FROM THE PRESIDENT...

This is an exciting time for AERE. We are on the verge of launching a new journal, Review of Environmental Economics and Policy (REEP). The editors will be Rob Stavins (Harvard), Carlos Carraro (Venice and FEEM), and Charles Kolstad (UC Santa Barbara) with Rob taking the lead. Our new journal seeks to fill a niche similar to the Journal of Economic Perspectives by publishing less technically oriented papers that will help advance the policy debate on key environmental and natural resource issues.

My other major announcement on the publication front is that Chuck Mason (Wyoming) will take over the reigns as managing editor of the Journal of Environmental Economics and Management (JEEM) from Joe Herriges (Iowa State). AERE owes Joe a deep debt of gratitude for having simultaneously run an exceptionally efficient operation in terms of the length of review time while maintaining the very high quality level of papers that have come to characterize the journal as the leader in its field. The only way that this can continue is for AERE members to pitch in and help Chuck and his coeditors with keeping the review process quick and rigorous.

Meetings and workshops serve as the other main outlet for AERE members to present their work. J.R. DeShazo (UCLA) has served as the program chair for AERE in organizing what looks to be an excellent set of papers for the AERE sessions at the Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA) meeting in January. Details appear on page 10 in this newsletter. We requested and have been told that we will receive a larger room for the AERE sessions that have had much higher attendance numbers relative to most other sessions in recent years. In fact, standing room only was the norm at the Philadelphia meeting last year. This month there will be ten AERE sessions at the Southern Economics Association meeting in Washington, DC that were organized by John Whitehead (Appalachian State)—see page 13.

Earlier this year, AERE put on a successful workshop in June on “Natural Resources at Risk” which was held at the Grand Teton National Park and organized by Gardner Brown (Univ. of Washington). J.R. DeShazo and his committee also organized an interesting set of sessions for AERE at the American...
Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) summer meeting in Providence, Rhode Island in July. There was a reception in Providence for AERE members that was well attended. At this meeting, Marilyn Voigt, AERE’s Executive Director, and I met with Yvonne Bennett, AAEA’s Executive Director, on issues related to making the AAEA’s management of AERE’s routine operations, such as membership renewal, run as smooth as possibly.

As I noted in my previous column, a number of other ongoing workshops, boot camps, and small conferences on environmental/resource economics issues have sprung up. I recently attended one of these, the 8th Occasional California Workshop on Environmental and Resource Economics hosted by UC Santa Barbara’s Bren School of Environmental Science and Management. There was an excellent set of papers and the number of participants had increased dramatically (over 120) from previous meetings. AERE salutes the efforts of the organizers of these meetings and believes that they are playing an increasingly important role as a forum for AERE members presenting their papers and for younger scholars to get feedback on their work.

The AERE luncheon and annual meeting takes place on Saturday, January 7th, at the Sheraton Boston Hotel and promises to be particularly interesting this year. The first set of six AERE Fellows will be inducted. In addition, the new president-elect and board members of AERE will be announced, Ann Wolverton (EPA) will be officially introduced as Secretary (she replaces David Austin (CBO) who has provided dedicated service as AERE Secretary since 1999), and the award for the Publication of Enduring Quality will be presented. The Committee, chaired by Andrew Plantinga (Oregon State), has made an excellent choice for this year’s award. Sign up now, you can register and pay on-line at our web site: www.aere.org.

This summer, AERE will not put on its usual workshop because we are one of the main sponsors of the Third World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists that will take place July 3-7, 2006 in Kyoto, Japan. The deadline for paper submission is February 1, 2006. Further details along with the web address can be found on page 9. Kyoto is a truly beautiful city and this is an event no one will want to miss.

The Petry Research Prize for the best paper published in the area of climate change during the last three years will be awarded at the Third World Congress. The deadline for submissions is April 15th. I invite you to make a nomination to the Chair of the prize committee, Charlie Kolstad.

Since the May newsletter, we have had three new University Members of AERE join the program for 2005. They are CENREp, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, North Carolina State University; the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management; and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In addition, the USDA ERS has awarded a $5,000 Cooperative Agreement to AERE. We are very grateful to all our supporters.

Finally, I am sorry to have to conclude with an announcement of the deaths of Peter Bohm and David Pearce, two of AERE’s long-standing members from Europe. Peter was at the University of Stockholm and worked on a wide range of topics including pioneering experiments on public goods, instrument design and climate change. David Pearce was at University College, London and worked on issues ranging from non-market valuation to tropical deforestation. Both Peter and David played prominent roles in advancing the role of environmental economics in policymaking. They will clearly be missed.
The annual meeting of the AERE Board of Directors will be held on Friday, January 6th, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Boston Hotel in the Jefferson Room. Anyone with matters to be brought before the Board should contact the president, Richard T. Carson (see contact information above).

All 2005 members of AERE as well as recent new members are invited to attend the annual meeting and luncheon on Saturday, January 7th from noon to 2:15 p.m. at the Sheraton Boston Hotel in the Commonwealth Room. This is a very popular annual event and a great chance to get together with old and new friends. Luncheon reservation forms have been mailed to all current members of AERE and a form is also posted on the AERE Web Page with the option to pay on-line by credit card. Return the form to the AERE Membership Office in Ames, Iowa by Thursday, December 22nd, to hold your place. Please make your reservation on time as we are unable to guarantee seating for walk-ins.

AERE has instituted a new program to recognize outstanding contributions to the field by members of the association. Details are given below.

Criteria: Awardees will have demonstrated a significant contribution to the advancement of the profession of environmental and resource economics. A candidate must be living at the time of nomination and be a current member of the association or have been a member for at least ten years (not necessarily continuously).

Nomination Process: Any member of AERE can nominate a candidate for Fellow. A nomination packet should include a vita of the nominee, three letters of support, and a two-page nomination letter outlining what contributions the individual has made that warrant the award. In addition, members of the AERE Board of Directors can consider candidates that have not been otherwise nominated that they feel are especially worthy.

Selection Process: Nomination packages are to be submitted by June 1 to:

Richard T. Carson  
Department of Economics, 0508  
University of California, San Diego  
La Jolla, CA 92093-0518  
rcarson@ucsd.edu

The president will distribute copies to each of the Board members who will select newly appointed Fellows from the set of nominations. Nominations will not be carried over to future years. Announcements of the new Fellows will be made formally at the annual AERE luncheon; newly elected Fellows will be notified ahead of time to provide ample time for travel arrangements. In future years, a separate Fellows Committee may be impaneled to aid in the initial screening of candidates.

Maximum Number of Awards: Three per year after the third year. In the first three years, up to six Fellows can be selected per year.

Please direct any questions or requests regarding your membership, subscription to JEEM, luncheon reservations, receipts, or related membership matters to:

AERE Membership Office  
415 S Duff Avenue, Suite C  
Ames, IA 50010-6600  
Telephone: 515-598-5028  
Fax: 515-233-3101  
E-mail: info@aere.org

Marilyn M. Voigt, AERE’s Executive Director, can be reached at:

AERE  
1616 P Street NW, Box 6  
Washington, DC 20036-1400  
Telephone: 202-328-5125  
Fax: 202-939-3460  
E-mail: voigt@rff.org
AERE HOME PAGE

AERE can be found on the world wide web at: http://www.aere.org.

The AERE Home Page is a valuable resource. It provides information about membership, the *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* (JEEM), a list of AERE members with web pages, graduate programs in environmental and resource economics, meetings and workshops, job opportunities, on-line discussion lists, and WWW links of interest. There is also an archive of AERE newsletters (1998-present). Only highlights of the most recent issue will be posted, however, since only current AERE members receive copies of the latest issue (now sent electronically). Members may access the AERE Handbook and Directory using the membership code. (All members were sent a letter containing the code—please contact Marilyn M. Voigt (voigt@rff.org) if you have misplaced it.

Sincere thanks goes to the AERE webmaster, Gernot Wagner, who volunteers his time to keep the site current. Please direct conference and meeting listings, links, personal web pages, etc. to Gernot at: webmaster@aere.org. Contact Marilyn Voigt, AERE Executive Director, for information about the cost of placing announcements about jobs and graduate programs on the AERE Web.

