

JOHN
MUIR
TRUST

FOR
wild LAND &
wild PLACES

WILD LAND MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

Protecting wild places, restoring natural habitats, connecting with nature



www.wildlandmanagement.org.uk
www.johnmuirtrust.org

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Welcome

Restoring natural habitats and encouraging native species are key aspects of the John Muir Trust's wild land management. We take a holistic approach to wild places, working to protect stunning landscapes and sensitive land from inappropriate development while promoting the return of native woodland and biodiversity.

Our 28 wild land management standards start from the premise that everything depends on the geology and soil, and the biodiversity that lives on that. Then we build on that to handle the impacts on the land of grazing animals such as sheep and deer. Then come the people, visitors and communities that live on and engage with the land in a huge variety of ways. Encompassing all this is the management plan, which should enable you as a land manager to see what you're doing and why you're doing it – an essential tool for anyone managing wild land.

Our standards have evolved over the years, shaped by our experiences managing our different properties. These encompass a variety of habitats – from native woodland and peat bog to machair, moorland and commercial forestry. Some are remote, some well-trodden, some more suppressed through over-grazing than others.

We hope you'll find this handbook, and our wild land management standards, useful. Please feel free to get in touch to discuss anything.

Mike Daniels

Head of Land and Science, John Muir Trust

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About our standards

The John Muir Trust's Wild Land Management Standards are the principles that guide our management of the properties we own, including Ben Nevis, Sandwood and East Schiehallion. The UK's wild land is a valuable resource; we hope we can encourage other wild land managers to adopt the same standards and take an ecosystem approach to the management of wild land.

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Cover image: Rainbow and regenerating woodland on Knoydart

Photo: Lester Standen

About the John Muir Trust

The John Muir Trust is the leading wild land conservation charity in the UK. We love wild places and are dedicated to protecting and improving them for people and wildlife. Over 10,000 members support us in our work.

We currently own and look after some of the finest wild areas in the UK including Ben Nevis, Schiehallion, Sandwood Bay, part of the Cuillin on Skye, Quinag in Assynt and 3,000 acres on the remote Knoydart peninsula.

We take our name and inspiration from John Muir (1838-1914), the pioneering Scots-born American conservationist who was passionate about the wild and hugely influential in the USA. Muir dedicated his life to protecting wild places and he campaigned successfully for the establishment of National Parks to safeguard vast tracts of wild lands, such as Yosemite Valley in California.

Our wild land vision

- The John Muir Trust would like to see the majority of the UK's wild land supporting natural habitats and species.
- We envision a diverse landscape of native woodland, sustainable numbers of grazing animals, rich flora and abundant wildlife.
- We see the wide open spaces, stunning views, fresh air and clean water that are so important to people's well-being, being valued and protected.
- This is our vision of wild land management.

Management planning

ETHOS: A management plan is essential

APPROACH: Develop SMART actions

Drawing up a management plan is an important part of managing land effectively.

A plan should help you articulate your aims and objectives and tie them to key actions. It should also provide a benchmark by which you can measure performance and outcomes.

Developing a plan enables you to engage with stakeholders, drawing on their input and ensuring they understand what you are trying to achieve and how you're going to achieve it. It should also serve as a reference point for everyone working on the land, pulling them together under one wild land management vision.

Standards 1-4 relate to management planning

1. Audit existing state

You should survey all archaeology and man-made structures, soils, biodiversity, habitat and species records, deer and livestock numbers. A lot of this information will already exist so the starting point should be to pull together all data from previous surveys as well as information from other sources.

2. Survey and monitor

A programme of monitoring work should be established to



Native trees growing again on Knoydart

Photo: Susan Wright

record habitats and species on the property. Exclosures should be set up to determine the potential for regeneration in the absence of grazing animals. Human factors, such as the numbers of visitors and cars using car parks, should also be recorded.

3. Develop SMART actions

Managers should produce a clear set of objectives that will govern the future management of the property in line with the Wild Land Management Standards. These objectives should be SMART; that is specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound.

