



Practical Application of Ecosystem Services to Impact Assessment and Environmental Decision-Making

Abstract

In making decisions regarding potential environmental impacts associated with actions that can affect the environment, stakeholders must be able to balance the risks, benefits, and tradeoffs associated with a variety of alternative actions. This course aims to show how tangible metrics can describe the costs or benefits associated with actions that affect the environment. These approaches include overarching net ecosystem service analysis (NESA) and net environmental benefit analysis (NEBA) approaches. This course will provide an overview of the evolution and valuation of ecosystem services within impact assessment frameworks including how ecosystem service applications are evolving in both the private and public sectors for environmental decision-making. Using case studies, this workshop will explore how valuation of ecosystem services can be used for real world decision making for impact assessment for both large and small scale issues and projects.

Course objectives

The goal of this workshop is to provide an overview of: 1) the evolving "ecosystem services" field, 2) resource economics methods to quantify ecosystem services, 3) applications where ecosystem services can be incorporated into impact assessment decision-making including case studies, and 4) provide for an interactive discussion.

Course level

Intermediate