

Implement and monitor a habitat management plan

Overview

This standard outlines the competencies required by individuals who are responsible for implementing and monitoring a habitat management plan for 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 in game and wildlife conservation and who are responsible for implementing and monitoring the success of a habitat management plan.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. monitor and maintain activities to ensure the effective implementation of the habitat management plan
2. manage the allocation of resources to achieve the objectives of the habitat management plan
3. confirm that working methods maintain health and safety and are consistent with relevant legislation and codes of practice
4. collect and analyse data to determine progress against planned objectives
5. confirm that planned interventions have been implemented when required to support the achievement of objectives such as habitat creation, habitat maintenance, measures to improve the health of the habitat, pest and vermin control
6. confirm that accurate records are maintained to support the implementation of the habitat management plan
7. obtain and review feedback from those involved in implementing the habitat management plan
8. make adjustments to the habitat management plan based on the feedback obtained and when constraints impact on the plan's effectiveness

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the environmental requirements of different types of habitats found in the wildlife management area
2. the techniques used to maintain habitats
3. common disease problems associated with the habitat types found in the wildlife management area
4. the activities required to monitor and maintain the effective implementation of the habitat management plan
5. the resources required to support the implementation of the habitat management plan, including people, equipment, finance
6. suitable data recording and analysis techniques used to monitor the effectiveness of the habitat management plan, including qualitative and quantitative methods
7. the national and local regulations that control habitat management relating to access to the countryside, wildlife and habitats
8. how to determine the influence of habitat management on species and on the area
9. how the habitat can be managed by the use of different interventions such as habitat creation, habitat maintenance, measures to improve the health of the habitat, pest and vermin control
10. how habitat management activities interact with other wildlife management area activities and users
11. the constraints that could impact on the effectiveness of the habitat management plan, for example wildlife area objectives, other land users, conflicts of interest, political pressures, legislation, climate, geographical factors, land designations and national objectives
12. the landscape or catchment scale context of the habitat being managed and how this is relevant to its maintenance and monitoring
13. the value of biodiversity and sustainable practice to habitat management
14. the role of relevant legislation, codes of practice, sector guidance and organisational requirements that support habitat management

Glossary

Designations could include:

- National Park
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs),
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- World Heritage Site (WHS)
- Archaeological site
- National Trust
- Nitrogen Vulnerable Zone (NVZ)
- Drinking Water Safeguard Zones
- Scheduled Monuments (SMs)
- Listed Buildings (LBs)
- Registered Parks and Gardens (RPGs)
- Registered Battlefields (RBs)
- Sites identified on the Historic Environment Record (HER).

Game

Legal quarry species, including deer

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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