4. Consult stakeholders

Once your objectives have been defined, stakeholders should be identified and consulted. Stakeholders include people or organisations who will be affected by your land management. They

could include tenants, neighbouring landowners, government agencies such as Scottish Natural Heritage, and organisations representing recreational users such as the Mountaineering Council of Scotland. ■

Management planning Actions

- Map all man-made structures
- Digitise woodland
- Conduct an archaeological survey
- Collate all relevant data
- Conduct habitat monitoring programme
- Conduct species monitoring programme
- Monitor deer and livestock exclosure plots
- Maintain species records
- Take fixed point photographs
- Monitor people counters / car park usage
- Conduct visitor survey
- Develop SMART actions
- Consult on plan with stakeholders

“We’ve drawn up management plans for all John Muir Trust properties and have found them invaluable. It usually takes us between six to nine months to complete an audit and draw up a plan from that. Our land managers lead the process, which involves myself, other employees, and stakeholders such as SNH. It’s vital to listen to feedback from neighbours and local people and use it to guide the development of your plan.”

Mike Daniels, head of land and science, John Muir Trust

Soil, carbon, water

ETHOS: Careful stewardship of the rocks and soils on which land use depends

APPROACH: Light touch, minimum intervention and disturbance

 The careful protection of soil and water is fundamental to wild land management – this includes the protection of peatlands, which are an important carbon store. Overgrazing and muirburn, which can damage habitats and the underlying soil, should be avoided.

Flood regulation works according to the land’s capability to absorb rainfall and release it slowly over time. The natural capability of wild land to hold water in the upper level of the catchment area is a valuable ecosystem service. Drainage or felling operations that could exacerbate flood conditions downstream should be avoided.

Standards 5-7 relate to the management of soil and water

5. Maximise water tables on peatlands

Peat forms in waterlogged conditions where the lack of oxygen prevents micro-organisms, such as bacteria and fungi, from rapidly decomposing dead plant material. A range of plants have adapted to thrive in peat bogs and in some cases grow nowhere else.

It is essential to retain rainfall in peatlands to protect their biodiversity and to prevent the release of CO₂ which happens as a result of their drying out. Drained peatland should be restored by raising the water table. This can be achieved by using peat and natural materials to form dams or by the use of plastic piling.

6. Minimise exposure, burning & grazing

Removing vegetation exposes soil to the air where it’s vulnerable to damage. Wind and water cause soil erosion, removing the organic layers

Working to protect peatland

“The John Muir Trust has significant areas of peatland on Trust land including actively growing blanket bog on Skye that’s a priority habitat under the EU Habitats Directive. Protecting these areas through our wild land management is vital. We urge all landowners as well as government to ensure that all remaining peatland of conservation value in the UK remains intact.”

Stuart Brooks, chief executive, John Muir Trust

and the potential to re-vegetate. Organic soils that are exposed to the air also release stored CO₂.

Soil can also become exposed through overgrazing. The level of grazing that can lead to exposed soil varies depending on the type and sensitivity of the habitat. High altitude habitats can take a lot of time to recover and are vulnerable to high levels of herbivore grazing. See Deer & livestock for more on this.

Muirburning can be damaging to both habitats and the underlying soil, potentially causing oxidisation and erosion. In principle, burning should be avoided for visual and environmental reasons. However, where benefits to habitats can be demonstrated through burning, the practices described in the Muirburn Code should be treated as a minimum standard of environmental protection.

7. Minimise pollution

Pollution can be categorised as point source pollution – where the source is identifiable and the adverse effects are immediate – and diffuse pollution, where the source is not as obvious and the pollution may have travelled from a wide area through the soil or overland to the

point where it causes a problem.

Organic litter such as food waste may also affect the composition of the soil as it breaks down. Pollution can also take the form of soil movement. Serious damage to fish stocks can be caused by siltation of rivers as a result of drainage, road construction or forestry operations.

