

## Meeting Notes

### Highland Invasive Species sub-group.

2-4pm. Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

Second Floor Committee Room. Town House Inverness.

#### 1. Welcome

Julie Paton who is the new Rhododendron Project Officer was welcomed to the meeting as was Meryl Norris the BTCV Invasive species Natural Talent Apprentice.

John Parrott	Scottish Native Woods
Ian Milne	SEPA
Jonathan Willet	Highland Council
Simon McKelvey	Cromarty Fisheries Trust
Jenny Sleeman	BTCV - Scotland
Barbara Macritchie	NTS – Balmacara
Rob Dewar	NTS - Inverewe
Lois Canham	North Highland Mink Control Officer
Julie Bowen	Scotland Transerv

#### 2. Apologies

David O'Brien	HBRG
David Glass	Caithness Biodiversity Group – Chair
Steve North	SNH
Ian Collier	FCS

As Ian Collier could not attend JW acted as chair.

#### 3. Approval of minutes, matters arising.

**AP1.** SNH, SEPA, FCS. To contact their technical departments and find out what format they want the IS data in. **Ongoing. AP1.**

**AP2.** JW to contact contaminated land unit regarding their policy of dealing with/ identifying INNS on contaminated land. **Ongoing. 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. AP3.**

**AP4.** All to send any comments on the final report to JP by the 8<sup>th</sup> March. **Discharged.**

**AP5.** JP to sent JW the metadata headings that they used in the report. **Ongoing. AP4.**

**AP6.** INNS recording portal to be discussed at the next sub-group meeting. **Ongoing. AP5.**

**AP7.** JW to draft species control strategies for each of Top 5 species.

**Ongoing. AP6.**

**AP8.** JW to contact IM and SMcK regarding venue availability and suitability.

**Discharged.**

**AP9.** JW to contact Angus Corby at Transport Scotland with regard to the MIS contact data. **Discharged.**

#### **4. HIS Forum/ Invasive Species Policy**

The Forum was postponed until 29<sup>th</sup> September, with Marybank Village Hall the venue subject to confirmation. The Invasive Species Policy will be launched then. SRPBA have agreed to sign up to the policy.

**AP7.** SMcK to book venue.

#### **5. RAFTS Bid.**

This was successful and is now underway. £1.1 million of funding. J Knotweed and G Hogweed being sprayed in selected areas in Scotland. A five year cycle of work.

#### **6. Rhododendron Officer update**

Julie introduced herself. Her main role is to facilitate SRDP applications for the key areas in Highland with Rhododendron that affects or has the potential to affect a protected site. These priority areas are to be identified by her steering group. An initial action is to draft an article to the papers about Rhododendron and her post and arrange meetings with key contacts, many of whom were at the meeting.

#### **7. BTCV Apprenticeship update**

Meryl Norris introduced herself and was in her second day in the job and was looking forward to starting her work. Again many of the organisations she will work with were round the table and more offers of a few days mentoring were given.

**AP8.** JW to send MN INNS leaflets.

#### **8. Giant Hogweed update**

Most of the key areas have been surveyed apart from the Munloch infestation. Spaying on the Auldearn Burn is underway. The project is progressing well. The feasibility of an SRDP application for this is being looked into.

Ian Milne mentioned the possible synergy between the HISF and the River Basin Management Plan work on Invasive Species.

**AP9.** IM to arrange meeting between JW, IC? And Rachel Harding-Hill.

### **9. Engagement with Railtrack.**

JW has a contact at the GB level with Railtrack.

### **10. AOCB**

**AP10.** All to come up with one or two PR ideas to be used over the next year. RAFTS Publicity Officer can help with this.

**AP11.** JP suggested a blog for everyone to contribute to. General support JP to create one and invite others to join.

**AP12.** JW to contact John Phillips on Skye to find out about the progress of the Mink Project there.

### **11. DONM**

23<sup>rd</sup> August. Committee Room 2 Town House (TBC)

### **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.