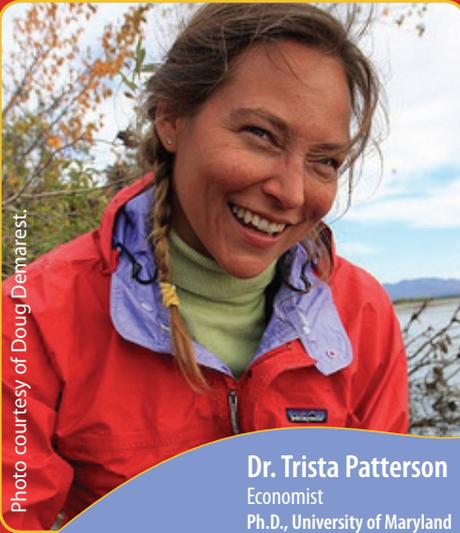


Photo courtesy of Doug Demarest



Dr. Trista Patterson
Economist
Ph.D., University of Maryland
USDA Forest Service scientist

Meet an Ecological Economist!

Dr. Trista Patterson is an ecological economist who asks questions about the dollar value that we place on natural resources.

Matching Game

Use a line to match the natural resource from the top row with the ecosystem service it provides humans on the bottom row.



Learn more about the natural world:
<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>

Be an Ecological Economist...



An ecological economist studies the dollar value of natural resources.

Ecosystem services are benefits that ecosystems, or parts of an ecosystem, provide to humans. Ecosystem services, such as wetlands for flood control or bats for pest management, are valuable because they help humans. Other examples are shown in the matching game.

Find two or more ecosystem services around you right now. Use the chart below to show how you value each service in dollars per day. Ask your friends or family how they value each service, too.

Item or Ecosystem Service	Your Value/Price (\$ per day)	Others' Value/Price (\$ per day)
Bats as pest control	\$5 per day	\$7 per day

Using the values you discovered in the chart above, which ecosystem service do you feel is most important? Why?

Like Ecological Economics? Do More!

Balancing the health of the environment with human development can be challenging. Imagine you have unlimited money and a lot of land. What would you like your land to look like? Draw your design below.

List how your design respects the environment.

Outdoor Tip:

Many people value natural areas as a way to relax and escape from daily life. Always try to "leave no trace" in our natural lands by respecting other visitors, picking up trash, and leaving natural items where you found them!

