The EVRI Valuation Database: History, Overview and Applications

Greg McComb,
Environmental Economics Branch,
Environment Canada

for conference:
"*Benefits Transfer and Valuation Databases: Are We Heading in the Right Direction.*"

Outline

- What is EVRI?
- History
- EVRI Records
- Database Breakdown
- On-line Resources
- Finding Studies in EVRI
- Steps for Benefits Transfer
- Conclusions

What is EVRI?

Environmental Valuation Reference Inventory

- Internet Infobase of valuation studies on environment and health: http://www.evri.ca
- Currently, ~ 1,300 study records or study summaries that can be easily searched
- EVRI design facilitates benefits transfer, which is the transfer of values from “study site” to “policy site.”
  - Design of records facilitates matching; quality checks; selecting values
  - Search engines allows for quick location of studies
- Free site to U.S., U.K., France and Canadian citizens as part of “EVRI Club”
- Bilingual site

EVRI - Netscape

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Window Help

http://www.evri.ca/

Search

Environmental Valuation Reference Inventory

EVRI

English

Français

Environment Canada
Environnement Canada

MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉCOLOGIE ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE

defra
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs

Done

History

- In early 1990's, need identified for alternative to primary studies on environmental valuation.
  - which are time consuming and costly.
- *Benefits transfer* developed in early 1990's:
  - Journal of Water Resources Research series
  - Association of Environmental and Resource Economists conducted workshop.
- EC sponsored series of workshops in late 1990's:
  - advice from leading North American experts: Bishop, Carson, Loomis, Adamovicz.
- Developed as web-based tool to distill and organize previous findings of valuation studies to facilitate benefits transfer.

History (con't)

"In the long-run the successful and widespread use of benefit transfer requires a well-documented, easily accessible library of high-quality valuation studies," OECD, 1994

History (con't)

- U.S. EPA, Office of Water, collaborated with Environment Canada 1997-99 to develop EVRI.
- Launched to the Internet in 1999.
- European Commission sponsored assessment in 1999.
- Assessment positive: found EVRI to be user-friendly and could facilitate benefits transfer.
- Main recommendation: capture more European studies.
- Commission acted as catalyst for discussions between Canada, U.K., and France
- "EVRI Club" agreements signed by UK, France and US, starting in 2002.
- Acitivities of club include:
  - Access to citizens; policy direction; workshops; funding to develop and populate database.

EVRI Records

Info-base data contained in EVRI Records

- Records are broken into categories and sub-categories called fields where data and info is entered:

  1) Study Reference
  2) Study Area and Population
  3) Environmental Focus of Study
  4) General Type of Environmental Good or Service
  5) Study Methods
  6) Estimated Values
  7) Abstract

http://www.evri.ca/english/capmod.cfm

Capturing Module

Environmental Valuation Reference Inventory

- Searching Module
- Capturing Module
- Screening Module
- EVRI Tutorial
- Feedback

Input Record

For examples on information to be inputed click on the underlined letters.
Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory.

1.0 Study Reference

1.1 EVRI Ref. Number:	*Computer Generated*
1.2 Date of capture or last update:	*Computer Generated*
1.3 Document Type:*	

- book
- chapter in book
- conference paper
- dissertation/thesis
- journal
- magazine article
- report (government/non-government)
- working paper

1.4 Authors:*

1.5 Title:*

http://www.evri.ca/english/capmod.cfm

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3.0 Environmental Focus of Study

3.1 General Environmental Asset:*

Air general:

global
local

Land general:

beach
landscape

Man made environment/infrastructure:

buildings
cultural monuments

Water general:

canals
drinking water

Animals:

birds

Plants:

heather
crops

Micro-organisms:

bacteria
fungi

Human:

human capital
human health

3.2 General Type of Environmental Goods and Services Valued:*

built environment
ecological functions
extractive uses
human health

http://www.evri.ca/english/capmod.cfm

Capturing Module

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- Feedback

Edit Data Tables

- **Complete the tables below as required by your data.**
- **It is not necessary to complete all boxes.**
- **Click on Continue when you are done.**

Header:

EVRI Records (con't)

Study Captures

- Regular literature searches of both peer-reviewed and gray literature.
  - Assisted by "EVRI Club" partners to find gray literature
- Captures done by graduate students; consultants
- Training, editing and quality-checks done by EVRI project staff
- Capture module and *study capture guide* undergo continuous revisions and improvements:
    - Add new keywords: canal, heather, noise
    - Enlarge text boxes to facilitate on-line captures
    - Add link to actual studies in records

EVRI Records (con't)

Structure of EVRI Records facilitates benefits transfer:

1) *Match* conditions of study site (geography, pollutant etc.) with policy -> geography; environmental focus and type
2) Quality of original study -> study methods
3) Currencies, year of values -> international transfers
4) Unit values -> /month /hectare /tonne

EVRI Records (con't)

EVRI facilitates benefits transfer:

- Comprehensive data/info. allows for variety of BT methods → flexible
- Efforts to populate database mean large number of study records can be quickly accessed:
  - improves chances of matching conditions; finding quality study
- *However*, experience has shown EVRI used for variety of purposes:
  - e-library for research and reports;
  - screening of government policies, and
  - Both simple and sophisticated BT.

