

River Eden Sustainability Partnership (RESP)

Information for Landowners and Land Managers

Who are we?

RESP was set up to improve the River Eden. The partnership currently includes Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, Eden Angling Association, Sustainable Cupar and St Andrews University.

Why is this project needed?

Like many rivers in the UK, the Eden is under pressure. Water quality, river habitats and fish numbers, not least our iconic salmon, have all declined in recent decades. The river is officially classified by SEPA as ecologically 'poor' or 'moderate' and at risk of further deterioration.

What are our plans?

We are applying to the *Scottish Government Nature Restoration Fund* to fund a project to help secure a sustainable future for the River Eden. The project includes:

- Control of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS): Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed, Skunk Cabbage, Himalayan Balsam. This will restore native plant species and improve biodiversity whilst supporting landowners to manage their statutory duty in relation to INNS.
- Habitat improvement works to stabilise erosion and create more suitable river conditions for fish, invertebrates and other wildlife. This includes re-establishing vital river weed and planting trees to provide shade for cooling.
- Co-ordination of a local network of volunteers trained in river citizen science and habitat restoration. The *Friends of the River Eden* programme will give opportunities for local communities to connect with and take care of the river.

Where do you come in?

For this community-wide project to succeed, the support of landowners and land managers all along the river is key. In the early stages we'd like to carry out surveys of the river, gather evidence and identify key locations for improvement actions. We want to make sure that you are comfortable supporting the project: how might it benefit you? what concerns do you have, and why?

For further information and to let us know your views, please contact:

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