

# NESP Digest

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

### Welcome to the first edition of the *NESP Digest*!

We are starting these regular communications to give you periodic updates on activities of the **National Ecosystem Services Partnership (NESP)**, as well as some other information on ecosystem services that we hope you'll find useful. These include news stories, papers and reports, events and meetings, grants, and job opportunities. We hope this information will help us fulfill NESP's goal of engaging public and private individuals and organizations to enhance collaboration within the ecosystem services community and to strengthen coordination of policy and market implementation and research at the national level.

If you have items that you'd like to include in the next edition of the NESP Digest, please [send them to us](#). For now we plan on releasing new editions each quarter, but if we get lots of new material, we could move to monthly editions.

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### Ongoing NESP activities

#### *Collecting Ecosystem Success Stories*

Many of us in the ecosystem service community are familiar with the [Catskills Mountains/New York City watershed example](#) of payments for ecosystem services. But in order to strengthen the case for protecting and enhancing ecosystem services, we need to find and highlight more examples of success. NESP is working with Tara O'Shea, a Master's student from Duke University's Nicholas School to collect information on case studies involving governments, businesses, or other entities changing their actions or policies in order to protect or enhance the

ecosystem services that benefit them. We will be posting these examples to the [NESP website](#), and we are working with the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University to build this information into the ACES web portal they are developing. If you have examples of ecosystem services success stories that we should include, please [let us know](#).

### *The Marine Ecosystem Services Partnership*

The [Marine Ecosystem Services Partnership](#) (MESP) is a new collaborative effort of NESP, the Nicholas Institute at Duke University, NOAA, Conservation International, and many others to develop and maintain a "virtual center" to better integrate our expanding library of economic valuations of marine ecosystems with marine policy needs. The virtual center will also host an active, facilitated community of practice to 1) link users and producers of economic valuation data, 2) help better interpret and use the data, and 3) communicate with researchers, helping to ensure that new valuation efforts better meet the needs of data users. We are working with MESP to connect their data collection efforts with the ACES web portal being constructed by the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University.

## **Ecosystem services in the news**

[Does Placing a Price Tag on Natural Resources Make Them More Valuable?](#) New West. Feb. 22, 2011.

[Dow Asks, What's the Business Case for Protecting Nature?](#) The Huffington Post. Feb. 8, 2011.

[Using land wisely is crucial for protecting ecosystem services.](#) The Guardian. Feb. 3, 2011.

['EcoCommerce' – to pay farmers for their environmental good works.](#) Agri-Pulse. Feb. 3, 2011.

## **Selected recent papers and reports on ecosystem services**

Todd BenDor & J. Adam Riggsbee. In press. [A survey of entrepreneurial risk in U.S. wetland and stream compensatory mitigation markets.](#) Environmental Science & Policy.

Dan van der Horst. 2011. [Adoption of payments for ecosystem services: An application of the Hågerstrand model.](#) Applied Geography 31, 668-676.

Carolyn Kousky. 2010. [Using Natural Capital to Reduce Disaster Risk](#). Journal of Natural Resources Policy Research 2, 343 - 356.

Evan Mercer, David Cooley, and Katherine Hamilton. 2011. [Taking Stock: Payments for Forest Ecosystem Services in the United States](#). Ecosystem Marketplace and the USDA Forest Service.

Oregon Sustainability Board. 2010. [Senate Bill 513 Ecosystem Services and Markets: Report from the Oregon Sustainability Board to the 2011 Legislative Assembly](#).

Giulia Wegner & Unai Pascual. In press. [Cost-benefit analysis in the context of ecosystem services for human well-being: A multidisciplinary critique](#). Global Environmental Change.

## Upcoming meetings and events

**May 23-25, 2011.** [American Ecological Engineering Society, 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting: Engineering for Ecosystem Services](#). Asheville, NC. Abstract submittal deadline is February 28.

**June 28-July 1, 2011.** [World Resources Institute and American Forest Foundation, 4th Annual Ecosystem Markets Conference](#). Madison, Wisconsin.

**July 15-16, 2011.** [Sendzimir Foundation, Synthesizing different perspectives on the value of urban ecosystem services: Seminar and workshop](#). University of Lodz, Poland.

**July 17-20, 2011.** [Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Conference](#).

**August 1-5, 2011.** [4<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration](#). Baltimore, MD.

**August 7-12, 2011.** [Ecological Society of America \(ESA\) Annual Meeting](#). Austin, TX.

**August 21-25, 2011.** [Society for Ecological Restoration, 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Ecological Restoration](#). Mérida, Mexico.

**October 4-7, 2011.** [Ecosystem Services Partnership \(ESP\), Ecosystem Services: Integrating Science and Practice](#). Wageningen, The Netherlands.

## Ecosystem service grants and job opportunities

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

[Environmental Protection Agency](#) – Postdoctoral position on Ecosystem Services and Sustainability

[Natural Capital Project](#) – Research Assistant (Economics)

[Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research](#) in Leipzig (Germany) – Two postdoctoral positions and one PhD position in ecosystem services modeling and valuation

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NESP is housed at [the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions](#) at Duke University.

