

ACES 2016 Wednesday Evening Town Hall
December 7, 2016 | 5:30pm-6:45pm | Grand Ballroom 2

Title: *What's Next for Ecosystem Services in Decision Making: Priorities and Pathways*

Description:

Ecosystem services approaches to decisions, which aim to more fully incorporate the benefits provided by nature to people, have progressed over the past decade around the world from largely academic frameworks, to best practices that enable these approaches to be operationalized (Olander and Maltby 2014; Schaefer, et. al 2015). The release of a White House policy memorandum in October 2015 calling on federal agencies to begin incorporating ecosystem services approaches within current planning, investment, and regulatory frameworks has accelerated action in the US, while the work of the Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) group at the World Bank and the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) are rapidly increasing uptake in other countries.

To effectively incorporate ecosystem services into decision making, a rapid and efficient process is needed to move knowledge held by the research community into forms, processes, and tools that can be used by practitioners and decision makers. We will likely achieve better outcomes if this is an efficient and coordinated effort both within and outside governments.

In the next few years, significant investment of time and resources will be put forward for this transition. Government will need to put forward sufficient capacity and initiative to move things forward internally, researchers will need to focus attention on the critical needs of decision makers and in translating their knowledge for use, consulting firms will need to build necessary expertise and capacity, private sector data gathering, data serving, analysis and decision support tool building will be needed, bridging and coordinating organizations will be critical to bring these communities together and keep momentum, and foundation support can be the instigator helping to push the agenda and the glue that helps keep the coordination in place. Public private partnerships are likely to play a critical role in meeting the needs of decision makers.

This town hall will present the perspectives of a broad representation in the ecosystem services community, along with outputs of a roundtable convening held in March 2016. The presentation will provide a sense of the current landscape and near term priorities of the ecosystem services decision-maker and practitioner communities, focused on the critical needs for moving forward (and improving) the integration of ecosystem services into public and private decision-making. It is also designed to inform new federal leadership as it steps up in January 2017.

The town hall seeks to engage the ACES Community in a discussion of ways to advance inter-sector and interdisciplinary collaboration to further the integration of ecosystem services into decision-making processes. ACES is a perfect community to present the results of our scoping and prioritization process, gain additional feedback and ideas, and brainstorm with partners to try to keep the ball rolling forward and fill critical gaps.

Session Overview:

The session will start with an overview of federal activity on incorporating ecosystem services into decision making and a federal perspective on near term priorities and partnership needs. Then non-federal organizations will provide similar overviews and insights on priorities. This will be followed by a summary of a paper being developed on priorities and pathways for moving ecosystem services forward by the federal government in the next 3-5 years and be used to initiate a conversation with the

ecosystem services community at ACES. Significant ideas coming out of the town hall discussions may be incorporated into an updated version of the paper which is intended to inform the transition team for the next administration and others with the agencies that are hoping to move this forward.

Moderator – Lydia Olander (Total 5 min – 2 min intro and 3 min around the room intros)

Federal Policy Update (Total 20 min)–

Each speaker will quickly answer the following questions regarding incorporation of ecosystem services (ES) into decision making: (1) what is the current state of play?; (2) what are the most significant changes you see in the next year or two?; and (3) what are the greatest needs where external partners are needed (bridging institutions, consultants, corporate partners, foundation support, etc...)?

- CEQ/OMB lead on White House ecosystem services guidance process (8 min). This position is currently in transition but we expect that they or someone else with an insider’s perspective can fill this slot.
- Ann Bartuska or Chris Hartley USDA overview and perspective (3 min)
- Carl Shapiro DOI overview and perspective (3 min)
- Elizabeth Murray USACE overview and perspective (3 min)
- Peter Wiley NOAA overview and perspective (3 min)

External Partner Update (Total 15 min)-

Each speaker will quickly answer the following questions regarding incorporation of ES into decision making: (1) what are the greatest priorities in the next year or two? And (2) what external partners are most needed and why (bridging institutions, consultants, corporate partners, foundation support, etc...)?

- Erica Goldman on communication needs for ecosystem services concepts– building strong case examples (3 min)
- Lydia Olander on NESP activities – guidebook, NEPA, consistency, webinars, guidance for research community, etc... (3 min)
- Bobby Cochran – on linking to other decision makers and private lands (3 min)
- Sarah Murdoch – TNC (3 min)
- Edie Sonne-Hall – Weyerhaeuser (3min)

Near Term Priorities and Pathways – (Total 10 min)

- Mark Schaefer – Presentation of Wilson/COMPASS/NESP paper on near term government priorities.

Plenary Discussion – speakers and audience – (40 min)

Moderated by Mark Schaefer

This plenary discussion will explore priorities for advancing ecosystem services in decision making and pathways for achieving this including public private partnerships. The moderator will engage participants to get a sense of priorities from the ACES community to see if they align with previous discussions and to generate ideas for how to accomplish these tasks; including who should be involved and how can they best be achieved.

Sample Discussion Questions:

- Do you agree with the priorities that were presented for the government and other sectors?
- Are there any critical needs, gaps, or tasks missing from this discussion?
- Do you have any specific ideas for how this work could move forward?
 - Please specify who would be the partners? And how would it be led and funded?

