spoke of “an unusual rut” with hinds coming into season late. This most likely accounts for the reduction in recruitment.

Based on this I propose to keep the Stag cull for this year to 121.

Here are the figures per estate, based on a total of 121.

ACT	43
JMT/Quinag	28
Ardvar	15
Kylesku	2
Brackloch/Middle Inver	4
Little Assynt	8
Lagg	5
Assynt Lodge	6
Lochinver/Vestey	6
Oldany	4
Total =	121

I am mindful of the fact that although the figures from last year were perceived to be high, certainly higher than previous years, the group did manage to reach our target. Increasing the target by any significantly higher amount may be difficult to achieve and, in any case, does not make as marked a difference as hind cull targets.

In addition, using a target of 121 is in line with achieving the agreed density of 7 stated in the DMP over the next 3 years.

Joe Land  
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