

My name's Travis Warziniack.

I'm a research economist with the Rocky Mountain Research Station.

I've been working to build an integrated model of economic and ecological systems.

We looked at the way human values plug into the natural system,
and the way the natural system affects human values.

There's two parts of it.

So there's a pretty well-developed model of a regional economy,
so something like a local county or just a local town.

And the other side of it is the natural system,
so the way the natural system plugs into that local economy.

So it looks at human uses.

So, how do we create jobs?

How do we get recreational values?

How do we get all sorts of just human benefits from the natural world.

So we are working on modeling both of those together.

It's exciting because it addresses some fundamental questions, both from the
economics

and the human uses of nature side.

So it deals with how jobs depend on the natural system.

How the natural system is affected by the jobs that we create.

It affects or looks at the way we recreate.

The way we get our sense of value in the natural world.

It treats those two parts, the human side and the natural system together in a way,

I think, that hasn't been done before.

The project has a couple different uses or applications.

On one hand it evaluates the potential for policies,
both economic policies and environmental policies.

So it looks at how something that we do on the landscape might affect jobs.

And more and more we're moving to a world where planning or natural resource use is reliant

on an ecosystem services approach.

So a bit more landscape level and a bit more holistic level.

So that's become the bigger part of certainly Forest Service planning and planning on all levels.