



Quinte Field Naturalists

The Quinte Field Naturalists Association is affiliated with Ontario Nature, a non-profit organization sponsoring nature education, conservation and research.

Submission to Environmental Registry #012-9078

December 29, 2016

Dear Minister Murray,

On behalf of Quinte Field Naturalists, I wish to express concern about the Ontario government's proposals to implement more intensive management interventions to increase carbon sequestration which could significantly impact Ontario's biodiversity.

Our ecosystems should not be co-opted by industry and used as bargaining chips to allow more greenhouse gas production elsewhere. Ecosystems such as forests, wetlands and lakes have incredibly more value in their role of protecting biodiversity and sequestering carbon than as "offsets" --- purchased and manipulated carbon sinks --- that can be put up for auction and traded as a commodity to allow continued greenhouse gas pollution in other areas. A vicious cycle would be institutionalized, in which continuing greenhouse gas production would maintain climate change, with the resulting rising atmospheric temperatures, droughts and forest fires. Intensive management of natural ecosystems is a recipe for reducing biodiversity. The ecosystems such as forests, wetlands and lakes should be left as they are, as natural carbon sinks and storehouses of biodiversity, not co-opted, modified, managed and traded so that greenhouse gas production can continue in other places. Unfortunately, there are no other places --- the atmosphere is the common denominator. We are dealing here with parts of the same whole --- the atmosphere and climate change over large areas --- and the whole is what is going to suffer if we go down this road.

Please ensure that Ontario's cap and trade system protects diversity and avoids jeopardizing natural landscapes. Aim to achieve real, additional and permanent increases in carbon storage. The future of biodiversity is our future!

Thank you for considering our concern. We look forward to your positive action.

Sincerely,

George Thomson