

bluevalue

Ecosystem Services Valuation Database

a searchable database of simplified and useful ecosystem valuation information

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BlueValue is a project of the Community Resilience Group at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Copyright © 2024

Introduction to the tool

What is BlueValue?

The natural world supports, sustains, and enriches human life in numerous ways. Scientists and resource managers refer to these benefits as “ecosystem services”. Although ecosystem services are critical to human well-being, cases in which they have been successfully applied to real policies and decisions are rare. For society to make informed decisions about sustainable use of the environment, directly linking the valuation – or quantification – of ecosystem services, to society’s needs, is necessary.

BlueValue is that link.

Why created?

- Many scientists, economists, practitioners, and others around the world have conducted ecosystem valuation studies.
- However, it can be difficult and time-consuming for decision-makers to find and access the results of those studies.
- BlueValue offers quick and easy access to actual ecosystem values in numbers.
- It houses literature from around the world that users can download, cite, bring to meetings, and share with others.

Goal

Provide information to **inform management decisions** (e.g. restoration, conservation, development, and community planning) regarding coastal and marine environments when conducting a primary valuation study is not possible due to monetary or time constraints. Additional objectives includes allow for distribution and sharing, identify current gaps, and to include ecosystem services in the decision-making process.



Figure 1. www.bluevalue.org ecosystem service infographic. Designed by Christine Hale.

BlueValue features

Search By:

- Ecosystem Service
- State / Province
- Habitat
- Valuation Method
- Country / Region

To Date:

- 27 Ecosystem Service
- 10 Habitat
- 1,310 Valuation Studies
- Adjusted Values US\$ 2019

Resources:

- Definitions PDF of all ecosystem services with examples, and defined list of methods, including references
- Searches available for download (PDF or CSV)

