

## **Quantifying ecosystem services: science for decision makers**

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**Abstract.** Policy makers and scientists alike have identified an urgent need to understand the mechanisms driving the delivery of ecosystem services. Faced with this task, researchers have implemented diverse modeling approaches to quantify the benefits derived from such services and have expressed interest in facilitating uptake by decision makers. Hydrologic ecosystem services, defined as the effects of terrestrial ecosystem on freshwater, are of increasing importance to natural resource managers confronting widespread changes in land use and climate. I present preliminary results from a systematic literature review of spatially-explicit methods for assessing hydrologic services published over the last decade, drawing inference on the relationships between the decision making context and choice of quantitative method. I explore key features of different methods and discuss their relevance to decision making at multiple spatial scales.