

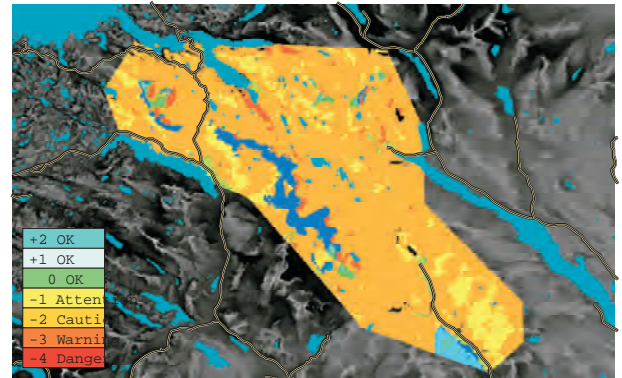
COLLABORATION AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: LESSONS FROM DEER MANAGEMENT IN THE UK



1. ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT: Management of deer needs to be adaptable to change and relies on trust between practitioners policy makers and scientists. We developed a map based adaptive framework based on shared information by integrating local and scientific knowledge. This facilitates consensus building and negotiation over rural resource management.

2. BARRIERS TO COLLABORATION IN THE DEER WORLD: PUBLIC AND PRIVATE; NATIONAL AND LOCAL:

- Robust stakeholder analysis is required to understand the many varied perspectives encountered amongst stakeholders within collaborative management arenas.
- Building upon existing collaborative efforts, rather than creating new ones, is perceived as most likely to enable effective ongoing collaborative management



3. HOW DOES LEGISLATION INFLUENCE COLLABORATION?:

- The existing framework protects the rights of landowners in relation to deer exploitation but not particularly effective at managing the negative impacts of deer for other public objectives.
- Legislation needs to provide a framework that is more responsive to changing social and economic conditions by developing an integrated approach including state intervention, voluntary collaboration, financial incentives and legal responsibility for management



4. DOES VENISON PRICE INFLUENCE MANAGEMENT?

- In Scotland, venison supply is not sensitive to price because production patterns are set by traditional and cultural practices
- In England, we are investigating whether collaboration affects venison value.

5. LINKS BETWEEN PUBLIC PREFERENCES FOR LANDSCAPES, BIODIVERSITY AND DEER MANAGEMENT:

- Recognition that there is substantial commonality between how different societal groups perceive and value woodlands, and the specific elements of this commonality, should inform collaborative management efforts.
- Those responsible for collaborative management should make efforts to ensure that the language used is understood by all involved

6. DEER, DECISION MAKING, COLLABORATION AND INCENTIVES:

- Financial incentives are one potential mechanism for promoting a greater degree of collaboration in deer management. However, mandatory collaboration schemes would be viewed as unacceptable by the majority of deer managers.
- A voluntary approach tailored to local circumstances at specific sites, perhaps supported by financial incentives in some areas, is the preferred mechanism by which to encourage further collaboration in deer management.

7. THE BENEFITS OF INVOLVING STAKEHOLDERS IN RESEARCH:

- Increased collaboration, understanding the importance of involving others and identifying the range of interests of different stakeholders.
- Understanding others views, sharing information, and gaining a wider perspective
- Increased knowledge of the latest research, key issues and developments
- However, some stakeholders felt that it was too early to identify the impact of the project.

CONCLUSION: Rural resources are managed locally often by private individuals with socioeconomic objectives yet increasingly their are wider public objectives relating to non-market value ecosystem services. If sustainable management is to be developed that is flexible enough to incorporate changes in climate and land-use policy we need an adaptive framework. This project has demonstrated the importance of engaging local practitioners and developing new participatory approaches to understanding and addressing conflicts over natural resource management.

