

# Acting on Ecosystem Services:

A simple tool to build understanding and prioritize action.

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Using a simple but rich spreadsheet tool, individuals and stakeholder groups follow the arrows from assessment, through prioritization, to the design of policy changes and market-based solutions to address climate change and other environmental stressors.

Baseline



e.g.: effect of climate change on water supply

Characterize baseline conditions

Beneficial Ecosystem Processes:	Water regulation (timing)	Water Regulation (quantity)
Baseline Condition →		
Socio-economic priority areas ↓	Poor	Fair

Focus on ecosystem processes, not outcomes.

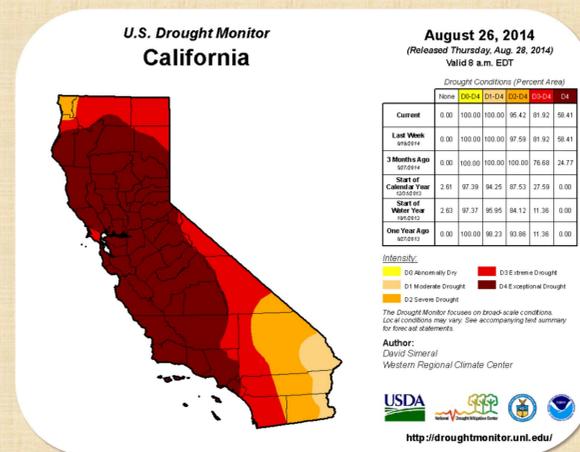
Policy and market strategies to connect beneficiaries to adaptation, restoration & preservation of ecosystem processes.

Process Changes

Beneficial Ecosystem Processes:	Water regulation (timing)	Water Regulation (quantity)
Baseline Condition →		
Socio-economic priority areas ↓	Poor	Fair
Climate Change Impact →	↘	↓

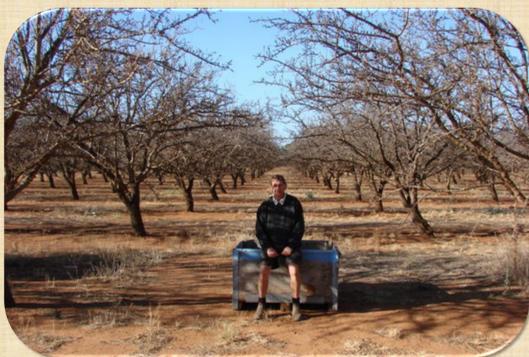
Expect too little water and at the wrong time.

Assess changes in processes



Use available data and expertise, of course!

Benefit Changes



Crop production, and therefore growers, workers and consumers will suffer.

Relate process changes to benefit changes

		Beneficial Ecosystem Processes:	Water regulation (timing)	Water Regulation (quantity)
		Baseline Condition →		
		Socio-economic priority areas ↓	Poor	Fair
Specific Benefits ↓	Key beneficiaries ↓	Climate Change Impact →	↘	↓
Crops	farmers, fruit and nut growers, agricultural workers, downstream mfgs, consumers	High	↓	↓
Drinking and industry (process) water	public water authorities, property owners w/ wells.	High	↘	↘
Nature-related outdoor activities	guides, outfitters, recreationists	Medium	→	↘

Identify key benefits and stakeholders. Classify influence of process changes on benefits.

“By using the ecosystem services assessment tool, our planning team was able to narrow its focus to the climate impacts that imply the most significant harm in the Nisqually watershed ...[to translate those changes] into negative changes in several ecosystem benefits [and harm to] a variety of local and downstream populations.” –Nisqually River Council

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