Press Release

13th February 2014

Extensive Damage From Massive Storm

Hurricane-force winds yesterday (Wed. 12 Feb 2014) have caused widespread damage throughout the Mulkear Catchment. What has been described as one of the most intense storms of the last 20 years lasted only a matter of hours but resulted in wind speeds well in excess of 100kms. The highest land speed in Ireland yesterday was recorded on the Lower Shannon, at Shannon Airport, where a gust of 160km per hour was recorded. With land already super statured and trees and buildings already weakened by six weeks of storms, it was natural that such an intense storm would cause major damage. The following selection of images were taken in Mulkear Catchment today.

Clare River in flood above Clare Br. (Image: Ruairí Ó Conchúir)

Fallen trees Clare River above Clare Br. (Image: Ruairí Ó Conchúir)

Dipper on fallen trees, Mulkear River at Abington Br. (Image: Ruairí Ó Conchúir)

Fallen trees in the Mulkear River above Abington Br. (Image: Ruairí Ó Conchúir)

Fallen tree, Mulkear River above Brittas Br. (Image: Ruairí Ó Conchúir)

Fallen Tree at house in Annacotty Village (Image: Ruairí Ó Conchúir)

Extensive damage was also caused in other parts of the region, including along the Shannon.

As if yesterdays storm was not enough, Met Éireann have stated that another "nasty" storm front is set to hit the West Coast of Ireland tomorrow. Met Éireann has issued a new weather alert for more rainfall. It is unclear when the weather will improve but next week is promised less stormy.

MulkearLIFE is hopeful that a dry spring will help bring rivers in the catchment back to a more flow regime.

Notes for Editors

1. High Resolution Digital Images are available to accompany this Press Release.
2. Interviews can be arranged with the Project Manager by using the contact details below.
3. MulkearLIFE is a new €1.75 million European Commission funded LIFE Nature project working on the restoration of the Lower Shannon Special Area of Conservation (with a focus on the Mulkear River catchment) for Atlantic Salmon, Sea Lamprey and European Otter. Further details may be viewed on the project website www.mulkearlife.com
4. Inland Fisheries Ireland (Limerick) is lead partner together with the OPW and Limerick County Council. Additional funding support comes from National Parks and Wildlife Service. Other supporters include Teagacs, IFA, ICMSA, and local angling groups.
5. The project is one of the first and most important integrated catchment management projects in Ireland. It is a flagship EU LIFE Nature project –covering some 650 sq km which contain a variety of habitats and protected species. Much of the area is designated as a Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) under the EU Habitats Directive and forms part of the Natura 2000 Network.

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