

Post-Conference Report ACES

2016 Town Hall

December 8, 2016 | 12:00 noon - 1:05pm

Title: *EnviroAtlas' New Environmental Markets Decision Support Tools: Linking Ecosystem Services with Environmental Markets Data & Policies*

Up-to-date, comprehensive, and spatially oriented data is critical to advance effective application of environmental markets in economic development, conservation planning, and public policy.

USDA, EPA, and ForestTrends' Ecosystem Marketplace have partnered to incorporate environmental markets data into the Federal ecosystem service decision support tool, EnviroAtlas, in order to support public access to and use of information related to environmental markets.

EnviroAtlas provides users the ability to freely view, analyze, and download geospatial data and other resources. The newly developed environmental markets data layers show where markets for water, carbon, wetlands, and habitats occur on the U.S. landscape, provide information about the markets and enabling policies, and allow this information to be displayed in the context of 300+ environmental and demographic map layers and suite of analytical tools available on EnviroAtlas. The integration allows users to understand trends, gaps, and opportunities, as well as make inferences about demand and enabling or limiting conditions for environmental markets. Planners and managers can identify areas of opportunity or conflict and make informed decisions based on reliable information.

Panelists

Genevieve Bennett, a Senior Associate with Forest Trends' Ecosystem Marketplace, introduced the new environmental markets data layers and discussed the sources and limitations of the data. The new data layers include information from Ecosystem Marketplace's annual surveys of project developers, program administrators, brokers, and other market participants as well as information on mitigation banking and in-lieu fee programs contained in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' RIBITS database. Data are available for markets and projects addressing ecosystem services protection and for enabling conditions, including enabling policy, regulatory drivers, and guidance. Information on specific markets is provided; however, individual transactions are aggregated to maintain confidentiality.

Anne Neale, the Project Lead for EnviroAtlas at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, provided a demonstration of the EnviroAtlas tool and highlighted some of the newly available environmental markets data layers. The integration allows users to understand trends, gaps, and opportunities, as well as make inferences about demand and enabling or limiting conditions for environmental markets. In addition, the data may be exported for use outside of the EnviroAtlas tool. The tool is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas>.

Following the demonstration, Genevieve Bennett and Anne Neale were joined by Tommie Herbert of the U.S. Forest Service to present newly developed use cases where the markets layers and EnviroAtlas tool were applied to aid in decision making.

The Town Hall concluded with a moderated discussion of the EnviroAtlas tool, data resources, and additional products in development. A webinar of the presentations is available at: <https://epawebconferencing.acms.com/p1w28jii6gj/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal>

Organizers' Contact Information

Christopher Hartley, PhD
USDA Office of Environmental Markets
chartley@oce.usda.gov
202.690.0832