Proposed Session Agenda: (total time 1.5 hours)

Introduction 5 min

Federal perspectives 20 min

External perspectives 15 min

Priorities and pathways overview 10 min

40 minutes of plenary and discussion (moderator: Mark Schaefer)

Audience: The target audience is quite broad as we hope to engage all actors that could potentially be involved in moving forward one of the many tasks necessary to advance the use of ecosystem services in decision making in the US and abroad. This would involve government actors, environmental NGOs, landowners, lawyers, environmental practitioners, foundations, academics, bridging institutions and many more.

Conference Themes: This discussion may hit on almost every conference topic briefly. The two synthetic topics that may help focus this are

- Public-Private Partnerships and Inter-Agency Coordination and
- Implementation Advances and Challenges

Contact Information for Invited Speakers:

Speaker	Topic	Invited/Accepted
Lydia Olander	Moderator	Accepted
Frank Casey	White House ecosystem services guidance	Accepted
Chris Hartley	USDA overview and perspective	Accepted
Carl Shapiro	DOI overview and perspective	Accepted
Elizabeth Murray	USACE overview and perspective	Accepted
Peter Wiley	NOAA overview and perspective	Accepted
Erica Goldman	COMPASS - External communication activities and updates	Accepted
Lydia Olander	NESP-FRMES External coordination and best practice guidance	Accepted
Bobby Cochran	Willamette – Connection to markets and other policies	Accepted
Edie Sonne Hall	Weyerhaeuser - Private Sector landowner perspective	Accepted
Sarah Murdoch	TNC – NGO partner to federal agencies building ES into projects on the ground	Accepted

Organizers:

Lydia Olander, PhD (primary contact)

Director of Ecosystem Services Program and National Ecosystem Services Partnership at the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions and

Adjunct Associate Professor at the Nicholas School of the Environment

Duke University

Lydia.olander@duke.edu

919-613-8713

Erica Goldman, PhD
Director of Policy Engagement | COMPASS
Washington, D.C.
egoldman@compassonline.org
202.630.7480

Carl Shapiro
Director, Science and Decisions Center
U.S. Geological Survey
cshapiro@usgs.gov
(703) 648-4446

Frank Casey
US Geological Survey
Ecosystem Services Theme Leader
Reston, VA
ccasey@usgs.gov
703-648-5739

Christopher Hartley
USDA Office of Environmental Markets
chartley@oce.usda.gov
202-690-0832

Qualifications of Organizers:

Lydia Olander directs the National Ecosystem Services Partnership which has been working for the last 4 years to support federal government efforts to incorporate ecosystem services into decision making. She also directs the ecosystem services program at the Nicholas institute for Environmental Policy Solutions at Duke University where she has worked on ecosystem services and environmental market policy since 2005. She has a doctorate in Biogeochemistry from Stanford University; a diversity of peer reviewed publications in science, policy and law; serves on the Environmental Advisory Board for the US Army Corps of Engineers; and was a AAAS Congressional fellow in 2004-2005 working in the office of Senator Lieberman on a range of environmental issues.

Erica Goldman is the Director of Policy Engagement for COMPASS, a non-profit, non-advocacy organization that supports scientists to engage effectively in the public discourse on the environment. She recently served in a short-term assignment in the White House Council on Environmental Quality to assist with the drafting and vetting of the recent policy guidance on ecosystem services in federal decision-making. In her role at COMPASS, she oversees its efforts to support scientists to engage with policy makers, helping to facilitate connections between scientists and decision makers through briefings, meetings, workshops and other conversations. Erica has a varied background that includes science writing, policy, and academic research. She received her Ph.D. in biology from the University of

Washington. She has also worked as a science writer for Maryland Sea Grant, served as a Knauss Fellow in the House Resources Committee, and worked as a news intern at Science Magazine.

Carl Shapiro directs the Science and Decisions Center (SDC) at the U.S. Geological Survey. SDC includes ecosystem services as one of its five scientific focus areas for enhancing the use and value of scientific information in societal decision making. Before co-founding the Science and Decisions Center seven years ago, Carl served as the principal economist in the Office of the Director at the USGS. Carl is a co-founder of ACES and chaired the first two ACES Conferences in 2008 and 2010. He is an adjunct associate professor of economics in the School of Public Affairs at American University. Carl received a Ph.D. in economics from George Mason University and a BA in government from the College of William and Mary.

Frank Casey is an agricultural and natural resources economist and has served as the Ecosystem Services Theme Lead for the Science and Decisions Center at the US Geological Survey. His responsibilities include incorporation of ecosystem services and their valuation (including market mechanisms) in adaptive management research and planning for resource conservation on both public and private lands. Dr. Casey participates in several governmental and external advisory committees related to ecosystem service measurement and valuation, and maintains an active research program in applying ecosystem services concepts and valuation in the context climate/land use change and the conservation of at-risk species. He serves on Ecosystem Services Working Group of the Sub-Committee on Ecological Systems (Office of Science and Technology Policy). He has a PhD in Food and Resource Economics from the University of Florida and an MS in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University.

Christopher Hartley is the Deputy Director and Senior Environmental Markets Analyst with the USDA Office of Environmental Markets. He is responsible for the development of policy, tools, and metrics to support landowner participation in ecosystem services markets. He holds a Doctorate in Agricultural Ecology and masters' degrees in Agronomy and International Agricultural Development from the University of California – Davis.