

**Project Summary**  
**Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title:** Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services Associated with Freshwater Mussels in the Upper Delaware **River**

**Discipline:** Social  
**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance/Research  
**Funding Agency:** USGS  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Colorado State University  
**Student Participation:**  
**Effective Dates:** 03/01/2016 - 02/28/2021  
**Funding Amount:** \$198,734.00

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

USGS Contact: Christopher Huber USGS, Fort Collins Science Center 2150 Centre Avenue, Building C Fort Collins, CO 80526 Phone: 970-226-9219 Email: [chuber@usgs.gov](mailto:chuber@usgs.gov)

Investigator: Dr. John Loomis Colorado State University Fort Collins, CO 80523 Phone: 970-226-4052 Email: [john.loomis@colorado.edu](mailto:john.loomis@colorado.edu)

**Project Abstract:** The objective of this study is monetizing the economic values of ecosystem services supplied by freshwater mussels in the Upper Delaware River. Will explore the potential use of our study value estimates and statistical valuation function within the context of the Delaware Decision Support System. Expected results will help resources managers, state and local government officials, and the academic community better understand the economic implications of management decisions and changes to this pristine river system.

The project will be carried out in close partnership with USGS researchers during the valuation of ecosystem services derived from mussels in the Delaware River. USGS and the CESU partner will work together to (1) jointly develop a stated preference survey instrument and analysis methods for estimating societal benefits of services, (2) the dataset collected will be used in an econometric analysis, (3) provide monetary valuation of ecosystem services derived from mussels, and (4) collaboratively write a final report and one journal article. Sharing and dissemination of all data and reporting will follow USGS guidelines for data management and peer review, and will be done in a collaborative manner.

**Keywords:** Freshwater mussels, economic valuation, ecosystem services, Upper Delaware River, USGS, Colorado State University