

Uplands Management Group

Members' Update September 2021

1 Defra Uplands Stakeholder Forum

- 1.1 The USF met on 22nd June. The meeting included an update on the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme which has since gone 'live'. See [Get funding for farming in protected landscapes - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk). An update on the Agricultural Transition Plan is available here: [Agricultural Transition Plan: June 2021 progress update - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk). The Plan includes the Sustainable Farming Incentive and some UMG members joined update calls about the SFI proposals for moorland in July.
- 1.2 As part of the review of the relationship between the USF and UMG, Defra is planning to circulate a briefing document around departments within Defra to clarify the UMG's role. The UMG will assist with drafting this briefing.

2 Regulation of burning on blanket bog

- 2.1 Guidance about making an application for a licence for burning on deep peat areas where required is available at: [Heather and grass burning: rules and applying for a licence - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- 2.2 Defra hosted a virtual workshop for prospective licence applicants on 1st July and a face to face event at Holmfirth on 3rd August. Simon Thorp represented UMG at the latter.
- 2.3 The UMG has produced an adapted version of the Wildfire Management Plan [template](#) for use in an application for a licence.

3 England and Wales Wildfire Forum

- 3.1 The EWWF and Moorland Association have developed a short training course for land managers about working alongside Fire and Rescue Services at wildfire incidents. It aims to enhance understanding between the land managers and Fire and Rescue Services and to promote safe systems of work.

The training consists of a PDF presentation and a short online assessment. [The presentation and assessment are available here.](#)

3.2 Wildfire and Prescribed Fire Training

- 3.2.1 As part of the guidance about burning on deep peat, Defra has contracted the Forestry Commission to develop four training modules that cover:

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Foundation, Wildfire Management Plan, Prescribed Fire Operator and Prescribed Fire Manager.

- 3.2.2 The modules include online training that leads into training courses and assessment.
- 3.2.3 The draft modules have been circulated for comment to representatives of a range of organisations to help with their development. Simon Thorp has contributed to this process on behalf of the UMG.
- 3.2.4 The intention is to test the modules in workshops to be held in September / October. Defra has yet to provide details of how the training will be delivered, and this is likely after the initial workshops have been completed.
- 3.2.5 When fully established, the Foundation module may replace the short training course described in para 3.1.

3.3 Wildfire Conference:

- 3.3.1 The 2021 wildfire conference due to be held in Belfast has been postponed and is now due to be held on 9th and 10th November 2022. A call for presentations and posters will be circulated in early 2022.
- 3.3.2 Consideration is being given to holding a virtual workshop on 10th November this year, to lead into the conference, next year.
- 3.3.3 If you would like to receive updates about the possible workshop and the conference email wildfire21@belfasthills.org

4 Bracken Control Group

- 4.1 The bracken control season is coming to an end and the BCG has reminded users that records about the application of Asulam are required. This information will be used to support a further annual application to allow Asulam to be used for bracken control, next year.
- 4.2 All the details required are set out on the Asulam page of the BCG website with links to the different versions of the Records Form available here: <https://www.brackencontrol.co.uk/asulam>

5 Date of Next UMG Meeting

- 5.1 A face to face meeting on 23rd November 2021 at Foss House, York, is proposed. Details are pending confirmation of the availability of a meeting room and its capacity and we will need the reserve option of a virtual meeting by Teams.
- 5.2 Please let us know if you would prefer a Teams meeting because you would prefer not to travel under the current circumstances or those likely to prevail in November.