



LAND CARE COOPERATIVE

What Structural Reforms are Needed to Advance
Functional Ecosystems and Farm Viability?

Expressing appreciation for two PES & Soil Health Working Group outcomes:

- The CSP+ Pilot conceived of by Guy Choiniere and the Small Farm Cohort
- The stated WG consensus against the financialization of Nature

We are watershed contractors in community

We grow deep-topsoil watersheds and practice neighborly economics



Hill Farm

This farm offers:
Beef, Pork, Vegetables.

This business wants:
Accounting, Website development, Auto, Carpentry, Graphic design, Fencing, Piano lessons, Piano tuning, Building materials, Excavating, Skilled vegetable harvesting labor

Watershed Contracting for the Champlain Valley, North Hero
Stormwater storage, Flood control, Water purification, Groundwater recharge, Pollinator habitat

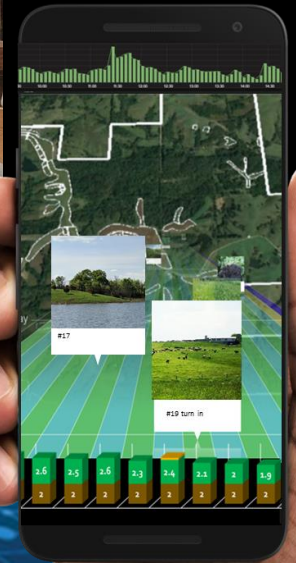
Contact Trade

Find Businesses

I am looking for businesses offering:

Within: 20 miles

In my watershed



Map:
Fejetlenfej

Healing degraded landscapes locally, regionally and globally includes –

- Growing deep topsoil watersheds with massive biodiversity and productivity
- Reversing the insect extinction event
- Practicing maximum infiltration farming
- New, landscape-compliant built infrastructure
- Achieving true water security for our communities, come what may

and will be the largest physical project in history.

The practice of economic democracy to finance hiring land stewards who can competently do this work will not come from private banks, asset managers, other finance capital, or the financialization of nature