Additionally, remember to ensure that all waste is disposed of responsibly, ideally patrolling and collecting for litter on a regular basis – for example, carrying out regular beach cleans. ■

Soil, carbon, water Actions

- Block drains to raise the water table
- Minimise burning
- Remove litter

Biodiversity & woodland

ETHOS: Natural landscapes

APPROACH: Minimal intervention except to kick-start natural processes

The biodiversity of wild land should be as close as possible to a 'natural ecosystem' that has evolved primarily through the influence of the soils and the climate. Native habitats are the fabric of natural ecosystems. To achieve wild land ecosystem health the full range of habitat – from the mountain tops to glen floor – should be present and self-sustaining.

In many cases, woodlands – including montane scrub, riparian woodland and native woodland – are the missing components of wild land ecosystems due to years of burning and overgrazing by deer and sheep. Consequently, woodland management is often a key component of biodiversity management.

Standards 8-12 relate to the management of biodiversity and woodland

8. Maintain in favourable condition

There is a wide range of protected areas in Scotland, including Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation (which together form an EU-wide network of

Monitoring growth

“We regularly monitor the growth of tree seedlings, the condition of habitats such as dwarf shrub heath, and the state of wildlife across our properties. This helps us set aims and objectives, and measure our success in restoring natural habitats. Encouraging biodiversity in this way is a long term project but crucial to the ecological health of our natural world and environment. It’s exciting and encouraging for the future that we’re already seeing small positive changes.”

Liz Auty, biodiversity officer, John Muir Trust

protected areas known as Natura 2000), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserves (NNR) and National Scenic Areas (NSA).

The Scottish Government is responsible for ensuring designated areas achieve their 'favourable' status and Scottish Natural Heritage monitors the sites on a six-year cycle through its Site Condition Monitoring programme. Where a protected area is assessed as 'unfavourable', the land manager must put in place measures to reverse any decline in condition and reach favourable condition within a

reasonable timescale.

9. Maximise native habitats

See fig.1 Native habitats are the fabric of natural ecosystems. To achieve wild land ecosystem health the full range of habitats from mountain top to glen floor should be present and self-sustaining. In many cases, this will mean managing grazing and trampling impacts, principally by deer and sheep, to enable habitats to regenerate and fully occupy their niches.

10. Biodiversity species management

While the mainstay of wild land management is the landscape or ecosystem scale approach, land managers may have to manage specific species. Local or national rarities, and protected species, may require unique actions such as the encouragement of specific habitats (for example, woodland edge habitats for black grouse or blaeberry for capercaillie).

Non-native invasive species (for example, mink or rhododendrons) should be removed where possible, especially where threatening native species or habitats. The

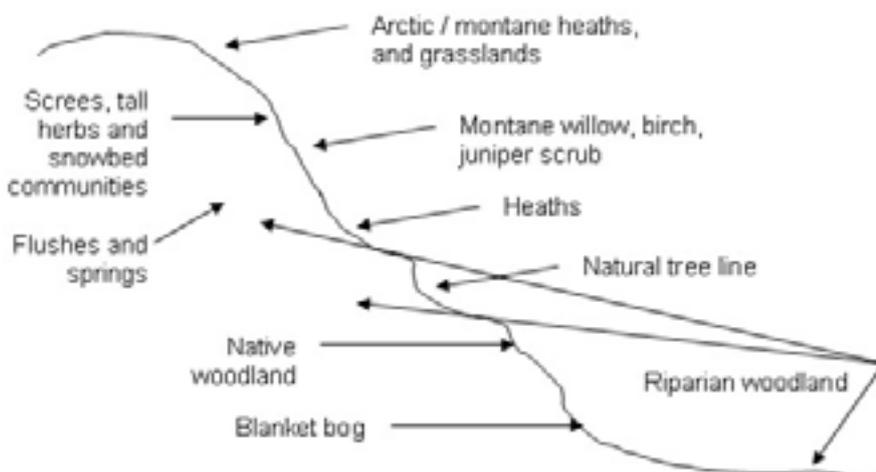


fig.1

➤ **Biodiversity & woodland** continued



Rowan trees growing in Steall Gorge, Glen Nevis

Photo: Keith Brame

killing of native predators (for example, foxes and crows) should also be avoided because these form part of the wider guild of natural predators.