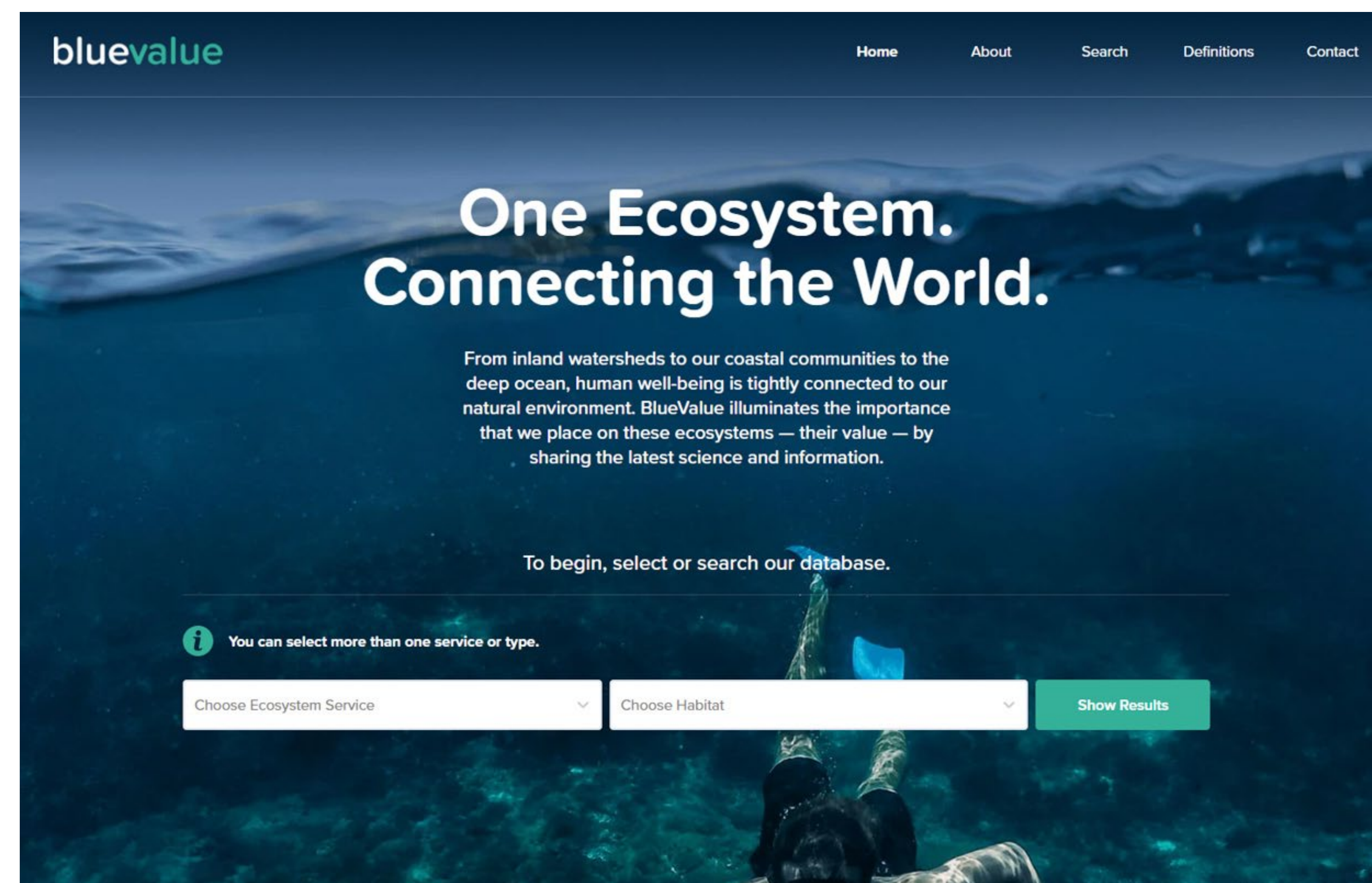


Figure 2. www.bluevalue.org home page

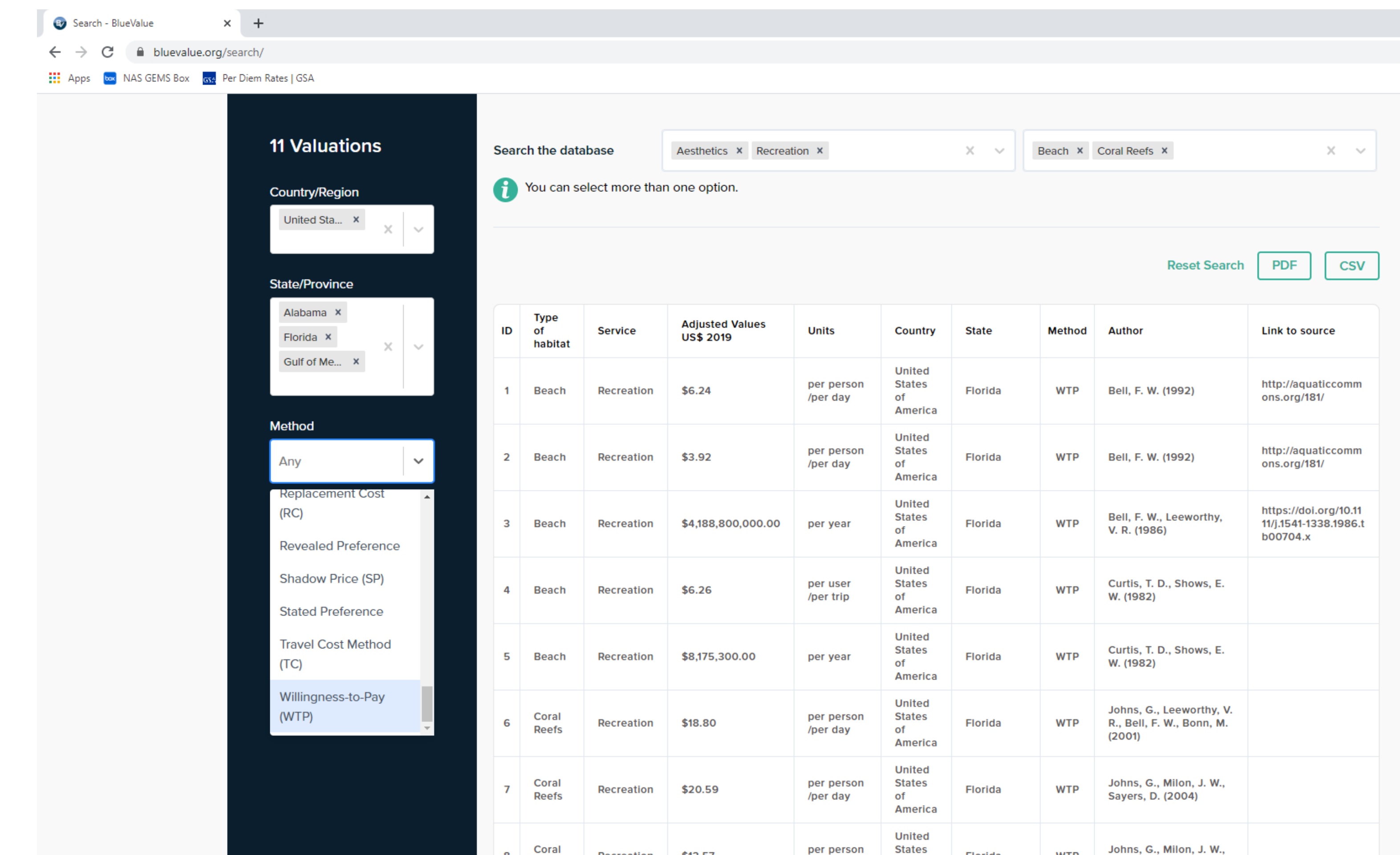


Figure 3. Search screenshot from www.bluevalue.org

What do people like about BlueValue?

- Focus on coastal habitats
- Easy user interface
- Open-access and free/open to public for anyone & everyone

Highlights & Features

- 2,737 users
- 3,821 pageviews (over 10,000 pageviews original tool launch in 2013)
- Top countries: US, China, India, and Mexico
- Featured in NOAA Office for Coastal Management’s Economic Guidance for Coastal Management Professionals Training
- Cited and utilized in numerous publications and online resources, including:
 - NOAA Office for Coastal Management’s Digital Coast Tools website
 - OCTO Webinar: Addressing challenges for valuing, financing, and managing seagrass ecosystem services through locally-led valuation approaches

Search the Database



Contact us!

Are we missing a publication or study? Want to schedule a demonstration with our team? Email us at seg-hri@tamucc.edu or submit through our Contact page on the website.

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