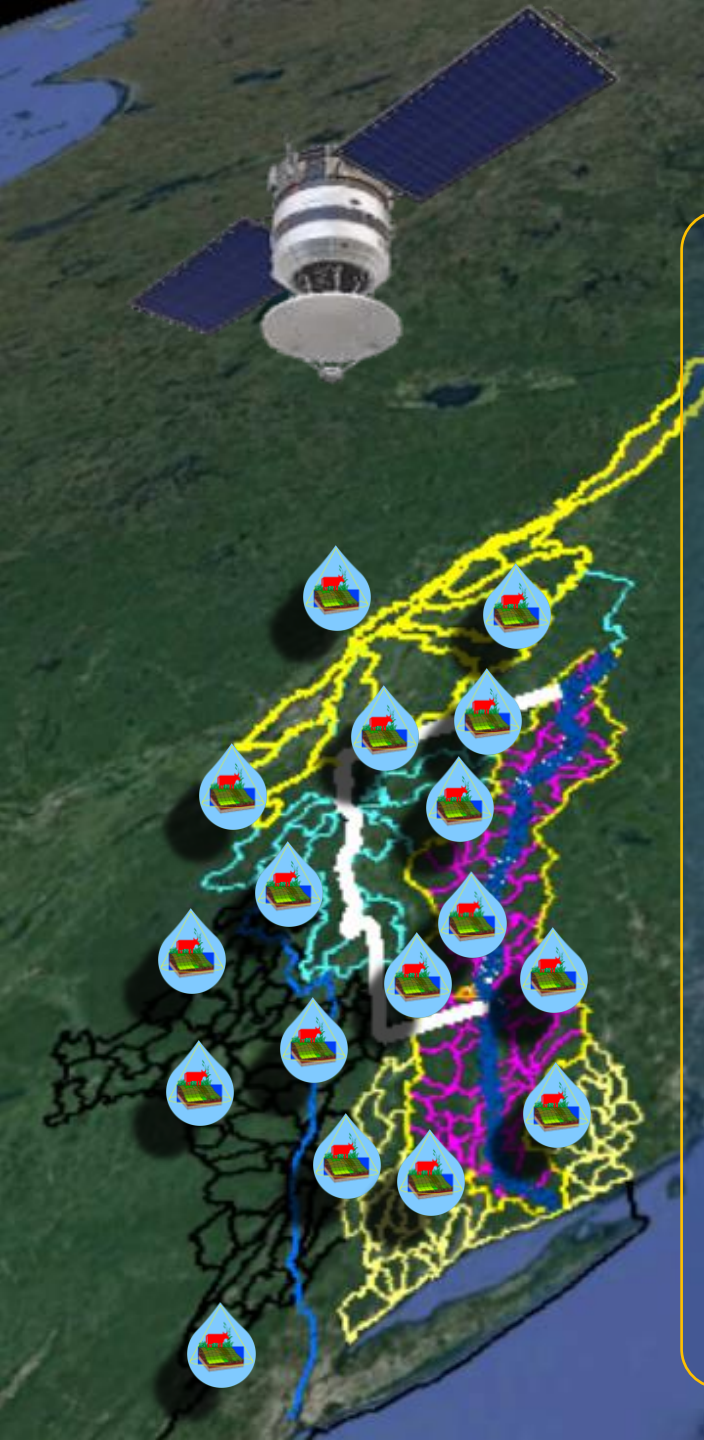




Land Care Cooperative

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Mobile Ground Truthing Crew







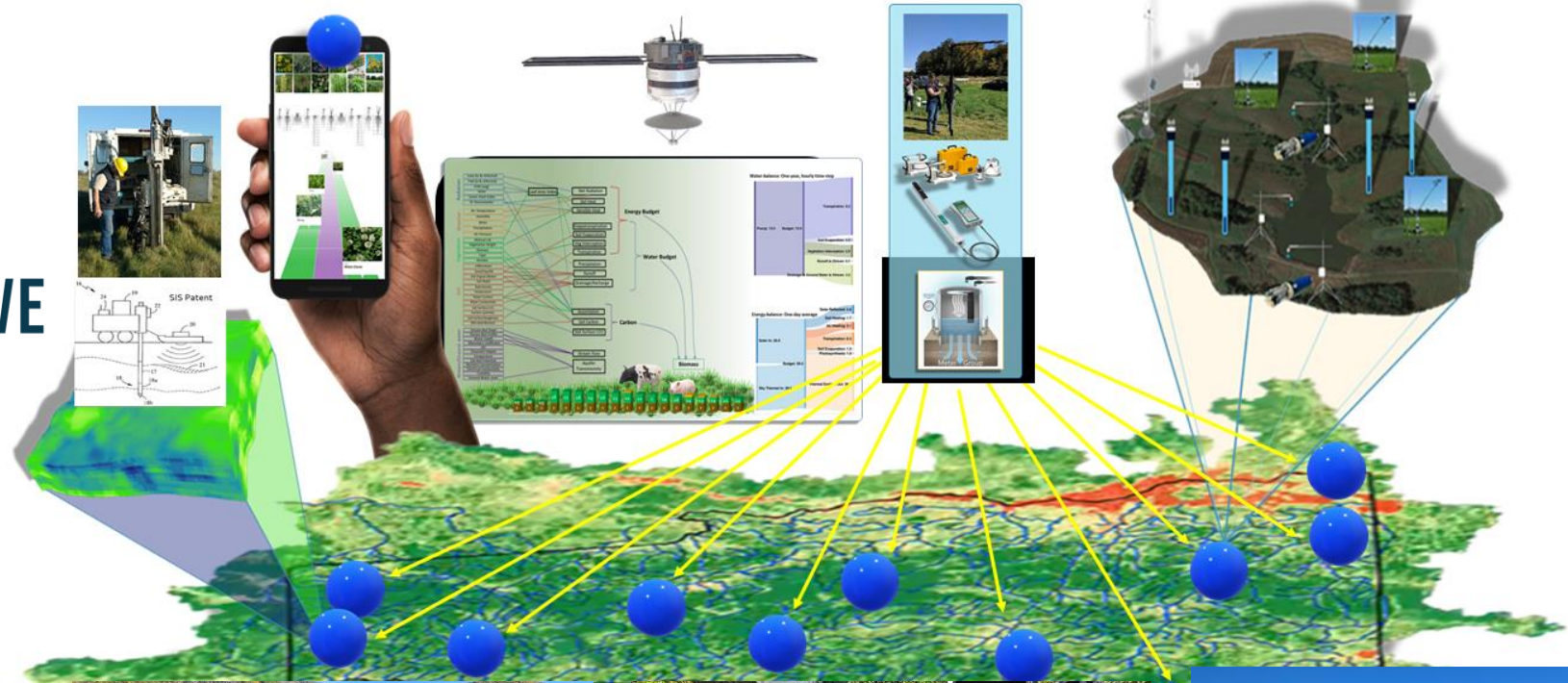


Spring, 2023

Introducing the Land Care Watershed Contracting Pilot Project



**LAND CARE
COOPERATIVE**



**Pilot Project Concept:
Hiring Vermont Farmers to Produce Healthy Soil, Clean Water and
a Sustainable Working Landscape**

The invention in 1833 of the Fairbanks platform-scale accelerated the agricultural and industrial revolutions by accurately and quickly weighing the mass of commodities. In a similar way, we plan to deploy a new type of scale that tracks landscape function and production of ecosystem services and provides feedback to managers for real time conservation decisions.

