

# Habitat Availability for Species at Risk Programme Workshop

Monday 5 December, 2005  
Rockport Recreation Centre  
Rockport, Ontario

## Morning Session 9.00 AM

### 1. Registration/Coffee

### 2. Welcome and Opening remarks

Cheryl O'Connor

Around the Room Introductions

This is the first presentation of Project results from the first meeting.

### 3. Recap of previous meetings and outcomes for today.

Don Ross, FABR

Thank you all for coming.

Today we will talk about how to Partner in this project,  
how the scientific study is going and the information is being built.

A work in progress requires next steps therefore the agenda has time for discussion.

Idea scenarios on back of the agenda are hypothetical but can provide a learning  
opportunity for all to visualize how each organization can fit in the project.

We would like to establish the logical next time for this group to get together.

We would like to discuss the possibility for a professional proposal writer  
to assist us in proposal writing next time.

Since many projects probably overlap, perhaps some of us could partner  
in this effort and work together on a single proposal.

### 4. Overview of Habitat Availability /SOLRIS Projects

Sylvia Strobl, OMNR

This is a multi partner fine-scale vegetation mapping initiative to improve  
Species at Risk management at the landscape level.

The project was conceived last February, the technicians were in the field in June  
and the results are being discussed here right now in December and plans are  
in place for the next Field Season of 2006.

The building blocks were outlined and how the information can be reproduced on  
a map to show density, structure and age of vegetation as well as information regarding  
non forested habitats, and including error estimates, these can be nested with any  
SOLRIS polygons.

The SOLRIS information provides a snapshot view of landscape and provides a view  
every few years for comparison.

The rapid sampling protocol was described and preliminary results shared

#### Next Steps:

Finish validating summer data and transfer Species at Risk Data to Natural Heritage  
Information Centre.

Modify and fine-tune Rapid Sampling protocol.

Reassess sample design stratification and assess prototype vegetation mapping

Refresher ELC course for Field Crew/Year two data collection.

Organize how to gain access on private land to do rapid sampling.  
Well done Sylvia and thank you for presenting scientific information  
in a manner suitable for public consumption.

## **5. ELC or Ecological Land Classification**

New technology provided new tools for this type of work.  
The Parks Canada mandate re species at risk dictated the need for habitat information.

### **Overview of 2005 Season Field Study**

**Oliver Reikle**

Area covered – most of Park Islands including Hill and Grenadier and ½ of Charleston  
Lake was completed as well as Landon Bay, Mallorytown Landing and Jones Creek

#### Summary of Discussion:

We need to locate landowners willing to have their property included in the study  
It is a relatively non-invasive process with a minimal footprint.  
Benefits to the landowner are important and a report in general language that a landowner  
can understand with a map included would be a good way to say thanks.  
½ hectare of forest or wetland is needed for a site.  
Collect names as soon as possible: name address phone Lot & Concession numbers.  
Training involves 2 weeks learning ELC process at Queens Biology Station.  
A Practical session is held at Bruce Peninsula for GPS and to identify grasses.  
4 layers is the ELC standard for mapping.

## **6. Managing the Landscape for Ecological Integrity      Gord Giffin, Parks Canada**

Many activities must be sustained in managing the landscape.  
This is an international and global responsibility.  
We must provide people with knowledge and information.  
Community interests are core in the gathering of this data.

## **7. Landscape Level Approaches to Stewardship on Private Land      Gary Nielsen, LCS Coordinator**

This presentation will show how science based inventory can be applied on the ground.  
A broad view of the landscape narrowed down to where trees should be planted on a site.  
A Landowner who manages his property in a landscape context can invert the pyramid  
and see his own property in this way.  
The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve is a Crossroads for many wildlife species.  
Connectivity and corridors are represented by organizations like Algonquin to  
Adirondacks.  
We know Stream Assessments lead to improvements on private land.  
Each group has a different focus but an inventory provides a context for all groups.

### **Review of Leeds Landscape Connectivity Project**

We asked the farmers first: kitchen table talk management plan or general stewardship provided the “landscape level objectives” information to the landowner.

The base mapping was done by Eastern Ontario Model Forest.

Current Forest Cover Conditions were compared to Idealized Conditions.

Solutions from biologists and scientists: connect big green areas for potential corridor.

Buffer water – 75% to 30 feet natural or reforested land - this is all good biology.

45 landowners now have some idea of how they want to manage their land.

This inventory data will be used to provide this kind of information.

Most landowners are interested only in own property and Stewardship Councils are only interested in results on the ground.

Community based means not just the first landowner but the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

When a plan is community based it is an ongoing plan for the future.

### **8. Where can this information lead? Open Discussion**

Strategic Acquisition – this information will provide a practical application for Land Trust organizations and other environmental groups.

This work would provide a stronger foundation for communities to make decisions and assist the organizations that deliver the help required for planning and development

Changes are happening so fast all around us – we are here in only a moment of time

Mapping demonstrates the changes and the communities need this information to work from a base of understanding so we can plan for our future, our childrens’ future and our communities futures.

This information needs to get out to the general public.

Many here today have access to the public through specific programs or general operations.

A supplement to the newspapers on health information and developments in the environment would be important.

This information would provide factual statistics that could be defended in a court of law.

Who’s Doing What? Is a Project which lists environmental organizations and their activities. The site is at [www.eomf.on.ca](http://www.eomf.on.ca) (link) or [www.whosdoingwhat.ca](http://www.whosdoingwhat.ca)

A council or committee representative of all the organizations here should be formed to spread the information and coordinate projects.

The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve does this now for its partners.

The FABR is already branded, has credibility, is a good successful model tested around the world with 70 organizations on its’ web site.

The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve should be the facilitator.

Funding would be an important issue we would have to address.

## **Afternoon Session 1:00 PM**

### **Summary of the Morning**

**Cheryl O'Connor**

There are building blocks for Science in Course and Fine Vegetation data.

Species at Risk to look at critical habitat and the natural corridors.

List of 33 species available on line.

Organizations present want to help and would like to volunteer if possible to do field study and assist with contact with landowners.

Caveats: Information not always viewed as good.

Knowledge transfer and how you use it would be part of the education process.

Stewardship, Land Trusts, Land Use and Municipal planning committees are all stakeholders. Native People should be involved as well.

Who would we give knowledge to?

Public education organizations like school boards, Communities, Private landowners and Planners.

### **Facilitated Discussion Results**

- Fact: This area is unique in the world.
- It is important to establish the long term view with a vision that transcends today and into the future for 7 generations
- Sustainability, landscape connectivity, corridor priorities are important for the long term.
- Communication is critical to developing a plan to market the future to the public.
- Fact: The Boreal forest is worth 3x more standing than cut.
- Recognition of the capital wealth of this region is very important.
- Each organization must determine how to use the information outlined today in their own project or work plan and share results to bring more value to the Project as a whole.
- The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve will be the point of contact for the project.
- The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve will take the lead in preparing a proposal which will share the expertise in the room to develop a community wide project
- This project will be science based using the Guiding Principles of Integration, Knowledge, Collaboration, Linkages and Respect.