

NESP Digest

The Newsletter of the National Ecosystem Services Partnership Summer 2011

Welcome to the *NESP Digest*!

This is the quarterly newsletter of the **National Ecosystem Services Partnership (NESP)** to give you updates on our recent activities as well as some other information on ecosystem services that we hope you'll find useful.

If you have items that you'd like to include in the next edition of the NESP Digest, please [send them to us](#).

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Ongoing NESP activities

Ecosystem Commons Interactive Web Portal

The Duke team of NESP has been working with the Institute for Natural Resources based at Oregon State University in their endeavor to develop the [Ecosystem Commons](#), a collaborative workspace designed for the ecosystem services community of professionals to advance science and practice. The goal of the web-based portal is to enhance the use of ecosystem services and related science in conservation, restoration, resource management, and decision making.

The Ecosystem Commons was released in Beta form on June 28 at the Ecosystem Markets Conference in Madison, WI. The website is still evolving, but ready for the community of practice to join and host discussions, create online working groups and showcase projects. The Commons was 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.

Visit the [Ecosystem Commons](#) and join the virtual community today.

Reminder about our listserv

NESP continues to maintain a listserv to help foster communication in the ecosystem services community. At some point the ecosystem commons may replace the need for this listserv, but we will keep it open while it is useful. The address for this list is nesp-community@duke.edu. Please feel free to use this list to discuss ecosystem services issues, or to exchange information about new papers, jobs, or grant opportunities.

4th Annual Ecosystem Markets conference

The 4th Annual Ecosystem Markets conference was held in the last week of June in Madison, WI. The conference, sponsored by the World Resources Institute, the American Forest Foundation, and US Forest Service, brought together ecosystem market practitioners, government officials, private investors, NGO staff, and academic researchers to discuss how to move forward with implementing markets for ecosystem services. The conference included many informative panels on policies to encourage supply and demand for ecosystem service credits, methods for stacking multiple credits, and tools for estimating credits and facilitating trades. Some summaries and discussion of from the conference will continue on the new ecosystem commons web portal (described above).

Ecosystem services in the news

['Save and Grow' approach to agriculture](#). China Daily. July 1, 2011.

[Valuing ecosystem services: From 'reversing entropy' to the price of voles](#). Guardian (blog). June 29, 2011.

[Warming, Overfishing, Plastic Pollution Destroying Ocean Life: Scientists](#). Reuters. June 29, 2011.

[Eleven Questions \(and Answers\) about Corporate Ecosystem Valuation, Part I and Part II](#). Environmental Leader. June 20 and 27, 2011.

Selected recent papers and reports on ecosystem services

Business for Social Responsibility. 2011. [New Business Decision-Making Aids in an Era of Complexity, Scrutiny, and Uncertainty: Tools for Identifying, Assessing, and Valuing Ecosystem Services](#). Report by BSR's Ecosystem Services, Tools & Markets Working Group.

David Cooley and Lydia Olander. 2011. [Stacking Ecosystem Services Payments: Risks and Solutions](#). Nicholas Institute Working Paper, Duke University.

William R. Gascoigne, Dana Hoag, Lynne Koontz, Brian A. Tangen, Terry L. Shaffer, and Robert A. Gleason. 2011. [Valuing ecosystem and economic services across land-use scenarios in the Prairie Pothole Region of the Dakotas, USA](#). Ecological Economics, 70:1715-1725.

Becca Madsen, Nathaniel Carroll, Daniel Kandy, and Genevieve Bennett. [2011 Update: State of Biodiversity Markets](#). Forest Trends' Ecosystem Marketplace Report.

Terhi Majanen, Rachel Friedman, and Jeffery C. Milder. 2011. [Innovations in Market-based Watershed Conservation in the United States](#). Report for U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, Inc. and USDA Office of Environmental Markets.

USDA Office of Environmental Markets. 2011. [Farm of the Future](#).

Marcos D.B. Watanabe and Enrique Ortega. 2011. [Ecosystem services and biogeochemical cycles on a global scale: valuation of water, carbon and nitrogen processes](#). Environmental Science and Policy, Article in Press.

Upcoming meetings and events

July 15-16, 2011. [Sendzimir Foundation, Synthesizing different perspectives on the value of urban ecosystem services: Seminar and workshop](#). University of Lodz, Poland.

July 17-20, 2011. [Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Conference](#). Washington, DC.

August 1-5, 2011. [4th National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration](#). Baltimore, MD.

August 7-12, 2011. [Ecological Society of America \(ESA\) Annual Meeting](#). Austin, TX.

August 21-25, 2011. [Society for Ecological Restoration, 4th World Conference on Ecological Restoration](#). Mérida, Mexico.

October 4-7, 2011. [Ecosystem Services Partnership \(ESP\), Ecosystem Services: Integrating Science and Practice](#). Wageningen, The Netherlands.

November 10-13, 2011. [Charting a Path to Food Security that is a Win-Win for People and the Environment](#). National Academies Keck Future Initiative. Irvine, California.

November 13-17, 2011. [SETAC-North America Meeting](#), Boston, Massachusetts. Includes Platform Session on Ecosystem Services.

March 13-14, 2012. [Beyond Efficiency – Exploring the Political and Institutional Dimensions of Market-based Instruments for Ecosystem Services](#). Berlin, Germany. Abstract deadline is September 16, 2011.

March 26-29, 2012. [Planet Under Pressure: New Knowledge Towards Solutions](#). London, UK.

June 3-8, 2012. [9th INTECOL International Wetlands Conference](#). Orlando, FL.

September 30-October 5, 2012. [4th International EcoSummit: Ecological Sustainability, Restoring the Planet's Ecosystem Services](#). Columbus, Ohio.

Ecosystem service grants and job opportunities

[Natural Environment Research Council \(NERC\) - United Kingdom](#). Biodiversity & Ecosystem Service Sustainability (BESS). Expression of interest due July 19, full proposal due September 14.

[Bullitt Foundation](#). Ecosystem Service grants. Inquiries due September 15. Proposals due November 1.

[Alex C. Walker Foundation](#). Ecosystem Service grants. Proposals due October 1.

[National Science Foundation](#). Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems (CNH). Proposals due November 15.

[Climate Action Reserve](#). Business Development Associate.

[Environmental Defense Fund](#). Fisheries Policy Specialist, Pacific Region.

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