

Is the Ecosystem Services Quantification Framework Appropriate for Natural Resources Damages Assessment?



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Overview and Goal of Damage Assessment

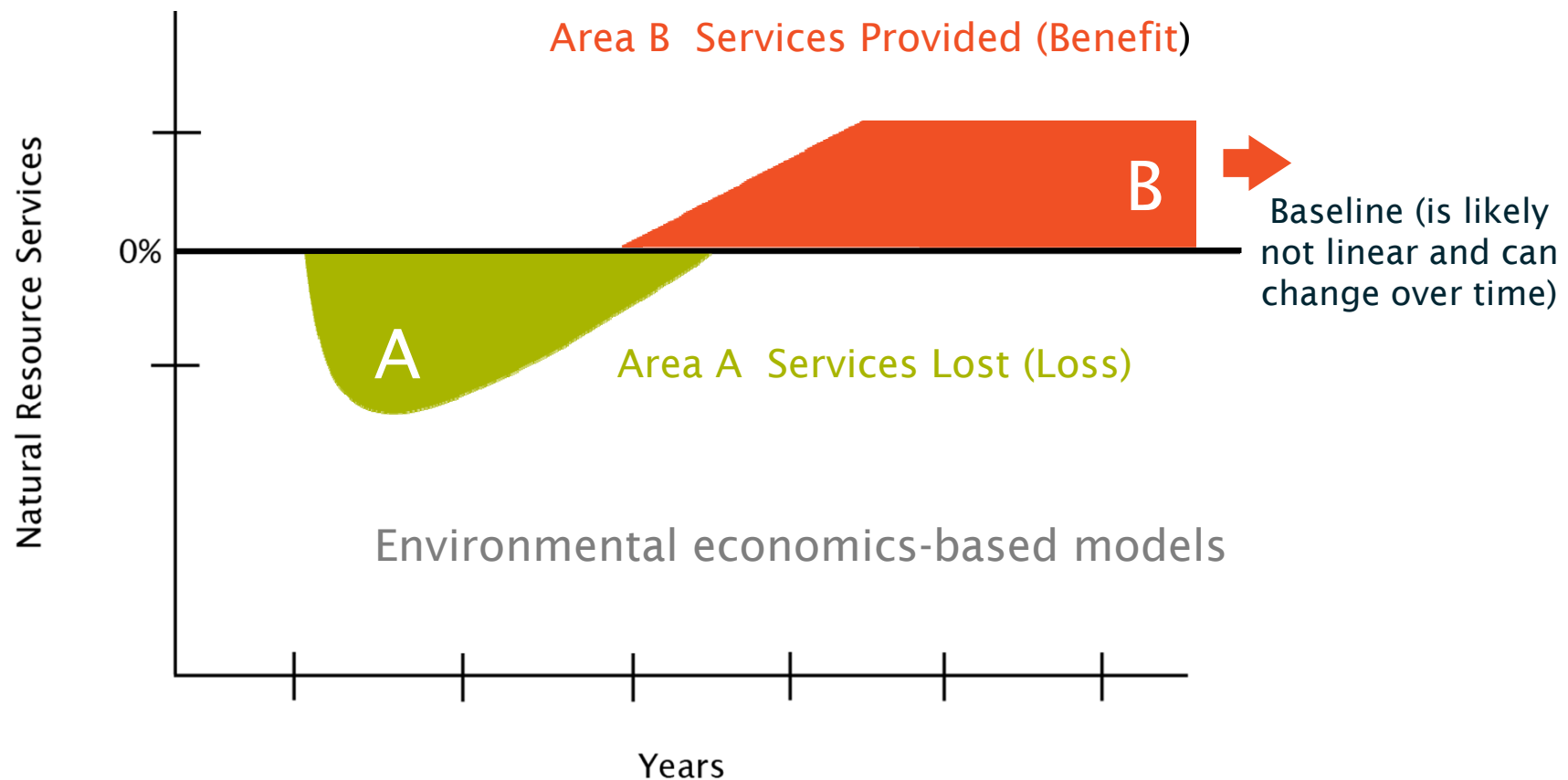
- The natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) process:
 - determine the nature and extent of injury¹ to the public's natural resources (from the release of a hazardous substance) in order to restore them to the state they would have been in, had the release not occurred
 - This condition is called the “*baseline*” or “*but for*” condition
- Goal: “to make the environment and public whole”
 - Return injured natural resources to baseline conditions
 - Compensate for the temporary loss of natural resources and associated services pending recovery
 - Emphasis on Compensation in the form of restoration
 - “*service to service*”

¹ Death, loss of availability, biological condition, etc.

