

# Bridging the Gap between Risk and Injury Application of Ecosystem Service Valuation to Remedial Decision Making

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## Abstract

In making remedial decisions regarding actions that can affect the environment, stakeholders must be able to balance the risks, benefits, and trade-offs associated with a variety of remedial alternative actions. Risk to a resource infers the potential to cause injury (a measurable or observable effect). Key questions arise such as: "*What do the identified risks mean?*" and "*How should the risk affect the selection of remedial alternatives?*" This course aims to show how marginal and residual risks can be managed through the incorporation of ecosystem service valuation methods and help to arrive at protective yet cost-effective solutions that provide a demonstrable net benefit to the public. The workshop will discuss the overarching net environmental benefit analysis (NEBA) approach and focus on where and when trade-offs to manage residual and marginal risks are appropriate. This also leads to a discussion as to "*What level of risk should be considered as marginal?*" This course will provide detailed case studies from the public and private sectors but also include an interactive discussion and panel session to identify approaches for bridging the gap between "risk" and "injury".

## Course objectives

The goal of this workshop is to examine the difference between risk and injury and, given this difference, evaluate approaches to arrive at cost-effective, protective, and scientifically defensible remedial solutions where residual and/or marginal risks have been identified. The NEBA approach will be reviewed and the incorporation of ecosystem service valuation in developing overarching solutions to support decision-making will be interactively discussed. The Workshop summary notes will be distributed to the SETAC attendees.

## Course level

Intermediate