Database Breakdown

Table 1 - Type of Documents in EVRI

Document Type	**Percentage (Number of Study Records)**
Journal Articles	56% (710)
Reports	22% (271)
Dissertation or Thesis	13% (159)
Chapters from Books	5% (66)
Conference Papers	4% (48)
Total	100% (1,254)

Tour EVRI - Netscape

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Window Help

http://www.evri.ca/evri/english/tour.htm

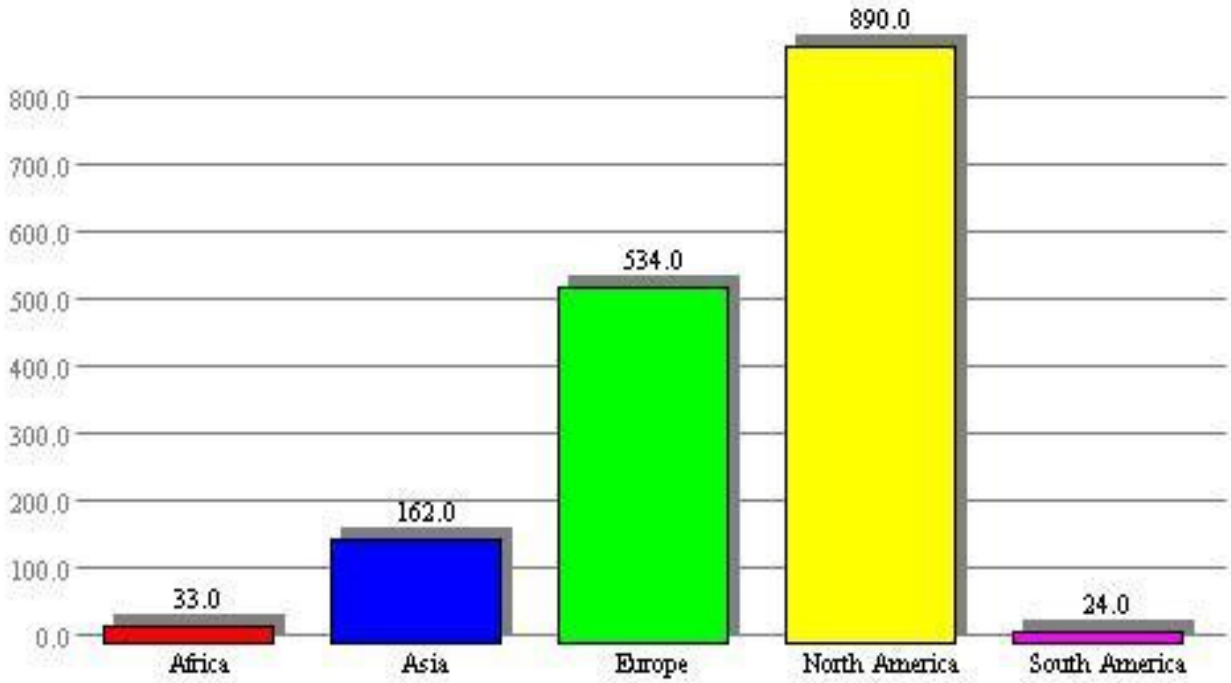
Search

Tour EVRI

Environmental Valuation Reference Inventory

- About EVRI
- Tour EVRI
- Tour Using EVRI
- Tour Information Resources
- Tour Searching Module
- Tour Screening Module
- Apply for a Subscription *
- Enter EVRI
- Feedback

PREVIOUS - **Geographic Characteristics** - NEXT



EVRI Records by Continent of Study Area

(as of Mar 1, 2005 3:32:11 PM)

