Contingent Valuation of the Economic Benefits of Restoring Ecosystem Services of Zhangye Prefecture of Heihe River Basin (CBA:534064)

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Abstract

The Contingent Valuation Method (CVM) is a direct interview approach that can be used to provide acceptable measures of the economic value of recreation opportunities as well as preservation of natural resources. This latter use is unique to contingent valuation. Contingent valuation methods use simulated (hypothetical) markets to identify values similar to actual markets. The experience gained in US and Europe for about three decades shows that CV is a promising technique which could potentially help public decision-making. Lots of empirical studies conducted in various contexts show that the approach is well-accepted by the general public. The authors take it as an tool to analyze the economic benefits of restoring ecosystem service in an impaired river basin, Heihe river basin, which ranks the second large inland river basin in northwest China. To obtain accurate benefit estimates using CVM technique requires detailed descriptions of the resources being valued.