



October 2008 Update

U.S. FOREST SERVICE FORMS NEW ECOSYSTEM SERVICES STAFF AREA

The Forest Service is creating a new Ecosystem Services and Markets unit within the Cooperative Forestry staff area of State & Private Forestry. Under the leadership of Al Todd, the staff will work with states and other partners to support the enhancement of ecosystem services on nonfederal lands and to advance ecosystem markets. An emphasis on market innovation will involve participatory research, collaborative demonstration projects, and new information networks that will help to make emerging markets credible, accessible, and robust. "An expanded focus on ecosystem services is a natural fit for State & Private Forestry," says Jim Hubbard, Deputy Chief. "As the carbon market matures and other ecosystem markets take shape, we need to ensure that the rules are written to include private land stewardship, and that landowners have the knowledge and the tools to engage. The work of this new staff unit will help to inform ecosystem market development and promote landowner participation..."

The Forest Service will continue its ecosystem services work at the national level. Efforts previously led in the Chief's Office under Ecosystem Services Coordinator Rob Doudrick will be carried out across the agency's research, national forest system, and state & private deputy areas.

 Al Todd comes to the Washington, D.C. office from the Northeastern Area, where he served as the region's watershed program leader. He can be reached at atodd@fs.fed.us.

CALIFORNIA ADOPTS FIRST URBAN FOREST PROTOCOL IN THE U.S.

California's Air Resources Board adopted the Urban Forest Project Reporting Protocol on September 25. The protocol is the result of a nearly two-year collaborative effort among the Forest Service's Center for Urban Forest Research, California's Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and experts from academia, government, utilities, and non-governmental organizations.

You can read the final version of the protocol at www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS: WATER FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE IN THE SOUTHEAST, ATHENS GA, OCT 27-29:

This regional conference focuses on demographic and biophysical forces impacting the southeast and how to balance human and ecosystem water needs at a time of rapid change. Technical sessions center on stream health; climate change; freshwater mussels and endangered species; water management and planning; modeling and data needs; and issues relating to law, policy, and local government.

ga.water.usgs.gov/seflows

CORPORATE WATER FOOTPRINTING, SAN FRANCISCO CA, DEC 2-3:

GreenPower Conferences will celebrate business leadership in water management this December when it brings companies together to share strategies for calculating and curbing water consumption. Discussions will focus on water risks for businesses, developing and implementing a water strategy, finding local solutions, and how corporate water conservation fits into a larger climate change strategy.

www.fs.fed.us/ecosystemservices/events

A CONFERENCE ON ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (ACES) 2008, NAPLES FL, DEC 8-11:

ACES will provide a forum for discussing the latest methods, tools, and processes for assessing ecosystem services and incorporating their value in planning and decision making. The conference program will follow four themes: mapping and spatial relationships, values and measurement, dynamic systems and drivers of change, and institutional structures and decision making.

www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aces

 Visit our website to learn about other upcoming events...

RESOURCES

CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE FOREST SERVICE.

Forest Service scientists, land managers, and program specialists have come together to explore potential climate change impacts on forested watersheds and how land managers can respond. An information brief captures salient points that will be discussed in a forthcoming report, expected early spring.

www.fs.fed.us/ecosystemservices/fs_publications