

Invasive species, ecosystem services and valuation

Provisioning services

Food, fiber and fuel

Fresh water

Regulating services

Pollination

Climate regulation

Water purification

Soil stabilization

Disease regulation

Flood mitigation

Cultural services

Recreation and tourism

Aesthetic beauty

Other cultural services

Future directions

Acknowledgements

References

Review

Invasive species, ecosystem services and human well-being

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Although the effects of invasive alien species (IAS) on native species are well documented, the many ways in which such species impact ecosystem services are still emerging. Here we assess the costs and benefits of IAS for provisioning, regulating and cultural services, and illustrate the synergies and tradeoffs associated with these impacts using case studies that include South Africa, the Great Lakes and Hawaii. We identify services and interactions that are the least understood and propose a research and policy framework for filling the remaining knowledge gaps. Drawing on ecology and economics to incorporate the impacts of IAS on ecosystem services into decision making is key to restoring and sustaining those life-support services that nature provides and all organisms depend upon.
