

The economic value of insects

IN THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF INSECTS Losey and Vaughan (2006) calculate the annual economic value of insects at an impressive \$57 billion in the United States alone. Furthermore, this

estimate is conservative; of the many services that insects provide, this amount factors in only four, dung burial (\$0.38 billion), pollination (\$3.07 billion), pest control (\$4.49 billion), and recreation such as birdwatching (\$49.96 billion), as a result of availability of data. Although the examples provided in the article may not illustrate services that would be of high concern for resource managers (e.g., decomposition of cattle dung and pollination of crops), the authors conclude that \$57 billion justifies increased investment in the conservation of these often undervalued insect-provided services.

Reference

Losey, J. E., and M. Vaughan. 2006. The economic value of insects. *BioScience* 56(4):311–323.

