

PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR FOREST CONSERVATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A McIntire-Stennis supported project



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Forests provide ecosystem services essential to human well-being including clean air and water and soil health. However, global forest degradation and deforestation pose a major threat to these integral services and, subsequently, the human population.

Researchers at SFA are addressing this threat by exploring the ecological and economic foundations of payment for ecosystem services (PES) programs such as identification, definition, and valuation of forest ecosystem services.

The ultimate goal will be the creation of a protocol available to land managers, city planners and personnel at federal, state, and local agencies that will facilitate the identification of ecosystem services, their mapping and economic valuation, and the development of payments for ecosystem services programs to promote conservation and economic development.



About McIntire-Stennis

The McIntire-Stennis program, a unique federal-state partnership, cultivates and delivers forestry and natural resource innovations for a better future. By advancing research and education that increases the understanding of emerging challenges and fosters the development of relevant solutions, the McIntire-Stennis program has ensured healthy resilient forests and communities and an exceptional natural resources workforce since 1962.



COLLABORATION

Domestic and international partnerships are a foundation of this research. Domestic partners include the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, and Campbell Global.



6
Graduate students
supported through this
project.

IMPACT

PES programs have potential to become important tools supporting conservation and economic development efforts. This research will advance effective protocols, design and implementation of these diverse programs.



<0.0001%
Of tropical forests
are under sustainable
management



\$3.8 billion
U.S. air pollution reduction
costs saved annually
through urban trees



784,000 tons
Of pollutants removed by
urban trees in the U.S.
each year