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Title: A Study of the Economic Values of the Surface Waters of New Hampshire: Phase I

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Abstract:

This paper is phase 1 of a study of economic values of surface water in New Hampshire. The purpose of this phase is to provide an initial examination of existing literature, data, and methods of estimating the economic value of surface water. This will also serve as a guide for the later phases of this study to help researchers determine how best to determine the economic value of surface water in New Hampshire, based on the successful implementation in similar scenarios.

The literature review revealed:

1. The kinds of water uses, both recreational and non-recreational as well as intrinsic, that are typically addressed in water-related studies
2. Different methods for determining the economic value of the water being studied, and the types and sources for data that were used that could be used in the New Hampshire study.
3. The recreational and non-recreational uses of water are evaluated in terms of the value of their economic activity.

Different studies may use quantitative (the typical costs for a boater) or qualitative (how boaters rank considerations like safety or crowding by importance) variables. These may be considered as a snapshot in time (static assessment) or based on certain changes occurring (impact assessment). The intrinsic value of surface water is measured by its "net economic value," which refers to the difference between what an individual is willing to pay for the use or existence of something and the amount they actually pay.

Phase 1 continues to discuss specific studies where these measures were utilized and their relevance to being used in the New Hampshire study. A comprehensive set of tables at the end of this paper summarizes the information they collected about each type of measure discussed above and existing data that can be found in previous literature.