

ACES 2014 Wednesday Evening Town Hall
December 10, 2014 | 7:30pm-8:30pm | Grand Ballroom Salons F-G

Title: *Ecosystem Services in Federal Decision Making: Synthesis and Reflection*

Description

This Town Hall will be the culminating event of the ACES policy track. Over two days of panels and interactive discussions, policymakers, scientists, practitioners, and others will have come together to discuss the nexus of ecosystem services and federal decision-making. These discussions will have spanned topics such as budget, policy tools, climate resilience, water, and ecosystem restoration. The panels will have looked at opportunities to integrate ecosystem services in federal decision-making and illuminated potential barriers to uptake, across a wide range of decision contexts. The Town Hall will offer an opportunity to synthesize these discussions and chart a path for moving forward.

The Town Hall session will provide an opportunity for policymakers, scientists, and practitioners to walk away with a clear sense of the state of ecosystem services science and transformative decision points, giving the ACES community a clear idea of the remaining needs for decision makers. This discussion will help frame a call to action for the ACES community, addressing the following questions:

- What are the near-term opportunities for incorporating ecosystem services in federal decision-making?
- What do decision-makers need most urgently to promote a broad uptake of ecosystem services approaches?
- How can the ACES community be most helpful? Where are the opportunities for continued engagement?

Format

The Town Hall will bring together the moderators from each of the topical sessions into a panel of five speakers. Each panelist will briefly present the top take home messages from each of the five topical sessions. A dynamic moderator from outside the federal government will ensure an interactive discussion between the audience and the panel.

Introduction: COMPASS

Moderator: Lynn Scarlett, Managing Director of Public Policy, The Nature Conservancy

Panelists:

Melanie Stansbury, Program Examiner, Office of Management and Budget
Stuart Levenbach, Policy Analyst, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB
Laura Petes, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Science and Technology Policy (*invited*)
Alexis Segal, Ecosystems Policy Advisor, Council on Environmental Quality
David Wegner, Professional Staff (former), U.S. Congress House Committee on Transportation Infrastructure (Ret.)

Discussant: Lydia Olander, Director, Ecosystem Services Program, Duke University

Agenda

- 7:30pm-7:35pm: Introduction and Welcome, discussion of goals for the Town Hall (COMPASS)
- 7:35pm-7:40pm: Moderator introduction and framing remarks (Lynn Scarlett)
- 7:40pm-8:00pm: Panelist remarks and report out from the policy track topical sessions
- 8:05pm-8:10pm: Discussant remarks (Lydia Olander)
- 8:10pm-8:25pm: Moderated audience discussion with panel
- 8:25pm-8:30pm: Moderator wrap up and COMPASS closing

Related Topical Sessions

- **Session 1B, December 9, 1:30pm-3:15pm:** Integrating ecosystem services into program planning, budget, management, and performance
- **Session 2B, December 9, 3:45pm-5:30pm:** Developing standards for the application of ecosystem services valuation in cost-benefit and tradeoff analysis in crosscutting policy and decision tools
- **Session 3B, December 10; 10:15am-12:00pm:** Assessing a role for an ecosystem services approach in urban coastal management, green infrastructure, and climate resilience
- **Session 4B, December 10, 1:30pm-3:15pm:** Integrating ecosystem services into the implementation of water resource projects
- **Session 5B, December 10, 3:30-5:15pm:** Incorporating an ecosystem services approach into natural resource restoration and coastal management

Session Organizer

Erica Goldman

COMPASS

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Phone: 202-630-7480

Email: egoldman@compassonline.org

Contact Information for Participants

Lynn Scarlett, lscarlett@tnc.org

Melanie Stansbury, melanie_a_stansbury@omb.eop.gov

Stuart Levenbach, stuart_levenbach@omb.eop.gov

Laura Petes, Laura_E_Petes@ostp.eop.gov

Alexis Segal, Alexis_K_Segal@ceq.eop.gov

David Wegner, david.l.wegner@gmail.com

Lydia Olander, lydia.olander@duke.edu