



June 2008 Update

NEW FARM BILL TAKES FIRST STEP IN FACILITATING ECOSYSTEM MARKETS



After much debate and deliberation, Congress enacted new Farm Bill legislation on May 22 over Presidential veto. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 will govern federal farm, food, and conservation policy for the next five years. The Farm Bill's conservation title requires the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in consultation with other agencies and non-governmental interests, to "establish technical guidelines that measure the environmental services benefits from conservation and land management activities." USDA will be responsible for developing a registry for environmental services benefits, together with measurement and reporting protocols and a verification process. The aim of the new initiative is to facilitate farmer, rancher, and forest landowner participation in emerging ecosystem markets, with an emphasis on the carbon market.

STAY IN THE LOOP. Our new Farm Bill page can help you stay up-to-date as USDA begins this effort.

www.fs.fed.us/ecosystemservices/farmbill

U.S. CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT POINTS OUT ECOSYSTEM SERVICES KNOWLEDGE GAPS

Last month USDA released the U.S. Climate Change Science Program's Synthesis and Assessment Product 4.3 (SAP 4.3), *The Effects of Climate Change on Agriculture, Land Resources, Water Resources, and Biodiversity in the United States*. The assessment is one of a series of over 20 products that are being produced as part of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program. The report presents key findings about climate change impacts that are already affecting U.S. land and water resources and likely effects over the next few decades. SAP 4.3 concludes that climate change will impact the provision of ecosystem services and highlights a lack of knowledge about what these impacts or specific changes will be. You can find a link to the report at www.fs.fed.us/ecosystemservices/resources.

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www.fs.fed.us/ecosystemservices

UPCOMING EVENTS

GLOBAL KATOOMBA MEETING XII, WASHINGTON DC, JUNE 9-10: Forest Trends and the Katoomba Group will bring policy makers, financial institutions, business leaders, the environmental community, and local indigenous groups together to share the latest on carbon, water, and biodiversity markets. Discussions will focus on catalyzing investments in natural infrastructure and advancing innovative, market-based solutions to regional and global environmental problems.

www.katoombagroup.org

MARKET-BASED CONSERVATION INCENTIVES WORKSHOP, ELLICOTT CITY MD, SEPT 10-11:

A workshop hosted by American Forest Foundation's Center for Conservation Solutions will focus on family forest owner participation in biodiversity and water markets. A key aim of the workshop is to bring people together to begin a continuing dialogue on how emerging ecosystem markets can encourage long-term forest conservation activities on family forest lands.

www.affoundation.org

SAVE THE DATE! A Conference on Ecosystem Services: Using Science for Decision Making in Dynamic Systems December 8-11, Naples FL

Visit our website to learn about other upcoming events

RESOURCES

BIODIVERSITY & BUSINESS. Two new resources take an in-depth look at making the business case for biodiversity conservation: *Building Biodiversity Business* (Bishop et al. 2008) explores pro-biodiversity business opportunities and highlights constraints and hurdles, needs, and lessons learned across a broad mix of sectors, from sustainable forestry to bioprospecting. *Conservation and Biodiversity Banking: A Guide to Setting Up and Running Biodiversity Credit Trading Systems* (Carroll, Fox, and Bayon, eds. 2008) is a how-to handbook that covers ecological, legal, regulatory, business, and financial considerations for conservation banking, together with case studies and a history lesson.

www.fs.fed.us/ecosystemservices/biodiversity

Do you have news or events to share?
Send a brief description by email to elarry@fs.fed.us