



INDICATOR: OBSERVED CHANGE IN LAND AREA WITH STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES

STRATEGIC DIRECTION: Enhance Resilience

TARGET: 11. By 2015, the proportion of private lands in Ontario that are managed for biodiversity is increased.

THEME: Conservation Response – Stewardship

Background Information:

Ontarians place huge demands on the Province’s natural resources, with serious consequences not only for biodiversity but also for quality of life and economic prosperity. Environmental stewardship has long been a focus of efforts to mitigate these impacts, particularly in those areas where human development continues to increase. In Ontario, the majority of the land in the south is in private ownership, so stewardship is an important mechanism to conserve Ontario’s biodiversity and ensure the future health of the communities.

Stewardship activities in Ontario are increasingly coordinated by non-profit conservation organizations with limited financial support from provincial, federal and international governments. These activities are often undertaken in partnership with private landowners who actively work to steward their lands. A wide variety of stewardship activities are undertaken each year in Ontario. Examples include habitat creation, planting trees, establishing buffers next to wetlands and riparian areas, removing invasive species, building fences to keep livestock away from waterways, and restoring degraded wetland hydrology using water control structures, among others.

This indicator presents an index of the amount of land that is being actively stewarded in Ontario. It is a means of assessing the proportion of private lands that are managed for biodiversity in the province.

Data Analysis:

This indicator presents an index of the amount of land area that is being actively stewarded in Ontario based on data maintained by four conservation organizations (Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Ontario Nature, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters), and various public bodies (Ontario Ministry of Nature Resources - Ontario Stewardship Program, Ontario Power Generation and the 36 conservation authorities in Ontario). As such, this indicator does not reflect all stewardship activities occurring across Ontario. For the purposes of this indicator, stewardship activities included a variety of habitat restoration, rehabilitation and enhancement activities between the years 2002 and 2012.

Results:

Trend: Improvement **Data Confidence:** Medium **Geographic Extent:** Mixedwood Plains

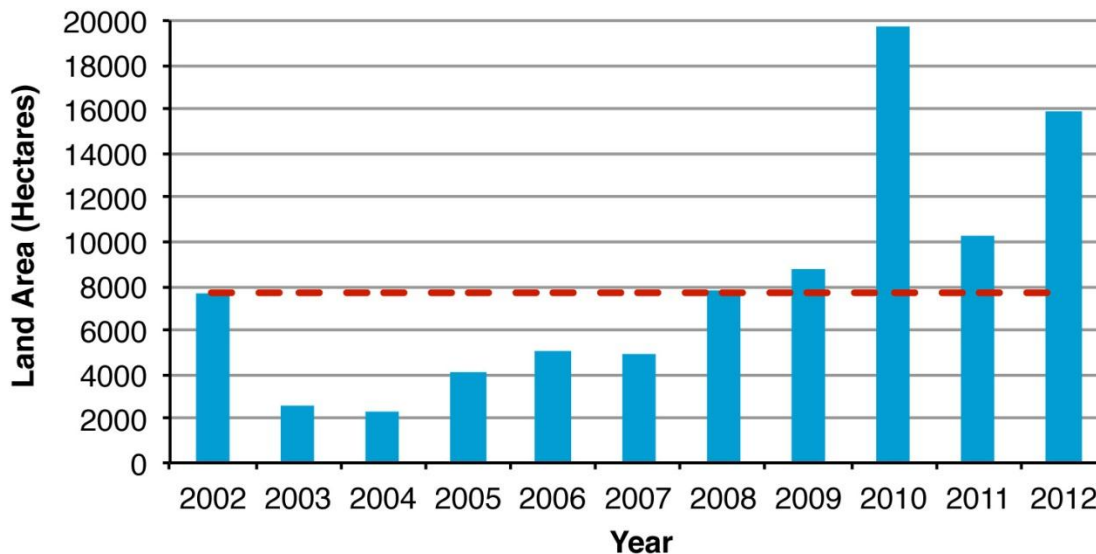


Figure 1. Annual land area with stewardship activities in Ontario, 2002-2012 (dashed line represents average) (Source: Ducks Unlimited Canada, Conservation Ontario, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Ontario Power Generation and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Stewardship Program). Note: Data for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Stewardship Program was only available for the years 2004-2012. Data for the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters was only available for the years 2010-2012.

Status:

- Between 2002 and 2012, the annual amount of land stewarded in Ontario increased from 7,395 hectares to 15,893 hectares, representing an overall increase of 115% or an annual increase of 11.5%. This increase is, in part, related to refinement in data collection efforts.
- Between 2002 and 2012, the average amount of land stewarded in Ontario each year was 7,692 hectares.

Links:

Related Targets: 3. By 2015, the number of Ontarians who participate in biodiversity conservation activities is increased by 25%.

Related Themes: N/A

Web Links:

Conservation Ontario <http://www.conservation-ontario.on.ca/>

Ducks Unlimited Canada <http://www.ducks.ca/>

Nature Conservancy of Canada <http://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/>

Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters <http://www.ofah.org/>

Ontario Power Generation <http://www.opg.com/about/environment/Pages/environment.aspx>

Citation

Ontario Biodiversity Council. 2015. State of Ontario's Biodiversity [web application]. Ontario Biodiversity Council, Peterborough, Ontario. [Available at: <http://ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca/sobr> (Date Accessed: May 19, 2015)].