

# Black Grouse

## Wild Challenge Action Plan



### Wild Challenge Long Term Vision 2040

People managing and visiting the moorlands and woodlands of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park are thrilled to regularly see black grouse feeding amongst the trees and heather, or their more flamboyant breeding displays on busy lek sites.

Land managers in priority areas for black grouse in the Park appreciate the value of having black grouse on their land and their own role in looking after this spectacular species. Positive conservation measures for black grouse are embedded in their land management plans and recognised in any public support payments that they receive.

Volunteers play an important part in the bird's conservation, helping with the Park's well-designed lek surveying programme or with active conservation tasks.

Because of people's positive actions, the black grouse population is stable at healthy and sustainable population levels across at least 190 square kilometres of the Park.

## Wild Challenge delivery

### Objectives by 2020

- Stabilise the population and distribution of black grouse within the Park.
- Improve understanding and awareness of black grouse in the Park.
- Increase people's active involvement in black grouse conservation in the Park.

### Measures of Success by 2020

- Black grouse numbers within priority 1 and 2 lek areas are maintained or increased from 2017 baseline numbers.
- We will increase the range of lekking males from 48 to 55 square kilometres within priority 1 and 2 areas and in surrounding areas.
- 28,000 hectares of priority 1 and 2 lek areas for black grouse in the Park are positively managed for black grouse conservation with monitoring an integrated part of management.
- Black grouse conservation in the Park benefits from 150 volunteer hours annually through lek monitoring and conservation tasks

Actions	Lead	Target date
1. Develop and embed a robust and effective system to gather, store, use and report on black grouse population data for the Park.	RSPB	2020
2. Develop and agree with partners a map of priority existing and potential expansion areas for black grouse in the Park to inform targeting of advice and funding.	RSPB	2020
3. Ensure black grouse is recognised as a priority in the Park in the targeting maps and scoring criteria for the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP).	NPA	2020
4. Provide all private land managers within priority 1 areas for black grouse in the Park with integrated land use advice, including conservation priorities for black grouse.	All	2020
5. Liaise with all six land managers within the current Callander Black Grouse Project area to agree on-going conservation management for black grouse beyond 2016.	NPA	2020
6. Develop, communicate and ensure implementation of the black grouse conservation elements within the land management plans of all relevant public and non-governmental organisation (NGO) landowners within the Park.	RSPB	2020
7. Develop and communicate clear opportunities for volunteers to get involved in black grouse conservation in the Park, especially lek monitoring and surveying.	NPA	2020

Black Grouse Wild Challenge Group	Other Key Partners
<p><b>Chair:</b> Yvonne Boles RSPB Scotland <a href="mailto:yvonne.boles@rspb.org.uk">yvonne.boles@rspb.org.uk</a></p> <p>Russell Lamont Forestry Commission Scotland <a href="mailto:russell.lamont@forestry.gsi.gov.uk">russell.lamont@forestry.gsi.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Catherine Kennedy Forestry Commission Scotland <a href="mailto:catherine.kennedy@forestry.gsi.gov.uk">catherine.kennedy@forestry.gsi.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Harriet Donald Loch Lomond &amp; The Trossachs National Park Authority <a href="mailto:harriet.donald@lochlomond-trossachs.org">harriet.donald@lochlomond-trossachs.org</a></p>	<p>Private land managers and their agents</p> <p>NGO landowners</p> <p>SRDP administering agencies: Forestry Commission Scotland, the Rural Payments &amp; Inspections Directorate and Scottish Natural Heritage</p> <p>Central Scotland Black Grouse Study Group</p> <p>Conservation volunteers</p> <p>MSP Black Grouse Species Champion, Ken Macintosh</p>