

## Accounting for the value of forests

### Travis Warziniack

This seminar explores the many ways we value forests (for recreation, for drinking water, for spiritual connection), the risks they face due to climate and socioeconomic change, and ways measurement can be used to increase value and decrease risk. In January 2023, the United States announced a 15-year strategy to develop natural capital accounts. While the need for such accounts is widely understood, the path to creating them is uncharted. The strategy identified large gaps in the science needed to develop the accounts and a plan to move that science forward. This session is a key part of the implementation of forest accounts for that work. It builds case studies around forest loss and wildfire risk in large watersheds and shows how computational models can be used to integrate data, tools, and vocabulary across disciplines and provide a roadmap for addressing ecosystem services in economic valuation.



**Dr. Travis Warziniack** is a research economist with the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station and head of the Denver Urban Field Station. Travis's research focuses on the valuation of ecosystem services, with an emphasis on water resources, climate change, and nature's role in the regional economies. He serves as the water specialist for the Resource Planning Act (RPA) Assessment and the forest lead for the U.S. Environmental-Economic Statistics. His research is an integral part of the implementation of the National Strategy for natural capital accounting, which aims to answer the not-so-simple question, "What is the value of nature?"

Prior to joining the US Forest Service in 2012, Travis was a professor of environmental economics at the University of Heidelberg, Germany. He received his PhD from the University of Wyoming in 2008, his MS from the University of Texas in 2003, and his BS from Louisiana State University in 1998. He grew up in Louisiana and still misses the people and food. He did a brief stint as a backpacking guide and recently graduated from the USFS Senior Leader Development Program.