AERE WORKSHOP 2005

The 2005 AERE summer workshop was held at the Grand Teton Lodge in the Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, on June 12-14. The topic this year was “Natural Resources at Risk.” The workshop was judged to be a great success by the 37 participants. The 2005 Workshop Committee wisely chose excellent papers which were well presented, followed by unusually responsible discussants for the most part, and the ensuing discussions were helpful and probing. There was substantial intellectual energy, many said, in large part because of the small size of the group. The lodge was distinctive, the food excellent, the setting against the backdrop of the Teton Mountain Range was exceptional, and hiking and wildlife observation was restorative.

Fourteen papers spanning more than eight types of resources made up this workshop. It is a noteworthy development that more than half of the papers explicitly modeled a spatial dimension and seven introduced stochasticity. In this way, natural resource models are growing more complex, and if this workshop is any indication, multiple and related resources are replacing single resource studies. It is striking how much biological and ecological content showed up in this set of papers, particularly in the presentations, including several metapopulation models. (Part of one paper modeled the fecundity of gametes, for example.) Many of the workshop papers had empirical sections to support the theoretical analysis, and there was an emphasis on policy choice.

All papers had multiple authors, while nine of the fourteen had more than two authors, a phenomenon partly due to some interdisciplinary focus, but perhaps also arising from joining researchers, each with a different comparative advantage. The workshop provided a forum for advanced graduate students and others to present work in progress. Typically, they received helpful feedback.

The titles of the sessions provide a flavor of the topics: biodiversity loss, introduced and invasive species, The Endangered Species Act, soil and water conservation, habitat management, management with a resources portfolio and resource options in a world of contingent markets, spatial management, managing private and public related goods and health benefits from risk reduction.

We are extremely grateful for the support provided by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Gardner Brown, University of Washington

2005 Workshop Committee:

Gardner Brown, Chair
John Charbonneau, U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
Don Fullerton, The University of Texas at Austin
Norman Meade, U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
David Zilberman, University of California, Berkeley

THE 2006 PETRY RESEARCH PRIZE FOR THE ECONOMICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

AERE announces the Petry Research Prize for the Economics of Climate Change. The purpose of the prize is to encourage and recognize international research on the economic consequences of increased atmospheric
concentrations of greenhouse gases. This prize is made possible by the generous support of Dr. Glen Petry of Bend, Oregon.

**Eligibility:** A prize of $7,500 will be awarded for a scholarly paper published within the previous three calendar years on the economics of climate change. Economic issues can include the costs imposed by higher global temperatures or related climate effects, benefits and costs of actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, direct and secondary economic consequences of adapting or failing to adapt to climate change, international aspects of climate policy and other related topics. The paper may be theoretical or empirical but should have clear policy implications.

**Criteria:** The winning paper will be selected on the following criteria: (1) quality of the research; (2) originality of methodology; and (3) scope of the investigated effect. Research on a small segment of the economy would be less important to the award than research on a broader economic effect. Research focused on a specific sector is acceptable if the paper provides an especially rigorous or original application with broader implications. Papers should be published in a peer reviewed journal.

**Nominations:** A paper must be nominated to be considered. Nominations should be sent to Professor Charles Kolstad, Donald Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-5131 by April 15, 2006. Authors and nominators need not be members of AERE.

**Award Committee:** Charles Kolstad (University of California, Santa Barbara, Chair), Carlo Carraro (University of Venice and Fondazione ENI Enrico Mattei), and Richard Somerville (University of California, San Diego).

**Award Announcement:** The Petry Research Prize will be announced in July 2006 at the World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists.

**Dr. Glen Petry** is Professor Emeritus of Finance at Washington State University. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Colorado in 1974 and now lives in Bend Oregon. He has had a life long interest in the outdoors and environmental causes, though his professional research has been in the areas of acquisition and mergers, valuation, and financial education and he has worked as a real estate developer. He is originally from Pennsylvania and came west in 1966, having lived in California, Oregon, Colorado, and Washington.

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**INSTITUTIONAL AND UNIVERSITY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM**

The AERE Officers and Board of Directors invite research institutions, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and corporations to become *Institutional Members of AERE* and colleges, universities, and university research centers to become *University Members of AERE*.

Intellectual entrepreneurship is a distinguishing characteristic of AERE. Equally important, AERE research activities also display a remarkable degree of involvement with other disciplines because the issues require it. But the dues of its individual members are not sufficient to support the growing needs of the organization. AERE needs the help of organizations involved in the same fields of interest to help with its programs and outreach to students and young professionals in both the U.S. and overseas. In addition, financial support will help with the increasing costs of managing membership services including the membership database, journal subscriptions, and workshop and annual meeting registrations among other association costs.

To become an *Institutional Member of AERE*, a contribution of $1,000 is required. With this contribution, institutions may:

- designate one staff member to receive a 2006 individual membership in AERE (which includes a print and electronic subscription to *JEEM*, the bi-annual *AERE Newsletter* and a reduced fee for submitting articles to *JEEM*);
- be entitled to a sponsorship listing on the AERE Web Page (www.AERE.org), in the AERE Newsletter, and every issue of *JEEM*;
- receive one free advertisement this year on the AERE Web Page and in the AERE Newsletter (a savings of $250);
- receive two nontransferable tickets for institution staff to the annual AERE luncheon and business meeting;
- receive one nontransferable registration for institution staff to the annual AERE Workshop;
- receive recognition at the annual AERE luncheon and business meeting.
To become a University Member of AERE, a contribution of $350 is required. With this contribution, colleges and universities may:

- designate one faculty member to receive a 2006 individual membership in AERE (which includes a print and electronic subscription to JEEM, the bi-annual AERE Newsletter, and a reduced fee for submitting an article to JEEM);
- be entitled to a sponsorship listing on the AERE Web Page (www.AERE.org) and in the AERE Newsletter and JEEM;
- receive one free advertisement this year on the AERE Web Page and in the AERE Newsletter (a savings of $250).

Please see the list below of the organizations who have already joined this program. If you think your institution would be interested in supporting AERE through this program, please contact Marilyn M. Voigt, AERE Executive Director (voigt@rff.org).

### AERE COMMITTEES 2005

**Nominating:**
- John K. Horowitz, Chair
- John Loomis
- Kathleen Segerson

**Program:**
- J.R. DeShazo, Chair
- Nicholas Flores
- Carolyn Fischer

**Publication of Enduring Quality:**
- Andrew Plantinga, Chair
- Scott Barrett
- Glenn Blomquist

**Workshop:**
- Gardner Brown, Chair
- John Charbonneau
- Don Fullerton
- Norman Meade
- David Zilberman

### 2005 INSTITUTIONAL AND UNIVERSITY MEMBERS OF AERE

On behalf of AERE, the AERE Officers and Board of Directors extend sincere appreciation to the following organizations who have become Institutional or University Members of AERE and whose support helps with developing programs and outreach to students and young professionals in both the U.S. and overseas and with maintaining membership services.

**Institutional Members**

- Industrial Economics, Inc.
- Resources for the Future (RFF)
- Stratus Consulting, Inc.

**University Members**

- Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management
- CEnREP, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, North Carolina State University
- The Environmental Economics Program at Harvard University (EEPHU)
- Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics, University of California
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- University of Alberta
- Department of Economics, University of California, San Diego
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Maryland, College Park
CALLS FOR PAPERS AND PROPOSALS

GAME THEORY AND PRACTICE

July 10-12, 2006
Zaragoza, Spain

The second call for papers for the 6th Meeting on Game Theory & Practice in Development, Natural Resources and Environment in Zaragoza, Spain, on July 10-12, 2006, can be found at:

http://www.iamz.ciheam.org/GTP2006/

The timetable for papers:
January 10, 2006: Short papers due
February 15, 2006: Acceptance decision sent
April 30, 2006: Full papers due

New items that were added include:
1. Four guest speakers and the topics of their keynotes
2. Three tutorials
3. A round table discussion that will be used to initiate future joint work among participants
4. Information about scholarships

The Organizing Committee would also like to bring to the attention of participants in the 3rd World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists in Japan that the timing of this meeting was planned to fit that schedule. Participants can return from Kyoto, Japan, relax and spend three more days in Zaragoza in a Game environment.

