

Livelihoods from reintroductions

Each group heard an outline of context, and questioned and commented on that, before discussing three questions. Key points were then chosen.

Key points:

- Need the necessary infrastructure to gain revenue eg. wolf watching in Yellowstone
- Involve land managers very early eg. learn from sea eagles on Mull
- There are numerous indirect spin offs from tourism
- Need FWAG type advisory service

Comments on context:

- Should not rely on fuel being cheap (because of effects on ecotourism) therefore need to be creative in finding other ways of bringing income
- Need to bring keepers etc on board; their livelihoods are not necessarily threatened, just changed
- Danger of putting fixed values 'commoditisation' of nature. But this is realistic and human nature
- Still a need for holidays/tours in the hills/wild
- Direct income to local communities?
- Less flying abroad therefore holidays in UK
- Need local inclusion at an early stage
- Shift from making a living off the land to caring for the land. There is a bigger context now. Positive management should lead to financial support
- Recognize existing skills of land managers
- Communication skills required. Training?
- Re-wilding Advisory Group?

What are the main lessons (positive and negative) from existing livelihoods linked to reintroduction projects?

- Involving local land managers
- Opportunities in future political changes? Eg. SNP now back beaver so what about lynx?
- Need pride in restored species (linked to payments). Eg SRDP pays £s for each Hen Harrier nest and pays for improving riparian habitat for beaver
- Protecting livelihoods – ecosystem services – flood prevention
- Need a group to kick start the process of funding reintroduction projects. How to pay?

What is the potential for livelihoods linked to reintroduction projects?

- Direct livelihoods
- Indirect livelihoods
- "Robbies Whirlwind Tours" – outsider benefits
- Fees to enter National Parks/wilderness areas
- Pay to see lynx?
- Pay to park (indirect payment) eg. lake district £1 tax on accommodation. Bed tax (but not keen in Cairngorms!)
- Challenge Fund – government money to get people to bid for the money to keep land in good condition eg. BAP species; beaver on land = £s etc

What if any systems of advice, training, grants etc are needed to support livelihoods from reintroductions?

- Re-wilding advisors required
- Need chances to meet creatively with land managers
- Subsidies from EU Agriculture support
- Need community liaison personnel