It is our goal in the next year to deploy monitoring instruments on six farms to collect comprehensive energy/water/biomass data and utilize 3D soil mapping and remote sensing technology to measure whole landscape function and farmer-production of watershed ecosystem services. We will investigate and create a prototype ecosystem services funding model to pay farmers for the production of fairly valued ecosystem services.

We have member farms who are ready to participate as host sites for this project. In addition, our organizations can use our networks to ensure good communication about the project and its results. We want to start the planning phase of this project and are actively working to secure the required resources to get this project off the ground.

We are excited about the role farmers can play in solving the many challenges we face in Vermont as we look at maintaining a resilient working landscape rooted in a sustainable agricultural economy. Will you join us as we work to make this vision a reality?

Sincerely,



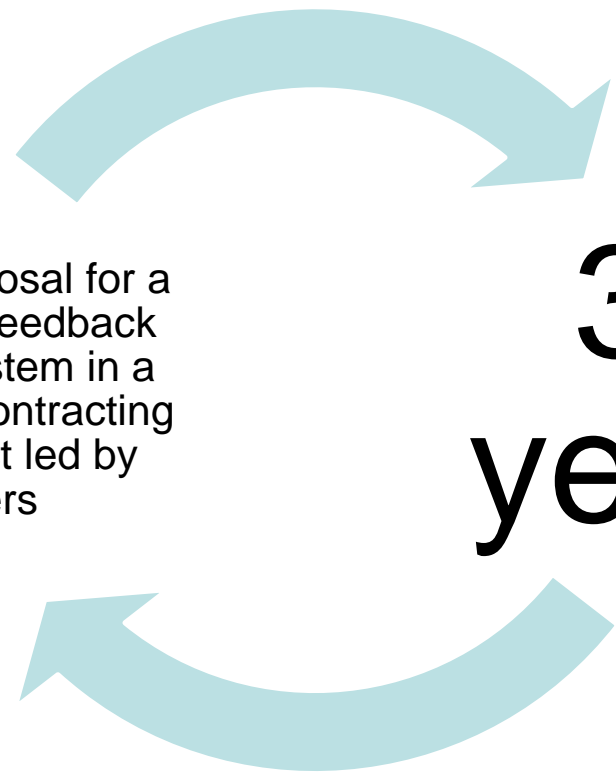
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Farmer proposal for a
landscape-feedback
learning system in a
watershed contracting
pilot project led by
farmers

3+
years

Learning, planning, bootstrapping with a community of farmers, building bottom-up land-healing plans building a cooperative and a nonprofit, doing field science, farming like the future depends on it, coming to better understand and committing to rejecting and resisting the agenda to financialize nature

Today's grazing farmers in our community are key people to hit the ground running, and provide the immediate, critical work of healing watersheds, meeting local need for water, food, cooling and environmental security. Thank you for supporting them at this crucial moment.



From statistical environmental modeling that estimates the probability of environmental effects of Practices....

AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE MONITORING AND EVALUATION FINAL REPORT

Stone Project ID 112540-W
July 31, 2015

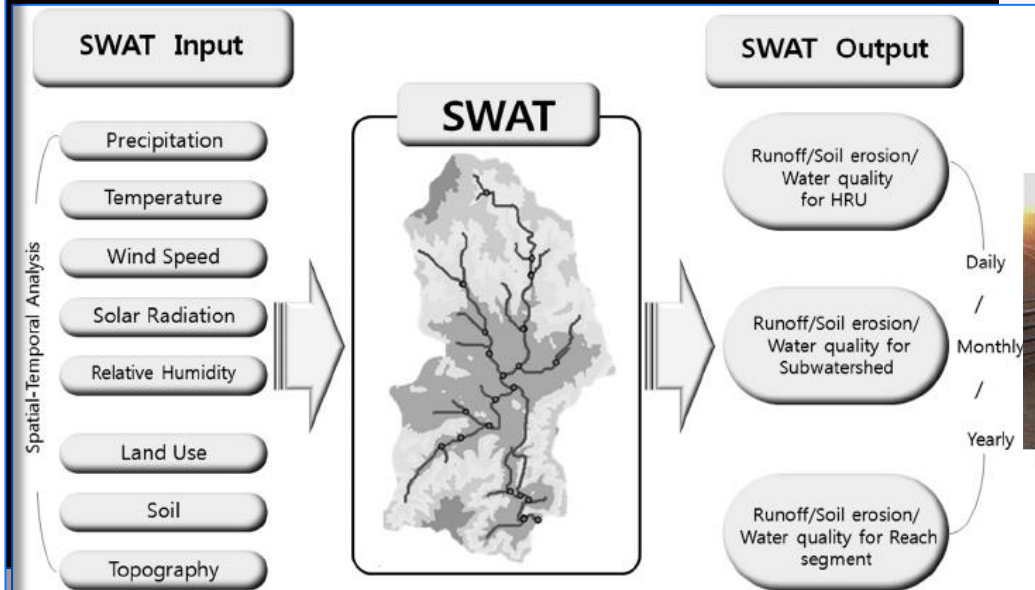


Monitoring station at the inlet of the water and sediment control basin (WAS) during a December 2014 rain-on-snow event