Ariel Dinar
World Bank
1818 H Street NW
Room MC 5-717, Mail Stop MC5-515
Washington DC 20433
Phone: 202 473 0434
Fax: 202 614 0793
E-mail: adinar@worldbank.org

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMISTS (EAERE)

Call for Proposals

Local Organizing Committee and Conference Venue

The European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE) solicits proposals for the Local Organizing Committee and for the Conference Venue for its 16th Annual Conference, tentatively to be held in late June 2008.

Proposals are solicited from universities, research organizations, groups of organizations, or individuals, that can assume all of the administrative, organizational and financial responsibilities listed in the "Guidelines for Applications" available in the EAERE web site at:


The Guidelines also contain detailed instructions on how to apply.

Expressions of interest and proposals should be sent by e-mail to the EAERE Secretariat at the address below. Any material that cannot be sent electronically may be sent by postal mail or fax. All submissions must be in accordance with the deadlines indicated below. Selections will be made by the EAERE Council.

Expressions of interest and proposals should be sent to:

EAERE
Secretariat Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei
Castello, 5252
I-30122 Venice
Italy
Phone: +39.041.2711458
Fax: +39.041.2711461
e-mail: eaere@eaere.org

Deadlines for Expressions of Interest:
November 15, 2005
Deadline for Proposals:
February 15, 2006

VISIT http://www.worldbank.org/grouponei
Group on Economic Incentives

VISIT http://www.iamz.ciheam.org/GTP2006/ 
6th Meeting on Game Theory & Practice in Development, Natural Resources and Environment, Zaragoza Spain July 10-12, 2006

VISIT http://www.worldbank.org/riverbasinmanagement
The **AERE Newsletter** is soliciting essays about natural resource and environmental economics issues of general interest to the membership. These essays can be relatively short (6-10 double spaced pages) and address a topic that does not fit into the traditional journal outlet. There is currently no backlog, so your essay would likely be published in the following **AERE Newsletter**. Marilyn Voigt and I need your essay in February for the May issue and August for the November issue. If you wish to float an idea by me, feel free to contact me.

**John Loomis**  
*AERE* Newsletter Co-Editor  
jloomis@lamar.colostate.edu  
Telephone: 970-491-2485

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**AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION (AAEA)**

**July 23-26, 2006**  
**Long Beach, California**

The 2006 Summer meeting of the AAEA will be held in Long Beach, California, on July 23-26, 2006. Nicholas Flores from the University of Colorado at Boulder is serving as chair of the AERE Program Committee. All submissions are to be sent electronically via e-mail. Only .pdf files will be accepted as electronic format. No submissions will be accepted via facsimile or postal mail.

Authors wishing to have a paper considered for the AERE sessions should send a 2-3 page .pdf file by e-mail to:

**Nicholas Flores at floresn@stripe.colorado.edu**  
(With AERE AAEA in the subject line of the e-mail)

The file should contain the following information:  
(I) name and institutional affiliation of paper presenter and co-author(s);  
(II) title of paper;  
(III) address and e-mail address of paper presenter;  
(IV) up to six key words;  
(V) JEL codes;  
(VI) long abstract of the paper (about 1,000 words).

Papers submitted without all the required information will not be considered. Electronic acknowledgements of submissions will be sent to all submitters. The deadline to submit is **December 31, 2005**.

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**ALLIED SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS (ASSA)**

**January 5-7, 2007**  
**Chicago, Illinois**

The 2007 Winter meeting of the ASSA will be held in Chicago, Illinois on January 5-7, 2007. Nicholas Flores from the University of Colorado at Boulder is serving as chair of the AERE Program Committee. All submissions are to be sent electronically via e-mail. Only .pdf files will be accepted as electronic format. No submissions will be accepted via facsimile or postal mail.

Authors wishing to have a paper considered for the AERE sessions should send a 2-3 page .pdf file by e-mail to:

**Nicholas Flores at floresn@stripe.colorado.edu**  
(With AERE ASSA in the subject line of the e-mail)

The file should contain the following information:  
(I) name and institutional affiliation of paper presenter and co-author(s);  
(II) title of paper;  
(III) address and e-mail address of paper presenter;  
(IV) up to six key words;  
(V) JEL codes;  
(VI) long abstract of the paper (about 1,000 words).

Papers submitted without all the required information will not be considered. Electronic acknowledgements of submissions will be sent to all submitters. The deadline to submit is **March 31, 2006**.

Proposals for complete sessions are also encouraged. Organizers of proposed sessions should submit abstracts of papers following the above instructions. Papers may be accepted or rejected on an individual basis unless the organizer specifically requests the session be considered only in its entirety.

**Nicholas E. Flores**  
Department of Economics  
University of Colorado at Boulder
Call for Papers

The main purpose of the *International Journal of Ecological Economics & Statistics (IJEES)* is to publish refereed, well-written original research articles and studies that describe the latest research and developments in ecological economics and statistics. *IJEES* is an interdisciplinary research journal. It covers the many potential applications and connections to other areas of science and technology such as the use and development of mathematical/statistical modeling.

*IJEES* is published three times a year in Winter, Spring, and Fall by the Centre for Environment, Science and Economic Research (CESER).

A special issue is being published in honor of Professor Charles Perrings. The purpose of this issue is to honor his outstanding work and fundamental contributions on ecological and environmental economics. Papers are solicited for the special issue within the scope of IJEES or research interests of Professor Perrings. The deadline for submissions for this issue is **January 15, 2006**.

See the web site for additional information and submission requirements:

[http://www.geocities.com/ceser_info](http://www.geocities.com/ceser_info)

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Call for Papers

The Third World Congress will be held at the Kyoto International Conference Hall in July 2006, organized by the Society of Environmental Economics and Policy Studies (SEEPS), the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE), and the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE) in cooperation with the Latin American and Caribbean Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (ALEAR).

We invite you to submit theoretical and empirical papers that focus on environmental and natural resource economics. The closing date for submission of papers is **February 1, 2006**. Authors will be notified of acceptance of their papers by early April 2006. The number of submissions per person is unlimited, but the maximum number of presentation per person will be limited to one. Authors must register for the Congress in order for the paper to be included in the program (the web page for registration will be available later). Paper submission is electronic, and is done through the web site:


We also welcome your contributions to organize sessions. Please send your proposals with detailed information on the aim and significance of the session and lists of possible speakers to:

wc3-info@congre.co.jp

**Takamitsu SAWA**  
Chair of Organizing Committee  
Kyoto University  
Institute of Economic Research
MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

ALLIED SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS (ASSA)

January 6-8, 2006
Boston, Massachusetts

Consequences of Urban Structure on Environmental Amenities

ODE: C11, Q58, R21

Presiding: J.R. DeShazo
University of California, Los Angeles

Josh Sidon, University of Colorado at Boulder: Environmental Injustice and Residential Segregation: Investigating the Link

H. Spencer Banzhaf, Resources for the Future; Nicholas Flores, Randall P. Walsh, Joshua Sidon, University of Colorado at Boulder: Neighborhood Choice and Endogenous Demographics: Implications for Environmental Justice

Maximilian Auffhammer, University of California (UC), Berkeley; Antonio M. Bento, University of Maryland, College Park; Scott Lowe, UC, Santa Barbara: What Drives the Changes in the Spatial Distribution of Particulate Matter in California Between 1990 and 2000? A Political Economy Approach

Matthew A. Turner, University of Toronto; Henry G. Overman, London School of Economics; Diego Puga and Jean Eid, University of Toronto: Fat City: The Relationship Between Urban Sprawl and Obesity

Discussants:
Christopher Timmins, Duke University
Trudy Cameron, University of Oregon
Matthew Khan, Tufts University

Innovations in Environmental Valuation Methods

ODE: Q26, Q51

Presiding: Richard Carson
UC, San Diego

Brooks Depro, RTI International; Subhrendu K. Pattanayak, RTI International and North Carolina State University; George Van Houtven, RTI International: Benefits Transfer of the Third Kind: Why Bother with Structural Benefits Transfer!

