



Supplementary Materials

Advancing Nature-Based Solutions Part 1: Integrating Ecological Economics into Watershed Restoration Projects Hosted on Feb. 25, 2026

RESOURCES SHARED DURING THE SESSION

- [Earth Economics' Data Needs Template](#)
- [EPA Ecosystem Services Research and Decision-Making Tools](#)
- [i-Tree tools](#), USDA Forest Service tools to estimate tree benefits
- [InVEST](#), a suite of free, open-source software models used to map and value the goods and services from nature.
- [OMB Circular on the development of regulatory analysis](#) (including economic benefits analysis)
- [Aries \(Artificial Intelligence for Environment & Sustainability\)](#), leverages the power of AI to advance research, innovation, and solutions for environmental sustainability.
- Our presenting organizations:
 - [Earth Economics](#)
 - [Groundwork USA](#)
 - [River Network](#)
 - [Urban Waters Learning Network](#)

CHAT Q&A

Question: Curious if/how these results have changed the types of projects you're investing in? (e.g., prioritizing projects with higher \$ return)

Answer: Great question. We definitely provide the ROIs when we talk through possibilities for a given site, but ultimately our Network's goal is to serve community priorities - so a solution with a high ROI could not be what the community selects for a given place - but they at least have the information to make an informed choice.

Question: How is this process refined from the older more anthropogenic natural capital approaches? Is there inherent value for other species factored in? Consideration for Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge?

Answer: Great question! This will vary based on the audience of the valuation, but we often find ways to adjust our approach and framework especially when we work with Tribes and First Nations. You can find additional information here - <https://www.eartheconomics.org/indigenous-partners>.

Question: What's a price range for Earth Economics to provide an ecological valuation of say a 1-acre park project? We need to know this to be able to advocate to decision makers to add this scope to the project work.

Answer: We have different rates for grants or contracts, but at a base this can be \$10-\$15K. The best will be to send us an email at omolden@eartheconomics.org

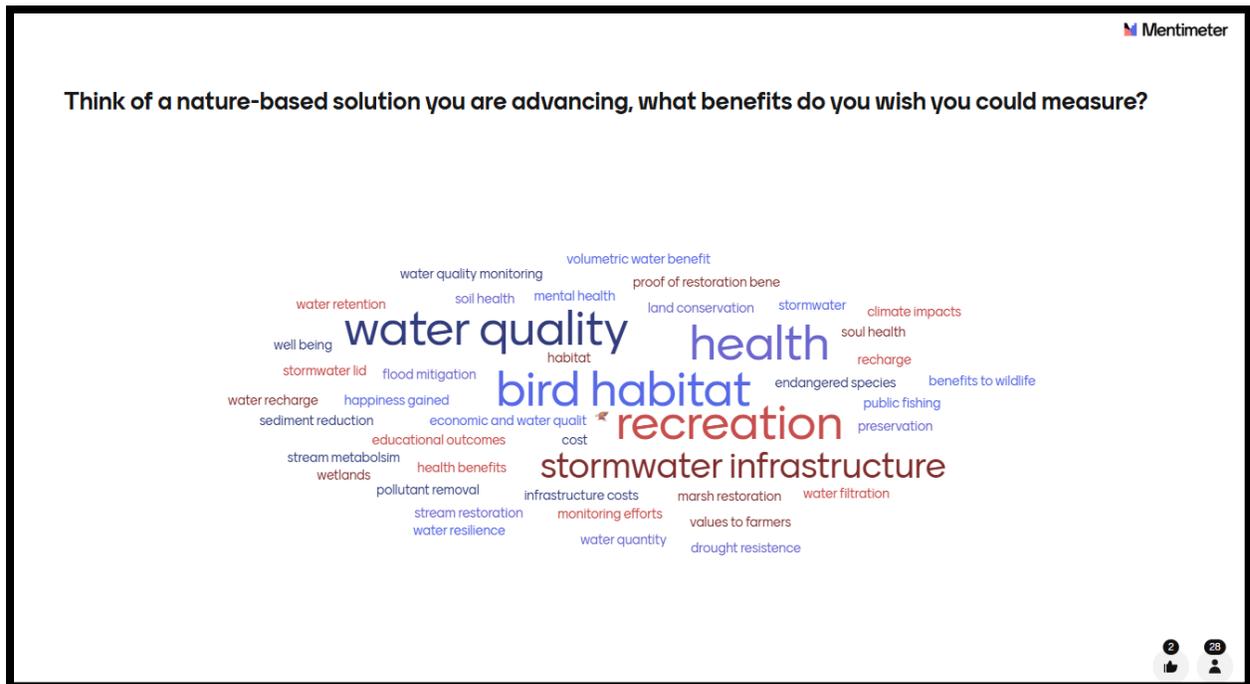
Question: How often are assumptions used in previous research re-evaluated to ensure current use of "values" are still accurate?

Answer: We assess each study based on landcover, service, and the study age/ limitations etc.

Question: Methods for quantifying flood storage for stream/floodplain restoration without detailed hydrology and hydraulic modeling? screening level?

Answer: It is possible, but depends on the need - see an example here <https://www.lcfeg.org/economicimpactreport>

PARTICIPANT INPUT (VIA MENTIMETER)



What would you do with that information?

- help with fundraising for projects
- Advocacy, Funding support.
- Share with engineering associations, nonprofits, and universities
- help to potentially direct more funding into preserving and conserving open space and understanding how those benefits could be compared to other projects (e.g. affordable housing, solar farms)
- Part of project fundraising pitch.
- add to the project balance sheet.
- Educate
- Make a case for grant-funding
- Educate clients and policy makers
- share with partners like municipalities who have to weight the bottom line
- help others understand all the types of benefits

What would you do with that information?

- Demonstrate project or program value to leadership, decision makers
- advocacy to state and funding agencies
- Convince decision makers to implement more NbS over traditional
- Help assure source water users are supporting land conservation
- Determine endowment amounts for long term stewardship.
- Mobilizing political will/advocacy
- get supporting/funding for more ecological restoration on larger scales, everywhere
- Convey successes and impact for national scale funding program to policy makers and congress
- fundraising
- influence policy on rivers
- Funding support
- outreach

What would you do with that information?

- ecological restoration on larger scales, everywhere
- national scale funding program to policy makers and congress
- outreach
- influence policy on rivers
- Funding support
- Help inform engineering decisions
- advocacy
- show value to public officials
- hopefully receive more grant funding!
- convince downstream landowners to support upstream restoration
- Biodiversity