Summary

The CHNEP area encompasses a few of the fastest growing population centers and economies in the entire country. Natural resources within the CHNEP program area play a key role in the popularity and growth of the region. Many individuals are drawn to the area because of its beautiful scenery, warm weather, and recreational activities.

As population pressure grows, it is important to improve our understanding of the connection of natural resources to the economy to better meet the needs of the public. The goal of this project is to conduct an Economic Valuation Study throughout the CHNEP area to quantify the economic activity tied to natural resources (water primarily, as well as wildlife and habitat protection). This correlation will be in terms of tax revenues, jobs, tourism, real estate revenues, and other income generating activities. This project will provide information that allows policy makers to evaluate the existing natural ‘capital’ and its associated services.

CHNEP will be providing the funding necessary for this study to take place, as well as a Distributional Analysis to determine which sectors and communities experience net gains or losses as a result of restoration and land acquisition activities.

Location: CHNEP Area
Partners: CHNEP Management Conference
Implemented: 2019
Status: Ongoing
CHNEP Cost: $100,000
Funding Source: Environmental Protection Agency
2019 CHNEP Plan Activity: Public Engagement 4.1: Provide regular updates to policy makers showcasing use of best available science and examples of success to reinforce the relationship between land use, water resource management decisions, environment, economy, and community.
Anticipated Results and Benefits

**Improved Terrestrial and Aquatic Habitat:**

The Economic Valuation of the CHNEP area will help to establish how continued enhancement and protection of local natural resources (water, wildlife, and habitat) are beneficial to both the economy and the environment.

**Informed Decision Making:**

This project will provide information that helps policy makers evaluate the existing natural ‘capital’ and its associated services and how to balance resource protection and enhancement as an economic driver with other public needs. Outcomes from the Distributional Analysis portion of the project can be used to increase economic equity with regards to funding natural resource protection and restoration throughout the area.

**Enhanced Recreation:**

The outcomes from this project will give local governments a decision-making tool to help them protect natural resources and improve associated recreational activities in a way that will also support economic growth and resiliency to best meet the needs of the public.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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