

COMMUNITY-BASED ECOSYSTEM SERVICES MAPPING WORKSHOP WITH THE LAKE SUPERIOR NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

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The Ecosystems Services (ES) approach is increasingly being institutionalized within NOAA and across the Federal government and is of growing interest to Tribal partners, researchers and resource managers. Advancing the concept and application of the ES approach, in particular mapping the connections from ecological functions and services to human and community wellbeing in a way that delivers valuation and/or geospatial specificity, is a current challenge in need of demonstrations and the development of best practice. There is growing interest around the Twin Ports of Superior WI and Duluth MN and the broader western Lake Superior region to tackle this challenge for our community. In particular, ES assessment and valuation work is being advanced through the efforts of the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve, Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, the EPA's Midcontinent Ecology Division, WI and MN Sea Grant partners, and regional academic research institutes. The workshop under development seeks to take advantage of this community momentum to develop and carry out a mapping exercise for research community members interested in ES assessments and valuations within the St Louis River watershed and our region, including the connections to human and community wellbeing, the potential indicators and metrics for valuation, and data sources and gaps. By successfully arriving at a community- based map of ES and the link from ecological function and process to human and community wellbeing, the research and management community can better spatially map and narrate the connection between ecology, economy and community. This would provide critical information for more effective and targeted research strategies and support improved research to management decisions. This presentation will describe planning for this workshop and the four key objectives we will meet.

- Objective 1; to develop a draft community based map of ecosystem services for the St Louis River watershed
- Objective 2; to gather the community around a common understanding of the ecosystem services approach
- Objective 3; to generate a consistent set of community- relevant indicators and metrics to advance through local and regional research and
- Objective 4; to pilot a workshop around facilitating this community mapping effort in what could evolve into a refined and replicated training for other coastal communities