

REF: 2015S40/0075

From:

Sent: 09 January 2015 10:01

To: Nature Conservation

Subject: Hedge Cutting and Hill-burning

Good Morning,

Thank you for the opportunity make a submission. we'd like comment on two issues.

First,

As owners of a tract of semi-mature commercial forestry we are concerned that there appears to be no system for the enforcement of the regulations regarding hillside burning within one mile of a plantation.

In recent years we've seen burning taking place within five meters (a road width) of the plantation. I asked in the local Garda station if I should register our ownership of the plantation with them in order to be able to be notified of any such planned burning. They were unaware of the requirement to be notified and had no provision for the receiving such notices or passing this information to the owners of the adjacent forestry.

The Garda have a good document

(<http://www.garda.ie/Documents/User/Forest%20fire%20FAQs.pdf>) covering all aspects of the law.

If this was published in the Farmer's Journal there would be greater awareness of the obligations.

If each Garda station had a simple hard copy map with the forestry parcels highlighted and contact details details noted would be a good start. The Forest Service, Teagasc, or the Dept. of Agriculture have the details of every plantation in the country, notices sent to the owners to register at the Garda stations could be sent out.

Second,

We don't believe that there is any need to widen the hedge-cutting and hill burning calendar period as there is enough stress on wildlife already. There is ample time allowed. Hill burning does not need to be carried out every year. Weather is likely to be favourable every second or third year to allow for necessary maintenance by burning.