



Intro to Ecosystem Services

Michigan Chapter SWCS
ANR Week Seminar
December 15, 2010

Michigan Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society



Ecosystem Services

- Life-support systems
- The jobs that ecosystems perform
- Benefits that humans receive
 - ❖ Moderate weather extremes
 - ❖ Seed dispersal
 - ❖ Mitigate drought and floods
 - ❖ Cycle nutrients
 - ❖ UV protection
 - ❖ Erosion protection
 - ❖ Waste detoxification and decomposition
 - ❖ Carbon sequestration
 - ❖ Control agricultural pests
 - ❖ Maintain biodiversity
 - ❖ Generate and preserve soil fertility
 - ❖ Climate stability
 - ❖ Air and water purification
 - ❖ Disease regulation
 - ❖ Crop pollination
 - ❖ Cultural and aesthetic values
 - ❖ Recreation



Ecosystem Services Approach

- Use scientific assessment tools
 - Economic valuation
 - Trade-off analysis
 - Spatial modeling
- Apply policy mechanisms
 - Regulation
 - Payment markets
 - Fiscal incentives
- naturalcapitalproject.org



Challenge

- Think about every resource concern in the context of ecosystem services.
- What ecosystem services are currently being provided?
- What ecosystem services are affected by the proposed action?



A Matter of Balance: Ecosystem Services and Sustainable Agriculture

March 9, 2011

9:00am-4:00pm

Kellogg Hotel and

Conference Center

East Lansing, Michigan