

## Highland Invasive Species sub-group meeting notes.

2pm. 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

SNH Office, Dingwall.

### 1. Attending.

John Parrott	Scottish Native Woods
Steve North	SNH
Ian Collier	FCS
David Glass	Caithness Biodiversity Group – Chair
Babs Macritchie	NTS – Balmacara
Rob Dewar	NTS - Inverewe
Jonathan Willet	Highland Council
Brian Hicks	BTCV - Scotland
John Weaver	Volunteer Development Officer, BTCV - Scotland
Lois Canham	North Highland Mink Control Officer
Julie Bowen	Scotland Transerv

### 2. Apologies.

Jenny Sleeman	BTCV - Scotland
Ian Milne	SEPA
David O'Brian	HBRG

### 3. Note of last meeting/ Matters Arising.

Approved, with spelling mistakes corrected and Lois Canham's attendance noted.

**AP1.** JW to contact Bob Laughton regarding last year's RAFTS proposal for Invasive Species Control and see if we can use their idea. **Ongoing.**

**AP2 from 18.8.08.** Drew MacFarlane-Slack replied to IC's letter and expressed interest in the sub-groups work and will get the notes from this meeting. **Discharged.**

**AP2.** Once the IS mapping has been completed look to start drafting the Rhododendron Control Strategy. **Ongoing.**

**AP3.** SNH, SEPA, FCS. To contact their technical departments and find out what format they want the IS data in. **Ongoing.**

**AP4.** SN and IC to draft a proposal on Rhododendron Control in September. **Discharged.**

**AP5.** JW to post leaflets to the Gamekeepers Course. **Discharged.**

**AP6.** JW to contact contaminated land unit regarding their policy of dealing with/ identifying INNS on contaminated land. **Ongoing. Now AP4.**

**AP7.** IC to contact Liz Poulson regarding how the job has been going to help inform the FCS/ SNH funding bid. **Ongoing. Now AP5.**

**AP8.** IC to organise a meeting between potential funders. **Discharged.**

#### **4. Invasive Species Policy.**

Comments and amendments were made. This policy will be presented to the next Highland Invasive Species Forum for approval.

**AP6.** JW to recirculate.

#### **5. Mapping Invasive Species.**

The spreadsheets that the contractors had pulled together were presented to the group. Overall Rhododendron had the best coverage of any of the datasets and even then the coverage was not that good. The contractors will finish by March next year at the latest, by this time it is hoped that the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland will be completed and the Highland data will be available.

The final report of this project will have recommendations for future work.

**AP7.** JW to circulate the contractors report around the sub-group.

**AP8.** Sightings of any of the Priority Invasive Species to be send to JP.

#### **6. Leaflet.**

This has been printed and stored with Landmark Press in Carrbridge. The leaflet has still to be delivered to the libraries in the area.

**AP9.** JW to deliver leaflets to the library service for circulation to the local libraries.

#### **7. BTCV Apprentice.**

There was along discussion about this mainly about would it be of benefit to Invasive Species action in Highland and who could host the post. There were lots of ideas for what the apprentice could do. For further information see <http://www2.btcv.org.uk/display/naturaltalent>

**AP10.** JW/ JWr to get more information on the work of the IS apprentice in NI.

#### **8. Mink.**

Possibility of RAFTS funding to extend Lois's post. The three Mink projects; Aberdeenshire, Cairngorm and North Highland are all joining together. Leader funding for these projects being looked at.

## **9. AOCB.**

### **Lever and mulch.**

Lots happening, demonstration event planned for Lochlash. Another event at Inverewe to go ahead for 12 people using a variety of techniques.

Representations have been made to the European Union to allow L&M to be one of the management options in the SRDP. If this happens then this technique could start to be used commercially. The training of contractors will be a major issue in the rolling out of this technique.

### **RAFTS**

JW to attend a meeting next week with the local Fisheries Trusts to discuss data management and joint working.

CIRIA have produced a booklet on Invasive Species see <http://www.buildingtalk.com/news/cir/cir396.html>

## **10. DONM**

This will depend on the date when the MIS contractors will finish (in February sometime) and from there when the HIS Forum will be, likely in March.