Applet BarChart started

Tour EVRI - Netscape

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Window Help

http://www.evri.ca/evri/english/tour.htm

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- Enter EVRI
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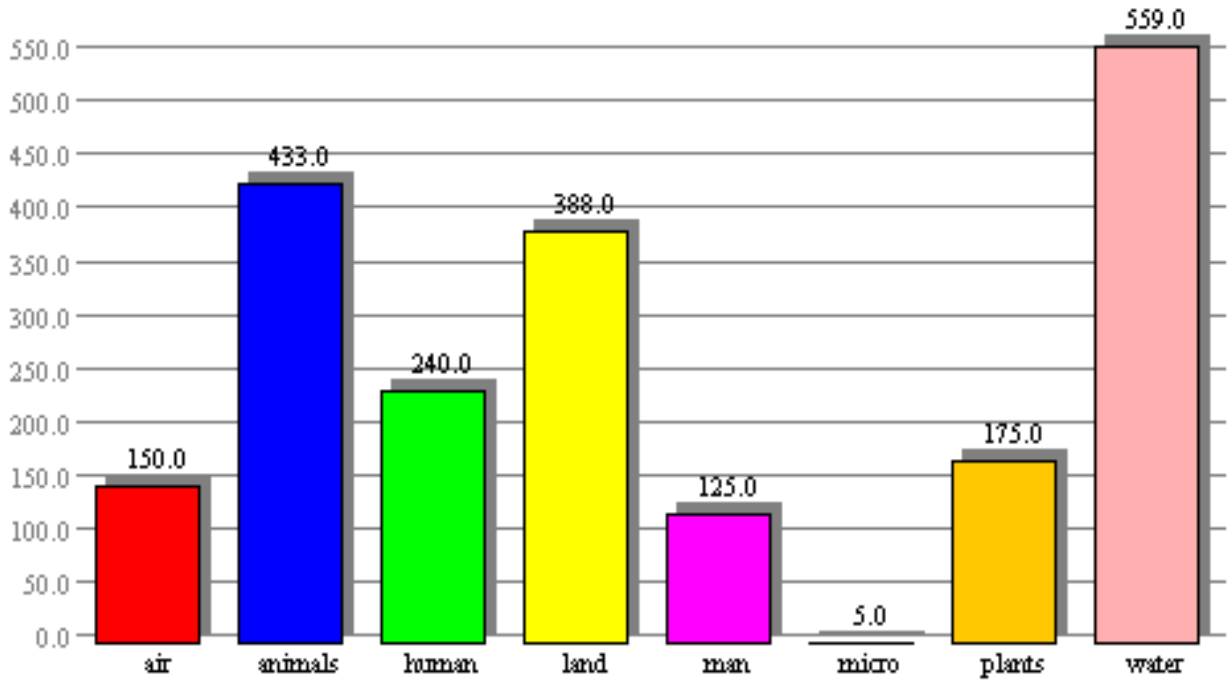
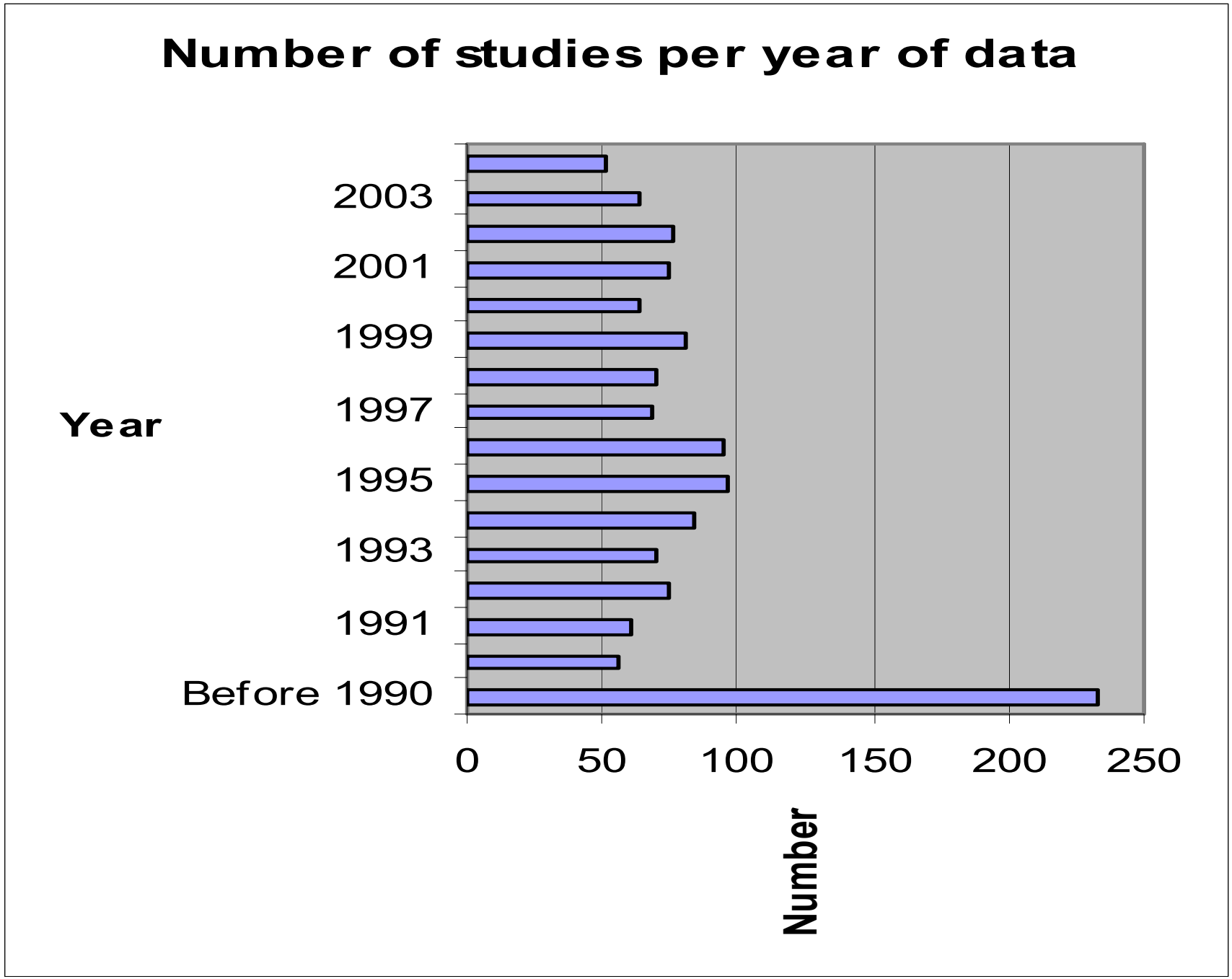
PREVIOUS - **Environmental Assets** - NEXT



