

REVEGETATION

THE SEARCH FOR CARBON NEUTRAL PLANTING SITES

In 2002 Men Of The Trees Inc developed a Carbon Neutral Program where people could offset their carbon dioxide emissions by planting trees. The Program took off slowly at the beginning with seedling numbers from 2002 to 2005 totalling 78 500 trees. This jumped in 2006 to 230 000 and for 2007 we are currently looking at over half a million trees to plant.

We are currently searching for sites for these seedlings in the WA wheat belt that may assist with other environmental issues. To date our seedlings have been planted to control the spread of salinity, to stabilise soils from both wind and water and to create wildlife corridors.

We also don't limit ourselves to biodiversity plantings. This year our total also included 100 000 oil mallees and we would be interested in all other tree species as well. It is important to note however that the sites would not be able to be harvested during the time of the agreement.

With all our planting sites the Program follows the Kyoto Protocol's Guidelines. This states that they have to be over 2 metres tall when fully grown, in belts of at least 10 metres wide and occupy an area of at least 0.2 hectares. The Protocol also states that once a tree is felled all of the stored carbon is released again as carbon dioxide which is the limiting factor for harvestable tree crops.

In agreeing to have Carbon Neutral seedlings on your property the Carbon Rights will be registered on the land title. This ensures that every one realises that Men Of The Trees Inc has rights to that carbon and therefore cannot be sold to a third party.

A Carbon Covenant will also be placed over the seedlings for added protection. It is important to note that this covenant is purely over the carbon in the trees and you still own the land that the seedlings are on. The main reason for this covenant is in case the property is ever sold in the 30 year time period. It protects the trees from ever being destroyed if the next landholder does not see a need for them.

All of the details and conditions in the covenant are completely negotiable, for example if you run sheep on your property, it is written into the covenant that once the trees are big enough the sheep are allowed on to crash graze the site.

FUNDING

HEALTHY WETLAND HABITATS

Healthy Wetland Habitats is a voluntary program giving technical and financial support to landholders who care for wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain.

Who can apply?

Any private landholder whose property contains a wetland on the Swan Coastal Plain, and who would like to better manage that wetland to ensure its long-term conservation.

How does it work?

Healthy Wetland Habitats assists landholders to develop a management action plan that will identify on-ground activities, such as fencing and weed control, that help to protect the wetland from threats and conserve the wetland in the long-term.

Once the management action plan is prepared, landholders can access funding of up to \$10,000 to carry out the activities identified in the management plan.

If you already have a management plan, such as one written by a covenant programme or *LFW*, you may be able to progress directly to funding of on-ground activities.

How to apply

If you would like to develop a management action plan for a wetland on your property and are interested in receiving funding to assist you to do this, please contact Anthea Jones, Healthy Wetland Habitats Coordinator, on (08) 9334 0570.

ENVIROFUND

Envirofund Round 9 opens in February.

Contact your Landcare/Community Support/NRM Officer for details.

To cover the costs of this work (which is undertaken entirely by Men Of The Trees Inc) we do have a minimum of 20 000 seedlings per land title. They may be broken up over the title and may be on more than one location.

If you think that you may be interested in our Program and are interested in rehabilitating part of your property please call Erin Keeffe, Planting Coordinator, Men Of The Trees Inc. on 08 9274 4842 or by email mottplanting@iinet.net.au.

This newsletter is a compendium of articles written by many different people. The views expressed are those of the authors, not necessarily those of the Department of Environment and Conservation.

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