



ALBERTA INNOVATES

CLEAN RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND BIODIVERSITY

FUNDING DETAILS

Policy Aspects of the Development of Markets in Ecosystem Services

Ecosystem services (ES) are the benefits that flow to humans from well-functioning natural ecosystems. Recognizing and accounting for ES in markets can encourage greater protection and stewardship of ecosystems and foster new economic activities that are based upon healthy nature. The development of ES markets, therefore, can serve both environmental and socio-economic objectives. With the support of Alberta Innovates the Alberta Land Institute is examining the legal and policy components necessary to foster ES markets. In the process ALI is engaging both governments and stakeholders to inform policy discussions and ground-truth the work.



RECIPIENT:
**Alberta Land
Institute**



PARTNERS:
**EcoServices
Network**



TOTAL BUDGET:
\$320,000



AI FUNDING:
\$148,000



PROJECT DATES:
**Jan 2019 –
June 2021**

APPLICATION

This research lays a conceptual and empirical framework for the development of ES market policy and will help guide stakeholders in considerations of how they may take advantage of, or be affected by, the new economic drivers that ES markets will create.



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PROJECT GOALS

- An analysis of the role of property rights in ES Markets.
- Mapping the policy and practical aspects that both support and challenge the development of ES markets.
- Host an international conference on biodiversity offsetting, one conservation tool that can be incorporated into ES markets.

BENEFITS TO ALBERTA

- Increased awareness of policymakers regarding options for the development of ES market mechanisms, and the implications of each.
- Enhanced information base for dialogue among stakeholders and between stakeholders and policymakers.
- Heightened potential for Alberta to show leadership in the development of ES markets.



1 Publication



**4 Students
Trained**



5 Project Jobs

CURRENT STATUS

MAY 2020

The study of property rights in ES markets was completed in fall of 2019 and is available on the ALI website. Feedback gathered from policymakers and stakeholders will help identify policy issues that require further research, which will form the next step of ALI's work. The conference *Land Use 2020: A Place for Biodiversity Offsets* was planned for May 2020, with program and speakers confirmed and registrations underway, when it had to be postponed (to be rescheduled) due the Covid-19 pandemic.