J.R. DeShazo, UCLA; Trudy A. Cameron, University of Oregon: The Effects of Health Status on the Demand for Morbidity and Mortality Risk Reductions

Min Qiang Zhao, The Ohio State University; Ju-Chin Huang, University of New Hampshire: Welfare Analysis in Discrete Choice Models: A Monte Carlo Simulation Study

Klaus Moeltner, University of Nevada, Reno: The Econometric Properties of Meta-Estimators-Implications for Benefit Transfer in Resource Valuation

Discussants:
Anna Alberini, University of Maryland, College Park
V. Kerry Smith, North Carolina State University

Economics of Renewable Resource Management

ODE: H41, Q57, Q58

Presiding: Jason Shogren, University of Wyoming

Christian Langpap, Tulane University; Joe Kerkvliet, Oregon University: Could Noah Do Better? Applying the Economics of Biodiversity to the Endangered Species Act

David J. Lewis and Junjie Wu, Oregon State University: Optimal Landscape Conservation with Habitat Fragmentation Effects

Heidi J. Albers, Oregon State University; Amy W. Ando, University of Illinois: Private Land Conservation with Strategic Behavior and Spatial Externalities
Atle G. Guttormsen, Dadi Kristofersson, and Eric Naevdal, Norwegian University of Life Sciences:  
Managing Genetic Resources for Fun and Profit: Interest Rates and Evolutionary Selection in the  
Management of Resources

Discussants:  
David Finnoff, University of Wyoming  
Amy Ando, University of Illinois  
Michael Roberts, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Environmental Research Service  
Nicholas Flores, University of Colorado at Boulder

Frontiers in Recreational Demand Modeling

ODE: Q26, Q51

Presiding: Trudy Cameron, University of Oregon

Daniel Phaneuf, Raymond B. Palmquist, and V. Kerry Smith, North Carolina State University:  
A Structural Approach to Combining Property Value and Recreation Data for Valuing Water Quality

Christopher Timmins, Duke University; Jennifer Murdock, University of Toronto:  
A Revealed Preference Approach to the Measurement of Congestion in Travel Cost Models

Koichi Kuriyama, Waseda University; Michael Hanemann, UC, Berkeley:  
Spatial and Temporal Substitution of Recreation Demand with Corner Solution:  Dynamic Kuhn-Tucker Model

Matt Massey and Steve Newbold, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:  
Water Quality and Recreational Fishing:  An Examination of the Effects of Using Temporally Aggregated Water Quality Measures

Discussants:  
Klaus Moeltner, University of Nevada, Reno  
Paul Jakus, Utah State University  
Daniel Phaneuf, North Carolina State University  
Madhu Khanna, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Air Pollution Prevention Policy Design

ODE: Q01, Q52, Q58

Presiding: Dietrich Earnhart, University of Kansas

Gloria E. Helfand, Michael R. Moore, and Yimin Liu, University of Michigan:  
Testing for Efficiency of the SO₂ Allowance Market

Erin Baker and Ekundayo Shittu, University of Massachusetts, Amherst:  
Profit-Maximizing R & D in Response to a Random Carbon Tax

Rula Qalyoubi Kemp, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire:  
Emission-Related Repairs in Centralized and Decentralized I/M Programs

Peter Reinelt, State University of New York; David Keith, University of Calgary:  
Investment in the U.S. Power Generation Facilities under Uncertain Future CO₂ Regulation and Natural Gas Prices:  Timing of Plant Retirement and New Technology Choice

Discussants:  
Dallas Burtraw, Resources for the Future  
David Popp, Syracuse University and NBER  
Shanti Gamper-Rabindran, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Nathaniel O. Keohane, Yale University

Improving the Validity of Non-Market Valuation through Laboratory Experiments and Psychology

ODE: Q51, 53

Presiding: J.R. DeShazo, UCLA

John List, Michael Price, and Andreas Lange, University of Maryland, College Park:  
Funding Public Goods Via Lotteries:  Evidence from Field Experiments

David Kingsley, University of Colorado:  
Preference Uncertainty in Paired Comparison Experiments

Joel Huber, Duke University; W. Kip Viscusi, Harvard University; Jason Bell, Duke University:  
Assessing Task and Context Effects in Iterative Choices

Todd Cherry and Jason Shogren, University of Wyoming:  
Rationality Spillovers
**Discussants:**
- James Andreoni, University of Madison at Wisconsin
- Joel Huber, Duke University
- Victor Adamowicz, University of Alberta
- Laura Taylor, Georgia State University

**Corporate Environmental Performance**

ODE: Q01, Q52, Q58

**Presiding:** Linda Bui, Brandeis University

Akira Hibiki, National Institute for Environmental Studies; Shunsuke Managi, Yokohama National University: *Information Provision Policy and its Effect on the Financial Market: Empirical Study on PRTRs in Japan*

Shanti Gamper-Rabindran, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: *Do Plants Respond to State-Level TRI Rankings by Reducing Their Health-Indexed Emissions or Instead by Substituting Across Media and Chemicals?*

Madhu Khanna and Diah Widyawati, University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign: *Regulatory and Non-Regulatory Incentives for Compliance*

**Discussants:**
- Geoff Heal, Columbia University
- Ann Wolverton, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Alex Pfaff, Columbia University
- Wayne Gray, Clark University

**Political Economy of Natural Resource Management**

ODE: R14, Q24, H41

**Presiding:** Michael R. Moore, University of Michigan

Matthew J. Kotchen, UC, Santa Barbara and Williams College; Shawn M. Powers, Williams College: *Explaining the Appearance and Success of Voter Referenda for Open-Space Conservation*

Martin J. Osborne and Matthew A. Turner, University of Toronto: *Cost Benefit Analysis vs. Referenda*


Aric Shafran and Nicholas E. Flores, University of Colorado at Boulder: *Risk Externalities and the Problem of Wildfire Risk*

**Discussants:**
- Matthew E. Kahn, Tufts University
- Nathaniel O. Keohane, Yale University
- Andrew Plantinga, Oregon State University
- Emma Hutchinson, University of Victoria

**Environmental Protection and the Social Responsibility of Firms**

ODE: M140, Q500, Q520

**Presiding:** Robert Stavins, Harvard University

Geoffrey Heal, Columbia University, Corporate Social Responsibility: *An Economic and Financial Framework*

Thomas Lyon, University of Michigan; John Maxwell, Indiana University: *Greenwashing and Project Choice*

Ramon Casadesus-Masanell and Forest Reinhardt, Harvard University: *Households’ Willingness to Pay for Public Goods: Evidence from Organic Cotton*

Linda T.M. Bui, Brandeis University: *Firm Response to Public Disclosure of Polluting Behavior: Evidence from the PCB Industry*

**Discussants:**
- Charles Kolstad, UC, Santa Barbara
- Lori Bennear, Duke University
Private Responses to Environmental Policy
AERE Session 10A

Chair: Will Wheeler
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Date/Time: Friday, November 18th
8:00 - 9:45 a.m.

Kwame Adu-Bonnah, ChemDesign Corporation; Erin Baker, University of Massachusetts, Amherst: Investing in Risky R&D Programs in the Face of Climate Uncertainty

Sarah L. Stafford, College of William and Mary: Should You Turn Yourself In? The Consequences of Self-Policing

Spencer Banzhaf, Resources for the Future (RFF); Randall P. Walsh, University of Colorado at Boulder: Testing for Environmental Gentrification: Migratory Responses to Changes in Environmental Quality

Lucie Bottega and Jenny De Freitas, University of Toulouse I: Public, Private and Nonprofit Regulation for Environmental Quality

Discussants: Lucie Bottega, University of Toulouse I
Dennis Collentine, University of Gavle
Timothy C. Haab, Ohio State University
Paul E. Chambers, Central Missouri State University

Environment and Development
AERE Session 32B

Chair: Peter W. Schuhmann
University of North Carolina (UNC) at Wilmington
Date/Time: Friday, November 18th
10:00 - 11:45 a.m.