EVRI Records by Environmental Asset Category

(as of Mar 1, 2005 3:38:04 PM)

Applet BarChart started


Number of studies per year of data
Year
2003
2001
1999
1997
1995
1993
1991
Before 1990
0
50
100
150
200
250
Number

On-line Resources

Two tutorials on EVRI

- On public side is “Tour EVRI” overview
- “EVRI Tutorial” on subscriber side uses hypothetical “oil spill” scenario

Tour EVRI - Netscape

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http://www.evri.ca/english/tour.htm

Search

Tour EVRI

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Tour EVRI – Using EVRI

Using the EVRI to locate suitable studies for benefits transfer involves following a specific workflow process that can be broken down into four steps:

1. Define the characteristics you will use to match study sites to the policy site
2. Search for potential study matches using the Searching Module
3. Refine the search using the Searching Module, and
4. Evaluate the applicability of the studies using the Screening Module

The Searching Module is the doorway to the EVRI. The first screen helps the user to shape the initial search for optimal results by defining the environmental good or service, or human health effect to be valued. The Searching Module define three major categories of information:

- Geographic characteristics
- Economic measure and market characteristics
- Similarity of environmental issues

EVRI - Tutorial - Netscape

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Window Help

http://www.evri.ca/english/tutor2.htm

Search

EVRI Tutorial

Environmental Valuation Reference Inventory

Exit Tutorial

Feedback

more terms or use boolean operators to obtain a smaller set of records. Try this by entering **water AND fish AND oil**. This query will produce only studies which contain **all** the terms requested. A new results map will be displayed.

You may experiment further with the text search before continuing if you wish.

The first is the full text search, which works like an Internet search engine. Simply enter text into the box below, and then click on the search button.

Search

The second method is the Searching Protocol. Click on button below to access this module which allows users to search EVRI using keyword lists, such as year of data or country.

Searching Protocol

On-line Resources (con't)

- e-library resources
  - benefits transfer bibliography
  - downloadable valuation studies in "study link" field in EVRI record

EVRI - Netscape

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Window Help

http://www.evri.ca/english/default.htm

Search

Welcome

Environmental Valuation Reference Inventory

- About EVRI
- Tour EVRI
- Apply for a Subscription *
- Enter EVRI
- Feedback
- e-Library
- EVRI Club
- Data Capture

Benefits Transfer e-Library

To download a file, first right-click on the file name, then from the pop-up menu, left-click on the highlighted "save target as" or "save link as." Next, save the file to your hardrive. Some files are zipped to save download time.

