

Monitoring Vegetation after a Reduction in Deer Browsing at Long Point, Lake Erie

Michael Bradstreet, Vice President Conservation, Nature Conservancy of Canada

During the fall and winter of 1989-1990 and 1990-1991, the Canadian Wildlife Service organized the removal of nearly 500 White-tailed Deer from Long Point, Lake Erie, Ontario. In fall 1994, an additional 42 deer were culled and smaller numbers of deer have been removed periodically since. In 1991, a long-term monitoring study was established by Bird Studies Canada (formerly Long Point Bird Observatory) and since 2014 continued by the Nature Conservancy of Canada to document vegetation communities in the now 23-year period following the removal of deer. This presentation reports on vegetation changes across 150 permanent sampling sites in 15 plots and 3 successional stages. The changes have been dramatic!