

Develop a wild deer management plan

Overview

This standard outlines the competencies required by individuals who are responsible for developing a management plan for wild deer in a wildlife management area. It has been developed so that it can be applied to a variety of situations.

This standard is aimed at those who work as deer managers and who are responsible for developing a wild deer management plan, establishing and reviewing procedures for the plan and integrating the deer plan into the overall management plan.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. establish systems for the accurate collection and analysis of data to support the development of a wild deer management plan
2. analyse relevant information and data to determine the characteristics of wild deer populations, for example previous cull records, population assessments, habitat assessments, wildlife management area objectives, regional deer management objectives
3. seek specialist advice when required
4. develop a wild deer population model for the wildlife management area
5. establish priorities and measurable aims and objectives for the wild deer management plan
6. determine the resource requirements necessary to support the successful implementation of the wild deer management plan
7. determine working methods that maintain health and safety and are consistent with relevant legislation, codes of practice and organisational requirements
8. assess any possible constraints that may influence the implementation of the wild deer management plan
9. establish systems for activities that support the implementation of the wild deer management plan, such as population assessment, habitat damage assessment, habitat management, fencing, stalking, supplementary feeding
10. establish systems to support the effective implementation of emergency procedures
11. confirm that the wild deer management plan complies with relevant legislation, codes of practice, sector guidance and organisation requirements
12. consider the opinions of other stakeholders as part of the development of the wild deer management plan
13. communicate the requirements of the wild deer management plan to those involved in its implementation
14. establish procedures for the review of the effectiveness of the wild deer management plan

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the principles associated with the management of wild deer
2. data analysis techniques and the role of data in target setting when developing a wild deer management plan
3. where to obtain specialist advice
4. the process of establishing measurable aims and objectives relevant to the plan, covering the short- (1 – 2 months), medium- (12 months), and long-term (5 years)
5. the relationship between the wild deer management plan and the overall objectives for the wildlife management area
6. resource planning and utilisation including, people, equipment, finance
7. the constraints that influence the management of wild deer
8. the interaction between wild deer and their habitat
9. the ecology of wild deer
10. wild deer population assessment techniques
11. population models and varying densities and ratios to deliver different objectives
12. the cultural significance of localised wild deer distribution patterns, for example, established rutting locations, and how these can be protected and preserved
13. animal welfare legislation as it relates to the management of wild deer and the principles of bio-security and disease prevention
14. common wild deer diseases, including how to recognise and treat them
15. the impact of public access and its influence on wild deer management planning
16. habitat design and creation relevant to the management of wild deer and the wildlife management area
17. fence design, construction and installation as it relates to the management of wild deer
18. how land, waterborne and aerial vehicles can be used to assist wild deer management activities
19. when and how emergency wild deer culls can be used and the requirements of stalking deer
20. the potential socio-economic impact of wild deer management activities
21. the role of relevant legislation, national policies, codes of practice,

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sector guidance and organisation requirements in the development of wild deer management plans

Glossary

Constraints that influence the management of wild deer

e.g. business objectives, political pressures, disease, legislation, resource availability

Sector guidance could include:

The Code of Good Shooting Practice

Deer Initiative Best Practice Guides

Scottish Natural Heritage Best Practice Guides

Wildlife management area

- Any area of land used for the provision of game-shooting activities

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