

Ecosystem Commons

Gathering Place for A Community on Ecosystem Services



www.ecosystemcommons.org (going live in June 2011)

What is the Ecosystem Commons?

The Ecosystem Commons is a networking tool and collaborative workspace where the broad-based community of practice on ecosystem services (scientists, practitioners, decision makers, and other stakeholders) can exchange information and pool resources to advance the rapidly evolving arena of ecosystem services, including research, markets, policy, monitoring, valuing, quantifying, and developing tools to aid decision making. Individuals interested in linking ecosystem services science, practice, and policy to improve decision making and foster investment in conservation are encouraged to join and participate in this interactive community.



Why do we need the Ecosystem Commons?

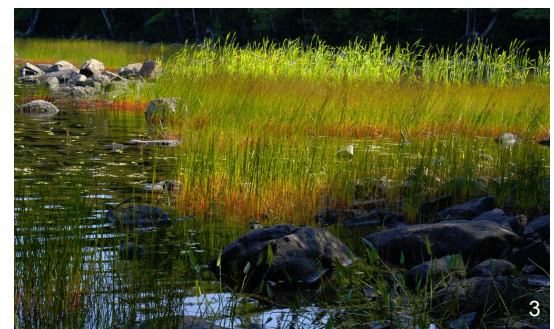


The overarching goal of Ecosystem Commons is to enhance the use of ecosystem services and related science in conservation, restoration, resource management, and decision making. The project seeks to:

- Improve collaboration and reduce duplication of efforts
- Provide a forum to continue the rich conversations and relationships that develop at regional and national ecosystem services events and conferences
- Provide news and information to the community of practice
- Identify and highlight emerging trends in research and policy
- Synthesize and/or review research and policy developments
- Provide a gateway to existing information, data sources, and tools

Who is involved?

The website is managed by the Institute for Natural Resources in collaboration with A Community on Ecosystem Services or ACES, the National Ecosystem Services Partnership or NESP, and many others. This project is made possible by support from the USDA Forest Service, USDA Office of Environmental Markets, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Geological Survey.



Who will use the Ecosystem Commons?



Anyone can access the information on the Commons, join the community, and create groups to promote collaboration. The Commons is built for, and with input from, the broad-based community of practice on ecosystem services. If you are involved in ecosystem services efforts, the Ecosystem Commons is your place to engage your colleagues, participate in discussions, and learn the latest developments in this burgeoning field. This virtual community is a collaborative network of organizations, agencies, and individuals actively involved in ecosystem services science and the development of tools and market-based strategies aimed at the conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems. The Commons is managed portal to the ecosystem services world, hosting discussions, showcasing projects, and tracking trends.

How does the Ecosystem Commons relate to other ecosystem services efforts?

The Ecosystem Commons is a tool ready for the many groups already working on ecosystem services projects. The website can also function as an outreach platform by helping researchers and practitioners identify potential collaborators and provide information to the broad-based community of practice on ecosystem services and the public.

ACES (or A Community on Ecosystem Services), Cascadia Ecosystem Services Partnership, and the Marine Ecosystem Services Partnership are already working with the Institute for Natural Resources to develop their own group platforms on the Commons. Ecosystem Commons has also partnered with the Conservation Registry at Defenders of Wildlife, Ecosystem Marketplace at Forest Trends, the National Ecosystem Services Partnership at Duke University Nicholas Institute, and the World Resources Institute.



For more information visit www.ecosystemcommons.org (June 2011)

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