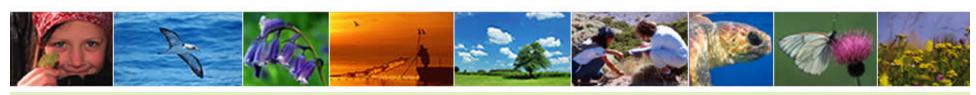


## Overview of the Project

## Michael Delaney Project Manager



LIFE04 NAT/IE/000121
"Restoring Raised Bog in Ireland"





#### Forestry in Ireland since 1900

- Due to timber exploitation − land cover under forest was reduced to 1%
- Government policy through the 1900's was to promote the planting of trees
- Social forestry support rural communities





## Restoring Raised Bog in Ireland

Following on from the success of Coillte's Blanket Bog LIFE Project

The Company submitted a similar application to the EU to restore 571 of Raised Bog habitat, on 14 project sites

Submitted application Oct 2003, Approved in July 2004





## **Project Funding**

#### MAIN POINTS

RUNS FROM OCTOBER THE 1<sup>ST</sup> TO 2004 – SEPTEMBER THE 30<sup>TH</sup> - 2008 TOTAL COST = €2.5M; FUNDING FROM EU UNDER LIFE NATURE 75% = €1.875M COILLTE FUNDING REMAINING 25%





# Project Objective to restore all project sites to more favourable conservation status

TOTAL RESTORATION AREA 571 HA - 14

**SITES** 

TREE CROP REMOVAL 450 HA

DRAIN BLOCKING 427 HA

FENCING 320 HA

INSTALL FIRELINES 21,360 M

REMOVE NATURAL REGENERATION AS REQUIRED

WATER AND VEGETATION MONITORING





#### Project Team

■Project Manager

PR/Admin Manager

Project Accountant

Project Ecologist

**■ EU Affairs Manager** 

Michael Delaney

Angela Wallace

Richard Clear

John Derwin

Philip Murphy





#### Project Team cont...

- Site Managers
  - Marie Mannion
  - Frank Donlon
  - John Tarmey
  - Conor Devane
  - Pat Brady
  - George Beirne
  - Support Team including Coillte's harvesting, district, engineering and laboratory staff





#### **Preparatory Actions**

- Expert advice Stuart Brooks
- Site Action Plans − NPWS
- Felling licences Forest Service
- ■Visits to other LIFE Projects
- ■Experience gained by colleagues on Coillte's Blanket Bog Project





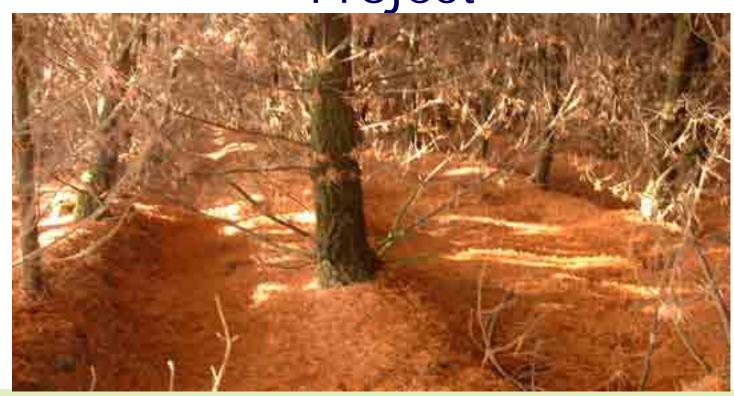
#### **Pre Restoration**







# Cloonshanville Bog pre LIFE Project







#### **Project Actions**

- Project Management
- Consultation
- Preparatory work
- Tree removal
- Drain blocking
- Fencing
- Roading to demo sites
- Water level and quality monitoring
- Vegetation control and monitoring
- Public Awareness
- Project Reporting
- Inventory mapping





## Major Actions

Tree harvesting

Drain blocking

Commercial felling Fell to waste Windrowing Peat Dams
Plastic Dams – eco

Levelling survey carried out to decide the location of the dams





## **Commercial Harvesting**







#### **Brash Mat**







## Installing Plastic dams







#### Peat dams



8 May 2008

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"Restoring Raised Bog in Ireland"





#### July in Ireland!!







#### Threats to Project Sites

- Regenerating tree species pine / birch
- Peat harvesting turf cutting
- Fires





## Face bank at Crosswood Bog







## Turf

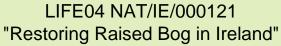






#### Seed source









#### Main achievements

- ► All actions planned for the project sites are due for completion before the project ends – 30<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2008
- Enhanced and developed good working relations with stakeholders, Statutory bodies, and especially with local communities





#### Main achievements cont...

- Knowledge and experience gained of the techniques for restoring previously afforested raised bogs
- Significance of LIFE04: Coillte has cleared 450ha of the 877.6ha (51%) previously planted on NHA /SAC bogs on its estate





## Sphagnum at Camderry Bog









8 May 2008

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"Restoring Raised Bog in Ireland"





## Thank you





## Brighter Future