11. Re-structure woodlands

In the past, many native woodland sites were planted with conifers, which are now close to felling. These sites can now be assessed with a view to returning them to native woodland by felling and re-planting with native species.

Past decisions on tree planting were often driven by grants and tax relief, and in many locations exotic conifers were a poor choice for the

terrain. In these cases, the crop may have little value and current support systems may subsidise an early felling and restocking with appropriate native species.

On even-age native species plantations, it's desirable to create clearings, produce dead wood, clear riparian edges, feather straight edges, remove fences and encourage the regeneration of mixed native species.

12. Re-introductions

Where species have recently gone extinct re-introductions should be considered. However, priority should be given to habitat

restoration to create the conditions needed for missing species and to encourage their natural spread – through habitat corridors, for example. Any re-introductions should be part of a regional or national scheme and take place in consultation with Scottish Natural Heritage. ■

Trees in Knoydart

“Knoydart is a beautiful and dramatic landscape in one of the most remote parts of Scotland. However, much of the habitat has been devastated through centuries of over-grazing by sheep and deer. Due to the lack of seed source, we originally had to plant native tree species on Trust land. Now, thanks also to our deer control, we’re starting to see natural regeneration of birch, hazel and scots pine, among others, which is hugely rewarding. We are already seeing a return of native wildlife that’s been lost in this amazing part of the world. As the years go by we will see further increases.”

Lester Standen, Knoydart manager, John Muir Trust

Biodiversity & woodland Actions

- Implement SNH advice
- Educate and work with other groups / users
- Advance SRDP applications to deliver management
- Maximise native habitats
- Map and remove non-native invasives (plants)
- Develop and implement a control strategy (animals)
- Develop and implement a forest plan
- Additional native woodland planting projects
- Consider re-introductions

Deer & livestock

ETHOS: Control grazing pressure from deer and livestock

APPROACH: Low impact management

Scotland's red deer population has increased greatly in the last 300 years.

Deer are an essential part of the ecosystem but high numbers of deer have a negative impact on habitats through overgrazing and trampling. A sustainable deer population is vital to enabling native woodland and other habitats to regenerate naturally.

A large amount of Scotland's wild land is used for grazing sheep and cattle. Many key habitats, including grassland and flower-rich machair, depend on sustainable levels of grazing. Livestock numbers should be kept to a level that the land can naturally support, particularly during the winter.

Standards 13-15 relate to deer and livestock

13. Minimise deer impacts

Red deer numbers have increased over the last 300 years due to the absence of natural predators such as wolves, while many sporting estates actively maintain a high population of deer. Increased numbers have put more pressure on the habitats that provide deer with food and shelter.

It's vital to maintain deer numbers at a population level that enables natural regeneration of all habitats within the ecosystem. Cull targets should be based on habitat



Photo: Keith Brame

Trust stalker on Skye

The regeneration game



Scotland's landscape has altered drastically over time, particularly in the last few centuries with the advent of extensive sheep farming, increasing deer numbers and continual burning. As a result, many of our habitats (such as montane scrub) have virtually gone extinct while others (such as native woodland) have been heavily suppressed or damaged. Consequently much of the diversity of life that relied on these habitats – the insects, birds and predators – have suffered too.

This is not irreversible.

By reducing the number of grazing mouths, the woody species can start to regenerate, and with them, in time, all the insects and other animals that depended on them. It is a much slower process to restore than to destroy but nature is resilient and will usually find a way back. On Knoydart and Nevis, we are already beginning to see signs of recovery. Other areas of land in Scotland are also turning the corner, such as Creag Meagaidh and Glenfeshie.

monitoring and deer numbers.

