

Workshop Summary

Monday, December 8, 2008, 9:00am-4:00pm

Building the Ecosystem Services Approach: New Directions, Case Studies and Tools in Use within DoD and Partnering Organizations

Workshop Organizers:

James Spatarella, Associate, Booz Allen Hamilton

Greg Evans, Senior Associate, Booz Allen Hamilton

Workshop Presenters:

Kelly Burks-Copes, Ecologist, US Army Engineer Research and Development Center

Greg Evans, Senior Associate, Booz Allen Hamilton

Leslie Gillespie-Marthaler, Assistant for Sustainability, Office of the Secretary of the Army

Marc V. Hewett, PE, Lt Col, USAF, NIM Program Lead, Office of the Secretary of Defense

Rick Linthurst, National Program Director for Ecology, US EPA ORD

Carl Lucero, National Leader for Clean Water, USDA/NRCS

Belinda Morris, Senior Economist, The Nature Conservancy

Jon Parsons, Executive Director, Sustainable Sandhills

Richard Pinkham, Associate, Booz Allen Hamilton

James Spatarella, Associate, Booz Allen Hamilton

The purpose of the workshop is to bring together policy makers, government natural resource managers, and scientific specialists to summarize and discuss approaches that have been evolving over the last few years in DoD and with partnering organizations such as USDA and EPA, specific to the assessment, characterization and overall management of air, land and water resources. This workshop will highlight new policy and research directions in natural resource and ecosystem service management; provide examples of regional collaborative planning approaches to ecosystem services via case studies; and will highlight tools used to characterize and quantify ecosystem services to better inform decision-making. The workshop will also underscore the importance of managing natural resources as assets (the basic approach underpinning DoD's natural resource management programs); integration of ecosystem services and sustainability concepts; and market based approaches

Agenda Topics:

1. Ecosystem Services Concepts, Strategies, and Questions
2. Overview of DoD's Natural Infrastructure Management (NIM) Program
3. Natural Resource Management in the Army: Ecosystem Services and Sustainability
4. EPA's Ecosystem Services Research Approach
5. Enhancing Market Based Approaches to Ecosystem Services: USDA Leadership for Federal Guidelines and Methods
6. Federal Guidelines and Methods
7. Case Studies and Tools - Introduction and Overview of Subjects
8. Understanding Key Conditions for Success: The Nature Conservancy's Approach to Ecosystem Services
9. New Tools for Incorporating Ecosystem Services into Traditional Ecosystem Restoration Evaluations, with a Case Study of the US Army Corps of Engineers Middle Rio Grande Bosque Riparian Ecosystem Restoration Study
10. Tools and Lessons for Community Engagement in Ecosystem Protection: Land Suitability Mapping and Growth Management in the Sandhills of North Carolina
11. Roundtable – Facilitated discussion between speakers and audience on directions for further development of ecosystem service-driven policies, strategies, tools, data, and partnerships

Discussion:

Presenters will discuss new policy and program frameworks that are emerging and will highlight tools and processes that are evolving in their agencies. This will include the natural infrastructure asset management initiative at DoD, ecosystem services science and tools at EPA, and market based approaches at USDA. Collaborations between these agencies will be highlighted. Case studies will be presented that illustrate regionally based collaborative efforts between Federal, State, NGO, and local actors to identify, protect, and restore ecosystem services; and will illustrate a variety of supporting tools and processes, including several types of geospatial analysis. The concluding roundtable discussion will provide a forum to exchange ideas on major challenges to the ecosystem services approach to natural resource management; ways that the policies, strategies, and tools described in the presentations can be improved; and additional ideas for implementation of an ecosystem services approach.