

Updates on progress of the Land Management Plans

Delivery Group updates

11 March 2013

3.2 Land Use

3.2.1 – Whole farm plans – New whole farm plans are now under development with Benmore Farm and Protnellan. The NPA have appointed a contractor to provide renewables advice to farm businesses who wish to diversify.

17 June 2013

3.2 Land Use

3.2.1 Whole farm plans – The first two whole farm plans for Inverlochlarig and Loch Dochart have been produced. The process for writing the plans is being reviewed to continue to improve its efficiency and the overall effectiveness of the plans. Consultancy support to address revenue opportunities from tourism and outdoor recreation has been added to the suite of specialisms contributing to the plans. Further whole farm plans are on the horizon but the programme is not yet being promoted widely until the staff resource input required has been fully assess in the light of the first plans.

9 September 2013

3.7 Whole Farm and Whole Estate Plans

The aim of Whole Farm/Estate Plans is to assess options and agree actions to improve the financial and environmental sustainability of land-based businesses in order to secure the benefits of positive land management that contributes to achievement of the statutory aims of the National Park. Subject to each business 'priorities, Plans aim to be holistic and integrated, covering business arrangements, agriculture, woodland and forestry, sporting interests, environmental issues and diversification opportunities. Each Plan sets a 25 year vision for the business and shorter term objectives, delivery of which can form the basis of an on-going, collaborated relationship with the NPS.

Work is on-going to progress the four current Whole Farm/ Estate Plans. No New Plans are being taken on until the current raft are complete and the vacant Land Management Adviser post has been filled – this post is currently being advertised and interviews are scheduled for 24 September.

Interest in the project remains high from land managers and representative bodies such as NFUS and Land and Estates. Scottish Government have also expressed interest, in the context of potential methods for delivering advice to land managers under the next Scotland Rural Development Programme.

Wednesday 5th February 2014

C7	Work with five land-based businesses to pilot Land Management, Whole Farm or	Gradual progress slowed because of resource constraints – will have four complete by March 2014. Second Land Management Adviser now
----	--	---

	Whole Estate Plans and evaluate pilot.	in post so expect to accelerate pace and catch up overall targets by 2017. Project action plans agreed with staff.
--	--	--

Wednesday 7th May 2014

C7	Work with five land-based businesses to pilot Land Management, Whole Farm or Whole Estate Plans and evaluate pilot.	<p>Three Whole Farm/Estate Plans completed because of staff turnover and resource issues over the year. Lessons successfully learned from pilot and full complement of inducted staff now recruited for 2014/15.</p> <p>ACTION: Increase annual targets 2014-2017 in order to achieve overall target by 2017.</p>
----	---	--

20th August 2014

Grow Your Potential event was held in June 2014 with over 70 attendees. This has effectively promoted the whole farm/estate plan project and has led to a number of businesses coming forward to request assistance/advice from the NPA. All contacts are being followed up.

Updates given to Board meetings in 2014

- 17 March 2014 – Agenda Item 14 Conservation Update and Agenda Item 12 S3.13
- 16 June 2014 Agenda Item 11 Conservation and Land Use Update