The culling and extraction of deer can also have adverse impacts on habitats and soils. These can be minimised by hand dragging, using ponies for extraction, leaving carcasses or culling closer to access tracks. Choosing a different route by which to extract can alleviate the pressure on landscape.

14. Leave deer carcasses for eagles

In ecosystems with natural predators, deer carcasses are widely distributed on the ground. The carcasses provide a bounty of nutrients in often impoverished habitats. Leaving a number of culled carcasses on the hill can benefit a wide range of species from soil bacteria, fungi and beetles, to predators such as foxes and eagles.

15. Minimise livestock impacts

Sheep and cattle can have a negative impact on habitats through grazing. During the winter, livestock can be concentrated on wet ground. This is when the risk to habitats and soils

from heavy grazing and poaching is highest.

Maintaining livestock numbers at a level that the land can cope with during the winter is key to avoiding these negative impacts. Habitats can be protected by off-wintering stock. ■

Deer & livestock Actions

- Deliver cull targets
- Engage with local Deer Management Group/ Section 7 group to deliver cull targets
- Collect and analyse relevant deer/habitat data
- Leave carcasses
- Monitor carcasses with camera traps
- Control stock numbers
- Monitor incursions and liaise with neighbouring owners

Facilities & heritage

ETHOS: Sustainable management

APPROACH: Sensible use of resources and careful planning of new developments

People working on wild land should be encouraged to work sustainably and be mindful of legal and other requirements regarding heritage infrastructure. Infrastructure, such as paths and fences, should be well maintained but kept to a minimum. Buildings should be energy efficient, and where possible should make use of small scale renewable energy.

All wild land will have evidence of previous use by man. Preservation of the cultural heritage is important. Removing redundant modern structures will enhance the wild land character of an area.

Standards 16-22 relate to facilities, heritage and sustainability.

16. Staff training

Staff should be knowledgeable and trained in all aspects of wild land management, having regard for all aspects of wild land management as well as sustainable principles. Adequate Health & Safety training is



John Muir Trust staff remove a redundant fence

Photo: Rory Syme

essential.

17. Infrastructure & heritage maintenance

All legal burdens, such as boundary fences, water supplies and so on, should be fully maintained in good working order. All cultural heritage sites, such as old shielings, historic

bridges, and suchlike, should be maintained in accordance with statutory guidance. Roads, tracks, footpaths, fences and buildings should be kept to a minimum in wild land.

Temporary tracks may be required for the purposes of deer extraction or to take materials to remote sites. Paths are often necessary for access to, and enjoyment of, wild land. Where paths are fit for purpose they can be narrow and unobtrusive but they can also become severely eroded and highly visible scars on the land. Regular maintenance is essential.

18. Reduce, reuse, recycle

Sustainability principles should be applied across the board. This should include reducing waste, reducing water consumption, reusing materials such as fence posts and wire, and recycling as much as possible. Litter should be separated into recyclable and non-recyclable materials.

Access for all

The John Muir Trust maintains access paths on all its properties, including the main path from Kinlochbervie to Sandwood Bay, the path up to the rocky ridge on Schiehallion, the top section of the route up Ben Nevis and the main path to the peaks at Quinag.

“Pathwork can be expensive and time-consuming but we believe it’s important to support access to certain areas of wild land so that people can enjoy our natural landscapes. We maintain our paths throughout the year with the help of dedicated volunteers as well as expert builders and strive to use locally sourced materials whenever possible.”

Sandy Maxwell, East Schiehallion manager, John Muir Trust

➤ **Facilities & heritage** continued

19. Minimise carbon footprint

Climate change caused by the build up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is one of the biggest threats facing all ecosystems. The carbon footprint of all activities on the land should be minimised.

Electricity use in buildings should be reduced as much as possible. Buildings should be insulated as efficiently as possible. Fuel consumption of vehicles should be minimised. Staff, visitors and volunteers should be encouraged to car-share or use public transport where possible.

