

# NESP Digest

## The Newsletter of the National Ecosystem Services Partnership Spring 2011

### Welcome to the NESP Digest!

This is the quarterly newsletter of the **National Ecosystem Services Partnership (NESP)**, which includes updates on our recent activities as well as other general information on ecosystem services we hope you'll find useful.

If you have items you'd like to include in the next edition of the NESP Digest, please [send them to us](#).

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### Ongoing NESP Activities

#### *Collecting Ecosystem Success Stories*

Tara O'Shea, a master's student at Duke University's [Nicholas School of the Environment](#), and Lydia Olander of the [Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions](#) are collecting case study information involving governments, businesses, or other entities in the United States changing their actions or policies in order to protect or enhance the ecosystem services that benefit them.

We have posted several examples on our [website](#), as well as added them to the [Conservation Registry](#). This will just be the beginning of an effort to catalogue ecosystem services projects and programs in the United States. If you have additional examples of ecosystem services success stories, please [let us know](#) or enter them into the Conservation Registry directly.

#### *Landowner Surveys on Ecosystem Services*

Lilly Zoller, another master's student at the Nicholas School, helped compile a list of studies that surveyed landowners about ecosystem services. The [surveys](#) covered

topics that included not only their willingness to participate in payments for ecosystem service programs and to pay to protect ecosystem services, but also their opinions of existing programs.

### *Working with Ecosystem Commons Web Portal*

Lydia Olander is on the steering group helping with the development of a new web portal being developed by the Institute of Natural Resources at Oregon State University with funding from the USDA, EPA, and USGS. This web portal will be launched in June at the upcoming Ecosystem Services Markets meeting. NESP has provided and will continue to provide content to this new web portal.

## **Ecosystem Services in the News**

[Capitalizing on nature's benefits: New incentives for private forest landowners.](#) *The Hill (blog)*, May 9.

[Price Tags Needed for Gulf of Mexico's Ecology,](#) *Wired Science*, May 6.

[Fishing for Sustainable Practices to Conserve Fisheries,](#) *Huffington Post*, May 5.

[New approach reveals the benefits of coastal management,](#) *PlanetEarth*, April 21.

[Report: Georgia forests provide \\$37B in ecological benefits,](#) *Savannah Morning News*, April 12, 2011.

[Bats Are Worth at Least \\$3 Billion Per Year,](#) *Wired Science*, April 1.

## **Selected Recent Papers, Reports on Ecosystem Services**

Bradley Cardinale, 2011, [Biodiversity Improves Water Quality Through Niche Partitioning](#), *Nature*.

Gaurav Ghosh, Marc Ribaud, and James Shortle, in press, [Baseline Requirements can Hinder Trades in Water Quality Trading Programs: Evidence from the Conestoga Watershed](#), *Journal of Environmental Management*.

Gina LaRocco and Robert Deal, 2011, [Giving Credit Where Credit Is Due: Increasing Landowner Compensation for Ecosystem Services](#), USDA Forest Service General Technical Report PNW-GTR-842.

Andrew F. Reeson, Luis C. Rodriguez, Stuart M. Whitten, et al., in press, [Adapting Auctions for the Provision of Ecosystem Services at the Landscape Scale](#), *Ecological Economics*.

Willamette Partnership, 2011, [Measuring Up: Synchronizing Biodiversity Measurement Systems for Markets and Other Incentive Programs](#). Report funded by the USDA Office of Environmental Markets.

World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 2011, [Guide to Corporate Ecosystem Valuation](#).

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

**June 28–July 1** [World Resources Institute and American Forest Foundation, 4th Annual Ecosystem Markets Conference](#), Madison, Wisconsin.

**July 15–16** [Sendzimir Foundation, Synthesizing different perspectives on the value of urban ecosystem services: Seminar and workshop](#), University of Lodz, Poland.

**July 17–20** [Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Conference](#), Washington, D.C.

**August 1–5** [4<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration](#), Baltimore, Maryland.

**August 7–12** [Ecological Society of America \(ESA\) Annual Meeting](#), Austin, Texas.

**August 21–25** [Society for Ecological Restoration, 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Ecological Restoration](#), Mérida, Mexico.

**October 4–7** [Ecosystem Services Partnership \(ESP\), Ecosystem Services: Integrating Science and Practice](#), Wageningen, The Netherlands.

**November 10–13** [Charting a Path to Food Security that is a Win-Win for People and the Environment](#), Irvine, California.

**November 13–17** [SETAC-North America Meeting](#), Boston, Massachusetts.

**March 26–29, 2012** [Planet Under Pressure: New Knowledge Towards Solutions](#), London, U.K.

**June 3–8, 2012** [9th INTECOL International Wetlands Conference](#), Orlando, Florida.

**September 30–October 5, 2012** [4th International EcoSummit: Ecological Sustainability, Restoring the Planet's Ecosystem Services](#), Columbus, Ohio.

## Ecosystem Service Grants and Job Opportunities

[Alex C. Walker Foundation](#): Ecosystem Service grants, proposals are due October 1.

[National Science Foundation](#): Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems (CNH), proposals are due November 15.

[Defenders of Wildlife](#). Director of Conservation Economics and Finance.

[World Resources Institute, People and Ecosystems Program](#). Program Coordinator, Forests.

## Other Announcements

*Track Wildlife Phenology with USA-NPN's Nature's Notebook*

You can join observers across the nation in collecting phenology data on hundreds of species of plants and animals through the USA National Phenology Network's Nature's Notebook program. Nature's Notebook, a national plant and animal phenology observation program, is appropriate for scientists and non-scientists alike. Observations follow scientifically rigorous protocols, are entered in the national phenology database maintained by the USA National Phenology Network, and are made freely available for query, visualization, and download on their website. Learn more: [www.usanpn.org/participate](http://www.usanpn.org/participate).

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