



USDA-CSREES 2007 National Water Quality Conference

[Water filtration services from forested landscapes: economic valuation of ecosystem services and opt](#)

We suggest an interdisciplinary methodology for using real-world data to value water filtration services provided naturally by forest cover. This methodology links observable land-cover/contaminant profile relationships with landowners' willingness to accept payment to retain/develop forested cover on their property. This leads naturally to development of a cost-effective management strategy for municipalities, in terms of contracting with landowners to maximize the value of the water quality services provided per dollar spent on acquiring natural forest cover. We discuss field implementation of both the valuation methodology and the management strategy using approximately 2 dozen sub-watersheds in western Georgia.

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