Barton, David N., **1999**, "The Quick, the Cheap and the Dirty: Benefit Transfer Approaches to the Non-market Valuation of Coastal Water Quality in Costa Rica," Dissertation no. 1999:03, Department of Economics and Social Sciences, Agricultural University of Norway BT_Barton.pdf

Bingham, T., Kealy, M.J., David, E., LeBlanc, M., Graham-Tomassi, T., and Leeworthy, R. (eds.), **1992**, "Benefits Transfer: Procedures, Problems, and Research Needs," Proceedings from a 1992 Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Workshop, Snowbird, Utah, June 3-5. BT_US_EPA.zip

Rollins, K. and Ivy, M., **1998**, "The Use of the Environmental Valuation Reference Inventory in the Environmental Assessment Process," a report prepared by the University of Guelph for Environment Canada BT_Rollins.zip

EVRI - Netscape

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Window Help

http://www.evri.ca/evri/english/default.htm

Search

Welcome

Environmental Valuation Reference Inventory

- About EVRI
- Tour EVRI
- Apply for a Subscription
- Enter EVRI
- Feedback
- e-Library
- EVRI Club
- Data Capture

Bookmarks | Thumbnails | Signatures

100%

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH BENEFITS TRANSFER APPLICATION TOOL: THE USE OF PPP AND INFLATION INDICES

FINAL REPORT

Prepared for:
Economic Analysis and Evaluation Division
Office of Policy Coordination and Economic Analysis
Policy and Planning Directorate
Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch
Health Canada

Prepared by:
Subhrendu K. Pattanayak, Julia M. Wing,
Brooks M. Depro and George L. Van Houtven

1 of 19 8.5 x 11 in

Done

EVRI - Screening Module - Netscape

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Window Help

http://www.evri.ca/evri/english/screener/screener.cfm?process=n

Search

Screening Module *Environmental Valuation Reference Inventory*

Navigate Records | Record Management | Search | Session | Help

- Geographic
- Population
- Environment
- Timeliness of Data
- Economic Measure
- Estimated Values
- Abstract
- Complete Study

EVRI Number: 0477-03844 Record 7 of 257

Awang Noor, A.G. and H.O. Mohd. Shahwahid, ***"Forest Pricing Policy in Malaysia"***, Economy an Environment Program for Southeast Asia (EEPSEA) Research Report No. 2002-RR2, International Development Research Centre , 2003

Source of Study:

Economy an Environment Program for Southeast Asia (EEPSEA) Research Report No. 2002-RR2, International Development Research Centre

Date of Reference:

2003, January

Study Link:

http://web.idrc.ca/en/ev-7994-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html

Library Code:

0001047

Record's Status:

Approved

EVRI - Screening Module - Netscape

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Window Help

http://www.evri.ca/evri/english/screener/screener.cfm?process=n

Search

Screening Module *Environmental Valuation Reference Inventory*

Navigate Records | Record Management | Search | Session | Help

- Geographic
- Population
- Environment
- Timeliness of Data
- Economic Measure
- Estimated Values
- Abstract
- Complete Study

EVRI Number: 049-91528 Record 18 of 257

Bateman, I.J., Cooper, P., Georgiou, S., Navrud, S., Poe, G.L., Ready, R.C., Ryan, M. and C.A. Vossler, ***Scope Sensitivity Tests for Preference Robustness: An Empirical Examination of Economic Expectations Regarding the Economic Valuation of Policies for Reducing the Acidity in Remote Mountain Lakes***, CSERGE Working Paper EDM 04-, Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment, University of East Anglia, UK , 2004

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Livelihoods, Vulnerability and

Finding Studies in EVRI

Two search engines:

- ***Freetext Search*** -- searches text in entire record
- ***Searching Protocol*** -- Keyword searches based on fields in record. Generates <u>search map.</u>

- Screening Module
  - Navigation features allow viewing of record fields or entire record → facilitates matching, quality control and locating values

EVRI - Search Module - Netscape

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Window Help

http://www.evri.ca/evri/english/sermod.htm

Search

Searching Module

Environmental Valuation Reference Inventory

- Searching Module
- Capturing Module
- Screening Module
- EVRI Tutorial
- Feedback

You can choose one of the following methods to search EVRI records:

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canal United Kingdom

Search

The second method is the Searching Protocol. Click on button below to access this module which allows users to search EVRI using keyword lists, such as year of data or country.

