



Connected Landscapes

Sustaining and Improving Ecosystem Services Through Restoration and Preservation Projects

November 17, 2011 - 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Salem United Methodist Church, 3456 E 1050 S, Hillsdale, IN (west side of SR 63 across from Elanco Clinton Labs entrance)

An estimated three million acres of land a year is lost to development—dividing watersheds, fragmenting wildlife corridors, and disrupting sustainable economic uses of the land. *An ecosystem's ability to provide services is improved when land is preserved, reconnected, and restored, and compromised when disturbed, fragmented and degraded* (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment).

Health and wellbeing depends on a range of ecosystem services and their essential parts: water, soils, nutrients, and organisms. These services include support necessary for all other ecosystem services, e.g. soil formation and photosynthesis; maintenance and provision of genetic resources and of natural and healthy habitat; waste absorption and breakdown; provision of food, fiber, fuel; regulation of climate, river flows and groundwater levels: maintenance of healthy waterways; soil fertility and health; pollination; insect pest control; air and water filtration; erosion control; and fulfillment of people's non material cultural, recreational, spiritual, and intellectual needs.

The **Healthy Rivers Initiative (HRI)** provides an example of a unique project that strategically and systematically identifies and plans for re-linking landscapes utilizing a variety of existing restoration and land preservation programs and tools.

Tom Swinford will open the session with a discussion of the area's ecological history, what connected landscapes are, and why they are important to ecosystem services.

Governor Mitch Daniels has been invited to share his vision for this unique and challenging project which kicked off in 2010. You'll hear from the HRI's major partners (**The Nature Conservancy, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Indiana Department of Natural**

Resources) about why they are involved and how this project is meeting their goals of conserving and protecting the environment. A variety of staff will share how the project is being implemented on the ground—from priority setting, marketing efforts, and financing to barriers to success and lessons learned.

Several HRI projects will be highlighted, including Wabashiki Fish and Wildlife Area; Elanco Clinton Labs, and Montezuma River Bottoms. Through these discussions you'll hear how ecosystem services are already being realized.

A short tour of the Elanco Clinton Labs area is planned *weather permitting*.

Please join us for the Hoosier Chapter SWCS Annual Meeting on the evening of November 16th at Turkey Run State Park Inn (more info later on this). For those attending the meeting, a small block of rooms has been reserved at the Turkey Run State Park Inn. Cabins may also be available. Please call 765-597-2635 to make your reservation.

Registration Form — 2011 Connected Landscapes

Name (s): _____

Org/Agency: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____

\$20 SWCS Members
\$10 Students or Retired Conservationists
\$10 Spouse/Partner
\$25 Non SWCS Members

_____ registrations @ \$ _____ = \$ _____
_____ registrations @ \$ _____ = \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

_____ attending the Hoosier Chapter Annual Meeting on 11/16 (any meal cost will be paid by individual on the 16th)

Make Checks Payable to: Hoosier Chapter SWCS

Mail completed registration form with a check to:

Susan Meadows, 7820 N 50 W, Lebanon, IN 46052

(receipts will be available at check-in)

Questions? Call 317-290-3200 x392 or susan.meadows@in.usda.gov

Pre-registration is required by November 10, 2011 (no refunds after Nov. 10th)