

Wild Ennerdale Stewardship Plan 2018 - Appendix 2

Review of Actions and Achievements 2006 to 2018

Actions	Achievements
<p>Conservation Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a better understanding of changes to vegetation habitats and species in Ennerdale. • Introduce extensive year round naturalistic grazing by large herbivores (cattle) to create and maintain structural diversity and open areas within the valley. • Allow Red Deer to establish as a herd. Maintain culling as there are no natural Predators. • Deliver the SSSI conservation objectives for the designated areas. • Remove rhododendron from the valley • Monitor the heritage features within the valley and consider management recommendations from the Historic Landscape Report. 	<p>Conservation Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation monitoring completed in 2006 repeated in 2013. • Extensive cattle introduced in 2006 and now extend to 3 herds across 1500+hectares. • Cattle, killing infected larch standing, felling and leaving infected larch, felling and removing larch along with planting native species are encouraging opportunities for structural diversity to develop. • Deer cull has been maintained however it has been decided not to allow Red Deer to establish over concern on impact on other forests and neighbours. • SSSI Plans for whole valley produced. • Significant work on Pillar and Ennerdale SSSI ongoing and now included in national long-term monitoring network. • Rhododendron removal ongoing with help from volunteer team. • Initial Historic Landscape Plan produced and work completed. Plan reviewed and updated in 2016 and monitoring ongoing.
<p>Farming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a better understanding of farming, its significance and impacts in Ennerdale. • Remove redundant boundary fencing to move towards extensive grazing regimes within the existing forest boundary. • Work with farmers to review boundary fencing. 	<p>Farming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued working with all farm tenants, involved in UNESCO World Heritage bid, NT led sustainable land management process includes farm tenant interviews. • Significant progress on removal fencing in valley bottom and Silver Cove. Still ongoing especially at head of valley. • FC response to farming concerns about stock proof boundaries has seen FC invest in replacing 9km of boundary

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the issue of stock encroachment on the Pillar & Ennerdale SSSI. • Introduce cattle for extensive naturalistic grazing. • Ensure opportunities are maximised to benefit from farm support. • Support the development of new business opportunities for farmers that build on and respect the special qualities of the valley. • Identify a long-term sustainable grazing regime for the whole valley. • Explore impacts of changing grazing regimes on current management practices such as lower stocking numbers of hefted flocks on unfenced fell. 	<p>fence replacement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Commoners re Pillar and Ennerdale SSSI boundary wall. • Pillar and Ennerdale SSSI wall rebuild and temporary stock proof fence works ongoing. • Extensive cattle grazing introduced in 2006. Now extends across ***hectares and acting as an advocate in other areas for this approach. • Farm business has seen an increase in financial support with the expansion of cattle grazing. • New business opportunities have not been realised as yet but work is ongoing. • Extensive grazing is demonstrating itself to be the long-term sustainable grazing regime. • Monitoring of grazing is being covered in a number of Partner leads, student research and external research organisations e.g. NERC long term monitoring network on Pillar SSSI, Wild Ennerdale vegetation monitoring plots 2006 and resurvey 2013.
<p>Forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control Sitka spruce to ensure that this species does not dominate the future forest. • Reduce the impact of mechanised forestry operations in the valley. • Prioritise the felling of areas viewed to be visually detracting within the 	<p>Forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern valley has been transformed through felling of mature spruce and start of program of spruce regeneration cutting. • Additional Phytophthora operations have been offset by reducing planned harvesting programme. Removal of Woundell Beck Bridge and Black Sail ford have reduced future harvesting in some parts of the valley. • Felling of Heckbarley, Crag, Bowness Knott and Silver Cove have improved

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<p>landscape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not restock recent clearfells. Plant native broadleaves and Juniper as seed trees in the eastern valley to give natural processes the opportunity to develop woodland away from becoming dominated by spruce. Allow natural woodland encroachment beyond present forest boundary to soften stark contrast between forest and open fell. Continue to control sheep grazing on The Side to encourage natural regeneration east and west of the current woodland. Introduce cattle into the forest to restore a natural disturbance process. As timber operations reduce, identify where sections of the forest track network could be allowed to revert to vegetated tracks under natural processes. Look to thin areas of maturing forest to provide more open habitats for future herbivore grazing. 	<p>visual forest boundary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some clearfells have been left to regenerate naturally e.g. Cat Crag whilst others have been planted with native species e.g. Black Sail and below Proud Knott. No non-native trees have been planted since 2003. Over 100,000 native trees including Juniper planted across the valley including under-planting around 100 hectares of dead larch resulting from controlling larch disease. Around 4 hectares of new native woodland developed above Side wood and Mart Knott. Over 1500 hectares of valley now accessible to 3 herds of extensive grazing Galloway cattle. First trial herd has now been active in Silver Cove for over 10 years. 2km of forest roads have been taken out of the forest road network and are being allowed to vegetate. Thinning of the conifer forest has been delayed due to the impact of resourcing the management of Larch disease.
<p>Natural Processes</p> <p>All actions listed in the other statements are identified to complement and facilitate natural processes. Specific examples for reference include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of cattle for extensive naturalistic grazing (conservation management). Reduce mechanised forestry operations 	<p>Natural Processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cattle Grazing introduced across 1500 hectares. Move to Continuous Cover Forestry has

