Carbon Sequestration and Biodiversity Management Program

SOLEC 2000 Steve Hounsell Ontario Power Generation October 18, 2000

Driving Force Behind Program

Biodiversity - restoration of forest in southern Ontario
 Management of greenhouse gases (CO₂)
 Multiple benefits of program were compelling.

Program Goals

Plant 1.6 million native trees and shrubs over next 5 years in southern Ontario;

Program directly linked to making tangible progress on greenhouse gas management and the conservation of biodiversity.

What Makes this Program Different?

Targets regional scale forest habitat restoration, bulking up key forests and establishing habitat corridors.

- Responsive to habitat needs of wildlife that are vulnerable to woodland habitat loss and fragmentation.
- Directed towards enhancing vital ecological services on the landscape.

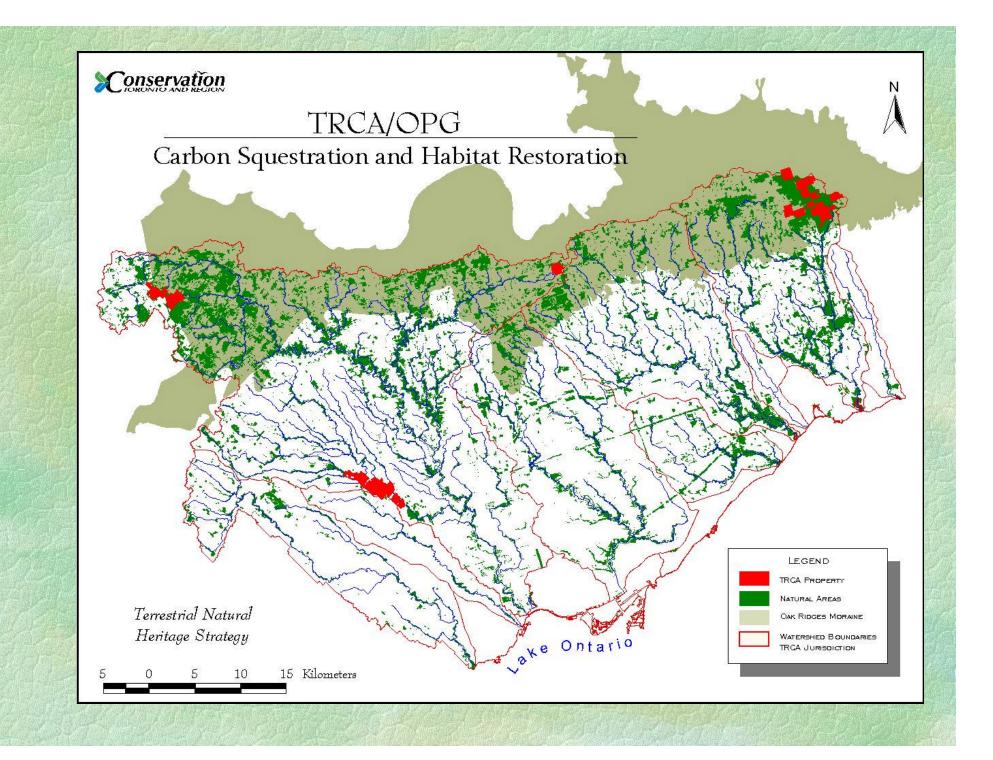
Project Criteria - a Framework for Success

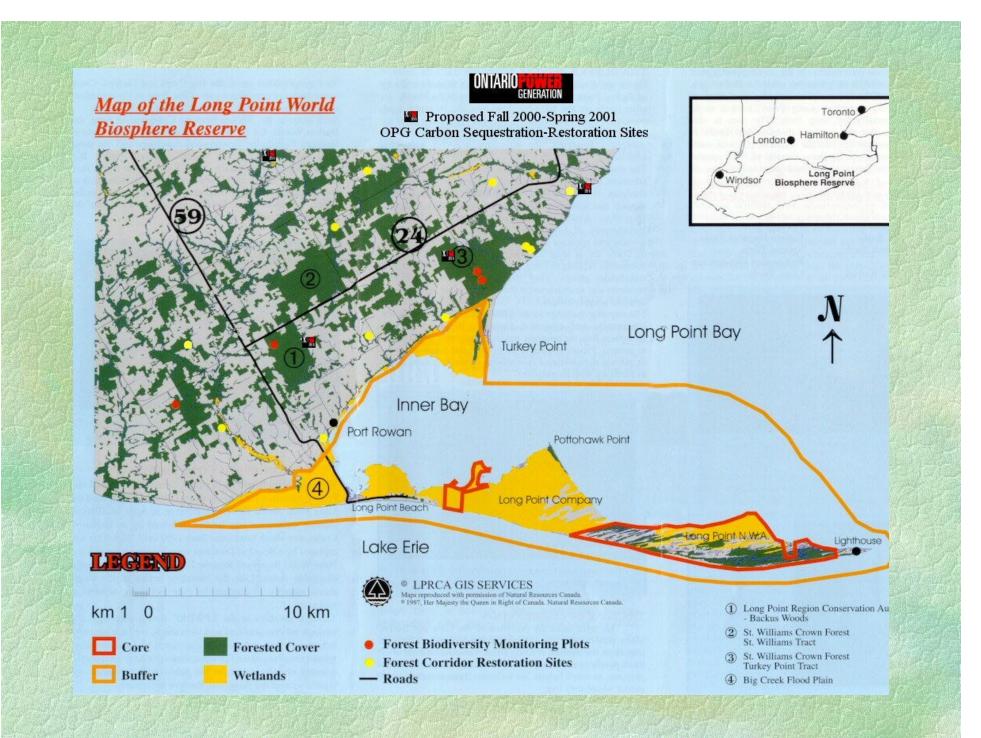
- Must be in southern Ontario.
 Use appropriate native plant stock.
 Address regional scale habitat restoration priorities.
 Identify biodiversity objectives and
 - measures.
- Assure protection of land base for forest maturation

Project Criteria - a Framework for Success

 Assure additionality of forest.
 Assure on-going management and monitoring within an adaptive management framework.

 Include opportunities for local stewardship involvement, ownership and education.
 Build lasting partnerships.





Future Work:

- 1.4 million trees and shrubs yet to be planted;
- Several new partnerships emerging, as well as building on existing ones;
- Genuine excitement about the possibilities and benefits.

Challenges:

Availability of genetically appropriate native plant material to meet demand;

Permanence - availability of lands in appropriate locations for long term restoration.

Opportunity

Development of market incentives to attract industry into investing in large scale habitat restoration projects that will also address their business need to offset carbon emissions.

Summary

Exemplifies how industry can act as a catalyst for the enhancement of long-term ecosystem health.