

ACES 2014 Wednesday Lunch Town Hall

December 10, 2014 | 12:15-1:20pm | Grand Ballroom Salon H

Title: *Launch of the President's Ecosystem Vulnerability Climate Data Initiative and EcoINFORMA: Using Data and Tools to Build Resilience*

Description:

Please join us for a first look at data and tools, newly available as part of the Administration's emphasis on preparing communities for climate change, protecting biodiversity and gaining a better understanding of ecosystem services and ecosystem vulnerability. This Town Hall will feature the President's Climate Data Initiative and the utility of EcoINFORMA, and will highlight several innovative tools that can be used for managing biodiversity, carbon sequestration, wildland fires, invasive species, and water resources. In addition, a global dataset mapping ecosystems will be introduced for the first time. This dataset is the culmination of a collaboration between the U.S. Geological Survey and the ESRI Corporation.

The President's Climate Data Initiative (CDI) is an interagency effort to build an online catalog of data products at www.data.gov/climate/ that will help the Nation prepare for the impacts of climate change. The CDI catalog that relates to Ecosystem Vulnerability to climate change will be announced by Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell on December 9, 2014, during the ACES plenary session, along with the Ecoinformatics-based Open Resources and Machine Accessibility (EcoINFORMA) website (www.data.gov/ecosystems/). EcoINFORMA is the strategy for mobilizing and integrating Federal environmental data as recommended in the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology's 2010 report on "Sustaining Environmental Capital". Important components include a data catalog at data.gov/ecosystems/, a geospatial data integrator and viewer on the Federal Geographic Data Committee's Geospatial Platform (www.geoplatform.gov) and thematic hubs such as Biodiversity Information Serving Our Nation (BISON - bison.usgs.ornl.gov), EnviroAtlas (enviroatlas.epa.gov/) – the ecosystem services hub, and the Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics Consortium (MRLC) viewer and products.

Both the CDI catalog on ecosystem vulnerability and EcoINFORMA will provide extensive, up-to-date data and tools to help the public anticipate, mitigate, and adapt to the impacts of climate change and to develop plans for ensuring the health of ecosystems and provisioning of ecosystem services. A new map of Global Ecological Land Units, at a 250 m spatial resolution, developed in collaboration between USGS and ESRI, will be demonstrated. These global ecosystems were commissioned by the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) as part of the Global Earth Observations System of Systems (GEOSS) intergovernmental protocol. Ecosystems were developed as an integration of global bioclimate regions, global land forms, global geology, and global land cover.

The Town Hall will offer participants a chance to see the websites, ask questions and provide feedback on the newly launched products to help identify potential areas of improvement, as well as opportunities for application collaborations.

Program:

1. Bringing together national data on climate and ecosystem services: a demonstration of data.gov/climate/ecosystemvulnerability and data.gov/ecosystems/ as well as the integrated viewer for ecosystems data.
2. EcoINFORMA: Tools to manage ecosystems and their services

- Demonstration of Biodiversity Information Serving Our Nation (BISON)
 - Demonstration of EnviroAtlas
 - Demonstration of Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics Consortium (MRLC) viewer.
3. The Global Ecological Land Units Map
 4. Discussion

Invited Speakers:

- *Olivia Ferriter, Deputy Director, Office of Policy Analysis, Department of the Interior (Moderator)*
- *Dr. Stinger Guala, Director of BISON and ITIS, USGS, and co-chair, BioEco*
- *Dr. Jonathan Smith, Program Coordinator-Land Change Science, USGS*
- *Anne Neale, EnviroAtlas Program Manager, EPA*
- *Dr. Roger Sayre, Senior Scientist for Ecosystems, Land Change Science Program, USGS*
- *Dr. Dawn Wright, Chief Scientist, ESRI Corporation*
- *Mary Klein, President and CEO, NatureServe*

Organizers:

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