Klaus Glenk, Jan Barkmann, S. Schwarze, M. Zeller, and R. Marggraf, University of Goettingen: Differential Influence of Relative Poverty on Environmental Preferences: Evidence from Rural Indonesia

Beatriz Avalos-Sartorio and Allen Blackman, RFF: Agricultural Price Supports as a Conservation Tool: The Case of Shade-Coffee in the Coast of Oaxaca, Mexico

Klaus Sander, the Global Environment Facility (GEF); Manfred Zeller, University of Goettingen: Forest Resource Management between Conservation and Poverty Alleviation: Simulation Results from Northwest Madagascar

Juan Aguirre, Center for Sustainable Development - Costa Rica: Central Americans National Parks, Volcan Poas National Park in Costa Rica, Volcan Mombacho Natural Reserve in Nicaragua and La Tigra National Park in Honduras: Valuation and Variables

Discussants: Jagannadha Rao Matta, University of Florida
Juan Aguirre, Center for Sustainable Development - Costa Rica
Allen Blackman, RFF
Catherine M. Chambers, Central Missouri State University

International Environmental Economics
AERE Session 54C

Chair: Erin Baker
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Date/Time: Friday, November 18th
1:15 - 3:00 p.m.

Ariaster B. Chimeli, Ohio University; John B. Braden, University of Illinois: Economic Growth and the Dynamics of Environmental Quality

Paul E. Chambers, Central Missouri State University; Richard A. Jensen, University of Notre Dame: Corruption, Environmental Quality and Perverse Aid Effects

Suphachol Suphachalasai, University of Cambridge: Development, Environmental Policy, and Mass Media: Theory and Evidence

Christian Crowley, George Washington University; Yoshiaki Shimazaki, Oklahoma State University: Generational Cost Benefit Analysis and the Social Cost of Carbon
Discussants:
Lisa A. Cave, Morehead State University
Suphachol Suphachalasai, University of Cambridge
Jenny De Freitas, University of Toulouse I
Ariaster B. Chimeli, Ohio University

Benefits, Costs, and Risks
AERE Session 75D

Chair: Spencer Banzhaf, RFF
Date/Time: Friday, November 18th
3:15 - 5:00 p.m.

Glenn C. Blomquist, University of Kentucky; Richard M. O'Conor, Independent: The Effect of Information on Perceptions of Fatality Risks: Or Do People Believe What They Are Told?

Soo-Il Kim and Timothy C. Haab, The Ohio State University: Revisiting Bid Design Issues in Contingent Valuation

Robin R. Jenkins, Kelly B. Maguire, and Cynthia L. Morgan, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Compensation for Hosting a Solid Waste Landfill: The Importance of Environmental Risks, Socioeconomics, and Proximity to Political Boundaries

Jana D. Groothuis, Peter A. Groothuis, and John C. Whitehead, Appalachian State University: The Economic Value of Mountain Views: A WTP and WTA Approach

Discussants:
Peter A. Groothuis, Appalachian State University
Barbara Kanninen, Independent Economist
John C. Whitehead, Appalachian State University
Kelly B. Maguire, U.S. EPA

Environmental and Natural Resource Policy
AERE Session 103G

Chair: Sarah L. Stafford
College of William and Mary
Date/Time: Saturday, November 19th
8:00 - 9:45 a.m.

Dennis Collentine, University of Gavle: Phase-In of Nonpoint Sources in a Transferable Discharge Permit (TDP) System for Water Quality Management: Setting Permit Prices

Georgina Moreno, Scripps College: Do Spatial Interactions Matter for Water Conservation Policy in Agriculture?

Lucie Bottega, University of Toulouse I: How to Prevent an Excessive Use of Packaging?

David Martin, Davidson College: The Efficient State Conservation Tax Credit

Discussants:
Marc Ribaudo, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service (USDA, ERS)
Wen-yuan Huang, USDA, ERS
Craig E. Landry, East Carolina University
Will Wheeler, U.S. EPA

Land Use
AERE Session 125H

Chair: David Martin, Davidson College
Date/Time: Saturday, November 19th
10:00 - 11:45 a.m.

Bayou Demeke and Ian Coxhead, University of Wisconsin, Madison: The Effect of National Policies and Labor Market on Land Use Decisions in Developing Countries: An Application of Simulated Maximum Likelihood to Systems of Censored Acreages with Panel Data

Tafirenyika Sunde and Abel Sanderson, Midlands State University, Zimbabwe: Sustainable Land Use in the Post Land Reform Era in Zimbabwe

Guy Robertson, USDA Forest Service: Practice, Theory, and the Application of Non-Market Values in Land-Use Planning

Ram Ranjan, University of Florida; Ruben N. Lubowski, USDA, ERS: How Do the Risks of Invasive Pests Affect Land Use? The Case of Florida Cropland

Discussants:
Jagannadha Rao Matta, University of Florida
Ruben N. Lubowski, USDA, ERS
David Martin, Davidson College
R. David Simpson, U.S. EPA
Biodiversity
AERE Session 148K

Chair: Juan Aguirre
Center for Sustainable Development - Costa Rica

Date/Time: Saturday, November 19th
2:15 – 4:00 p.m.

Jagannadha Rao Matta and Janaki Alavalapati, University of Florida; Evan Mercer, U.S. Forest Service: Optimum Incentives and Habitat Conservation on Florida's Non-Industrial Private Forests

Catherine M. Chambers and John R. Crooker, Central Missouri State University: Stochastic Dominance, Entropy and Biodiversity Management

Joe Kerkvliet, Oregon State University; Christian Langpap, Tulane University: Assessing the Effectiveness of Biodiversity Conservation Strategies: The Case of the United States' Endangered Species Act

Wen-yuan Huang and Craig Osteen, USDA, ERS: Using an Elasticity-Based Model to Assess the Economic Impact of Import Regulations to Prevent Mediterranean Fruit Fly Establishment in U.S.: Applications on the Import of Spanish Clementines

Discussants:
Christian Langpap, Tulane University
Erin Baker, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Georgina Moreno, Scripps College
John C. Whitehead, Appalachian State University

Fisheries
AERE Session 179N

Chair: Christopher F. Dumas
UNC at Wilmington

Date/Time: Sunday, November 20th
8:00 - 9:45 a.m.

David W. Carter, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); David Letson, University of Miami: Climatic, Economic, and Regulatory Induced Changes in Expected Catch Rates: Valuing Red Snapper in the Gulf of Mexico

Brad Gentner, National Marine Fisheries Service; Examining Target Species Substitution in the South Atlantic and Gulf in the Face of Changing Recreational Fishing Policies

Robert L. Hicks, College of William and Mary; Timothy C. Haab, The Ohio State University; John C. Whitehead, Appalachian State University: Testing the Temporal and Spatial Consistency of Recreation Benefit Estimates

Yeong Nain Chi, Jack Coburn Isaacs, and David R. Lavergne, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; William E. Kelso, Louisiana State University: A Multinomial Logit Analysis of Red River Anglers Associated With Fishing Motivations

Discussants:
Yeong Nain Chi, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
David W. Carter, NOAA
Christopher F. Dumas, UNC, Wilmington
Peter W. Schuhmann, UNC, Wilmington

Beaches
AERE Session 198P

Chair: Timothy C. Haab
The Ohio State University

Date/Time: Sunday, November 20th
10:00 - 11:45 a.m.

Daniel Phaneuf, North Carolina State University; John C. Whitehead, Appalachian State University: A Kuhn-Tucker Model of Beach Recreation

Craig E. Landry, East Carolina University; A General Model of Barrier Island Erosion Management with Application to Optimal Response Under Sea Level Rise

Christopher F. Dumas, Peter W. Schuhmann, UNC, Wilmington; John C. Whitehead, Appalachian State University: Beach Amenities: Valuation Comparisons Using Multiple Assessment Methods

Okmyung Bin and Jamie Brown Kruse, East Carolina University: Real Estate Market Response to Coastal Flood Hazard

Discussants:
Brad Gentner, National Marine Fisheries Service
Will Wheeler, U.S. EPA
D. Matt Massey, U.S. EPA
Glenn C. Blomquist, University of Kentucky
Brownfield Redevelopment
AERE Session 219Q

Chair: Peter M. Schwarz
UNC, Charlotte

Date/Time: Sunday, November 20th
12:30 - 2:15 p.m.


