

Eagle News

The monthly report of the Angus Glens Ranger Service

January 2007

Aim One: Ensuring a welcome to visitors to the countryside

During the month the Service patrolled the formal areas and forest on a regular basis. This allowed face-to-face contact with many visitors to the area. The information shelter in the car park was open daily to members of the public, with the supply of literature kept relevant and up to date. Weather forecasts and hill conditions were posted during peak visitor periods.

Route cards

The total number of route cards completed for January was 28. With the total number of participants being 70. This gave an average party size of 2.5. The summits of Mayar and Dreish proved the most popular destinations being mentioned in 54% of routes. Corrie Fee and Jock's Road were the next most popular with 18% and 17% of routes mentioning them respectively.

Glen Doll Forest Health and Safety Audit

All forest paths and infrastructure checked. The high winds had brought down a number of trees over several paths that the contractors cleared within a very short space of time. A full report was submitted to the Beat Forester.

Aim Two: Mediation between public recreational use and other land use

Liaison

Regular contact maintained with Mick Pawley and Tom McGrath, Angus Council Ranger Service; John Spittal, Forestry Commission Scotland; Shona Hill, Scottish Natural Heritage; Peter Stack-Dunne and Alan Ross, Honary Wardens Corrie Fee National Nature Reserve.

People counters

Data were downloaded from the Scottish Natural Heritage and Eastern Cairngorms Access Project counters and sent to the relevant parties. The Kilbo Path counter is not working and has been sent off for repair.

Aim Three: Promoting awareness and understanding of the natural heritage

Visits to schools

- 09 January – Chapelpark PS *Birds of Prey 50 pupils and two staff
24 January – Monifieth High I can do anything (careers) 108 pupils, six staff
25 January – Monifieth High I can do anything (careers) 110 pupils, six staff
29 January – Northmuir PS *Birds of Prey 66 pupils and three staff
*part of the Tayside Police's 'Crimes against wildlife' initiative.

Illustrated talks

- 10 January – Lintrathen WRI 'One ring to find them' six in audience
11 January – Carmyllie WRI 'One ring to find them' 22 in audience
24 January – Perth Nat. Hist. 'A foray through the corrie' 27 in audience

Advance notice of future event

On the Dark Side

Scott Lodge

Friday 27 – Sunday 29 April 2007

The aim of this weekend event is to introduce visitors to the nocturnal goings on around and above Glen Doll. This will be achieved by 'hands on' activities, illustrated talks and displays on moths and astronomy. The hosts for the event are Cairngorms National Park and Forestry Commission Scotland with contributions from Angus Glens Ranger Service and staff from the Mills Observatory, Dundee and St Andrew's University.

Scott Lodge will be the operational centre for the event. This establishment offers excellent facilities for up to thirty-two self-catering, residential guests. There are also ample areas for workshops and displays.

Residential participants are responsible for their own bedding and catering.

As well as residential participants, this event may also appeal to the day visitor to the area and is an ideal opportunity to promote the work, through display boards and literature, of the organisations involved.

A general interest guided walk is also organised for Sunday afternoon.

Programme of events:

Friday 27 April

19.30 Event launch

Moth traps, wine strings, treacle mix
Set up telescopes – star watch
(if cloudy - talks/workshop)

Saturday 28 April

Morning

Check moth traps. Moth identification workshop

Afternoon

Astronomy workshop/talk

Evening

Moth traps, wine strings, treacle mix
Set up telescopes
(if cloudy talks/workshop)

Sunday 29 April

Morning

Check moth traps. Moth identification workshop

Afternoon

Participants are invited
on a guided walk ‘Tales from the riverbank’. Close event.
Depart.

Aim Four: Caring and enhancing the natural heritage enjoyed by visitors

Mink raft

The Braedownie raft was checked on a regular basis throughout the month. No evidence of mink was recorded.

Herbivore counts

Red Deer – count undertaken on 17 January

Section one – stags 24; hinds 24

Section two – no animals

Section three – 5 stags; 12 hinds

Section four – no animals

Sheep

Numbers peaked at two for the month, (sixty-two sheep days)

Ornithological notes

Raven

Territory One – pair present throughout month. Both birds very visible and vocal above territory.

Tawny Owl

Braedownie Territory – pair established. Heard and seen on a regular basis throughout month.

