

Agenda Item No.:	6
Work Plan Title & #:	Ecosystem Services and Methods for Including in Policy Decision Making
Presentation Title:	Background on Ecosystem Services and Methodologies for Valuation
Date of Presentation:	November 7, 2018
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**SUMMARY**

Ecosystem Services is a term used to describe the broad spectrum of benefits our forests and other ecosystems produce. These benefits include timber production and other provisioning services. For that reason, people will sometimes use the phrase “Non-Timber Valuation, when discussing valuation techniques. Parsing out subtleties of what are ecosystem services can be challenging. Just as challenging is the task of actually quantifying/valuing ecosystem services. In an attempt to better help understand these subtleties, two economists from Oregon State University with backgrounds in research and experience in theory application will present on “What are Ecosystem Services” and “Methodologies for Ecosystem Services Valuation”.

**CONTEXT**

After the January 2017 Board of Forestry meeting regarding the Economic Analysis for the Riparian Rule Change, the Board expressed an interest in how Ecosystem Services should be treated in regards to Agency work. This interest has also been voiced by some of our stakeholders. In response to this interest, the Board identified this topic as one of the Emerging Issues work plan. ODF staff coordinated with experts in this field to bring this informational topic to the Board.

**RECOMMENDATION**

This agenda item is informational only.

**NEXT STEPS**

A second presentation will be provided in the spring of 2019 that is directly influenced by feedback from this initial presentation to the Board. It is expected that the focus will be on applied methodologies for treating/valuing ecosystem services.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- (1) Costanza et al. (2017) “Twenty years of ecosystem services: How far have we come and how far do we still need to go?”