

# UplandsManagementGroup

## Members' Update February 2021

### 1 Defra Uplands Stakeholder Forum

- 1.1 Discussions with Defra about the future of the USF and its relationship with UMG are on-going.
- 1.2 A note of the latest meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November was circulated on 19<sup>th</sup> November and is attached below for reference.



201117 Highlights for  
UMG.pdf

- 1.3 The proposals were discussed at the USF meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December. It was agreed that further consideration of the proposals would take place within Defra and a response provided for discussion with UMG members. This response will be circulated, as soon as it is received.
- 1.4 The next USF meeting will take place on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March. We expect there will be further discussion about future roles for USF and UMG and we can report back at the next UMG meeting.

### 2 Our Common Cause

- 2.1 The Foundation for Common Land and its partners are moving ahead to the delivery phase of 'Our Common Cause' with the support of Heritage Lottery funding. A Project Manager has been appointed and further recruitment is underway. An update is available here:  
<https://foundationforcommonland.org.uk/our-common-cause>

### 3 Changes to farming in 2021

- 3.1 Defra proposals to put in place a new farming system in England have been published. It includes an outline of the structure of Environmental Land Management.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-path-to-sustainable-farming-from-2021>
- 3.2 A further update from Defra about changes to be introduced from January 2021 can be read here.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-farming-changes-to-farming-in-england>

Changes include:

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- phasing out direct payments
- changing how we work together
- changing rules and regulations
- grant programmes

#### **4 Regulation of burning on blanket bog**

4.1 On 29<sup>th</sup> January, Defra announced a new regulation to control burning of vegetation on deep peat on Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas. The announcement can be read here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/englands-national-rainforests-to-be-protected-by-new-rules>

4.2 The Statutory Instrument to bring the Regulations was laid on 16th February – details are here:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2021/158/contents/made>

#### **5 England and Wales Wildfire Forum**

5.1 The EWWF has offered evidence to a House of Lords Select Committee on Risk Assessment and Risk Planning



EWWF-SWF  
Submission to HoL Se

5.2 Wildfire Conference: The 2021 wildfire conference is due to be held in Belfast, on November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Circumstances permitting. To register interest and get further details, email [wildfire21@belfasthills.org](mailto:wildfire21@belfasthills.org)

#### **6 Bracken Control Group**

6.1 An application to permit the use of Asulam for bracken control in 2021 was submitted to Chemicals Registration Division of HSE on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020. A response is expected in mid-March. Further information is available here:

<https://www.brackencontrol.co.uk/asulam>

#### **7 Date of Next UMG Meeting**

7.1 The next meeting will be a virtual meeting on 27th April 10:00 – 11:30. Joining instructions and an agenda will be sent nearer the time.