

Roman Wall Loughs SCP Meeting 9th May 2019

Key Points Discussed:

1. Summary of WEG survey.
 - Key issue highlighted of sediment entering Greenlee due to poor farming practice. Particularly, feeding and poaching near the burn.
 - This issue has been raised with various NE staff but no action taken yet.
 - General recommendation of enforcement through agri-environment if possible.

ACTIONS: Sam Almond to speak to RPA

2. Crag Lough

- We summarised the issue of multiple drainage channels having been opened into the Lough.
- Marjorie Davy at NE leading on enforcement action (SSSI enforcement undertaking).
- General feeling that SSSI enforcement will be sufficient, and that we need not proceed down the agri-environment enforcement route.
- Intention from NE is not to renew HLS agreement, and put the farm into Countryside Stewardship in 2020.
- A specification needs drawing up so that farmer can proceed with engaging contractors to remedy drainage work.

ACTIONS:

John Malley at NT to produce spec before 21st June, following site visit with Jack Bloomer. This to be reviewed by the group and NE specialists to assess suitability. The intention is for farmer to complete the work in Summer.

3. Forestry

- Luke Hemmings suggested that it may be possible to conduct a monitoring programme on the watercourses flowing out of Forest Enterprise land to the north of the Loughs to provide definitive info on whether forestry is a contributing factor to phosphate/sediment levels.

ACTIONS:

Luke Hemmings to present rough idea to Forest Enterprise to gauge interest and feasibility and report back.

Jack Bloomer to estimate costs of an appropriate monitoring programme.

4. Future of Sub-Catchment Group

- There had been suggestion of amalgamating the sub-catchment group into the wider South Tyne group.
- It was agreed that given the specific issues that have recently arisen, particularly around Crag Lough, that it is appropriate to keep the sub-catchment group for the time being.
- A rough timescale of Sep/Oct for next meeting, or as specific need arises.