

Developing Cost and Benefit Decision Making Information for Watershed Stakeholder Groups. (A08-benson134936-Oral)

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Abstract:

Cost/benefit analyses have been done for watersheds of all sizes for the last century. The traditional focus has been on flood control, recreation, and irrigation. Shifting the focus to water quality will require new analytical methods of quantification. The Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) is conducting a holistic assessment of the Shoal Creek watershed in Southwest Missouri to help stakeholders in and outside the watershed identify sources, frequencies, and quantities of pollutants that are impairing Shoal Creek. FAPRI is also analyzing the environmental and economic effectiveness of stakeholder-proposed alternatives from farm, watershed, and regional perspectives. The Shoal Creek assessment will be a prototype of analyses that will quantify many of the costs and benefits associated with enhancing and maintaining water quality. To help develop an equitable allocation of costs among the stakeholders, the benefits and costs will be assessed by stakeholder group.

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