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Vol. 30 No. 4 July/August 2020

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- The Protective Value of Nature
- Lawsuit Filed to Restore the CBRA
- Thoughts from Board Members
- Association News
- New Members
- Webinars

The Protective Value of Nature: A New Report Underscores Wetlands Efficacy as Natural Infrastructure

Guest Article By: Sara Schlesinger and Jessie Ritter

A new report published by the National Wildlife Federation and Allied World, *The Protective Value of Nature: A Review of the Effectiveness of Natural Infrastructure for Hazard Risk Reduction*, highlights decades of model-based assessments and empirical evidence which underscore the considerable risk reduction

services and "co-benefits" that natural systems - ranging from healthy wetlands and floodplains, restored beaches, coral and oyster reefs, and other green infrastructure - can provide. Of these features, wetlands are some of the most valuable types of natural infrastructure that we have for reducing hazard risk. *The Protective Value of Nature* compiles significant evidence that wetlands can mitigate both coastal and inland flooding and erosion, in addition to drought risk. Simultaneously, wetlands offer numerous co-benefits including provision of clean water for people, habitat for fish and wildlife, recreational opportunities, and more. Below, we summarize some of the report's case studies and other research and recommendations specific to wetlands.

Wetlands and Inland Hazards

While floods are among the most frequent and expensive natural hazards in the U.S., the use of wetlands as natural infrastructure for stormwater and flood management can effectively reduce risks from flooding in many situations. Wetlands act as natural sponges, storing and slowly releasing flood waters after peak flood flows have passed (Antolini et al. 2019, Krasowski 2019).

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Wetland News

Read the full July/August Issue of the newsletter. (PDF)

The newsletter of the Association of State Wetland Managers

Dear Wetlanders,

I hope this late summer edition of Wetland News finds you all safe and healthy. There is a lot going on, with an ongoing pandemic, the school season starting back up, and the fall Presidential election looming. My thoughts go out to the folks in California dealing with the wildfires and all those being affected by hurricane season on top of everything else. I am fortunate to be able to enjoy the change of seasons, however, and the cooler evenings that come with the start of fall. Maine has been experiencing a horrific drought this year, so the late summer storms have been a blessing lately.

Marie Steik, ASWM Photo

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Link to full newsletter:
https://www.aswm.org/wetland_news/082820rev.pdf

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