



NEWS

Chief Bosworth highlights need for ecosystem service markets during an Earth Day speech

Last month U.S. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth addressed a group of students, faculty, and guests at a University of California, Berkeley, Earth Day event. In

“We need markets that attach a fair value to *all* the services we get from forests and grasslands—not just to timber and livestock, but to water purification, carbon storage, biodiversity, and so on. Forest landowners ought to be compensated for producing these services instead of selling their lands to developers.”

Dale Bosworth
April 22, 2006

addition to the four threats land managers are facing, Bosworth discussed the long-term challenges and consequences related to climate change. Managing carbon and promoting markets for ecosystem services,

he noted, are opportunities for connecting people to the land and reducing the loss of open space. Chief Bosworth also emphasized the importance of partnerships and community-based stewardship in conserving healthy, resilient ecosystems and the benefits they provide. “The key to connecting people to the land,” he said, “is to connect them to each other.” You can read Chief Bosworth’s speech at www.fs.fed.us/news.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2nd National Water Quality Trading Conference, Pittsburgh PA, May 23-25: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are co-hosting a conference that will explore the economic and environmental benefits of water quality trading. The program is posted at: farmfoundation.org.

Seminar at the FS Tuesday, June 6 1:30-2:30 PM: Two presentations at the Forest Service will focus on the economics of valuing ecosystem services. Laura Meyerson, Assistant Professor at the University of Rhode Island, will discuss national scale aggregate indicators of ecosystem services. Anthony Janetos and Robin O’Malley, both from the Heinz Center, will provide their views on research needs and necessary next steps. The seminar will take place at the Forest Service Yates Building, 1400 Independence Avenue

SW, Washington DC. For details and RSVP information visit: www.fs.fed.us/ecosystems-services.

Making the Priceless Valuable: Jumpstarting

Environmental Markets, Portland OR, June 7-9: The Katoomba Group’s first meeting in the United States will focus on the growth of ecosystem service markets in the Pacific Northwest. The Katoomba Group is an international working group of over 180 experts and practitioners from forest and energy industries, research institutions, the financial world, and environmental NGOs. You can learn more about the Katoomba Group’s Portland meeting at: katoombagroup.org/pacificnorthwest.

RESOURCES

Valuing Ecosystem Services: Heal’s latest publication

Environmental economist Geoffrey Heal writes about valuing coastal wetlands in a recent article co-authored with Edward Barbier, an economics professor at the University of Wyoming. Market-based environmental conservation is a prime focus for Heal, who serves as Chair for the National Research Council’s Committee on the Valuation of Ecosystem Services. Heal is the Paul Garret Professor at Columbia Business School. Check out the February 2006 edition of the Berkeley Electronic Press (Vol. 3 Issue 3), available at bepress.com/ev.

Learning from state action on Climate Change

In March, the Pew Center on Global Climate Change updated its policy brief on state and regional action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (previously published December 2004). The brief considers likely motivations for action and outlines state and regional low-carbon electricity initiatives, transportation and agriculture policies, and climate action plans. You can read *Learning from State Action on Climate Change* at: www.pewclimate.org.

TNC releases summary of ecosystem services projects

A compilation of Nature Conservancy ecosystem services projects is now available at www.conserveonline.org (select 2006 projects in Library; folder 05). Authors Chris Yuan-Farrell and Peter Kareiva provide project summaries, partnership information, contacts, and related links for 31 projects around the globe.

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