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Subject:

FW: ATC given green light for predator control in Scotland.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 14 March 2011 09:55

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: ATC given green light for predator control in Scotland.

Please could we have a chat about this when you've had time to take it in?

J.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 13 March 2011 13:19

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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Subject: ATC given green light for predator control in Scotland.

Dear Conservationists,

Last week I was invited to the BASC Gamekeepers Annual Meeting to explain the role of our Automatic Trap Checking (ATC) in predator control. The Scottish Rural Affairs Minister could not attend but sent a top legal official. She has the task of assembling the Wildlife and Natural Environment legislation.

~~When the legal status of ATC for snare checking was raised, she told us that snaring would stay despite enormous pressure for a ban, and the Scottish Government fully supported legal predator control and the use of modern~~
methods of checking, such as ATC systems. Legislation will now use the word "check" instead of the current "inspect" so that existing ATC can be used within the letter of the law as well as the spirit of the law, and so can any suitable devices developed in the future.

I was able to demonstrate the latest type of snare sensor which responds to unwanted movement of the snare and tealer. There is also protection against malicious interference intended to make a legal snare appear illegally set in order to wrongfoot the keeper..

This removal of legal doubt concerning ATC is a great step forward and I must thank and congratulate those who have worked, supported and lobbied so hard to get full approval for the tools which we will need for effective and affordable predator control in the 21st century. Submissions from GWCT were particularly valuable.

Thanks to GWCT research we now have evidence of the effectiveness of predator control for conservation of several species of gamebirds, waders, songbirds and water voles. Traditional manual checking of traps has achieved good results but for many land managers the costs are too high in relation to the benefits. ATC systems do make predator control practical and affordable, with carbon footprints and vehicle costs plummeting. Operations are also more humane as the interval between capture and removal can be minimised and checking is not affected by bad weather which can block human access by roads and tracks..

Predator control works best when practiced over a large area so hopefully this good news will encourage wider participation leading to improved prospects for Scotland's game and wildlife.

ATC systems and other modern technology can be seen in action on our Speyside moors at British Moorlands annual one-day course on October 14th. This year the title is "Affordable Grouse" which will feature practical solutions for the improved efficiency which will be required to survive the harsh economic times ahead.

Once again, very many thanks for your interest and support over our 10 year campaign.

[REDACTED]
British Moorlands Ltd