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<p>(forestry).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest tracks allowed to revert to vegetated tracks (forestry). • Removal of lakeshore revetment to facilitate natural hydrological processes (water extraction). • Maintenance and repair of access routes must be sensitive to natural processes (recreation & access) 	<p>reduced impact of mechanised harvesting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of Woundell Beck bridge and Black Sail ford have seen 2km of forest road removed from the forest network and allowed to vegetate over. • Lakeshore revetment condition survey completed and plan drawn up for trial removal. However subsequent plans to remove the Bleach Green weir will see the lakeshore recede making removal of the revetment easier if this is still felt desirable. • Maintenance and repair of recreation routes has been carried out in a sensitive way eg use of local stone for new path through Broadmoor.
<p>Recreation and Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a better understanding of recreation in Ennerdale. • Review all countryside furniture and signage. Remove or minimise where appropriate. • Maintain all rights of way open and accessible, accepting that some natural processes may affect routes (e.g. river erosion) and that any maintenance/repair work must sensitive to the remote and wild character of the valley. • Create a Wild Ennerdale 'Access Code' in partnership with local access groups. • Increase access & recreation opportunities for communities on the West 	<p>Recreation and Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor survey, Gather surveys and volunteer feedback have improved understanding of recreational use. • New signs at both car parks have increased recreation furniture but these have benefited people. Memorial benches have been stopped. • Rights of way maintenance continued with Lake District National Park local Ranger team supported by Wild Ennerdale volunteers. Liza footpath west of Moss Dubs lost to River Liza erosion. Replaced by more resilient path located out of river floodplain. • Access Code has not been created as subsequently felt not to be necessary. Visit Ennerdale leaflet and website pages provides overall visitor access guidance. Events permissions system has been created to better manage formal sporting events. • Local events programme offered for a number of years but uptake too low to

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Coast of Cumbria.	continue with. Work ongoing to link Ennerdale Village to valley rights of way.
<p>Tourism Provision & Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local tourist providers to identify tourism opportunities from Wild Ennerdale. <p>Develop a better understanding of the economic significance of tourism provision and infrastructure in Ennerdale.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners in the tourism industry to ensure the appropriate marketing of Ennerdale. • Work with other 'wild land' managers (e.g. JMT, SNH, NTS) to share best practice in balancing the sensitivities of tourism in wild places. 	<p>Tourism Provision & Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wild Ennerdale supported the development of The Gather with cash funding and Partnership Officer time. • No progress on economic significance but plan developing to establish a set of natural capital accounts for the valley which will go some way towards this. • Wild Ennerdale brand developed and well recognised. • We have hosted a number of visits from other land owners and have discussed and shared ideas for sensitive recreation.
<p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a better understanding of vehicle movements in Ennerdale. • Establish a long term monitoring programme of vehicle movements to capture changing trends. • Work with YHA & LGFC to encourage fewer vehicle movements within valley (customers, service providers, staff) • Alter current layout and signage at Bowness Knott to encourage access into car park and deter vehicles from continuing along forest track. • Minimise use of road signage beyond Bowness Knott. 	<p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial survey using traffic counters completed but no repeat survey completed to date. A long term monitoring procedure has yet to be established. Monitoring is currently from observation and eye witness report. • Wild Ennerdale Partnership Officer has met with YHA and LGFC staff and explained reasons behind Wild Ennerdale approach to vehicles. Vehicle access policy in place and shared. • New layout plan and drawings completed for Bowness Knott car park (yet to be implemented). Bleach Green car park plan developing to move car park further away from the River Ehen.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maximise car share & alternative transport opportunities (foot/bike) for partnership staff & site visits in valley.• Support opportunities to improve public transport and cycle hire. Provide local service information on website.• Allow natural processes to reduce the visible impact of the forest track network over the long term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visits to valley minimise vehicle use by sharing vehicles and parking in one place then walking when possible.• Public transport & cycle hire still lacking.• 1.9km of forest road have been left to vegetate and are no longer accessible.