Adventure Learning @ Coeur d'Alene

Types of Ecosystem Services

Provisioning Services

Any type of benefit to people that can be extracted from nature.

Examples: food, drinking water, timber, fibers, medicine

Regulating Services

Benefits provided by ecosystem processes that moderate natural phenomena.

Examples: pollination, decomposition, water purification, erosion and flood control, carbon storage, climate regulation

Cultural Services

Non-material benefits that contribute to the development and cultural advancement of people.

Examples: recreation, education, aesthetics, creativity born from interactions with nature

Supporting Services

Ecosystems could not be sustained without consistency of underlying natural processes.

Examples: photosynthesis, nutrient cycling, water cycle, soil formation