

Environmental Law Seminar - Cost Benefit Analysis Class

Reading Assignment

1. Read pages 287-323
2. Read Executive Order 13563
3. Skim the Economic Analysis for EPA's "Waters of the United States" rulemaking

Questions to Consider for Class

1. What is cost benefit analysis? How does an agency do a cost benefit analysis?
2. What steps have the Executive Branch, Congress, or courts taken to encourage, or require, agencies to do cost benefit analyses?
3. What are the advantages of cost benefit analysis?
4. What criticisms have been raised toward cost benefit analysis? What criticisms have been raised toward wage risk studies? Contingent valuation? Discounting?
5. What environmental justice problems could be created by cost benefit analysis? How can they be addressed?