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Sinopsis

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The Law and Policy of Ecosystem Services is the first comprehensive exploration of the status and future of natural capital and ecosystem services in American law and policy. The book develops a framework for thinking about ecosystem services across their ecologic, geographic, economic, social, and legal dimensions and evaluates the prospects of crafting a legal infrastructure that can help build an ecosystem service economy that is as robust as existing economies for manufactured goods, natural resource commodities, and human-provided services. The book examines the geographic, ecological, and economic context of ecosystem services and provides a baseline of the current status of ecosystem services in law and society. It identifies shortcomings of current law and policy and the critical areas for improvement and forges an approach for the design of new law and policy for ecosystem services.

Included are a series of nine empirical case studies that explore the problems caused by society's failure to properly value natural capital. Among the case study topics considered are water issues, The Conservation Reserve Program, the National Conservation Buffer Initiative, the agricultural policy of the European Union, wetland mitigation, and pollution trading.

The Law and Policy of Ecosystem Services is a groundbreaking look at the question of whether and how law and policy can shape a sustainable system of ecosystem service management. It is an accessible and informative work for faculty, students, and policy makers concerned with ecology, economics, geography, political science, environmental studies, law, and related fields.

Biographies

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Table Of Contents

Preface

Introduction

PART I. The Context of Ecosystems Services

Chapter 1. Ecology

Chapter 2. Geography

Chapter 3. Economics

PART II. The Statua of Ecosystem Services in Law and Policy

Chapter 4. Property Rights

Chapter 5. Regulation

Chapter 6. Social Norms

PART III. Empirical Case Studies In Ecosystem Services Law and Policy

Chapter 7. An Odyssey on 6,000 Acres: Pre-1670 to 2006

Chapter 8. Water: Blue, Green, and Virtual

Chapter 9. The Conservation Reserve Program 1985-2006: From Soil Erosion to Ecosystem Services

Chapter 10. The National Conservation Buffer Initiative: Ecosystem Services from Riparian Buffers

Chapter 11. From Amber to Green: The Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union

Chapter 12. Ecosystem Services from an Agricultural Watershed: The Case of Big Creek

Chapter 13. Wetland Mitigation Banking: An Ecosystem Market without Ecosystem Services

Chapter 14. Ecosystem Services and Pollution Trading I: A Sulfurous Success and a Nutritious Failure

Chapter 15. Ecosystem Services and Pollution Trading II: Carbon Trading to Ameliorate Global Warming

PART IV: Designing New Law and Policy for Ecosystem Services

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Bonilla y Asociados
desde 1950



Chapter 16. Drivers and Models
Chapter 17. Trade-Offs and Transitions
Chapter 18. Instruments and Institutions

Conclusion

Endnotes
References
About the Authors
Index