

Utilizing GIS as a Decision-Tool Integrating Economics and the Environment

The major goal of the study of environmental economics is to aid mankind in balancing economic growth with the environmental impacts it creates through the evaluation of policy. Utilizing environmental economics as a mechanism for policy assessment allows us to evaluate potential gains in specific courses of economic growth and the tradeoffs that may be necessary in their environmental impacts. GIS provides a unique tool to aid in understanding the complex relationships created by economic development and the public policy created to govern these processes. This research is founded on a melding of economics, geography, environmental science, engineering, and public policy. Through the use of these disciplines this research demonstrates the use of GIS in calculating the Ecological Service Value (ESV) using the substitute cost valuation method.

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