





LEE COUNTY

Nearly the entirety of Lee County is within the CHNEP area. The total economic impact of natural resources in Lee County within the CHNEP area is approximately \$7.11 billion annually. The primary driver in the county is natural resource-based recreation (primarily tourism), followed by agriculture, commercial fishing, and ecological restoration. Agriculture is dominated by fresh market crops, ranching and timber. Lee County's recreational economic impact (both residents and visitors) is the largest among the CHNEP counties. The natural resources in Lee County provide amenity value premiums of \$5 billion; the largest among the counties in the CHNEP area. From the selected case studies in this valuation, Lee County is expected to benefit from the C-43 Reservoir (benefit-cost ratio of 1.18) when complete.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Natural resources in the CHNEP region generate economic impacts for Lee County through:

			
Annual Recreation Spending	Annual Commercial Fishing Production	Annual Agriculture Production Value	Property Value Impacts*
\$5,142,383,000	\$20,376,000	\$49,275,000	\$5,020,723,000

*not annualized

Annual spending driven by natural resources in the CHNEP area **creates indirect spending through other businesses and induced spending through jobs as well as tax revenues.** The table below shows the components of the annual economic impacts in Lee County:

Activity	Total Output	Labor Income	Value Added	Jobs
Recreation	\$7,048,332,000	\$2,539,821,000	\$3,904,739,000	62,685
Commercial Fishing	\$24,908,000	\$9,202,000	\$23,026,000	
Agriculture	\$33,226,000	\$16,852,000	\$20,475,000	
Total	\$7,107,210,000	\$2,566,165,000	\$3,948,630,000	



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Annual capital investments within Lee County total **\$27,051,000**. These investments in protection of natural resources in Lee County results in a net fiscal benefit of **\$132,836,000**. Fiscal impacts include tax revenues from resource-based activity, improved property values, and return on investment from specific capital projects.



ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

The Habitat Restoration Needs Plan (HRN) was developed to guide habitat preservation/conservation, connectivity, management, restoration, sustainability, and resiliency through the CHNEP Area. **At full implementation, the HRN would preserve/conservate an additional \$557,000 of land value in Lee County. It is estimated that these investments will generate economic benefits of \$745,000 every year.**