Searching Protocol

To learn more about performing searches, click on the EVRI

EVRI - Search Module - Netscape

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- EVRI Tutorial
- Feedback

Economic Measure and Market Characteristics

Economic Measure:

price
compensating surplus

Valuation Technique:

All
Count data models

Year of Data:

2003
2004
2005

Type of Study:

primary
secondary/benefits transfers

Search Clear

EVRI - Search Module - Netscape

le Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Window Help

http://www.evri.ca/english/sermod.htm

Search

EVRI

Searching Module

Environmental Valuation Reference Inventory

arching Module

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RI Tutorial

edback

General Environmental Asset:

Air General:

global
local

Land General:

soil
surface mining reclamation
wetlands/constructed wetlands

Water General:

canals
drinking water

Infrastructure / Man-made:

buildings
cultural monuments

Animals:

birds

Plants:

heather
crops

Micro-organisms:

bacteria
fungi

Search Clear

EVRI - Search Module - Netscape

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Window Help

http://www.evri.ca/english/sermod.htm

Search

Searching Module

Environmental Valuation Reference Inventory

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- EVRI Tutorial
- Feedback

Search Map

```
[ASSET:  canals]-11 ──┐
                      ├&-7 ─┐
[COUNTRY:  United Kingdom]-195 ┘      ├&-7 ─┐
[RECORD_LANGUAGE: ENG]-1283 ──────────┘      ├
[REF_DATE: 1995]-92 ─┐                       ├&-4
[REF_DATE: 1996]-94 ─┤                       ├
[REF_DATE: 1997]-68 ─┤                       ├
[REF_DATE: 1998]-70 ─┤                       ├
[REF_DATE: 1999]-81 ─┤                       ├
[REF_DATE: 2000]-62 ─┤-I-730 ────────────────┘
[REF_DATE: 2001]-75 ─┤
[REF_DATE: 2002]-75 ─┤
[REF_DATE: 2003]-62 ─┤
[REF_DATE: 2004]-51 ─┘
```

There are **4** records that match your criteria.

Refine Search

View your results in the Screening Module

Done

EVRI - Screening Module - Netscape

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Window Help

http://www.evri.ca/evri/english/screener/screener.cfm?process=next8

Search

Screening Module *Environmental Valuation Reference Inventory*

Navigate Records | Record Management | Search | Session | Help

- Geographic
- Population
- Environment
- Timeliness of Data
- Economic Measure
- Estimated Values
- Abstract
- Complete Study

EVRI Number: 02157-113127 Record 1 of 4

Adamowicz, W. L., G.D. Garrod, and K.G. Willis, ***"Estimating the Passive Use Benefits of Britain's Inland Waterways"***, Centre for Rural Economy Research Report, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Newcastle , 1995

Study Methods

Type of Study:

primary

Survey/Study Information:

Two distinct versions of the questionnaire were used in the survey. The first employed a standard open-ended contingent valuation (CV) question to elicit respondents' WTP for the maintenance of the canal network for boating, while the second employed a choice experiment (CE) to the same ends. Both versions of the questionnaire were identical apart from the sections used to elicit preferences and valuations for the canal network. All respondents were shown a colour brochure depicting how the canal network would look under each of two maintenance regimes - characterised respectively as the "High Level Maintenance Option" and the "Lower Level Maintenance Option".

