

Only the text in the *green italics* represents the consensus views of the SAB Committee on Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services and has been approved by the chartered SAB. All other text was provided by individual committee members and is offered to extend and elaborate the very brief descriptions provided in chapter 4 of the SAB Report, *Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Service* and to encourage further deliberation within EPA and the broader scientific community about how to meet the need for an integrated and expanded approach for valuing the protection of ecological systems and services.

Methods using cost as a proxy for value

Excerpt from draft SAB Committee report, Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services: *A fundamental principle in economics is the distinction between benefits and costs. In the context of ecosystem services, economic benefits reflect what is gained by increasing the amount of a given service relative to some baseline, while costs reflect what must be given up in order to achieve that increase. Costs can provide information about benefits or value only under specific and limited conditions. Nonetheless, several methods based on costs have been used in the valuation of ecosystem services.*