Anna Alberini, University of Maryland, College Park; Peter B. Meyer, University of Louisville; Kris Wernstedt, RFF, Lauren Heberle, University of Louisville: Liability, Subsidies, and Other Inducements for Brownfield Redevelopment: What Do Developers Want, and What Do Policymakers Want to Offer Them?

Peter M. Schwarz and Alex Hanning, UNC, Charlotte: Incentives for Brownfield Redevelopment: Model and Simulation

Joel Corona, U.S. EPA; Kathleen Segerson, University of Connecticut: Brownfield Redevelopment Under the Threat of Bankruptcy

Discussants:
Katherine N. Probst, RFF
David Martin, Davidson College
Joel Corona, U.S. EPA
Alex Hanning, UNC, Charlotte

WORKSHOP ON AGRICULTURAL AIR QUALITY:
STATE OF THE SCIENCE

June 5 - 8, 2006
Bolger Center, Potomac, MD
(near Washington, DC)

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ralph J. Cicerone, President, National Academy of Sciences

This Workshop is a result of two previous efforts: A National Research Council Report which recommended further research on agricultural air quality problems and a U.S. Department of Agriculture Air Quality Task Force which directed the “National Research Initiative: Competitive Grants Program to develop a research agenda”.

Recent studies provide convincing evidence that changes in agricultural crop production and increases in animal activities are altering the emissions of trace gases to the atmosphere. These emissions can perturb the environment with a host of beneficial and detrimental effects such as increased crop yields from nitrogen loading or decreased visibility from increased aerosol production.

Maximizing the benefits and reducing the detrimental effects of agricultural production requires us to transcend scientific disciplines, and political boundaries. This task challenges the creativity of natural and social scientists, economists, engineers, business leaders, and policy makers.

The Workshop on Agricultural Air Quality: State of the Science will provide a venue for multidisciplinary teams of experts to share their knowledge, present new research, and work together to develop new avenues for science and technology transfer, education and outreach. We believe this Workshop will play a significant role in helping shape the future of the agricultural practices and agricultural air quality analysis framework for the United States. We hope you will join us for this important event.

For more information, see the web page at: http://esa.org/AirWorkshop

Viney Aneja & Bill Schlesinger
Conference Co-Chairs

HEARTLAND ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS (HERE)
WORKSHOP

The eighth annual Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics (HERE) Workshop is scheduled for September 17 and 18, 2006, at Reiman Gardens in Ames, Iowa. Information will be posted on the web page at:
http://www.card.iastate.edu/here/
The Environmental Economics Blog: The First 3 Months

Tim Haab, The Ohio State University
John Whitehead, Appalachian State University

The Genesis

On June 17, 2005, a slow Wednesday just after The Ohio State University academic quarter ended, Tim Haab sent the following message to John Whitehead:

I’ve been tossing around an idea in my head for a while. I think one of the biggest problems with economists is our inability to convince real people that we know what the heck we’re talking about. Do you think there would be value to an Econ-Opinion site where we could pose popular questions… and we could get economists to write nontechnical responses to be posted…I don’t know if I really want to do this, but it seems like there might be a benefit to get the economic view out to the public and media.

Whitehead’s response?

Great idea! Want to give it a go?

And that is how we entered the realm of the blogosphere. On June 22, 2005, less than five days after that fateful e-mail exchange, we launched the public weblog (i.e., blog) Environmental Economics: Economists on Environmental and Natural Resources (aka, the Environmental Economics blog and affectionately-aka Env-Econ). The idea behind the blog is simple: (1) provide a forum for environmental economists to post their views on environmental issues to a nonacademic audience and (2) provide a place for discourse between the readers and economists on these topics.

The site has been a surprisingly minor success (i.e., it hasn’t bombed yet). After three full months, 262 posts by ten different authors have appeared, 852 reader comments and 78 trackbacks (links to posts from other blogs). Early reviews have been generally positive and encouraging including our favorite description: "... we're happy to note the arrival of the Environmental Economics Blog, which manages to be both dismally scientific and readable at the same time."

In this essay we highlight some of the exchanges that have taken place in the early stages of the blog and hopefully illustrate the usefulness of such endeavors in getting the environmental economics view out to the public. Admittedly this is somewhat self-serving as we would like to encourage the AERE community to participate in Env-Econ. Even if that does not happen, hopefully we can demonstrate the need for environmental economists to reach out to the public with lessons learned in the ivory tower.

Blogs

Blogs became popular places for discussion during the 2004 election and are increasingly used for everything from scientific dialogues (Science Blog) to the daily minutiae (Adventures in Seattle!). See the Wikipedia box for definition of a blog.

According to Wikipedia:

A weblog (now more commonly known as a blog) is a web-based publication consisting primarily of periodic articles (normally in reverse chronological order). Although most early weblogs were manually updated, tools to automate the maintenance of such sites made them accessible to a much larger population, and the use of some sort of browser-based software is now a typical aspect of "blogging".

Blogs range in scope from individual diaries to arms of political campaigns, media programs, and corporations. They range in scale from the writings of one occasional author, to the collaboration of a large community of writers. Many weblogs enable visitors to leave public comments, which can lead to a community of readers centered around the blog; others are non-interactive. The totality of weblogs or blog-related web sites is often called the blogosphere. When a large amount of activity, information and opinion erupts around a particular subject or controversy in the blogosphere, it is sometimes called a blogstorm or blog swarm.
Blogging is made easy by web sites that do most of the work for you. Blogger is Google’s free blogging software. You can pay Typepad to host your blog for as low as $49.50 per year. Because they are cheap and easy there are a lot of them. Technorati—a sort of index of blogs—claims that there are 17 million blogs. Blogpulse—another index—says there are about 16 million blogs (and 39 thousand new blogs created on September 14, 2005 alone). Most major newspapers and magazines are joining the blogosphere (e.g., the Wall Street Journal’s Econoblog and Business Week’s Economics Unbound).

Technorati lists 311 blogs about economics. The Economics Roundtable, a meta-blog, lists 100 economics blogs. Most economics blogs are general interest blogs and post mostly on current economic events. Some economics blogs are more focused. Macroblog focuses on macroeconomics. The Sports Economist focuses on the economics of sports. Interestingly, there are gobs of libertarian economics blogs (e.g., Econlog).

Most economist bloggers, like us, are professionally obscure (or, to be more generous, mid-sized fish in small ponds). But famous economists are blogging too. Gary Becker and Richard Posner write at The Becker-Posner Blog. James Hamilton writes at Econbrowser.

Env-Econ Blog

Currently there are three blogs that focus on environmental economics, Env-Econ, Matthew Kahn’s Environmental and Urban Economics blog, and the Commons Blog. Environmental and Urban Economics was launched in August 2005 with a purpose to “mainly discuss applied microeconomic issues focusing on environmental and urban topics.”

The Commons Blog was launched in May 2004 and “is a collaborative web log dedicated to the principle of promoting environmental quality and human dignity and prosperity through markets and property rights. Put more simply, it’s about free markets protecting the environment.” It has 20 or so contributors including economists and environmental law types.

Env-Econ features an average of three daily posts dealing with various topics directly or indirectly related to environmental and resource economics. Blog posts must be relevant so they are written quickly and posted on the spot. Comments frequently find fault and errors. That’s all right with bloggers because we are learning too and readers have different perspectives and information sources that are important to the discussion.

Posts have covered both current events (Hurricane Katrina) and explanations of economic theory (the Coase Theorem). A short sample of topics includes CAFE standards, global warming, the energy bill, beach erosion, alternative energy, environmental Kuznets curves, estimation of environmental benefits and costs, U.S. Supreme Court nominations and Dr. Seuss as an environmental economist (trust us, it makes sense).

