

Ban the Burn

August 12th 2012



- ▶ Britain's blanket bogs are a rare and vulnerable habitat.
- ▶ Burning them should be banned not subsidised.



Poor catchment management can increase flood risk downstream

Join our family friendly Walk to Walshaw this August 12th, leaving from St. George's Square, Hebden Bridge at 9:30am. The day will end with a meal and speakers at Hebden Bridge Trades Club from 5pm. Overnight hostel accommodation is available for those travelling from further afield. For further information contact trees@riseup.net • 07847 815926



Healthy Sphagnum

Peat blanket bogs are Britain's No. 1 globally significant habitat type, due to their global rarity and their carbon storage. The burning of moorland blanket bog to turn it into heather moorland is widespread on grouse shooting estates.

Burning blanket bog:-

- Requires drainage of the underlying peat.
- Causes flash flooding further downstream.
- Causes erosion of peat.
- Causes oxidation of peat to CO₂, thus turning a carbon 'sink' into a carbon source, leading directly to global warming.
- Results in extensive habitat destruction.
- Has adverse impacts on water quality.
- Serves only the interests of a tiny minority.

Damaged UK peatlands currently release almost 3.7 million tonnes of CO₂e a year (more than all the households in Edinburgh, Cardiff and Leeds)



Damage at Walshaw Moor

In order to minimize Hebden Bridge's vulnerability to flooding we need the upland catchment to be managed to promote healthy blanket bog, with sphagnum moss to act as a sponge in heavy rainfall events. Over the past few years we have seen the exact opposite. Burning, drainage and track-making associated with intensive grouse moor management has caused huge damage to the blanket bog above Hebden Water.

But instead of being prosecuted for 43 environmental breaches in a site of special scientific interest (SSSI), Walshaw Moor Estate Ltd. has recently been granted consent to burn on active blanket bog, and awarded over £2.5 million of tax-payers' money for "Higher Level Stewardship".

(That's about 5x the amount in the Calder Valley flood recovery fund!!).

For more information

type Wuthering Moors into the search engine of www.markavery.info/blog/ or see www.monbiot.com/2012/06/08/captive-animals.

We demand a total ban on burning and draining blanket bogs