LAKE DISTRICT STILL WATERS PARTNERSHIP

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 This is a report from the Lake District Still Waters Partnership (LDSWP) and outlines the findings from the Lakes Score Card and details the discussion from the meeting in May.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation that the Partnership:</th>
<th>a. Note the outcomes of the May meeting of the Lake District Still Waters Partnership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Where relevant, commit to a meeting which will encourage a more collaborative programme of activity to deliver improvements to the lakes and their catchments.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The LDSWP is a partnership of organisations involved in the protection and management of the lakes and tarns of Cumbria. The Lake District’s lakes and tarns are collectively an internationally important ecological, aesthetic, recreational and cultural resource: our vision is to protect, and where necessary enhance, this resource by promoting sustainable management and use of these waters and their surrounding catchments.

2.2 The LDSWP comprises the following organisations: Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Freshwater Biological Association, Lake District National Park Authority, National Trust, Natural England and United Utilities.

2.3 The last meeting of the LDSWP was held on 13th May 2014. Full notes are available on request. Main points discussed were:-

- Lakes Score Card
- Tenth Annual Liaison Meeting

3.0 LAKES SCORE CARD

3.1 The Lakes Score Card has been created by the LDSWP Evidence Group to identify, from a scientific perspective, the priority waterbodies in the Lake District. It is a tool to enable the LDSWP to make decisions and recommendations about where best to undertake action to improve and protect the lakes.

3.2 Please Note: It is important that this information is taken in context. It is a score card with a large amount of expert judgement. It only considers the scientific perspective and does not take into account priorities based on other considerations such as economics, aesthetics, community etc. It is a tool to be used as part of a wider consideration for prioritising action on lakes and in catchments and not a robust tool for making decisions in isolation.

3.3 The LDSWP Evidence Group agreed a set of parameters with which to measure the lakes and tarns. These were attributed various scores and each lake and tarn was ‘scored’. This included a certain amount of expert judgement, though known data was used wherever possible.

3.4 The findings show that Grisedale Tarn and Crummock Water rank highest in terms of priorities – from a science perspective. Buttermere and Ennerdale come next, closely followed by Bassenthwaite, Ullswater and Wastwater.

When the results are organised into catchments, the West Lakes rank highest over all in terms of priorities.
Windermere, Elterwater and Grasmere have the greatest number of pressures. Jenny Dam, Blea Tarn and Knipe Tarn have the least number of pressures (however there are still a number of unknowns.) The LDSWP Evidence Group will be exploring the gaps and recommending to the LDSWP if further investigations are required.

Hydrosere and Stock Access are the two pressures most prevalent in the lakes and tarns. Acidification, Sediment and Infrastructure/Disturbance are the pressures least prevalent. However this is not assessment of their impact.

3.5 The LDSWP plan to hold two meetings later this year. The first will encourage a strategic approach to addressing lake issues, ensuring that all organisations and the LD Partnership are aware of the multitude of drivers and initiatives and take steps to work more effectively and efficiently. The second will ensure a joined up approach among those doing delivery. In both meetings the Lakes Score Card will be used to highlight the issues, initiate discussion and engage stakeholders.

The LDSWP will explore further whether some of the Unknowns need to be resolved. Following an initial assessment any further investigations will need to be scoped and resourced.

This work all contributes to Action 31 in the Partnership Plan; *Agree a collaborative strategic programme of activity to deliver defined improvements to the water environment, based on robust evidence.* By prioritising water bodies or specific issues, given a number of different drivers, it should be possible to agree a programme of activity, and influence management plans across the whole Park, in order to allocate resources for improvements.

4.0 TENTH ANNUAL LIAISON MEETING

4.1 The LDSWP decided that rather than hold the 10th Annual Liaison Meeting in Summer 2014, that it would focus on facilitating two meetings to fit in with the review of the LD Partnership Plan and the writing of the WHS application. The first will be a strategic meeting targeted at decision makers, planners, Directors and Chief Execs from both within the Partnership and from outside, to understand the many drivers and initiatives affecting the management of the Lakes and their catchments. The outcome of this meeting will lead to a more effective and efficient programme of activity to deliver improvements to the Lakes and their catchments.

The second will be a workshop event bringing together the organisations who deliver land management, both from within the Partnership and from outside, to also understand the drivers but specifically to create the programme of activity.

4.2 Further Planning for the event will take place at the July meeting with a view to sending invitations to relevant bodies by end July.

Michelle Donoghue
Lakes Manager - Environment Agency/LDSWP
11 June 2014