

# **GAMEKEEPERS, MUIRBURN & WILDFIRES**

The Practitioner's View  
on Good & Bad Fires

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# Role of the Gamekeeper - Why burn?

1. Manage the moor responsibly.
2. Habitat preservation.
3. Manage appropriate resources.



# WHY, WHEN and WHERE

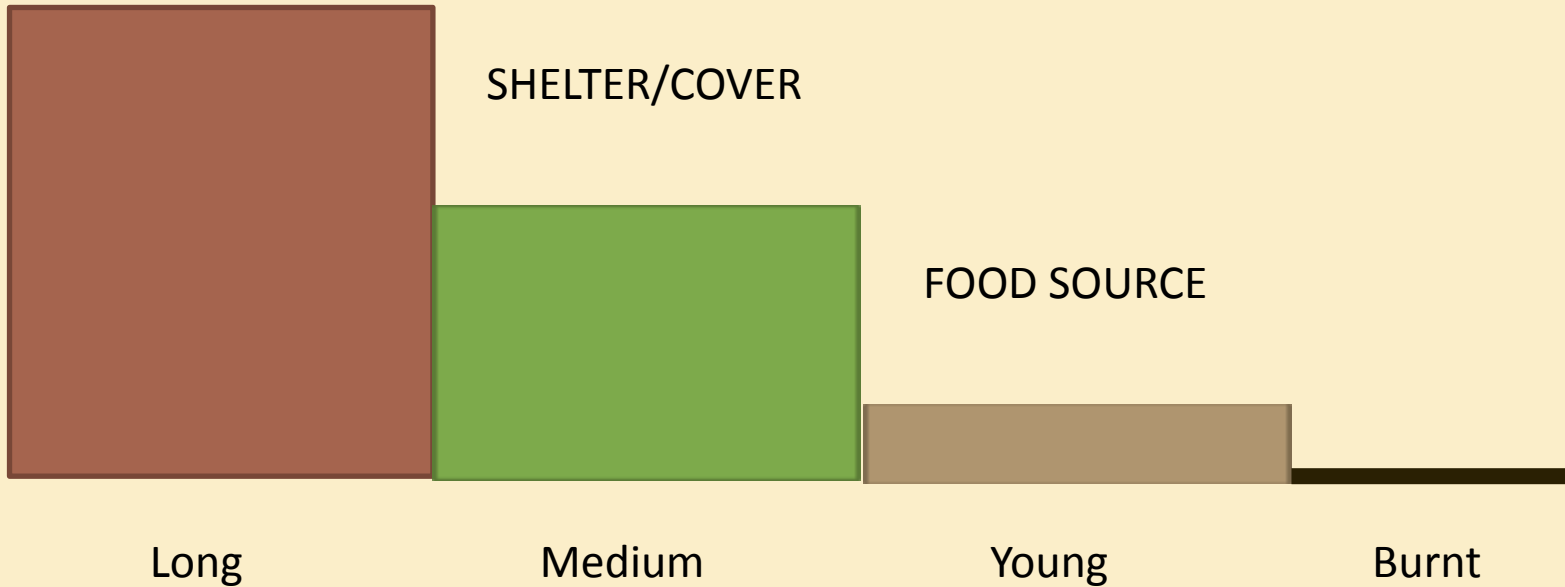
- Four tier rotation.
- 1st October –  
15th April
- Reduce risk of  
WILDFIRE.





# Four Tier Rotation

RANK/UNPRODUCTIVE



# LEARNING POINTS

1. Wind direction
2. Dampening
3. An eye for the land



# Firebreaks

- Natural
- Manmade



# Good v's Bad

- |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Planned and in control.</b></li><li>• <b>Well-staffed and equipped.</b></li><li>• <b>Following Muirburn Code.</b></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Out of control, endangering wildlife, public and property.</b></li><li>• <b>Large area burnt.</b></li><li>• <b>Under staffed and poor communications</b></li><li>• <b>Burning deep into peat.</b></li></ul> |
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# Risk Assessment



- Safe area
- Check wind direction/speed
- Check which/how fuels are burning: heather, moss etc
- Check how difficult to put out e.g. is water needed

# Back burning

an alternative/additional strategy  
for fighting hill fires



# Back burn

- Knowledge from Muirburn
- Least labour
- Small & controlled fire





# The Battle without Backburn





# The Battle with Backburn



# Partnership and the Future?



- Opportunities to expand on existing good working relations.
- Opportunities to train together.
- Open invitation to join us for muirburn to watch controlled fire behaviour in practice and view available techniques in action.
- Improved partnership communications.

