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East England: Grant support for deer management

Background This document is to give guidance on support for deer management in the East of England Region. The annual cost of deer to the overall economy in the East of England is estimated to be over £7 million due to road traffic accidents involving deer. There is also a loss in biodiversity of woodlands across the region resulting from over browsing; this provides the rationale for the Forestry Commission helping fund the management of deer.

Funds are limited and eligible applications will be judged on a first come first served basis. The effectiveness of this funding package will regularly be reviewed and revised accordingly.

What woodlands are eligible? All other EWGS eligibility requirements apply. We will fund deer management where it is required in order to maintain and improve the environmental value of the woodland. Owners who wish to apply to the FC for grant support will need to discuss their deer management issues with their local woodland officer.

What can be funded? **Woodland Assessment Grant (WAG)**

A Deer Management Plan (DMP) can be funded using WAG ecological assessment; this is at £5.60/ha with a minimum payment of £300. The DMP must use the template devised by the Deer Initiative. This is available from <http://www.thedeerinitiative.co.uk/html/downloads.htm> or speak to your local woodland officer, for contact details go to: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-7b7ezj>

When the plan is completed, a copy must be submitted with the claim form to ensure the FC is satisfied with its contents. The FC works closely with the Deer Initiative and may seek their advice before approving payment.

Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG)

The FC will not consider any WIG claim for deer management related work until there is an agreed DMP in place.

Any WIG work relating to deer management that you intend to undertake must have been identified in the DMP for the woodland. E.g. purchase of High Seats.

Many WIG standard costs can be applied to support the management of deer in woodland. 'Operations Note 009 – Standard Costs' lists all the

woodland management work that FC will fund, this is available on the FC website at: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-6kxfg5>

Some of the applicable costs are:

C6 Deer High Seat

F4 Deer Fencing

F5 Temporary Deer Fencing

F6 Deer & Rabbit Fencing

L1 Forest Craftsman

L2 Forestry Agent

V4 Open Ground Tree & Scrub manual cutting >7cm dbh (for ride widening/sight lines)

Where the L1 payment is applied for deer stalking, deer impact and activity must be monitored. This must be undertaken each year to help determine the success of deer management. This should follow Impact and Activity Scoring System. The FC is prepared to fund this using standard cost L2 (labour rate - forestry agent). The person carrying out the monitoring must not be the same person/people who carry out the deer control. The number of hours paid will be 4hrs per year where the whole woodland holding is less than 30ha and 8hrs per year for 30ha or more. The Deer Impact and Activity data should be incorporated into the DMP and used to adjust the cull numbers as necessary.

You must use the Deer Impact Method and Impact Tally form for monitoring deer. This can be downloaded from our website but your local woodland officer can arrange for it to be sent to you.

The rate of grant eligible against the standard cost will be either 50 or 80%. Your woodland officer will advise you which rate applies.