

SGA Deer Vision

The 10 years ahead

‘valuing Scotland’s national resource’



Introduction

This SGA Deer Vision, The 10 years ahead, has been created by men and women who make up The Scottish Gamekeepers Association’s (SGA) deer group.

Some are employed in the provision of sporting activity, others are managing lowland roe deer. Some SGA members are managing in Scotland’s forests, where Sika and Fallow are found. Some are recreational deer managers, controlling deer around farms, infrastructure and on the fringes of our towns and major cities.

The SGA membership, between them, have culled around 1 million deer of all species in Scotland in the past decade, many solely for habitat management purposes. Their work takes place over 7 million hectares of our land.

One thing is certain, whatever direction deer management is to take in Scotland, delivery will not happen without the knowledge, professionalism and buy-in of these practical working people on the the ground.

This Vision reflects their collective urge to improve understanding of the role deer play in Scotland today, as a national asset.

It is a document to guide future action but it is also aspirational; a vision of how they want to see Scotland’s deer managed.

The SGA Deer Vision is not, primarily, a scientific text. It is unashamedly a document encompassing the views of men and women who manage deer on the ground. It is borne of collective centuries of practical knowledge.

It looks at the way we manage deer, today, in 2019, and how we could be benefitting more, by 2030. It also looks at practical measures which can be implemented, at little cost, to ensure deer remain part of robust and resilient environments.

It is a document to help deliver many Scottish Government objectives, through a revised approach.

In Summary, the SGA Deer Vision will mean:

enhanced biodiversity and environmental resilience, lower food miles, improved animal welfare, greater local employment and opportunity, more cost effective deer management for the Scottish tax payer and increased public awareness of the value of deer to Scotland's landscapes and communities.

This document is in 2 parts. The first is the Vision Summary, a document which sets out easy- to- read 'headline' aims and objectives. In order to have relevance to current policy, the Vision Summary has deliberately been formulated using the same themes as the Govt's own guiding blueprint: Scotland's Wild Deer, A National Approach.

The Vision Summary should be read alongside the Vision booklet, which expands on the summary document, explaining the points and the Vision, further.

We hope you enjoy the Vision and find it a useful addition to deer management in Scotland today.

Alex Hogg, Chairman, The Scottish Gamekeepers Association.

December 2019.



* 'The SGA Deer Vision, The 10 years ahead', is an education document prepared by The Scottish Gamekeepers Association.