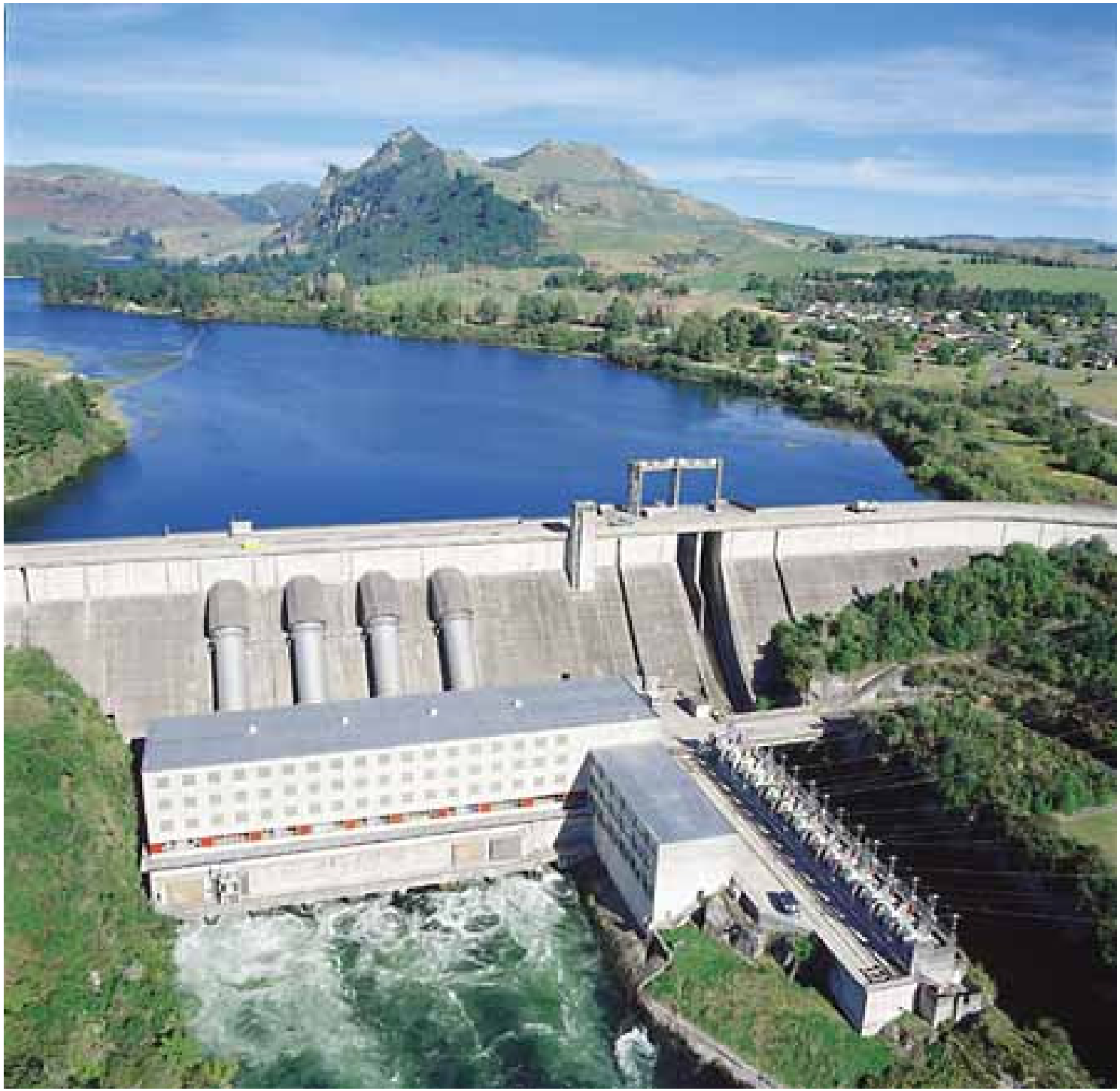
Done

Application

Policy Question: Screening

1) An official from an electricity utility wants to examine the impacts of hydro dams on a variety of water uses: recreation, ecological, tourism.

- Wants to develop long-term analytic capacity to weigh impacts for policy purposes.
- May want to commission studies or develop benefits transfer estimates in short-term
- Utility currently uses physical indicators for decision-making.



EVRI - Search Module - Netscape

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http://www.evri.ca/evri/english/sermod.htm

Search

Searching Module

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You can choose one of the following methods to search EVRI records:

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water dam

Search

The second method is the Searching Protocol. Click on button below to access this module which allows users to search EVRI using keyword lists, such as year of data or country.

Searching Protocol

To learn more about performing searches, click on the EVRI

EVRI - Search Module - Netscape

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Search

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Search Results

Your search results are displayed in the map below.
The number on the right side of the map indicates the number of records that match **all** your search criteria.

Search Map

[FREETEXT: water dam] - 21 -

There are **21** records that match your criteria.

Refine Search
View your results in the Screening Module

EVRI - Screening Module - Netscape

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Window Help

http://www.evri.ca/evri/english/screener/screener.cfm?process=next8

Search

Screening Module *Environmental Valuation Reference Inventory*

Navigate Records | Record Management | Search | Session | Help

- Geographic
- Population
- Environment
- Timeliness of Data
- Economic Measure
- Estimated Values
- Abstract
- Complete Study

EVRI Number: 97127-101533 Record 12 of 21

Loomis, John B., ***"Measuring the Economic Benefits of Removing Dams and Restoring the Elwha River: Results of a Contingent Valuation Survey."***, Water Resources Research. Vol. (32), 2, pp. 441-447. , 1996

Abstract:

English

The objective of the study is to measure the total non-market economic value for restoring Elwha River and its fisheries. A contingent valuation method survey is used to obtain willingness-to-pay estimates for removing two dams on the Elwha River on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington state and restoring the eco-system and fish habitat. The survey sample included residents of Clallam County, the rest of Washington State, and the rest of the United States. A dichotomous choice voter referendum format recovered mean annual values of $59, $73, and $68 for households in Clallam County, the rest of Washington state, and the rest of the United States respectively. Aggregate benefits to residents of Washington State are $138 million annually for 10 years and between $4 and $6 billion for all U.S. households. The study suggests that the general public is willing to pay to remove old dams that block salmon migration.

