

# Proposed Environmental Valuation Forum

## Description & Purpose

- Panel of environmental economists convened to discuss alternative methods for evaluating existing and future costs and benefits associated with environmental resources and their functions.
- Focus on differences of methods results over time (long-term project impact evaluation).
- Explain methods and implications of quantifying qualitative aspects of resource functions and values.
- Clarification of trade-offs implicit in mitigation methods to assist in mitigation planning & evaluation.

## Tentative Co-Sponsors

- Economics Working Group  
(Savannah Harbor Expansion,  
Stakeholder Evaluation Group)
- Center for a Sustainable Coast
- The Georgia Conservancy
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- McIntosh SEED Project
- League of Women Voters
- Glynn Environmental Coalition

Reference Corps of Engineers publication,

### ***A National Dialogue About America's Water Resources Challenges for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.***

"Now is the time to re-examine study methodologies, especially economic principles and guidelines for cost-benefit studies." (Citation from page 20.)

## Morning Session

1. How decisions are made using valuation and how these decisions affect us.
2. The functions and uses of environmental systems supporting human activities.

Food & fiber production – habitat, forestry  
Water storage & filtration  
Flood protection  
Waste processing  
Recreation – passive & active

3. Valuation methods – strengths & weaknesses
4. Case studies in the application of valuation methods to support decisions – Good and Bad
5. Lessons learned: new directions & techniques in environmental valuation

## Afternoon Session

Panel discussion based on questions from participants, submitted in writing and screened by facilitators

NOTE: may be worth structuring the Q&A by suggesting several major categories of questions.

Emphasis on:

- Making valuation methods better understood
- Getting public to understand why valuation is important
- Develop participants' own sense of values, priorities, and consequences (systemic & long term)
- Building confidence in critiquing project assessment and questioning related assumptions
- Strengthen creativity in applying valuation in different settings – local, state, national

Proposed Participant Groups:

- Local chambers of commerce & development authorities
- Property owners & developers
- Local & state elected officials
- Teachers and students
- Concerned citizens and community leaders
- Environmental groups
- Planning commission

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