Prepared by:
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RSET East Field Alternative

USDA Resource Stewardship Evaluation

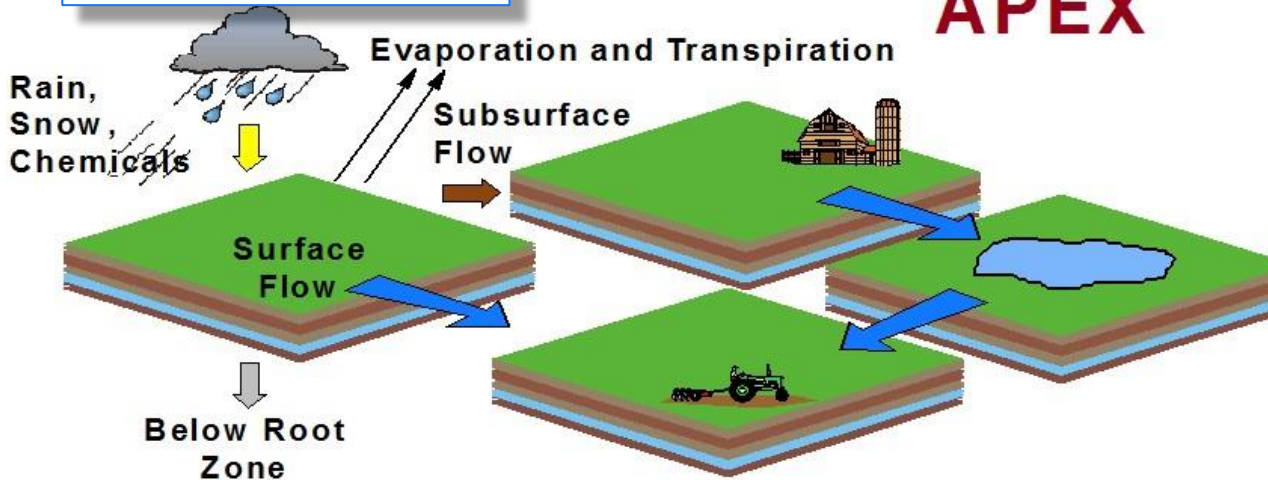
COMET FARM
www.comet-farm.com

Cropland Stewardship Achievement

Category	Score
Soil Erosion	High
Soil Carbon	High
Water Quality	High
Water Quantity	High
Nitrogen Phosphorus Loss	High
Surface Nitrogen Loss	High
Surface Phosphorus Loss	High
Soil Loss	High
Water Quality	High
Water Quantity	High
Air Quality	High
Soil Carbon	High
Water Quality	High
Water Quantity	High

Evaluation Details
Terrestrial Habitat Quality: National Cropland (Unflooded) Guide

APEX



Vermont Phosphorus Index User Guide

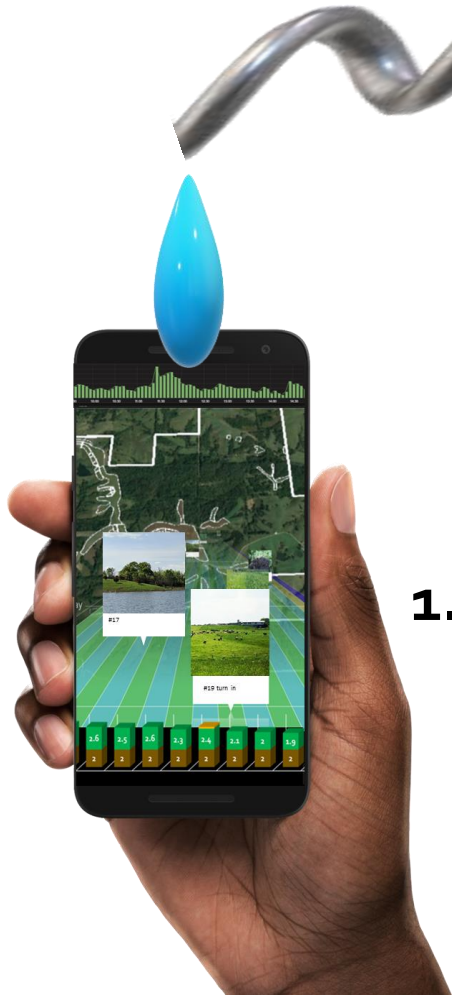
version 6.0 – October 2017

The Phosphorus Index is a tool developed to assess the potential for phosphorus runoff from individual fields based on soil and field characteristics and on management practices. The P Index is much more comprehensive than relying only on a soil test value because it considers the likelihood that phosphorus present on the field will actually reach a surface water body. The P Index provides a relative rating of the risk of P runoff from individual fields, which can be used to prioritize fields for nutrient and soil management practices.

