

Rehabilitation of the mire of 'Sur les Seignes' (Frambouhans & Les Ecorces, Doubs, France): the approach of a site manager.

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Most of the 253 bogs registered in French Jura have been exploited. Almost exclusively dedicated to domestic fuel, this family exploitation stopped after the WWII.

Only two sites were exploited in an industrial way for horticultural purposes during the last decades, including the « Sur les Seignes » mire (Upper Doubs). Only a small part has been exploited (3 ha among 27). Due to a poor profitability, it ended in 1984, 16 years after its beginning.

In the late 90's, the exploited area still showed substantial scars, which meant strong functional damages : places with mineralized bare peat, erosion, active drainage, tree colonization... added to occasional bovine grazing in the bog.

Within the context of the action program for peatlands in Franche-Comté and supported by the association Doubs Nature Environnement, Espace Naturel Comtois (Franche-Comté Natural Areas Conservancy) could start a partnership with Compo Horticulture et Jardin SAS, owner of the exploited area. Its rehabilitation has subsequently been envisaged.

The work, made in 2003, included fencing to prevent cattle penetration, but mainly consisted of the re-creation of favourable conditions for peat accumulation. Inspired by previous Swiss and Quebec experiences, it brought up into earthwork operations (stripping damaged peat, reshaping, depressions overdeeping), hydraulics (drainage ditch filling up, creation of barricades made of peat to retain water), and finally revegetation (pricking out vascular and *Sphagnum* species with mulching in order to allow the colonization of bare peat).

A monitoring has been set up to estimate the work effectiveness, notably by watching the structures and monitoring the vegetation evolution. 4 years after the operations, results show a positive evolution in most of the rehabilitated areas.

Even if it received informal advice from scientists and experienced people, the “Sur les Seignes” mire rehabilitation approach is an example that may be used by sites managers: they are the “final users” of the research carried on mires rehabilitation and are sometimes forced to act with limited human and financial means.