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Ecosystem Services and Federal Public Lands: Start-Up Policy Questions and Research Needs; Ruhl, J. B.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS: START-UP POLICY QUESTIONS AND RESEARCH NEEDS

J.B. RUHL*

INTRODUCTION

FOR SALE
Ecosystem Services
From 650 Million Acres
Contact Secretary of
Interior or Agriculture Today!

It's unlikely you'll ever see a sign like this posted in front of the Department of Interior or Department of Agriculture buildings, but it is clear the federal government has come to the realization that it is sitting on a potentially vast repository of economic value in the form of ecosystem services from federal public lands. Ecosystem services are the economic benefits humans derive from the ecosystem structure and processes that form what might be thought of as natural

* Matthews & Hawkins Professor of Property, The Florida State University College of Law, Tallahassee, Florida. I am thankful to the Duke Environmental Law & Policy Forum for inviting me to participate in its 2009 symposium, Next Generation Conservation: The Government's Role in Emerging Ecosystem Service Markets, and for publishing this summary of my presentation and my notes from the panel on which I appeared. I also thank my fellow panelists and the panel moderator, Jim Salzman, for the valuable exchange we were able to achieve at the conference. I apologize for the frequent reference to other work of mine to elaborate what is said in the text. I do so only to provide annotations to my conference summary that lead to references by work of many others, not to suggest that my body of work on ecosystem services is the exclusive resource. Please direct any comments or questions to jbruhl@law.fsu.edu.

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