



## 4th HIGHLAND INVASIVE SPECIES FORUM

NTS Glencoe Visitor Centre  
Friday 28th September 2012  
10am to 5pm

### Meeting Notes

#### 1. Attending

David O'Brien	Highland Biological Recording Group
Steve Robertson	UHI
Chris Horrill	RAFTS
Steve North	SNH
Henry Dobson	FCS
Marina Curran-Coulthard	Argyll & Bute Council
Ian Collier	Highland Red Squirrel Group
Barbara Macritchie	NTS - Balmacara
Elsbeth Lawson	The Conservation Volunteers
Gunnar Scholtz	Scottish Mink Initiative
John Parrott	Coille Alba
Lucy Ballantyne	Lochaber Fisheries Trust
Diane Baum	Lochaber Fisheries Trust
Ben Davies	Highland Birchwoods
Keith Williams	Ness and Beaulay Fisheries Trust
Tim Aspden	UHI Env Science Student
Raymond Cowie	UHI Env Science Student
Karen Stewart	UHI Env Science Student
Rodrlick Jones	UHI Env Science Student
Liz Hall	NTS - Glencoe
Jeanette Hall	SNH
Julie Bhatti	Scotland Transerv
Jonathan Willet	Highland Council
Judi Forsyth	SEPA
Gary Servant	Upland Ecology
Robin Payne	
Ian Strachan	
Stan Whittaker	SNH
Corrina Mehertens	SNH
Jonathan Willet	Highland Council

#### 2. Apologies.

Graeme Findlay	FCS
John Hollingdale	Community Woodlands Organisation
Donald Kennedy	Organic Trees Morven
Richard Thompson	FCS

Angus Corby	Transport Scotland
Catherine Murdoch	SG
Mike Leary	TECS
Bob Loughton	Findhorn Nairn and Lossie Fishery Trust
Gordon French	
Rob Dewar	NTS
Keith Williams	Ness and Beaully Fishery Trust
Elsa Panciroli	UHI - Science, Environment & Rural Resource Management

### 3. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising from the last Forum meeting.

### 3. Chairman's Introduction.

John Parrott welcomed all those attending and thanked them for making the journey. Two key points were made the issue about there not being a summary of the WaNE (2011) Act Code of Practice either online or in printed form and he funding available through the SRDP for Invasive Species control.

### 4. Talks.

- North Highland Mink Project Update – Gunnar Scholtz, Scottish Mink Initiative.
- Highland Squirrels – Ian Collier, Highland Red Squirrel Group.
- Tackling Invasive Plants in the Lower Ness catchment – John Parrott, Coille Alba.
- Crayfish and Mink in Lochaber – Lucy Ballantyne, Lochaber Fisheries Trust.
- Highland Rhododendron Project – Ben Davies, Highland Birchwoods.

These are available on [www.highlandbiodiversity.com](http://www.highlandbiodiversity.com)

### 5. Discussion and Questions.

- Rapid Response Protocols
  - AP1.** It was decided that there should be a document submitted to the next Forum for discussion/ approval.
- Scottish INNS Action Plan - do we need one?
  - This was discussed and there was no consensus. Though many felt that the GB strategy was sufficient.
- Biosecurity and Licencing.
  - This was not discussed.

### Lunch

An excellent lunch was put on by the NTS at Glencoe, much conversation was in evidence.

### 6. Field Trips.

#### 6.1. Ballachullish Ponds (Signal Crayfish eradication).

The meeting visited the Ballachullish Ponds to hear about the eradication project and do some electrofishing. After it being very wet in the morning, the afternoon brightened up and the ponds were visited. The treatment of the site was discussed and the electrofishing took place. Interestingly some life was found, tadpoles who had presumably survived the poisoning of the pond. This was potentially a cause for concern as all living things were meant to be killed by the poisoning. There was no answer forthcoming from those attending as to how the tadpoles survived or arrived on the site post-poisoning. The site was being monitored closely for the presence of any Signal Crayfish, and to date none had been found. Though very expensive, this project seems successful so far and does give a good



indication of how a rapid response to a new invasive species problem needs to be organized. Those attending thanked Lucy and Diane for the demonstration

Glencoe Lochan (Rhododendron control).

6.2. After the pond it was time to visit the lochan. This was the estate of Lord Strathcona and along with many plantation trees there was a major Rhododendron problem. It is now part of the National Forest Estate. The Rhododendron is being cleared and the stumps treated with glyphosate. A new method of control was demonstrated to the group; that of the Eco-plug. This is a plastic plug placed into a drilled hole and then tapped with a hammer to break the capsule. This allows the granular glyphosate to react with water or sap and start to flow into the wood. This technique is suitable for working in wet conditions where foliar spray would not stick. This was of great interest to those attending as it would offer a new control technique. It is currently not licensed for sale yet, but FCS have a licence to trial it. The results will be reported next year.

Those attending thanked Ken and Henry for organizing this visit.

## **7. DONM**

The meeting ended after the visit to Glencoe Lochans at 4pm.

There was tea and coffee available back at the NTS Glencoe Visitor Centre and several of the attendees came back and continued discussions about issues raised at the meeting.

The 2013 Forum will be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September. Venue TBC.