20. Explore local renewable energy

Small local renewable energy projects should be considered for buildings. This might include solar panels for water heating, and woodfuel or woodchip boilers for central heating for individual or groups of local buildings. Landscape and ecological impacts of any

developments should be considered fully before initiating any projects.

21. Remove redundant structures

To improve wild landscapes all redundant structures should be removed (with the exception of cultural heritage). This includes disused buildings or sheds and fences. Where possible, existing roads or tracks should be removed, reduced or narrowed to minimise their impact.

22. Sensitive new build techniques

Where a new building is required, it should be designed sensitively and built sustainably with minimal impact on the surrounding landscape. Ideally, any new builds should use sustainable materials such as timber, local stone and turf.

Buildings should be planned to have the lowest carbon footprint possible. Making use of renewable

electricity and heating – through solar panels, wood burning stoves, and sensitively sited, micro-scale wind turbines – should be the norm.

23. Sensitive footpath techniques

There should be a presumption against new paths in wild land, but if these are required then the focus should be on sustainable construction using locally sourced materials wherever possible.

The visual impact of the path should be a primary consideration and paths should be built using local materials. Designs should be as simple as possible and maintain natural variations in terms of width and materials. ■

Facilities & heritage Actions

- Incorporate sustainability in staff training plans.
- Monitor and maintain the condition of paths
- Monitor and maintain the condition of buildings, fences and other structures
- Run conservation work parties
- Minimise resource use and waste
- Maximise energy efficiency
- Explore local renewable energy options
- Remove redundant structures
- Remove, reduce or narrow roads where this is possible
- Apply sensitive techniques to any new build
- Apply sensitive techniques to any new footpath

Path maintenance on Schiehallion



Photo: Morven Duncan

Communities, visitors & awareness

ETHOS: Tenants as partners, encouraging access

APPROACH: Engagement and interpretation

Land should be managed with the needs of local communities and recreational visitors in mind so that people can feel part of the surrounding landscape and easily find out where to go to enjoy nature and the great outdoors.

The Gaelic language and culture has close connections with the landscapes in Scotland and should be explained in interpretation where this is appropriate.

Standards 24-28 relate to communities, visitors and awareness

24. Provide responsible access

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 has firmly established the 'right to roam' in Scotland, with rights and responsibilities clearly laid out for land managers and visitors.

Connecting with nature

"Connecting with the natural world – for people of all ages and backgrounds – is essential if we want to understand the importance of the environment and our place in it, and care for it into the future. Of course, getting out into wild places also offers unrivalled benefits in terms of personal adventure, good health and quality of life. The John Muir Award encourages all sorts of people to discover wild places, explore and conserve them, and share their experience with others; that's why it's so integral to the Trust's philosophies on protecting and enhancing wild land."

Rob Bushby, John Muir Award Manager, John Muir Trust

Interpretation of wild land and its management should be provided for visitors in a sensitive manner through a broad range of methods, including signage to more formal educational initiatives.

25. Meet responsibilities towards local people

As landowners, land managers have legal responsibilities regarding consultation of tenants and crofters. Additionally, the

Appreciation of the natural world helps people to care for it



Photo: Keith Brame

➤ Communities, visitors & awareness continued

principle should be to minimise burdens and maximise consultation with all local communities. Land managers should regularly discuss their work with neighbours and local communities. Contracts for work should be awarded locally when this is feasible.

26. Joint project work

Where possible, joint projects or ventures should be explored that could maximise employment and income opportunities for local people within the parameters of sustainable land management – for example, natural heritage grants, eco-tourism or green tourism schemes.

27. Maximise interpretation

Wild land managers provide for responsible access, through engagement with local communities and visitors. Maximising educational and interpretation opportunities will play a key role in delivering this standard. Where it is relevant, interpretation should be provided in English and Gaelic.

28. Maximise education opportunities

Wild land offers an opportunity for people to learn about natural ecosystems. Outdoor education in wild land should provide information while promoting awareness around the issues

of intrusion into sensitive environments.

