

Ref: 2015S40/116

Sent: 09 January 2015 16:05

To: Nature Conservation

Subject: Upland Burning and Mismanagement of Hedgerows

Dear Sir/Madam

I live in rural Leitrim and every year I see the destruction and degradation of habitat due to indiscriminate burning of land - to get rid of gorse but actually doing lots of damage, leaving scorched earth and often getting out of hand and burning newly planted trees and other delicate plants. As far as hedge cutting goes - I know we need to keep our hedges cut to preserve visibility on back roads and lanes, but the slashing that is used and the random times chosen is no good for the hedges or all the creatures that live in them.

Please consult with the Irish Wildlife Trust on addressing these dangers to our wonderful ecology. I can see a time in the future when Ireland might make most of her income from tourism - being an unspoilt and beautiful example of well-managed landscape, with plenty for humans in terms of livelihood and living, and plenty for all the creatures and plants that also belong here. The Irish Wildlife Trust have access to experts, and have only the well-being of the land, ecology and all of us as their goal. All other interests must surely come far behind these. We must all work together, in the face of huge ecological disasters, both present and future, to ensure that our land is maintained to the very best of our ability as our home, livelihood, resource and heart's delight.

Thank you for reading this

Best wishes