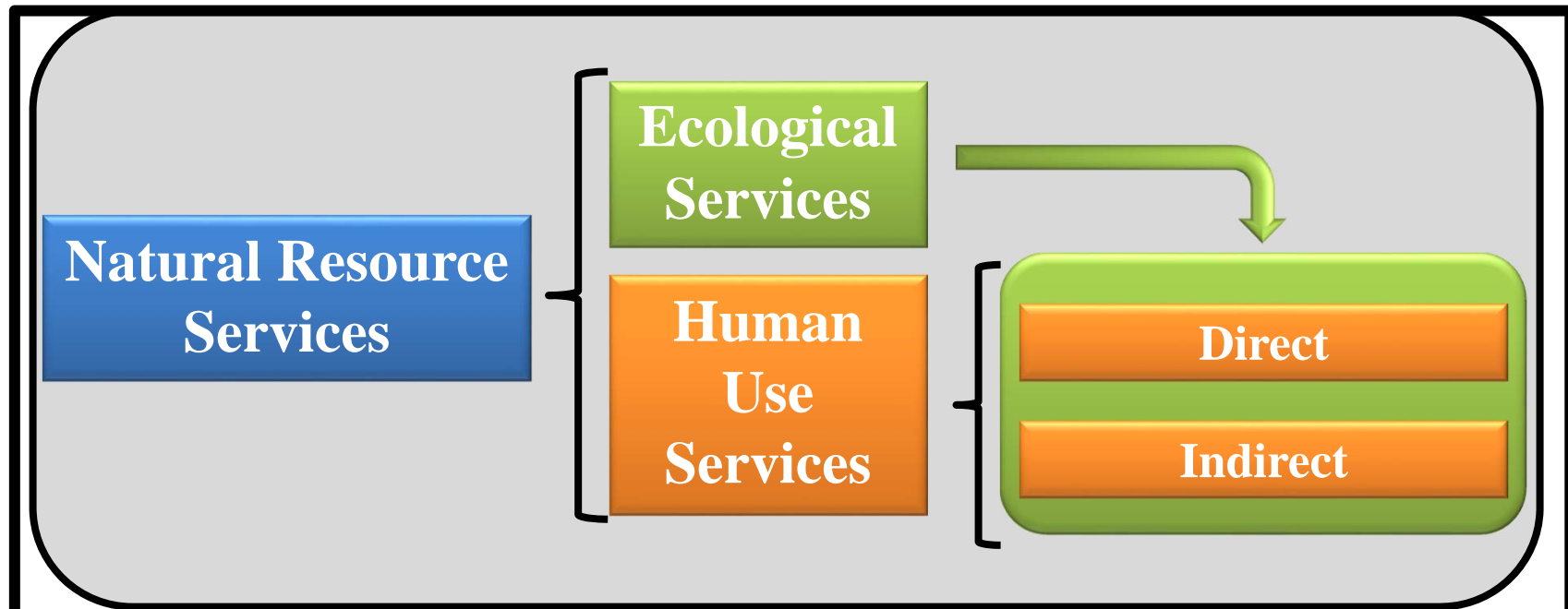
Service to Service Concept

Compares Injury and Benefits Over Time to the **Baseline** Condition

The baseline condition – pristine?



Categorizing Services in NRDA



Ecological Services: the physical, chemical, or biological functions that one natural resource provides for another natural resource and thus indirectly provides value to the public (e.g., the provision of food for wildlife, protection from predation, and nesting habitat, among others)

Human Use Services: the human uses of natural resources or functions of natural resources that provide direct value to the public (e.g., fishing, hunting, bird-watching, boating, nature photography, and education, among others)