

**Ref: 2015S40/120**

**Sent:** 09 January 2015 15:57

**To:** Nature Conservation

**Subject:** In the name of true conservation

The Irish Wildlife Trust (IWT), in its submission to the proposed changes in the open season for hedge-cutting and burning of vegetation in the Wildlife Act, has called for all burning of upland vegetation to be banned.

The IWT is also calling for an extension to the closed season for hedge-cutting, scrapping the existing confused system of exemptions, and issuing better guidance to Local Authorities for hedgerow maintenance.

I concur with The Irish Wildlife Trust and urge you to ban the burning of upland vegetation and extend the closed season for hedge-cutting.