



USDA Forest Service Ecosystem Services

OCTOBER 2005 UPDATE

NEWS

Forest Service names Ecosystem Services Coordinator

The Forest Service has created a position in the Chief's Office to serve as the Agency point of contact for ecosystem services and to coordinate internal efforts. Last week Associate Chief Sally Collins announced that Rob Doudrick will assume this new Ecosystem Services Coordinator position. The announcement was included in the Associate Chief's formal remarks at the National Association of State Foresters Annual Meeting, which highlighted emerging markets for ecosystem services. Rob Doudrick can be reached at rdoudrick@fs.fed.us.

USDA Secretary Mike Johanns announces new policy on market-based environmental stewardship

At the White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation held in St Louis, Missouri in August, USDA Secretary Mike Johanns announced a new USDA policy that supports market-based environmental stewardship. "I see a future where credits for clean water, greenhouse gases, or wetlands can be traded as easily as corn. We will collaborate with partners to establish a role for agriculture and forestry in providing voluntary environmental credits." The policy establishes a Market-Based Environmental Stewardship Coordination Council to ensure a sound market-based approach to ecosystem services. Secretary Johanns' formal remarks are available at www.conservation.ceq.gov.

Southern Forestry meetings address ecosystem services

Two recent meetings among Southern stakeholders focused on valuing ecosystem services and market-based applications. The Southern Leadership Tour and the Southern Roundtable on Sustainable Forests engaged a diverse group in discussions that identified ecosystem service payments as a focal area for the upcoming year. More information about the Southern Roundtable's conference is posted at www.srs.fs.usda.gov/srsf.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Presentation Friday, October 14 10-12: Defenders of Wildlife will present a proposal for environmental credit trading as part of a larger effort to protect and restore the Willamette Valley-Puget Trough-Georgia Basin. Join us at the US Forest Service Sidney R. Yates Building for their presentation: 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington

Cooperative Forestry *Issue 3*

DC, 2nd Floor Training Room. Photo ID is required at security check-in. Contact Kheryn Klubnikin, USDA Forest Service, for more information: (703) 605-5288.

National Land Conservation Conference/Rally,

Madison WI, October 13-17: The Land Trust Alliance is offering a day-long seminar on market-based mechanisms for conservation as part of its 2005 Rally: *Conservation in Partnership with Business: New Market-based Tools for Protecting Land* (Saturday, October 15). Ecosystem Services are a focus of a workshop offered to registered Rally participants on Sunday, October 16: *Valuing and Capturing Ecosystem Services from a Land Trust's Perspective*. The full conference agenda is available at www.lta.org.

RESOURCES

Coming soon: Forest carbon registry review

The Forest Service is preparing a background paper on forest carbon registries and protocols. The document will review and compare existing carbon programs and provide information for states interested in forest carbon registries. For more information contact Jennifer Hayes, jenniferhayes@fs.fed.us or Jessica Call, jessicacall@fs.fed.us.

CHOICES Fall Issue highlights non-market valuation

CHOICES magazine, a publication of the American Agricultural Economics Association, provides an overview of non-market valuation techniques in its Fall 2005 issue. A collection of four papers explores commonly used economic tools for informing public policy decision-making. The magazine is available at www.choicesmagazine.org.

Nature article explores the ecosystem-services approach to conservation

Check out *Dollars and sense* by Lucy Odling-Smee: *Nature*, September 29, 2005 pp. 614-616.

did you know ?

The World Resources Institute maintains a database of carbon sequestration projects at climate.wri.org/sequestration.cfm.

*Do you have news or events to share?
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