

NON-NATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES



Rhododendron Japanese knotweed Giant hogweed



Self-sown conifer Himalayan balsam Himalayan knotweed



Gunnera

Please talk to your project team with regard to invasive species control.

The appropriate action will depend on the scale of the problem.

Farmer Actions

Non Productive Investments (NPIs) and Landscape Actions (LAs) are a list of actions farmers can select from **to help improve the quality of their farmland habitats.**

Each farmer has a budget available for farm actions for each year of the scheme.

Examples of NPIs include fencing, drinkers, drain crossings, gates, and solar pumps.

Landscape actions are larger actions that may require more time/expertise from the project team, *such as foot bridges, peatland restoration, or invasive species control.*

Farmers can work with their advisor/project team to submit these actions each year.



Tips for habitat management

PEATLAND HABITAT

Ireland has 8% of the world's blanket bogs. There are a variety of peatlands across West Connacht; blanket bog, raised bog and heaths.

Peatlands are important for biodiversity as they support a unique range of special plant and animal species.

When intact, peatlands sequester carbon and can play a key role in regulating floods as they store vast quantities of water.

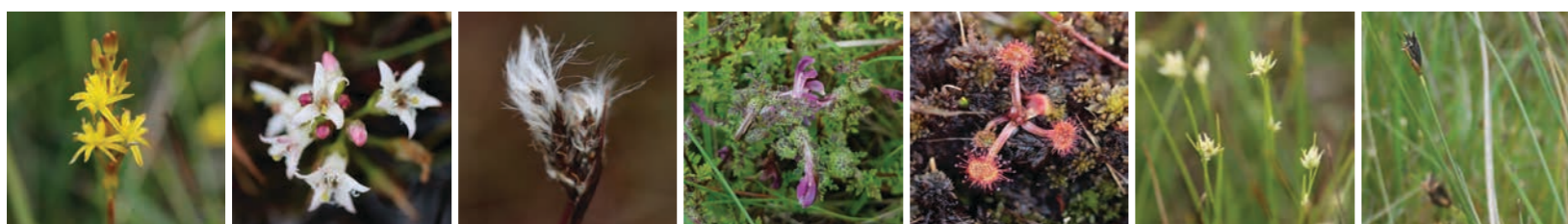


POSITIVE INDICATOR SPECIES



Bell heather Cross-leaved heath Ling heather Bilberry Bog myrtle Western gorse

SHRUB LAYER



Bog asphodel Bog bean Bog cotton Lousewort Sundew White-beaked sedge Black bog rush