Some topics prove to be unintentionally controversial: Haab recently posted on some basic predictions about increased oil exploration with rising oil prices. Although that post only received six comments and one trackback on Env-Econ, it was picked up at The Oil Drum and generated 49 comments (!) there—not all of them nice. Visits to Env-Econ doubled that day to 650.

Whitehead recently took on ‘The Numbers Guy’ at the Wall Street Journal to explain the difference between economic impacts and changes in welfare using the Exxon Valdez as an example (see the appendix). Whitehead’s post was cited on the Wall Street Journal web-site and resulted in a spike in visits to Env-Econ.

The idea for the site is to provide a forum for a number of environmental economists to communicate ideas to the public. Haab and Whitehead are not the only two contributors to Env-Econ—although they are the most obsessed. We have had a number of guest contributors—for example, each month we are posting Rob Stavin’s “An Economic Perspective” columns from The Environmental Forum columns—and currently have commitments to post from additional well-known environmental economists.

Some Features

Env-Econ is very much a work in progress. Some early developments include the answer desk and an opinion poll.

With the answer desk readers submit questions and Haab finds an expert to answer them. The first question was a good one:

I'd like to see an overview of ways of measuring economic progress that don't ignore ecological concerns. For example, what alternatives are there to indicators such as gross domestic product? (Alternatives should include indicators that somehow factor environmental data into the equations.)
Gernot Wagner (the AERE webmaster) fielded this one. His response was later posted to Wikipedia. (We don’t know who posted it!)

The first opinion poll question dealt with something we had been wondering about: The political ideology at the Environmental Economics blog is best described as…? The answers suggest that we are “middle, middle” with a slight skew to “middle, left.” This reflects Haab’s ban on blatantly political content. Other opinion polls will deal with current environmental economic events (e.g., should we rebuild New Orleans?).

We will be posting reviews of new environmental economics books from Resources from the Future and Edward Elgar Publishers. We would also like to post lay summaries of research articles, comments and replies.

We also try humor. Of course, being economists, our attempts at humor are rarely humorous.

The Stats

Env-Econ has a decent presence in the blogosphere, considering its narrow (but hopefully growing) niche. In the first three months, the Env-Econ blog has been visited over 25,000 times, with almost 60,000 different page views. Visits and page views average 325 and 718 per day. The average visit length is about 3 minutes. Our visitor stats compare favorably to Knowledge Problem (a Forbes Magazine favorite). In contrast, Macroblog averages about 700 visits and over 1000 page views daily.

Technorati lists 117 links to Env-Econ from 83 different blogs and ranks it in 18,596th of 17 million blogs. Marginal Revolution, the fourth ranked economics blog at Technorati, has twenty times more than 2200 links from more than 1000 blogs. Our Google page rank is 3/10 while Marginal Revolution’s is 6/10. Blogstreet ranks Env-Econ in the top quintile of over 100,000 blogs listed there.

Most, 83%, Env-Econ visitors are from North America. Seventy-seven percent are from the U.S. and 7% from Canada. Ten percent are from Europe, 4% are from Australia, 2% are from Asia and 1% are from South America. Ninety-four percent of visitors are from English-speaking countries.

Conclusions

We think that blogging will become an important and respected form of communication. The Environmental Economics blog occupies an important niche in the economics blogosphere. Our points are written to be understood by noneconomists but we think that you or your students may find it useful. And, who knows? You may decide to join the conversation with a comment (we need frequent correcting) or, even, by becoming a guest blogger on your favorite topic. If interested, send us a message at john@env-econ.net, or tim@env-econ.net.

Web sites

- Adventures in Seattle! maria-dennisintherain.blogspot.com
- Blogpulse, www.blogpulse.com
- Commons Blog, commonsblog.org
- Econbrowser, www.econbrowser.com
- Econlog, econlog.econlib.org
- Econoblog, online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB112534755526125926,00.html
- Economics Roundtable, http://www.rtable.net/index/rt/economics/76/
- Economics Unbound, www.businessweek.com/the_thread/economicsunbound
- Environmental and Urban Economics, greeneconomics.blogspot.com
- Knowledge Problem, www.knowledgeproblem.com
- Macroblog, macroblog.typepad.com
- Marginal Revolution, www.marginalrevolution.com
- Technorati, www.technoratic.com
- Typepad, www.typepad.com
- Wikipedia, en.wikipedia.org
Appendix. A Sample Post

July 8, 2005

Economic impacts of regulation

A bit off-topic — but related to some arguments about environmental regulation — is a letter to the WSJ's Numbers Guy (by the way, if you're not reading The Numbers Guy ... why not?):

And here's a letter about my prior column on the costs of Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX):

_I'm an accounting major (hoping to reap a windfall from SOX work once I graduate), so maybe I'm biased — but these executives who whine to high heaven about compliance costs are full of it. The reason Congress felt it necessary to enact the legislation was that greedy executives refused to behave themselves. If they're upset, well, think of the people whose pensions are worthless because of what they did at Enron, WorldCom, etc._

The other issue is that in terms of the economy as a whole, SOX work will actually be a boon — because it transfers large amounts of money from corporate coffers to the pockets of consultants, who go right out and spend it! This is exactly what happened with all that Y2K programming work (also decried by executives as a big waste of money). I think it gave a huge Keynesian boost to the economy — possibly delaying the collapse of the '90s bubble by a year or two. SOX spending will do, or is doing, the same thing.

Actually, no, this isn't a "huge Keynesian boost to the economy" but a common misconception. These expenses are a cost to the economy, not a benefit. Gross domestic product (GDP) is the value of the final output in an economy over a given time period. Regulated firms are the producers of the final output (Q) such as cars and televisions. When regulations are imposed on these firms output does not increase. Instead, as the firm must shift some of its focus away from producing their Qs and toward abiding by the regulations, their costs of producing the Qs go up and production may actually fall (indeed, it does fall; see the working paper Regulation and the Macroeconomy).

Consider the example of the Exxon Valdez oil spill (will we ever grow tired of using this as an example?). Millions of dollars were spent on clean up. Using the argument above some argued that this was a benefit to the economy since it increased jobs and spending ("because it transfers large amounts of money from corporate coffers to the pockets of [fill in the blank], who go right out and spend it!"). Yikes! What do you think the corporations do with the money, burn it?

Exxon spilled oil which was a mess. Enron cooked the books which was a mess. Government tries to regulate to clean up the mess. The regulations are good ones (i.e., "efficient" to the economist) if the benefits exceed the costs and if the regulatory costs are as low as possible. The trick, then, is to regulate only when the benefit-cost analysis says that it is OK (benefits > costs) and to design regulations that achieve the goal at the lowest possible cost.

 Posted by John Whitehead at 06:59 a.m. in Government Policy, Policy Costs Permalink http://www.env-econ.net/2005/07/economic_impact.html
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We invite you to consider applying. Our deadline for application for Fall 2005 is **December 15, 2005**.

**Margaret Connors, Associate Director**
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We currently have approximately 20 active faculty, including two chaired professors in economics, Dr. Jason Shogren and Dr. Edward Barbier and a third chaired professor in finance, Dr. Sherrill Shaffer. Our faculty have active research programs, receiving millions of dollars in research grants from organizations such as the National Science Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Agriculture. They have also written a number of books and published in leading economic journals such as the American Economic Review and the Journal of Political Economy.

We offer competitive financial aid packages, providing tuition and fee waivers, as well as annual stipends between $14,000 and $20,000 for Ph.D. students and $5,000 for M.S. students. Students also receive the opportunity to actively participate in the teaching and research missions of the university.

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http://dare.colostate.edu/positions

Dr. John Loomis, Chair, Search Committee
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1172.

The Ohio State University:

Andersons Endowed Chair

The Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics is restarting its search for a scholar of national and international reputation, for appointment as Andersons Professor. The Andersons Endowed Program has emerged as a premier program in economic policy and a centerpiece of the department’s quest for excellence in research, teaching, and outreach. We are seeking an individual, from the U.S. or abroad, who can provide exemplary leadership to the Department's research and graduate programs, while continuing the tradition of involvement with the national and global policy community. Areas of emphasis include, but are not limited to, farm, trade, conservation, resource and environmental policy.

