



Ecosystem Services



Trends in Ecology & Evolution

ECL 290 (1 unit) - Ecosystem services in interdisciplinary science and decision making

Meeting days/times: TBD (based on course enrollees)

Location: TBD (likely Wickson)

Instructors: Prof Michael Springborn (mpringborn@ucdavis.edu), Catherine Courtier (cacourtier@ucdavis.edu), and Indu Roy (inroychow@ucdavis.edu)

Course description: The value of natural resources can be measured using ecosystem services, which provide a bridge between social and ecological systems, and are crucial to human well-being. Biodiversity and nature's benefits to people underpin almost every aspect of human life whether it's through the production of food, clean water, or regulation of climate and disease. However biodiversity is being degraded at an unprecedented rate, and as such there is a need to understand how these changes lead to changes in ecosystem services, and subsequently changes in human dimensions outcomes. This knowledge can be used to provide policy-relevant knowledge and to catalyze the implementation of knowledge-based policies at all levels in government, the private sector and society.

The goal of this seminar is to explore and exchange ideas related to current literature on ecosystem service science and practice. A second focus of this seminar is to provide a space for anyone who is interested to develop ideas for ecosystem service related projects and elaborate these into funding proposals. Potential topics of discussion include: the intersection of ecosystem services and environmental justice; quantitative and qualitative methods of evaluation; emerging topics and concepts. Each week, we will read two papers in preparation for a discussion led by seminar participants.