



The Association of Ecosystem Research Centers

Advancing an understanding and appreciation of ecosystem research and environmental science in the search for solutions to complex, large-scale problems.

Advocating for ecosystem and environmental research

The primary education and outreach activity of the AERC is the congressional briefing. Each year, leading researchers from our member institutions travel to Capitol Hill to speak to approximately 50 participants on pressing ecological and environmental issues. Their expertise can help inform resource management and shape public policy.

Helping our members be effective advocates

The AERC collaborates with the Public Policy Office of the American Institutes for Biological Science (AIBS). AIBS staff will help you schedule visits with congressional delegates, and they'll also help you learn how to more effectively communicate with legislators. With access to AIBS's Legislative Action Center and Public Policy Reports, you stay abreast of issues being discussed on Capitol Hill and make sure your voice is heard when proposed initiatives strike close to home.



Educating our members

The AERC hosts workshops to help scientists effectively convey the importance of environmental research to peers, prospective students, the general public, non-governmental organizations, and Congressional members and their staffs. We also organize and host symposia that bring together internationally renowned scholars to discuss key areas of ecosystem research. Our workshops and symposia enable researchers to share emergent research and collaborate with other scientists.

And educating others

Educating our members—through AERC-sponsored workshops and symposia—helps us better educate legislators, advocacy groups, and the public at large.

If you'd like to join

For more information on who we are, what we do, and how to join the AERC, visit our website at www.ecosystemresearch.org.



For a list of member benefits, see reverse side

AERC Membership offers you a world of opportunities!

- Participate in hands-on workshops on effective communication with policy makers and the public—and offer this opportunity to your students!
- Attend annual AERC business meeting in Washington and contribute to governing this organization—or participate by conference call if you can't make it in person
- Attend the annual congressional briefing on Capitol Hill that AERC sponsors—hear critical environmental issues synthesized by leaders in the field.
- Help shape the topics for annual briefing on Capitol Hill—suggest speakers from your home institution
- Meet with your Congressional Delegation with visits organized for you by the AIBS Public Policy Office
- Meet with federal funding agency Program Officers/Program Managers to keep up with developments in federal research funding
- Network with fellow ecosystem researchers—in person or through the AERC website connections
- Profile your center's work on the AERC website (www.ecosystemresearch.org)
- Access regular AIBS Public Policy Notices/Summaries on national legislative issues related to biological and ecological policy
- Access AIBS Public Policy Legislative Action Committee news reports—make use of their simple tools for contacting your Congressional Delegation on key environmental initiatives

The reactions to the recent AERC events were overwhelmingly positive!

“Thanks for everything! I really enjoyed the briefing and the workshop.”

“I value more the role we can play as scientists in policy making, so I'd love to be more involved with AERC and AIBS in any way I can.”

“It was good to see how prominent scientists present ecosystem research for a general audience”

“It was helpful to see how policy briefings are done.”

“I am so glad this organization exists, and does so much to get ecological science a voice in policy”