

REF: 2015S40/0097

From:

Sent: 09 January 2015 14:10

To: Nature Conservation

Subject: Annual upland burning!!

To Whom it May Concern,

It is often dismissed as a factor of cultural heritage that every year, like clockwork, our uplands begin to glow as torched and burning landscapes.

Growing up in rural south west Ireland, I always questioned how such a thing was allowed. As a child it deeply troubled me, to wonder how anything could possibly survive such formidable acts of 'management'. And still 31 years later it continues. And still it troubles me deeply. To witness fires ablaze on hill tops, burn out of control and scorch a landscape I cherish, and put individuals and their homes literally in the line of fire. Not to mention the shameful waste of resources to bring such conditions under control. I can imagine the Fire Brigade services, already under immense stress, would prefer not to have to attend to such irresponsible, time consuming situations.

It would seem imperative as a management strategy to halt such acts carried out by those who in reality have no comprehension of the far reaching consequences of their actions. Is it not the duty of the Government to act responsibly and there for put a stop to the inappropriate, unlawful and detrimental mismanagement of our Irish landscape?

As a student of Environmental Management, I understand more than most the need for landscape management, especially in upland areas. It is true that much of the Irish landscape has been shaped through agricultural and resource extraction practices but in today's world our knowledge must compel us to rethink what we do. It would seem pertinent to perhaps exercise the process of public and expert consultation on the matter. Perhaps even assess other alternative management strategies?

I urge you to put a stop to this destructive and dangerous behaviour. It is your duty to protect what is without doubt one of our most important natural assets so that I and millions like me may continue to revel in it splendour.