Principles for assessments of ecosystem service values


http://www.pdx.edu/sustainability/ecosystem-services-valuation-workshop

A report arising from the Ecosystem Services Valuation Workshop held July 8-9 2013 at Portland State University sponsored by the Cascadia Ecosystem Services Partnership, Defenders of Wildlife and ISS
Economics has been too dominant!

• I’m glad I live in a society in which economics is not the only lens – John Loomis, Colorado State University

• There is an urgent need for the community to move beyond the either biodiversity or ecosystem services debate to one that acknowledges that both biodiversity and ecosystem services—both intrinsic and instrumental values—are important (Reyers, Polasky, et.al, 2012, p. 506).
Myriad ecosystem service valuations underway but......

– variable quality and scientific rigor
– neglect some benefits, especially nonmonetary values
– poor assessments threaten the credibility of all assessments
– hence the need for overarching principles
Developing the guiding principles

• 30 expert scientists and practitioners in facilitated workshop
  – Academics, government, and nonprofit social and biophysical scientists

• Interdisciplinary process yielded remarkable alignment in 10 principles

• Goals -- Make assessments:
  » more credible
  » more comprehensive
  » more consistent
Next steps

• Briefings in Washington DC to government agencies, nonprofits, think tanks, re possible applications

• Presentations in PNW to Cascadia Ecosystem Service Partner members and others

• Conduct ex ante and ex post research on applications of the principles with community partners