

Carolinian Canada - Stewardship

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YORK UNIVERSITY
redefine THE POSSIBLE



EXPLORING THE NATURE OF CLIMATE CHANGE
Implications for the Unique Nature of Southwestern Ontario

Ontario Nature
Ontario Stewardship
NATURE CONSERVANCY
Parks Canada
THE ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION
Ontario Federation of Agriculture
OFFA
TREES ONTARIO
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

Carolinian Canada Coalition
Collaborating for a Healthy Ecoregion

FORUM 2007
Rose Malloy by Jane Bowles

Carolinian Canada Climate Change Challenge:
Identify 3 Top Priorities to develop a Big Picture for the Future

UNIVERSITE UNIVERSITY
SESSION: STEWARDSHIP discussion

How should we adapt our land management goals & activities to protect ecosystem quality and quantity; cores & corridors?
How can we develop the needed capacity?
How do we develop Best Practices for an uncertain future?


Carolinian Canada Coalition
Collaborating for a Healthy Ecoregion

www.carolinian.org




Thinking “out of the box” on Climate Change

- You can only change yourself (first piece of advice from a therapist)
- Time lag between research results being discussed in academia and reaching the mainstream media - 10-15 years (same applies to info delivery to managers)



How will science have to change to improve the response capacity?

- Be more interdisciplinary (yeh, right - we are all doing that)
- Find mechanisms that reduce the time lag between generation of research results and policy and management action based on them



Predictions for climate change and non-native species

- With a changing climate, ecosystems will be vulnerable to invasion
- Robert T. Watson, then, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- Gave a speech in November 20, 2000 at the IPCC meetings in The Hague (he was removed in 2002)
- “the incidence of vector-borne diseases, such as malaria and dengue, increases in tropical countries”
- “the structure and functioning of critical ecological systems, particularly coral reefs and forests, will change affecting their goods and services which are vital for sustainable development”

Predictions for climate change and non-native species

- The gist of the predictions outlined in that speech have not changed
- What about mitigating climate change?
- A number of European countries are set to meet their Kyoto Targets
- Canada's carbon dioxide emissions continued to rise
- We will not meet our targets - why? Because of you and me
- Canadians have one of the highest ecological footprints in the world (WWF Living Planet Reports 1999 to present)

Oak Ridges Moraine

- A story of deer and invasive plant species
- Assessing the threat to the sustainability of public and private forests
- Approach based on 14-year study in Carolinian forests (results were not effectively mobilized)



Oak Ridges Moraine

- Team members: Landowners, OMNR, University - students and academics, OFAH, Parks Canada
- Project Hallmarks:
 - Innovative research, clear protocols for landowners to assess forest health, demonstration, outreach, education, volunteer opportunities, inter-disciplinary



From vision to movement

- Greenbelt Plan assumes sustainable ecosystems
- Forests that are not regenerating are vulnerable to invasion, and will not provide key ecosystem services
- We have 10+ years of parks-based research into the multiple effects of deer overgrazing and invasive species,
- BUT, there is a very low awareness of these threats and management successes in the broader Ontario conservation/sustainability community



Rick Hornsby - Rondeau PP with recovered forest - non-native species are down and Trillium have returned

How Academics must change

- Managers, bureaucrats and policy-makers will NEVER read your ecology papers, student MSc and PhD theses and dissertations
- GET OVER IT
- Be prepared to communicate your results in accessible language to non-academics and,
- to other academics from other disciplines
- BUT, be prepared to advocate for the complexity and defend against oversimplification
- Be aware that others' success is judged differently within their organization (a huge barrier)

How habitat managers and policy makers (government) must change

- DO have patience with your academic team members - they are your technical experts and are creating original content
- DO ask them clear and simple questions (Otherwise you will get results that are unusable)
- Don't freak out when you don't get a clear answer and DO NOT DISMISS the detail - sometimes the devil is in them
- DO remember that your understanding of the basic theory may sometimes be off-track depending on when you graduated university
- Be aware that others' success is judged differently within their organization and that multiple meetings are not an outcome for other organizations

How NGO staff must change

- If you are coming from environmental studies rather than environmental science, be careful about acknowledging implicit or explicit attitudes towards scientists (this goes for everyone else too)
- You will be crafting the public messages, but:
- DO remember that your understanding of the basic theory may often be quite off-track and just plain wrong - so get it right - talk to the academics
- Be aware that others' success is judged differently within their organization
- Get a communications expert on board
- Have them coach you all in how to be an active listener



Key baby steps to minimize lags

- Get managers involved in writing peer-reviewed papers
- Embrace OPEN SOURCE principles
- Allocate 10% of funding to researchers for community education and outreach
 - e.g. IPY legacy project

Thanks for listening!