Where educational visits are likely to take place, land managers should enhance the experience of those taking part – for example, by providing local knowledge. ■

The Trust maintains the popular footpath to Sandwood Bay in Sutherland



Photo: Iain Brownlie Roy

Communities, visitors & awareness Actions

- Provide guidance on large scale events
- Provide guidance on fishing policy
- Advise on responsible campfires and clean up
- Liaise with neighbours
- Attend relevant local meetings
- Hold open meetings
- Use local contractors where possible
- Liaise with local Scottish Natural Heritage staff
- Contribute to relevant regional projects and events
- Review and update leaflets, ensure leaflet dispensers filled
- Review and maintain website information
- Review and maintain interpretation panels
- Consider providing interpretation in Gaelic
- Hold events such as talks, open days and guided walks to encourage wild land awareness
- Produce articles for local media
- Encourage local John Muir Award activity

Actions check list

Management planning

1. Audit existing state and condition

- Map all man-made structures
- Digitise woodland
- Conduct archaeological survey
- Collate all relevant data

2. Establish survey and monitoring programme

- Conduct habitat monitoring programme
- Conduct species monitoring programme
- Monitor deer and livestock enclosure plots
- Maintain species records
- Take fixed point photographs
- Monitor people counters / car park useage
- Conduct visitor survey

3. Develop SMART actions

- Develop SMART actions

4. Consult stakeholders

- Consult on plan with stakeholders

Soil, carbon & water

5. Maximise water tables on peatlands

- Block drains to raise water table

6. Minimise exposure, burning and grazing

- Minimise burning

7. Minimise pollution

- Remove litter

Biodiversity & woodland

8. Maintain in favourable condition

- Implement SNH advice
- Educate and work with other groups / users
- Advance SRDP applications to deliver management

9. Maximise native habitats

- Maximise native habitats

10. Biodiversity species management

- Map and remove non-native invasives (plants)
- Develop and implement a control strategy (animals)

11. Re-structure woodlands*

- Develop / implement a forest plan
- Additional native woodland planting projects

12. Re-introductions*

- Consider re-introductions

Deer & livestock

13. Minimise deer impacts

- Deliver cull targets
- Engage with local Deer Management Group / Section 7 group to deliver cull targets
- Collect and analyse relevant deer / habitat data

14. Leave deer carcasses for eagles*

- Leave carcasses
- Monitor carcasses with camera traps

15. Minimise livestock impacts

- Control stock numbers
- Monitor incursions and liaise with neighbouring owners

Facilities & heritage

16. Staff training

- Incorporate sustainability into staff training plans

17. Infrastructure & heritage maintenance

- Monitor and maintain condition of paths
- Monitor and maintain condition of buildings, fences and other structures
- Run conservation work parties

18. Reduce, re-use, recycle

- Minimise resource use and waste

19. Minimise carbon footprint

- Maximise energy efficiency

20. Explore local renewable energy*

- Explore local renewable energy options

21. Remove redundant structures

- Remove redundant structures
- Remove, reduce or narrow roads where possible

22. Sensitive new build techniques*

- Apply sensitive techniques to any new build

23. Sensitive footpath techniques*

- Apply sensitive techniques to any new footpath

Communities, visitors & awareness

24. Provide responsible acces

- Provide guidance on large scale events
- Provide guidance on fishing policy
- Advise on responsible campfires and clean up

25. Meet responsibilities towards local people

- Liaise with neighbours
- Attend relevant local meetings
- Hold open meetings
- Use local contractors where possible

26. Joint project work*

- Liaise with local Scottish Natural Heritage staff
- Contribute to relevant regional projects and events

27. Maximise interpretation

- Review and update leaflets, ensure leaflet dispensers filled
- Review and maintain website information
- Review and maintain interpretation panels
- Consider providing interpretation in Gaelic

28. Maximise education opportunities*

- Hold events such as talks, open days and guided walks to encourage wild land awareness
- Produce articles for local media
- Encourage local John Muir Award activity

*enhanced actions, adding value to core wild land management