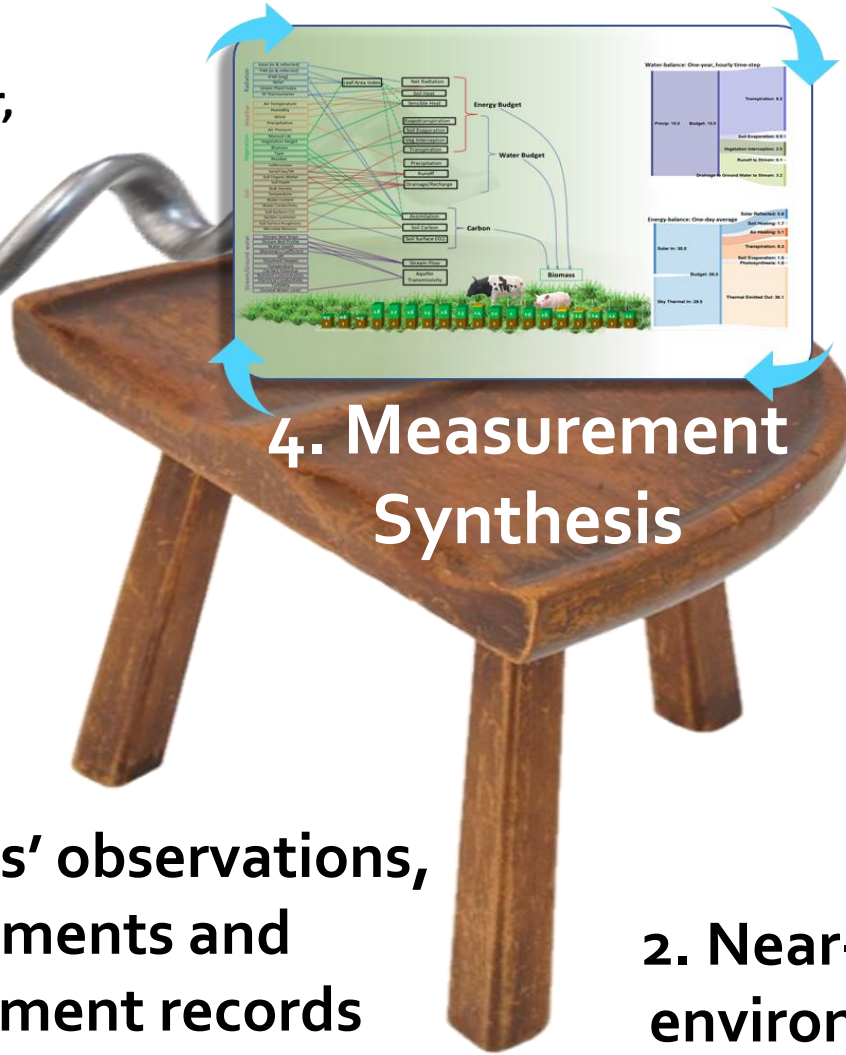
This version of the Vermont Phosphorus Index traces phosphorus losses from field to water body along surface and subsurface pathways, accounting for both particulate and dissolved forms. While it is not a complete quantitative model, we have attempted to estimate relative P losses from several distinct sources (soil, fertilizer, and manure) as well as the effects of soil type, topography, and management practices. In each pathway, an estimate of the amount of phosphorus mobilized from a variety of sources (e.g., applied manure or fertilizer, erosion) is modified by one or more multipliers for soil, crop, or management factors that reduce or increase P loss relative to a base amount. P losses from all sources are then added, and multiplied by a scaling factor to produce a P Index. Interpretations and management recommendations are given in the chart below.

