

ACES 2014 Thursday Lunch Town Hall
December 11, 2014 | 12:15pm-1:20pm | Grand Ballroom Salons F-G

Title: *Strategy-Building for Ecosystem Services and Markets at USDA*

Description:

Incorporating ecosystem services into planning and decision-making is a priority within the federal government, and USDA has committed to promoting ecosystem services and supporting the development of emerging environmental markets. The Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service have led efforts to develop ecosystem services strategies and policy at USDA. The Natural Resources Conservation Service holds environmental values at the core of its mission, and has long incorporated ecosystem services considerations into conservation programs and strategies. In 2012, the Forest Service formally included ecosystem service considerations in the Forest Planning Rule, which dictates forest planning, assessments, and project implementation.

This Town Hall will serve as a venue to:

- Share the basics of existing and in-progress ecosystem service strategies at USDA
- Take a step back and allow for comment and reflection on the utility of having a strategy
- Share thoughts about how other federal agencies might approach ecosystem services planning, including the conditions that must exist for a successful strategy
- Request feedback from federal agencies and the public about existing approaches and discuss new ideas
- Discuss the role of non-federal partners and how they can best participate