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Title: Valuing the Protection of Minimum Instream Flows in New Mexico

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Abstract:

The primary objective of the study was to gather the evidence that would be needed to prove a particular proposition for non-market benefits associated with protecting minimum instream flows. The study states that maintaining minimum instream flows is often in conflict with long-standing diversion to irrigated agriculture and rapidly growing municipality. In New Mexico, minimum instream flows and associated riparian habitats are critical to the preservation of a number of endangered and at-risk native fish species.

A telephone survey was administered among New Mexico households. Finding show that NM households value minimum instream flows. The values estimated that NM households have increased their sensitivity to change in scope and insensitivity to a reminder of group size.