

ANNOUNCEMENT

AERC 2011 Annual Symposium

Benefits of Ecosystems to Humans in the 21st Century

Smithsonian National Museum of the
American Indian

Washington, D.C.

October 19, 2011 at 12:00 P.M.

Benefits of Ecosystems to Humans in the 21st Century is this year's annual symposium hosted by the Association of Ecosystem Research Centers (AERC). It is scheduled to occur at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, Washington D.C., on Wednesday, October 19, 2011. The symposium is open to all AERC institution members and visitors, and a lunch will be served in conference rooms 4018 and 4019 at 12:00 p.m. The symposium will begin in the same rooms immediately after lunch. On the following day, October 20, the AERC will host its annual business meeting on the National Mall at the Smithsonian's Ripley Center from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Due to this year's venue conflicts, the symposium and business meeting are scheduled to occur on Wednesday and Thursday rather than Thursday and Friday.

This year's symposium will focus on how ecosystems benefit society. Sometimes referred to as *ecosystem services*, these services provide societal benefits often at very little cost when compared to having to develop, engineer and maintain the infrastructure to provide these services without healthy ecosystems. The symposium will include five presentations by well-known researchers in this arena and end with summaries by representatives of several federal agencies regarding potential funding opportunities in the next twelve months.

Program

**National Museum of the American Indian
4th level conference rooms 4018 and 4019**

Charles Perrings (Arizona State University*) ***The Economic Value of Healthy Ecosystems:
Optimizing Biodiversity Conservation***

Donald E. Weller and Thomas Jordan (Smithsonian Environmental Research Center*)
Streamside forests reduce nutrient pollution of aquatic ecosystems

Brian Palik (USDA Forest Service) ***Sustaining Healthy Forests Using Natural Models to
Guide Management***

Rebecca Moore (University of Georgia*) ***The Public Value of Healthy Forests***

Andy Rosenberg (University of New Hampshire*/Conservation International) ***The Importance
of Healthy Ecosystems for Fisheries and Coastal Communities***

Funding Snap-shots by Federal Agencies (TBD)

Reception to follow in the Patrons Lounge, National Museum of the American Indian

* Member institutions of the Association of Ecosystem Research Centers (AERC)

The Board of the AERC looks forward to seeing you at this timely and important Symposium.