

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Wetlands: Targeting Public Investments for Cost-Effective Conservation

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) ERR

Agency: Economic Research Service [X] Influential Scientific Information
USDA [] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

Agency Contact: Daniel Pick, dpick@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: Public interest in wetland ecosystems has resulted in legislation that restricts wetland conversions and funds wetland conservation. The USDA has spent more than \$2 billion on wetland restoration and preservation over the last two decades. This large conservation effort has produced a variety of environmental outputs such as cleaner water, increased wildlife populations, and increased carbon sequestration. Benefits of wetlands are highly variable depending on their location and characteristics, as is the cost of restoring and preserving them. To make the most of public funds for wetlands conservation requires geospatial information of their benefits and costs. This report provides county- and sub-county-level estimates of the environmental outcomes, and, in some cases, economic values of wetlands' impacts, as well as county-level estimates of the expected costs of restoring and preserving wetlands.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [] Panel Review [X] Individual Reviewers

[] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 1/24/13 End: 04/01/13 Completed: 11/06/13

Number of Reviewers: [] 3 or fewer [X] 4 to 10 [] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency [] Designated Outside Organization
Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? [] Yes [X] No

If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

How:

When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? [] Yes [X] No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? [] Yes [X] No

