

Pumlumon Project – response to UHG survey of research activity

Research questions

- The Pumlumon Project research focuses on developing a blueprint for delivering climate change adaptation and mitigation via the ecosystems approach. Current areas of research interest include:
 - Efficacy, practicality and economics of flood water management techniques including grip (ditch) blocking, peat bog restoration and tree planting – monitoring habitat condition, water table and surface flow
 - Efficacy and economics of upland habitat restoration through cattle grazing – monitoring habitat, animal condition and profitability of direct marketing system.
 - Use of habitat creation (i.e. tree planting and hedgerow restoration) to generate ecological network function
 - Investigating community engagement as a source of support for ecosystem service delivery - Investigating the impact of land management on ecosystem service delivery
 - Ecosystem services as a new product for delivery from upland farm businesses
 - The creation of partnerships between local landowners, Welsh Assembly Government, government agencies (i.e. EA, Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), FC) and the private sector to facilitate the delivery of ecosystem services
 - We are collaborating with CEH and Leeds University to develop a flood water management monitoring protocol on catchments within the Project area
 - Contributed to two national reports:
 - i) DEFRA – Analysis of the costs and benefits of alternative solutions for restoring biodiversity (Bournemouth University – khodder@bournemouth.ac.uk)
 - ii) University of Aberdeen – Feasibility Assessment: Program design for carbon based restoration of UK peatlands
- Established a Forum (Powys Peat Project Networks) for information sharing amongst organisations (i.e. National Trust, RSPB, EA, CCW, Brecon Beacons National Park, FC, Welsh Water) carrying out peat restoration projects within Powys (mid-Wales)

Monitoring activities

- Hydrology related monitoring on flood water management sites: water table levels and surface flow
- Habitat monitoring activities – Phase II vegetation community baseline survey with follow-up surveys at 5 year intervals
- Economic feasibility studies of ecosystem goods and service delivery as a result of works and community engagement projects

Headline results and conclusions achieved

- 2008 – 2010 interim report available from Estelle@montwt.co.uk
- recent article published in Royal Society of Wildlife Trust magazine Natural World
<http://www.montwt.co.uk/images/user/Pumlumon%20nat%20world%20article%202010.pdf>

Future outlook

- The Pumlumon project is now well positioned to forge a new approach to land management using the ecosystems model

The critical steps over the coming year are:

- Refine our Business plan and Landscape Strategy.
- Set up stakeholder engagement groups and ensure good communication.
- Begin the process of securing significant resources to continue the project beyond 2012/13.
- Continue to deliver on our commitment to funders and planned projects.
- Start the process of valuing ecosystem services.
- Lobby government for policy change and valuing natural capital.
- Establish a volunteer environmental task force for survey and monitoring projects.
- Start priority species projects – Black and Red grouse and Dyfi rare mammals – dormouse, water vole and otter.
- Produce a visitor infrastructure plan for the Glaslyn and Bugeilyn area and for the Dyfi Osprey Project.
- Landowner engagement and project development for 2011 and beyond.
- Monitoring – all aspects of our work.