

Wayne R. Ungstad, Farmer

I submitted the abstract below as an individual farmer. I am also a director with GO, the organic network of Alberta. I sit as the environment chair with the Ponoka Fish and Game Association. They are a member in good standing with the Alberta Environment Network. I'm on the board of Parkland Airshed Management Zone. Work on a project team with Clean Air Strategic Alliance (air quality and electrical generation). Ex-director of Battle River Watershed Alliance and currently work on the "State of Watershed" project with the BRWA. Work with First Nations on the "Signs of Life" project with Alberta Stewardship Network, naming and renaming water sources and courses in the indigenous languages. I think that covers NGO's, farmers group and First Nations.

Abstract

When I first looked at the biodiversity proposal, what was important to me was not just increasing one more bird in the group of species that inhabited the upland forests or what invertebrate lived in the wetlands or how many fish were in the ponds but what was the diversity of my ecosystems. With the many threats to the land, air, and water a broader biosphere approach was needed to address the attack on the commons.

The biodiversity project I undertook was to link the aquatic environments to the riparian and also to the uplands this connectivity would increase the diversity of my ecosystems and indirectly increase the individual species of each specific community. The native forests, the wetlands, riparian, and the grass lands were all separate islands on my ranch and the connectivity tool I used was shelter belting. In the native bush I "salted" with native species such as, white spruce, dogwood, and bearberry. The aquatic and riparian areas simple rest and fencing the perimeters, this created this ecosystem isolation though.

It was in this climate that the link appeared. Whole sale biological diversity could be achieved with shelter belting, native cuttings were taken, popular, saskatoon's, and spruce introduced into a biodegradable mulch (to control weeds) - the areas fenced to restrict cattle access, add water and patience, time will tell.