

Ref: 2015S40/0110

Sent: 09 January 2015 15:11

To: Nature Conservation

Subject: Stop the gorse fires, please

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my concerns about the annual destruction of our upland. Besides destroying nature this incineration only encourages the growth of gorse, the very plant that farmers try to destroy with these fires.

A better management of our upland is necessary to slow down climate change and counter air pollution. Historically our uplands were covered with trees and forest, the gorse is only a pioneer species trying to make this happen. If left to its natural course the woodlands will eventually be restored. This can very well be done in conjunction with farming.

Ireland has one of the lowest tree coverage in Europe, whilst on the other hand it is also a country with enormous uninhabited spaces. Forestry can be a very big economic boost for this country, providing employment but also capable of providing Ireland with its own sustainable fuel.

All that is done right now is spending money on farmer's grants and unnecessary fire brigade call-outs when this country can actually earn money from its uplands.

I hope you can do something to stop this madness.

Best regards,