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Sent: 09 January 2015 18:44

To: Nature Conservation

Subject: Review of section 40

Review of section 40 of the wildlife act

I offer my views on above as a farmer in the Dublin Mountains;

Hedge Cutting dates should be changed till 17th March as the ground is often too sodden to support cutting machinery, so the soil is damaged so as to obey the law.

Burning

(a) The dates should be extended to about 15th April. Conditions for burning require dry vegetation; dry weather; and a calm day, an extension to 15th April would give a better chance of getting these

(b) Yes the conditions needed for hedge cutting are not as restrictive as for burning.

(c) Yes not between 'enclosed' land and 'unenclosed' land as sometimes (my own) enclosed land is separated from unenclosed lands by a wire fence and the same conditions for land maintenance and wildlife perseverance apply on both sides of the fence. However conditions at a higher elevation are very different from that at and close to sea level. Growing season is shorter ,winter longer and there is a constant risk of snow up to 17th March. It is seldom that conditions for burning are available before 1st March at the elevations that burning done a stripe each year is most beneficial. This practise also makes a fire break in case of accidental burning

(d) Yes In cases where weather conditions don't allow burning during the open period

(e) Yes When burning is part of a maintenance plan and conditions in close season are bad .Often

In these circumstances there is no damage to any wildlife or habitat if dates are changed. Sometimes it would improve habitat for the following year.

Regards