The appointee will be an established or emerging senior scholar. He or she will provide innovative intellectual leadership in the department, college, and university, and will be active in enhancing relationships with other departments and colleges at Ohio State and with stakeholders and relevant public agencies. Enthusiasm in pursuing collaborative projects is expected. We are seeking an individual committed to mentoring junior faculty and graduate students.

This premier position offers an attractive salary and benefits package, and funding for program support from the Andersons Endowment. The appointee will have an academic year (9 month) appointment, and will be expected to participate in research, teaching, and outreach activities with the exact combination of duties and program support to be negotiated between the appointee and the department.

Applications will be accepted until September 30, 2005 or until the position is filled. Nominations of qualified individuals are invited at any time. Send a statement of interest and qualifications, a current CV, and the names of three references to:

Marvin T. Batte, Chair of Andersons Search Committee,
Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics
The Ohio State University
Swank Chair of Rural-Urban Policy

The Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics seeks to appoint a scholar of national and international reputation to the C. William Swank Chair in Rural-Urban Policy. The appointee will provide academic and programmatic leadership on the economic and public policy dimensions of the rural/urban interface. Areas of focus may include, but are not limited to: competition for resources, economic growth and change, land use, local public finance, externalities, governance and regulation, farming on the urban fringe, and quality of life.

The Chairholder will provide leadership in a nationally-renowned program of research, outreach, and graduate and undergraduate teaching. S/he will build and maintain effective interactions and collaborations with other academic units at the university, national and international peers, and external stakeholders.

Candidates should be established and highly regarded scholars in areas pertinent to rural-urban policy and shall hold an earned Ph.D. degree or equivalent in agricultural economics, economics, geography, public policy, planning, or related field.

This premier position offers an attractive salary and benefits package, and funding for program support from the Swank Endowment. The appointee will have an academic year (9 month) appointment, and will be expected to participate in research, teaching, and outreach activities with the exact combination of duties to be negotiated between the appointee and the department.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Nominations of qualified individuals are invited. The search committee expects to begin reviewing applications on October 1, 2005. Send a statement of interest and qualifications, a current resume, and the names of three references to:

Elena G. Irwin, Chair of Swank Search Committee
Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics

Assistant Professor
Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics

Description: The Department is searching for a tenure-track assistant professor. We seek outstanding applicants with high potential for achieving scholarly excellence in agricultural and resource economics broadly defined and/or international economic development. Faculty duties will include some combination of teaching and research. Regardless of specific appointment, faculty members are expected to achieve national scholarly recognition, and to contribute to outreach and public engagement. Specific assignments will depend on the individual’s professional strengths and interests and department, college, and university needs. The appointee will have an academic year (9 month) appointment with competitive salary and benefits package.

The Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics Department includes 27 faculty members who maintain nationally and internationally recognized research, undergraduate and graduate teaching, and outreach programs in agricultural, environmental and development economics. The Ohio State University is one of the largest and most comprehensive research universities in the world. It is located in Columbus, a major metropolitan area of more than one million people that offers many cultural, educational, employment and recreational opportunities.

Qualifications: Ph.D. in agricultural economics, economics, or related field.

Deadline: Applications will be accepted until January 20, 2006 or until the position is filled. Nominations of qualified individuals are invited and will be most helpful if submitted to the search committee by December 1, 2005.

Application Materials Required: Send a statement of interest and qualifications, a current resume, and the names of three (3) references to:

Ian M. Sheldon
Chair of Faculty Search Committee,
University of California, Davis

Assistant/Associate Professor

Environmental or Natural Resource Economics, with focus on bioeconomic modeling. Nine month, tenure track position; possibility of a fiscal-year term appointment in the Agricultural Experiment Station. Departmental affiliation/split to be determined by agreement among the successful candidate and the Departments of Environmental Science and Policy, Agricultural and Resource Economics, and/or other departments at UC Davis.

Successful candidates will teach and conduct research in environmental economics or natural resource economics. Candidates are expected to have skills and interests in integrating concepts from economics and ecology in quantitative bioeconomic models. This position is part of an eight-faculty cluster on global environmental change and conservation biology. Biological expertise is required in order to engage in cross-disciplinary research on topics such as ecosystem services, terrestrial and marine conservation policy, integrated modeling of human/natural systems, and biodiversity policy. Send applications to Alan Hastings, Search Committee Chair, Department of Environmental Science and Policy, One Shields Avenue, University of CA, Davis, CA 95616, or e-mail amhastings@ucdavis.edu. Position open until filled. To ensure consideration, apply by December 15, 2005.

For expanded position description, please see: http://www.aes.ucdavis.edu/FacStaff/ASP/openFacPos/default.htm.

The University of California is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

University of Rhode Island:

Research Assistant Professor

Environmental and Natural Resource Economics

The University of Rhode Island seeks a non tenure-track, academic-year, Research Assistant Professor for Environmental and Natural Resource Economics beginning during Spring of 2006 and limited to December 31, 2007, with extension at rank or possible conversion to tenure-track based on availability of funding, and satisfactory performance and evaluation.

Required: Ph.D. in economics, resource or environmental economics, agricultural economics or closely-related field; strong foundation in microeconomic theory and modeling; demonstrated interest or training in environmental or natural resource problems; ability to establish a nationally recognized externally-funded research program; ability to...
communicate effectively with the public, particularly verbally and in small groups or negotiations necessary for ongoing research.

Preferred candidates will show evidence of an ability to teach graduate environmental or natural resource economics and innovative undergraduate courses and will have experience or knowledge in one or more of the following: experimental economics, dynamic optimization, econometrics, public choice theory, decision-making under uncertainty, law and economics, game theory. Outreach or marketing experience is also preferred. Examples of demonstrated interests or training in environmental or natural resource problems includes, but is not limited to, one or more of the following issue-areas: critical habitat management; fisheries and marine resources; market-based or rights-based approaches to resource management; economics of land use or land conservation; natural resource trade; coastal issues; water or estuarine pollution; sustainability related to the natural environment or natural resources; biodiversity; biotechnology or environmental bio-technology; natural resource-based tourism; or ecosystem services. Visit our web site at http://www.uri.edu/human_resources for additional information. Send (no emails or faxes, please) letter of application, statement of teaching and research interest, curriculum vitae, copy of transcripts, samples of recent research, three letters of reference and other supporting materials showing evidence of required and preferred qualifications postmarked by November 20, 2005 to:

Stephen K. Swallow, Search Chair
(Req # 011222)
University of Rhode Island
P.O. Box G
Kingston, RI 02881.

URI is an AA/EEO employer and values diversity and also is an NSF ADVANCE institutional transformation university, working to advance the careers of women faculty, especially in the science and engineering disciplines.

The Wilderness Society:

Alaska Regional Office Economist

The Wilderness Society’s Alaska Regional Office (Anchorage) is seeking an Economist to work with our expanding conservation team!

Resource Economist:

We seek an applied economist who can synthesize existing information and develop new information critical to improving understanding of the relationships between wildlands and sustainable economies in Alaska and to supporting sound conservation and management decisions affecting those wildlands.

The Resource Economist is responsible for designing, developing and implementing a program of economic research, extension and demonstration in support of The Wilderness Society’s Alaska conservation campaigns. Major areas of inquiry include: estimating the economic benefits of public land conservation and protection; fostering ecologically sustainable development opportunities; clarifying the economic importance of recreational and subsistence uses of public lands; and otherwise exploring the relationships between regional economies and ecosystem health.

This person has the opportunity to develop some innovative research projects in collaboration with our Alaskan Ecologist in Alaska. For a complete job description with a list of qualifications, duties and responsibilities go to http://www.wilderness.org/AboutUs/careers.cfm?TopLevel=Careers

The Wilderness Society is an equal opportunity employer. The Wilderness Society offers a competitive compensation and benefits package.

To apply please submit a cover letter explaining your qualifications for this position, resume, writing sample, and names, addresses, phone numbers of three references to:

Ms. Geri Wardlow, Recruiting Consultant
1615 M Street NW
Washington DC 20036
Fax: 703-327-0415
E-mail: geriw@tws.org
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