...to landscape feedback in a learning system for effectively healing land

Landscape feedback: energy, water, biomass, carbon, nutrients, biodiversity



1. Stewards' observations, judgements and management records

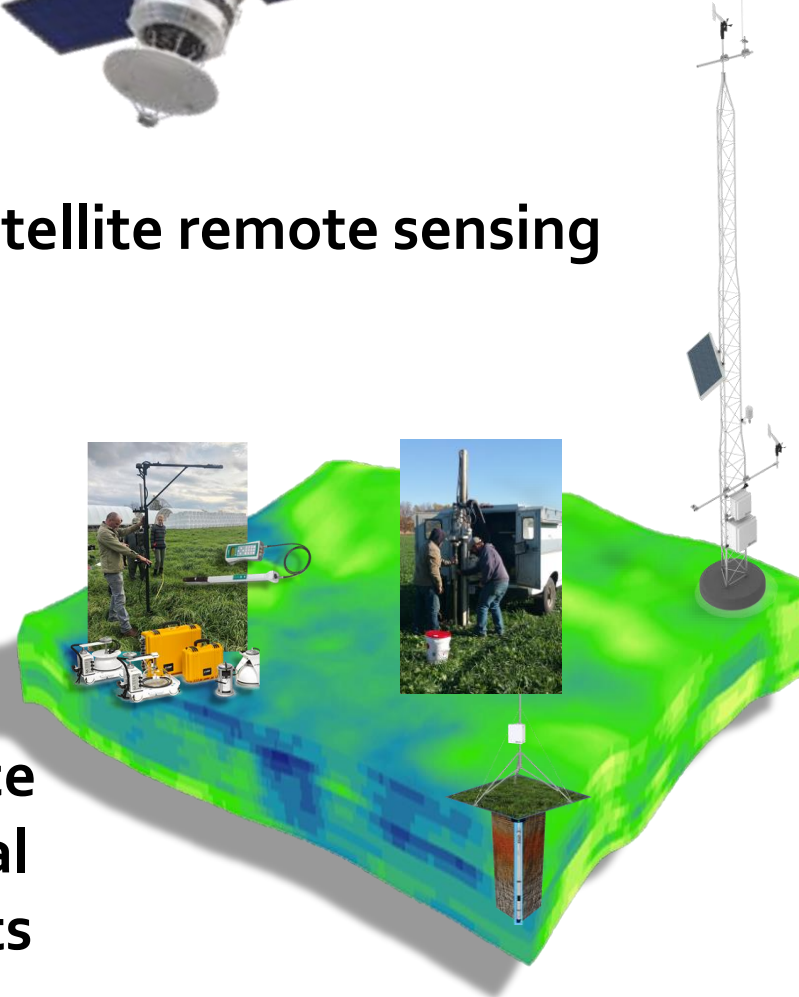


4. Measurement Synthesis

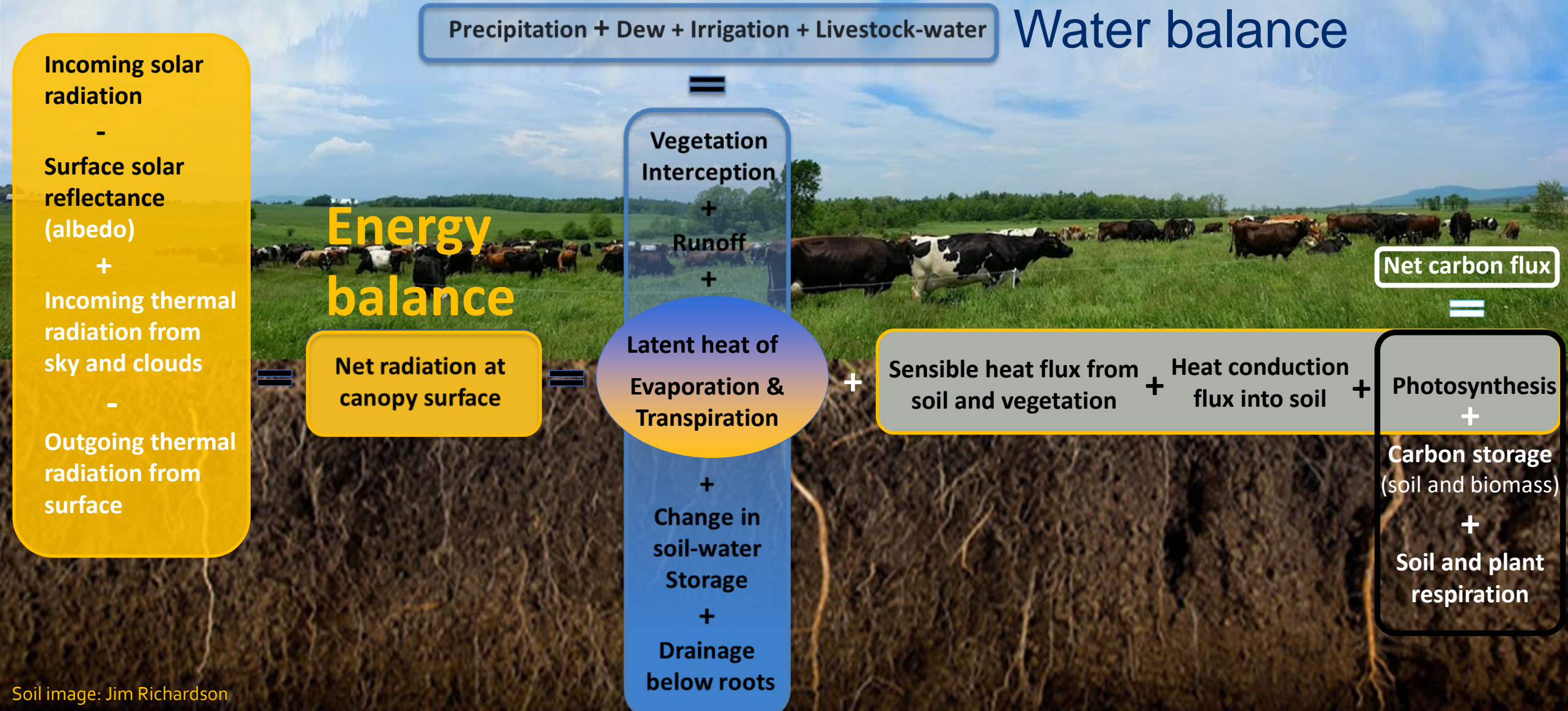
2. Near-surface environmental measurements



