

Value of insects in U.S. is \$57 billion

April 3 2006



The services that insects provide the United States are worth \$57 billion, Cornell University entomologists calculated.

"Most insects tirelessly perform functions that improve our environment and lives in ways that scientists are only beginning to understand," said study co-author John Losey. "Don't let the insects' small stature fool you -- these minute marvels provide valuable services."

The study, published in the journal *BioScience*, found that native insects are food for wildlife -- supporting a \$50 billion recreation industry. Insects also generate more than \$4.5 billion in pest control, pollinate \$3 billion in crops and clean up grazing lands -- saving ranchers some \$380

million a year.

These are "very conservative" estimates that probably represent only a fraction of the true value of insects, said Losey, an associate professor of entomology at Cornell.

Copyright 2006 by United Press International

Citation: Value of insects in U.S. is \$57 billion (2006, April 3) retrieved 2 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2006-04-insects-billion.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--