

Agenda

Highland Invasive Species sub-group.

2-4pm. Wednesday 10th November 2010.

SNH Office, Dingwall.

1. Welcome

Dieter Tuerlinckx will be attending the group on behalf of the Caithness Biodiversity Group instead of David Glass.

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| John Parrott | Scottish Native Woods |
| Ian Milne | SEPA |
| Ian Collier | FCS |
| Jonathan Willet | Highland Council |
| Simon McKelvey | Cromarty Fisheries Trust |
| Jenny Sleeman | BTCV - Scotland |
| Barbara Macritchie | NTS – Balmacara |
| Rob Dewar | NTS - Inverewe |
| Merryl Norris | BTCV – Scotland (Invasive Species Apprentice) |
| Julie Bowen | Scotland Transerv |
| Julie Paton | Highland Rhododendron Officer |
| David O'Brien | HBRG |
| David Glass | Caithness Biodiversity Group – Chair |

2. Apologies

Anyone?

3. Approval of minutes, matters arising.

AP1. SEPA responded saying that the data was not of use in river classification, which is the main purpose they use INNS data for. **Ongoing still to hear back from SNH and FC, SMcK to circulate SFCC protocol for data collection. New AP1.**

AP2. JW to contact contaminated land unit regarding their policy of dealing with/ identifying INNS on contaminated land. **Ongoing. New AP2.**

AP3. SN to find out more about the SNH/THC/SEPA guidance for major developments in the form of an Environmental Management Plan and report back. **Ongoing. New AP3**

AP4. BS to contact Christine MacKenzie (Wester Ross Environment Network) regarding the possibility of coordinating Mink monitoring in Wester Ross. **Discharged, project in early stages.**

AP5. RD to bring the Mink issue up at WREN and also with Wester Ross Fisheries Trust. ?

AP6. All. Any comments on changes to the Rhoddy leaflet to the next meeting. **Discharged, DOB to send link. 5000 copies to be printed.**

AP7. JW to promote this to HBRG and beyond. **Discharged.**

AP8. All to bring in PR ideas and provisional PR release dates for the next meeting. **Discharged.**

AP9. JPRT to investigate species recording portal further. **Discharged.**

AP10. JPRT to send email round the group about HB project. **Discharged. This has grown into a general INNS project around Inverness.**

AP11. BM to discuss HB control methodologies at the next meeting. **Discharged.**

4. Feedback on the 2010 HISF. Any changes for 2011?

Good feedback from FC. In general bad weather, good networking opportunities. Demand for L&M training, see AOCB.

Location of 2011 conference. In Lochalsh or Skye. Kyle or Plockton suggested as good locations. Held in Sept 2011 on a Friday.

AP4. BM & JW to finalise location and venue.

5. Mink Project Update.

Cairngorm and Highland Leader bids were successful for continued funding. RAFTS are looking to get 4 officers plus a project manager if they get all 5 bids. Mink reported in Kylesku. Influx into Dornoch Firth, sightings at Golspie and Loch Shin, they are looking to get more rafts into this area for trapping and checking presence. A talk was given to Tain Field Club, it went well. More volunteers are required.

The whole project in the North of the Country is looking to eradicate breeding Mink in all catchment and then start to move south. It is possible that Mink had breached the *cordon sanitaire* before it was set up, so in hindsight this was done perhaps a little too late.

AP5. JW to speak to Janet B about WR Mink Project.

6. Rhododendron Officer Update

The process of editing and updating the leaflet is underway. The Morven L&M project is looking to apply for Leader funding. SLEF, Sleat survey project looking at eradication from the peninsula.

SRDP. SOI Priority Sites have been identified. JPTN has contacted the owners. Some positive, others said no and gave reasons.

IC – Some proposals have been submitted even with the 5 year clause requiring eradication of Rhododendron or you pay your grant back.

SN – He suggested that a demo survey could be drafted to show owners how it can be done.

7. BTCV Apprenticeship Update

£500 grant was applied for a got from the GB INNS secretariat to promote the Plantwise campaign. MN will be contacting garden centres and aquarium shops but only in Moray Firth area. A table of species and their pathways of spread has been drafted.

AP6. All asked to comment on this table and add to it if possible.

AP7. JW to expand this table with the entire Highland priority species list and then circulate this to the sub-group for comment.

JWVR and MN will be developing a training course on INNS in the summer as part of MN's end of apprenticeship. This will be for BTCV staff but could be rolled out in due course, to members of the HISF. The training course would include, ecology of priority INNS, survey, ID etc.

8. Giant Hogweed Update

MN has surveyed the infestation at Balnagowan and treatment will get licenced next year.

DOB mentioned Glyphosate surfactants are poisonous to GCN/Amphibians.

9. Invasive Species Policy

AP8. JW to circulate the Policy.

10. PR Opportunities

AP9. JW to send round table with a schedule of PR opportunities.

Examples of stories that people could submit to keep INNS profile high in the papers.

JPRT – Glen Urquhart INNS control.

JPTN – Rhoddy

DT – Salmonberry

MN – BTCV Conon

BM – L&M

JW – GH

LC – Mink

11. AOCB

L&M Training. Provisionally on Fairburn, windfarm may be a funding source. It will be a 5-day course looking to give an introduction to L&M. The last day will be open to FC LMOs to allow them to familiarise themselves with the technique. Potential funding from FC, CDSFBT, Rhoddy project and LBAP Capacity Building fund.

AP 10. JPTN to investigate the costs of such a course.

AP11. Next meeting seek to draft one page on control methodologies for all key INNS in Highland.

AP12. JW to look at the website and look to create species webpages with attendant resources.

SN – Pine Tree Lappet Moth near Kiltarlity, it could get a high media profile, killing all the trees in a certain area is being considered. A programme of control is being considered.

Loch Flemington has Crassula in it, there is a request for volunteers for survey and control contact SN or Tim Dawson at SNH Dingwall.

12. DONM

Wednesday 2nd March, 2pm at the SEPA Office Dingwall (next door to the SNH and FC Offices).

The aims of the Highland Invasive Species Group were agreed as follows:

- To bring together the key players and take stock of the situation regarding invasive non-native species in Highland;
- To raise awareness and spread good practice;
- To identify any major gaps and prioritise key areas for future work; and
- To work together to secure new resources and funding.

Sub Group Remit.

The Forum agreed that biosecurity issues and the securing of funding for the projects discussed at this meeting are of key importance. It also agreed that the sub-group should continue and seek to secure funding to deliver the projects it has detailed.