

Ecosystem Services

An ecosystem service is any positive benefit that wildlife or ecosystems provide to people.



Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)

Ecosystem services can be sorted into four categories:

- Regulating services – benefits obtained from processes such as air or climate regulation
- Cultural services – nonmaterial benefits derived by humans
- Provisioning services – products gained from ecosystems
- Supporting services – materials necessary for the production of other ecosystem services

Regulating

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flood control | <input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater recharge | <input type="checkbox"/> Air quality improvement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water filtration | <input type="checkbox"/> Erosion control | <input type="checkbox"/> Water infiltration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biofiltration | <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon storage | <input type="checkbox"/> Wave attenuation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stormwater retention | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal buffering | <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrient uptake |

Cultural

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor recreation opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural heritage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> Sense of place | <input type="checkbox"/> Ecotourism |

Provisioning

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Employment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fresh water | <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel | <input type="checkbox"/> Timber |

Supporting

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disperse seeds | <input type="checkbox"/> Detoxify and decompose waste | <input type="checkbox"/> Support forestry production |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cycle nutrients | <input type="checkbox"/> Support agriculture production | |