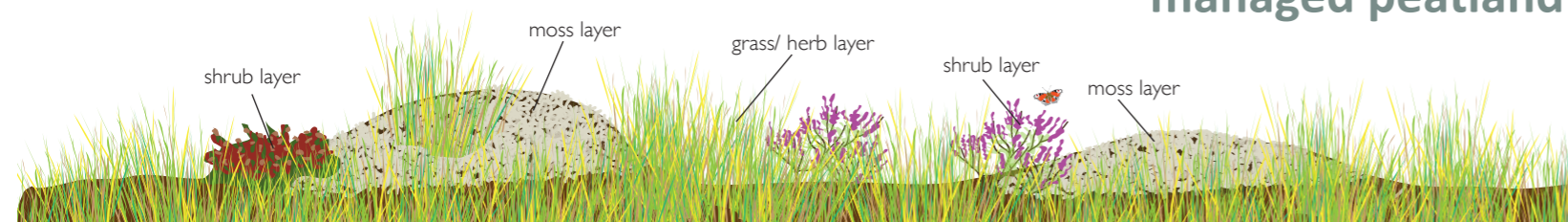
GRASS /HERB LAYER



Branched mosses Non-crustose bushy lichens Sphagnum mosses Liverworts

MOSS LAYER

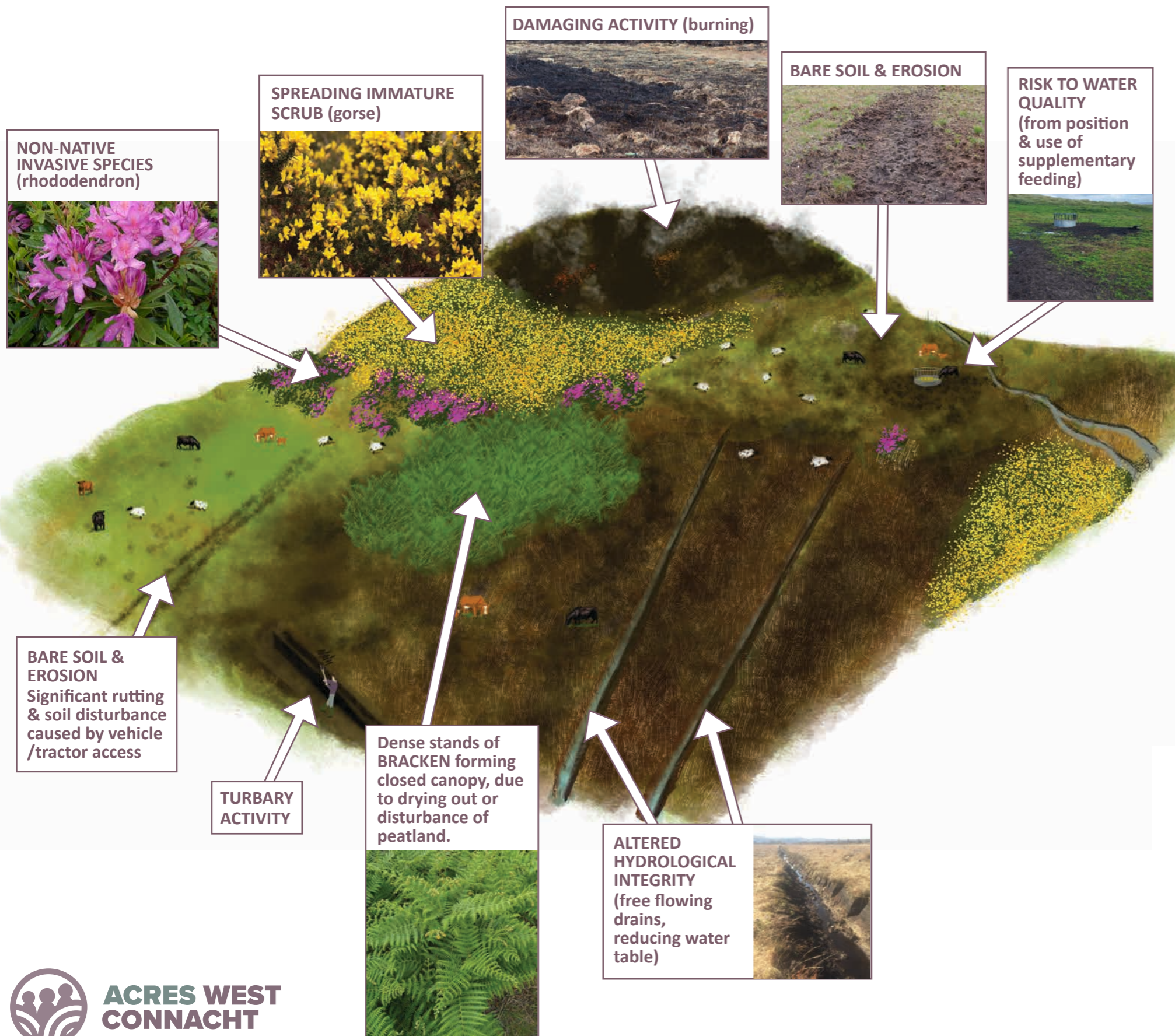
A good diversity and spread of plant species in all three layers, indicates a well managed peatland habitat.



This booklet illustrates common threats and pressures and provides tips on how to maximise the health of your peatland, and give rise to increased habitat scores and associated payments.

Tips for habitat management

PEATLAND HABITAT THREATS & PRESSURES

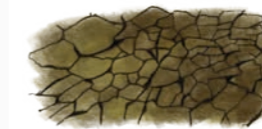


Management tips:



Consider **type & number of livestock** along with the **timing of the grazing** on the peatland.

Do not spread slurry, farmyard manure, chemical fertilisers or herbicides on peatland habitat.



Avoid creating **new drains** on peatlands as they will dry out the bog. Peat needs to be consistently wet for optimal function.

Allow existing drains to **revegetate** where possible to assist with water filtration & storage. Apply to project team for peatland restoration as a landscape action.



Supplementary feeding with **silage can add unwelcome nutrients and weeds to the soil**. If necessary to supplementary feed, use concentrates, mineral buckets or hay and move feeding points regularly to minimise damage.



Minimise disturbance near watercourses and consider establishing riparian zones which can help improve water quality and biodiversity.