3. Satellite remote sensing



Feedback science obeys the laws of conservation of energy and mass



Small farmer and land stewards in solidarity,
and thousands of community alternatives to financializing nature

We stand with hundreds of millions of small farmers, peasant farmers and Indigenous Peoples around the world who refuse – and will replace - the financialization of the Earth and the framework and schemes of Natural Capital, Ecosystem Services, Carbon Offsets, Biodiversity Credits, Wetland Mitigation banking, Nature Based Solutions, etc.

There is a better way – a Community Option - led by land stewards in community – and it will serve us all to pilot to develop it in the real world

Revealed: more than 90% of rainforest carbon offsets by biggest certifier are worthless, analysis shows

Investigation into Verra carbon standard finds most are 'phantom credits' and may worsen global heating

- ['Nowhere else to go': Alto Mayo, Peru, at centre of conservation row](#)
- [Greenwashing or a net zero necessity? Scientists on carbon offsetting](#)
- [Carbon offsets flawed but we are in a climate emergency](#)



📍 The Alto Mayo protection forest in Moyobamba, Peru, was supposed to be a flagship offsetting project but has faced human rights issues. Composite: Guardian Design/AFP/Getty Images

The forest carbon offsets approved by the world's leading certifier and used by Disney, Shell, [Gucci](#) and other big corporations are largely worthless and could make global heating worse, according to a new investigation.

The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jan/18/revealed-forest-carbon-offsets-biggest-provider-worthless-verra-aoe>

Peruvian Amazon could become global centre of 'carbon piracy': report

Warnings that illiterate communities are being pressured to sign up to offsetting schemes in the rush to tap into the potentially vast new global carbon market for forest-rich countries



The Peruvian Amazon could become the global centre of 'carbon piracy' a report warns. Photograph: Ricardo Beliel/Alamy

The Peruvian Amazon is the new global centre of "carbon piracy", as banks, conservationists and entrepreneurs rush to snap up the legal rights to trade carbon, according to a [report](#) published today at the [UN climate talks in Durban](#).

More than 35 major projects covering around 7m hectares of Peruvian rainforest have been set up to profit from the global voluntary carbon offset

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2011/nov/30/peruvian-amazon-carbon-piracy

The Guardian

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jan/21/amazon-indigenous-communities-carbon-offsetting-pirates-aoe

The 'carbon pirates' preying on Amazon's Indigenous communities



Campaigners fear some Indigenous communities are being taken advantage of in carbon offsetting deals with western companies. Photograph: Martin Mejia/AP

Selling credits should fund forest protection, but unscrupulous firms are making deals where land stewards lose out, say local leaders

- [Revealed: 'over 90% of rainforest offsets by biggest provider worthless'](#)
- [Greenwashing or a net zero necessity? Scientists on carbon offsetting](#)
- ['Nowhere else to go': Alto Mayo, Peru, at centre of conservation row](#)

A number of Indigenous communities in the Amazon say that "carbon pirates" have become a threat to their way of life as western companies seek to secure deals in their territories for offsetting projects.

Across the world's largest rainforest, Indigenous leaders say they are being approached by carbon offsetting firms promising significant financial benefits from the sale of carbon credits if they establish new projects on their

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First Thing: 'octagonal' flying object shot down in Michigan

These Trees Are Not What They Seem

How the Nature Conservancy, the world's biggest environmental group, became a dealer of meaningless carbon offsets.

By Ben Elgin

Published: December 9, 2020 at 5:00 AM | Updated: December 9, 2020 at 3:15 PM

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Middlemen Snag Carbon-Credit Cash Aimed at Peruvian Amazon

Only a small amount of money designated for rainforest preservation reaches the people who live there

**182 organizations 81 countries
200 million + Peasants**



“We of La Vía Campesina, small family farmers, landless workers, Indigenous and migrant communities – men and women – stand in direct opposition to the commodification of nature, of our territories, of water, seeds, foods, and human life.”

“**Payment for Environmental Services** is being used to displace Indigenous people and small farmers from their lands and territories.”

“The most ambitious plan...is to place a price on all of nature (including water, biodiversity, landscapes, wildlife, seeds, rain, etc.) so as to privatize...and later charge us for its use.”

“Our challenge is to reestablish another way of relating to nature, and between peoples.”



