

## **INNS Sub-group meeting**

### **SEPA Dingwall**

**2pm. 27/10/14**

Attending: Jonathan Willet THC, John Parrott IMFINNPP, Nicola Tallach SNH, Judi MacDonald SEPA.

Apologies: Julie Bhatti SEPA, Neil McInnes FCS.

#### **1. Approval of minutes, matters arising**

AP1. Discharged

AP2. Ongoing

AP3. Discharged

AP4. Discharged.

**AP5.** Ongoing? Rhoddy control on Ardross Castle Estate. Ask SMcK

AP6. Discharged

#### **2. Standing Item Questions/ Comments**

2.1. Mink Update.

No mink this year, none on the Conon. A couple caught on the Black Isle. Sightings in Loch Fleet, Ardgay and Alness. Loch Fleet most worrying. Ness and Beaully FT lots of Mink activity, the same in Wester Ross. Research has shown that the Mink tend not to go over 250m so their expansion/ movement is mainly coastal.

2.2. Rhoddy Survey.

Agreement of a standard survey method is required. AP1. JW to arrange a meeting of surveyors to agree a standard approach. To be done after SRDP is announced. Discussion about the SRDP and its effectiveness, we need to wait for the details of it before we can do anything further.

2.3. Cromarty Catchment.

River Orrin. 6 km of riparian Rhoddy removed. Lots of natural regen in the cleared area. Coneflower *Rudbeckia sp* spreading up the Conon. HLF bid for continued RAFTS INNS control works.

2.4. *Lochaber INNS.*

The survey has been completed. 3 year costs around 80K to control all the area. The River Lochy is the main source of JK in the area.

#### 2.5. Inner Moray Firth INNS Project.

Note change of name, the project has expanded into the Black Isle, the Killen Burn running through Avoch. Major work underway on the River Beauly around Beauly. Lots of JK and Salmonberry. Mainly stem injection being used and also some experimental techniques e.g. timing of control to see if this has an effect. Date tags on treated stems used to check growth the following year. Also working on the upper reaches of the River Nairn. Tibetan Cowslip on Loch Ruthven is spreading from one garden and impacting on the SSSI. Planted by a burn and seeding into it.

#### 2.6. GB INNS.

None.

#### 2.7. Nairn

None.

#### 2.8. Giant Hogweed

Ongoing.

#### 2.9. Network Rail.

None.

#### 2.10. RBMP

JBh met with Catherine Murdoch, Stan Whitaker and Jo Long as part of the Statutory Group on 10th October and we cross-referenced all actions in the RBMP supplementary plan with those for the Non-Native Species Action Group. The supplementary plan will be updated accordingly, but I need to check this first with our sponsor division at Scottish Government.

#### 2.11. TCV.

Ullie back in November.

#### 2.12. BearScotland.

None.

### 3. Rapid Response Protocols.

**AP1.** JW to contact Stan W about rapid response protocols.

### 4. New Problem Species

Major spread of Pick a Back plant *Tolmea menzeii*.

*Crocsmia*, what to do about that?

Skunk Cabbage.

*Gunnera*.

*Cotula*

Review the priorities in light of the Scottish list. Is a new leaflet required?

#### **5. HIS Forum 2014 – Feedback, suggestions for 2015.**

Joint meeting with NE proposed for HISF7. AP2. JW wait until NY to confirm.

#### **6. AOCB.**

None.

#### **7. DONM**

27<sup>th</sup> March 2015. 2pm SEPA.