

REF: 2015S40/0100

From:

Sent: 09 January 2015 14:17

To: Nature Conservation

Subject: burning/hedgerow cutting on upland

I live on the Sheeps Head Peninsula, an area of outstanding beauty, and every spring there are people who make a point of setting alight the gorse, bracken and anything else that isn't grass. The wildlife here is abundant, but for how long? I participate in the Birdwatch Ireland Garden Bird Survey every year, and since it started in 2003, I have noted a decline in numbers. Regularly I see families of pheasant, hare, fox, snipe, weasel, and at one time, honey bees and owl. There are also birds of prey, including chough, merlin, sparrowhawk, peregrine and kestrel. All these require the food chain (insects, rodents, amphibians, vegetation etc) to survive. They also need suitable habitats and nest sites. If people are allowed to annually burn the lands that these animals occupy, then we will end up losing them. Please consider banning the archaic and totally pointless act of burning, along with hedgerow clearing (unless it endangers the public on roadsides).