Indigenous Environmental Network

(IEN)

<https://www.ienearth.org/>

“Carbon trading, carbon offsets and REDD+ are fraudulent climate mitigation mechanisms that in fact help corporations and governments keep extracting and burning fossil fuels.”



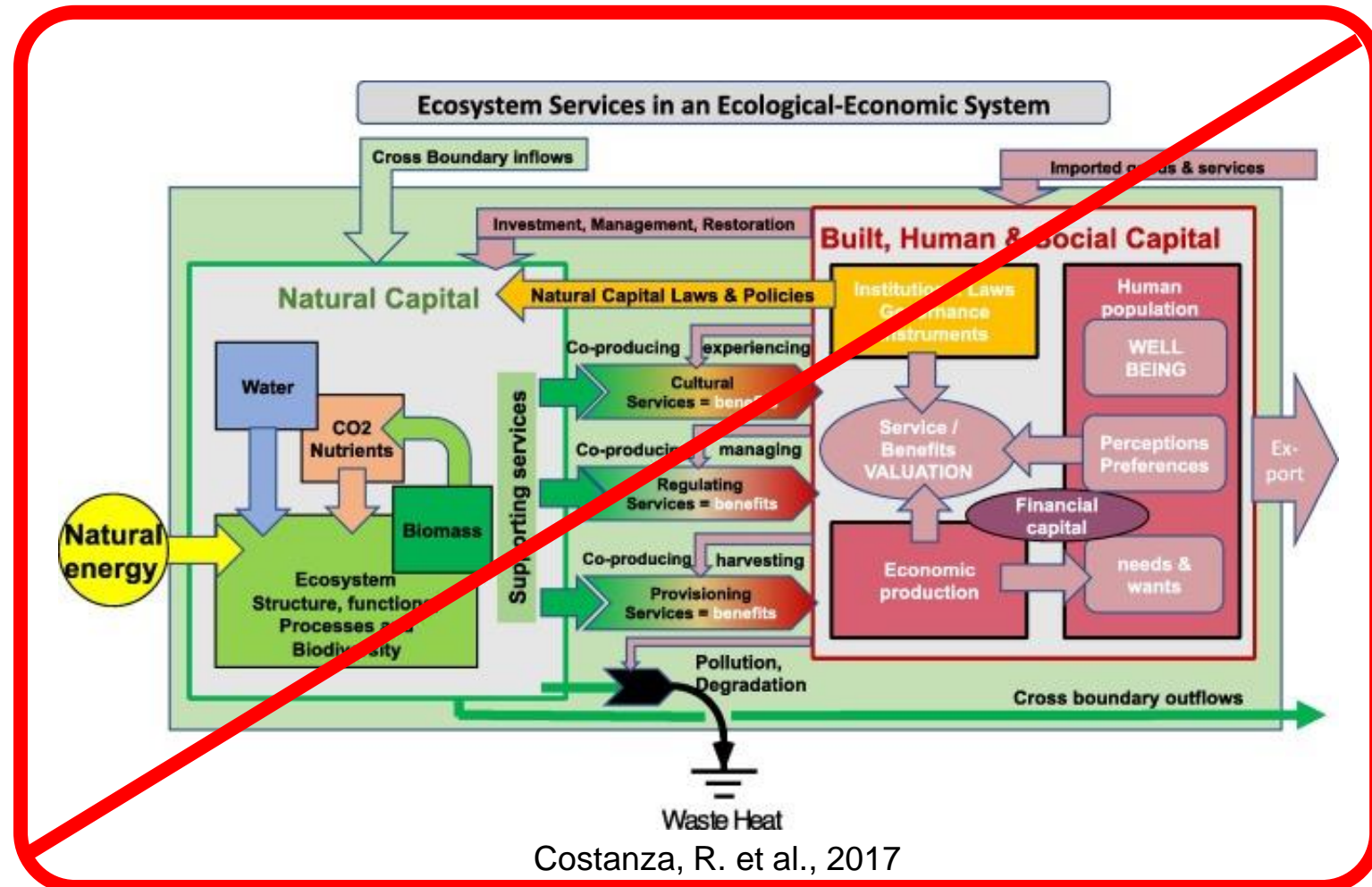
Ecosystem services: From eye-opening metaphor to complexity blinder

Richard B. Norgaard, 2009

Abstract

What started as a humble metaphor....of nature as a stock that provides a flow of services is insufficient for the difficulties we are in or the task ahead.

Indeed, combined with the mistaken presumption that we can analyze a global problem within a partial equilibrium economic framework and reach a new economy project-by-project without major institutional change, the simplicity of the stock-flow framework blinds us to the complexity of the human predicament.





LAND CARE COOPERATIVE

We look forward to working together to pilot healing our watershed homes, in community, and leaving our children deep-topsoil watersheds.

Stay tuned for our farmer watershed contracting pilot project