



**CESU Final Report Summary for
Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services in the Savannah River Basin:
Conceptual Study Plan - W912HZ1020035**

<p>Purpose: Present an overall framework for defining and estimating the total economic value of ecosystem services in the Savannah River Basin (SRB). This includes background ecologic concepts, comprehensive valuation of ecosystems, and how ecosystem services might be valued in monetary terms for input into policy and management decisions.</p>
<p>Location: Savannah River Basin (SRB) stretches from the mountains of Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, eventually ending at the Atlantic Ocean along the Georgia and South Carolina coastal border. Major USACE projects in the SRB include: Hartwell Dam and Reservoir, Russell Dam and Reservoir, and Thurmond Dam and Reservoir.</p>
<p>Methods: Begin by discussing important background ecologic concepts and then summarize concepts used for comprehensive valuation of ecosystems. The final section discusses how ecosystem services might be valued in monetary terms for input to management and policy decisions.</p>
<p>Results: Ecosystem management will require a decision support system that incorporates comprehensive and integrated ecological and economic modeling. The focus of economic valuation of economic services should be on estimating the total value in terms of net willingness to pay, not just financial value or cash flow. An example of holistic valuation is estimation of the total economic value of an entire ecosystem landscape such as the SRB watershed (or section thereof) using the contingent valuation method. Obtaining total economic value estimates specific to each ecosystem in different geographical regions across time horizons is challenging. They should be part of a collaborative, decision-making process.</p> <p>The report also contains charts of examples of ecosystem goods and services and their associated economic values (tables 1-6).</p>
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