Done

EVRI Number: 9891-135214 Record 2 of 21

Bjonback, R.D., ***"The Value of Water-Based Recreation Losses Associated With Drought: The Case of Lake Diefenbaker 1984"***, Paper presented at the Canadian Hydrology Symposium (CHS-86), Associate Committee on Hydrology, National Research Council of Canada, June 3-6, 1986, Regina, Saskatchewan , 1986

Extent of Environmental Change:

The baseline was the current conditions at Lake Diefenbaker. Lake levels fluctuate, and are especially low during drought years, due to diversion of water by the Qu'Appelle Valley Dam. The magnitude of change was a program to increase water levels to the best level for recreation purposes.

Environmental Stressor:

infrastructure development/habitat conversion

Specific Environmental Stressor:

Low water levels in Lake Diefenbaker caused by water diversion from the Gardiner and Qu'Appelle dams. These low levels can preclude beach use for aesthetic and safety reasons.

Source of Stressor:

Steps for Benefits Transfer

1) Define service(s)/asset(s) to be valued for policy

2) Iterative search for studies using multiple keywords with both search engines.

3) Screening module to match study sites to policy using criteria:

- Geographic
- Similarity of environmental focus
- Substition effects

4) Quality check using study methods category in EVRI record: techniques; age of study.

5) Provide rationale for selection and table of values

Steps for Benefits Transfer (con't)

6) Adjust international values using Health Canada spreadsheet program.

7) Average if multiple studies or use point value if one study

8) Aggregate using selected methods

- **e.g.** visitor days; /tonne; /hectare
- spatial aggregation or "extent of market."

9) Apply selected discount rates and confidence intervals.

10) Aggregate "total economic value" if multiple services.

Steps for Benefits Transfer (con't)

Case Study

- Environmental assessment triggered by dam and reservoir.
- Purpose of reservoir to create stable water supply : irrigation and municipal drinking water. However, environmental impacts.

Steps for Benefits Transfer (con't)

Environmental Services Identified

1) Recreational use of reservoir**
2) Constructed wetlands (20 hectares)
3) Municipal water supply
4) Loss of downstream fisheries / flow
5) Loss of woodland habitat - endangered species.
6) Improved irrigation – crop production; hay feed

EVRI - Search Module - Netscape

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Window Help

http://www.evri.ca/evri/english/sermod.htm

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reservoir recreation

Search

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Searching Protocol

To learn more about performing searches, click on the EVRI

Steps for Benefits Transfer (con't)

Results of Reservoir search:

- Keywords: reservoir, recreation, dam
- 4 studies located after analysis for similarity with policy site.

Rationale for accepting/rejecting studies

- See table

Steps for Benefits Transfer (con't)

Table 1 -Analysis of Study Site Estimates

Author	Year	Quality	Geography	Type of Recreation	Benefits / trip day	Reject/ Accept
Author a	1984	good	Size of reservoir, proximity, substitute	Boat, Hiking viewing	5 U.S.	reject
Author b	1999	good	"	boating	6 Cdn.	accept
Author c	2001	poor	"	boating	4 Euros	reject
Author d	2004	moderate	"	swimming	2 Br. Pounds	---

Microsoft Excel - PPP_speadsheet.xls

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Data Window Help

Type a question for help

100% Arial 10

Reply with Changes... End Review...

C3 Main Menu

What country is the estimate from?	UNITED STATES	Click here to return to the main menu:
What year is the estimate from?	1997	Main Menu
What type of estimate is it?	Willingness to Pay	
What is the estimate?	3.75	
What country would you like to convert it to?	CANADA	
What year would you like to convert it to? Note: If country you are converting it to is not Canada, the year must be 1970 or greater and 2004 or less	2004	
FINAL ESTIMATE	5	Canadian dollars

Main_Menu / US_Inputs / US CPI / US MCI / CAN_Inputs / CAN_CPI / CAN_MCI / US based PPP / Currencies

Ready NUM

Steps for Benefits Transfer (con't)

- Project managers estimated 30,000 user days per year in new reservoir.
- Annual benefits estimated by multiplying mean benefits per trip day by 30,000
- Used range of discount rates 4% to 6% to estimate benefits over 30-year time horizon
- Used similar methodology to estimate services of other uses, and then summed for "total economic value"

Closing Remarks

- **As a valuation database, EVRI useful for a variety purposes:**
  - **benefits transfer**
  - **e-library or store of knowledge**
  - **policy screening**
- **Long-term commitment to populating and upgrading the database:**
  - **with support of "EVRI Club"**