NE1962 Multistate Research Project

**Outdoor Recreation, Parks & Other Green Environments: Understanding Human & Community Benefits & Mechanisms**

Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What is a Multi-state Project?**

**A:** A Multistate Project is a group of researchers from around the country interested in collaborating on high-priority research topics. Multistate projects are sanctioned by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) of the USDA. These projects are a mechanism designed to increase collaboration among universities and agencies in order to approach complex research topics in a more efficient and comprehensive way. The idea is that such collaboration stimulates creativity among researchers who are working on similar projects while increasing the sharing of resources, such as funding, personnel, etc.

**Q: Do you have to be a faculty member at an R1 or Land Grant school to participate?**

**A:** No. Eligible participants can come from state agricultural experiment stations, research institutions and agencies, regional comprehensive universities, managing agencies, and the Cooperative Extension system.

**Q: Does NIFA use Multi-state Projects to distribute funding?**

**A:** No. Multi-states are not funding sources, but are instead officially recognized conduits for collaboration and project development. In essence, a multi-state is a governmentally sponsored networking opportunity for like-minded researchers. Some participants, however (mainly those with Extension appointments), can access Hatch Act funding to help pay for meeting attendance and other participation.

**Q: Why should I participate in a Multi-state project?**

**A:** Researchers participate because, in addition to the usual benefits that emerge from interdisciplinary collaboration, proposals to federal agencies that emerge from Multi-states are at a competitive advantage. Within the group, there are also opportunities for mentoring, networking, and professional development.

**Q: What is the NE1962 Multi-state Project?**

**A:** The NE1962 Multi-state Project was designed to focus on outdoor recreation. Specifically, the purpose of NE1962 is to understand (through both research and engagement) the role of and mechanisms by which parks and other green environments support human well-being in three areas: 1) health and physical activity, particularly among youth; 2) environmental literacy and conservation engagement across the lifespan; and 3) the vibrancy and resiliency of communities. More information available online at: <http://www.nimss.org/projects/view/SAES/14756>

**Q: But I do applied work, like community engagement, programming, or service learning. Do I fit in?**

A: Of course! Many funded projects require an engagement component, and research teams are seeking to collaborate with other scholars who are doing applied work. Similarly, agency priorities are shifting away from basic research toward a more change-oriented scholarship of engagement.

**Q: What are recent some examples of projects of NE1962 group members?**

Jordan, R. C., A. E. Sorensen, and D. Clark. 2015. Urban/suburban park use: links to personal identities? *Current World Environment.*10(2): 355-366.

Larson, L. R., R. C. Stedman, C. B. Cooper, and D. J. Decker. 2015. Understanding the multi-dimensional structure of pro-environmental behavior. Journal of Environmental Psychology 43:112-124. DOI: 10.1016/j.jenvp.2015.06.004

Parsons, A. A., G. M. Besenyl, A. T. Kaczynski, S. A. Wilhelm Stanis, C. E. Blake, and D. Barr-Anderson. 2015. Investigating issues of environmental injustice in neighborhoods surrounding parks.*Journal of Leisure Research 47*(2): 285-303.

Paudyal, R.  and Stein, T.V. 2015. Trail uses trend and its association with temporal and meteorological patterns in Ocala section of Florida Trail. Paper presented at the 2015 International Symposium on Society and Resource Management.  June 13-18. Charleston, SC.

Scaccia, M., and S. M. De Urioste-Stone. 2015. Understanding the role of climate change on guiding Maine’s tourism industry to the Katahdin region. Annual report. Baxter State Park. 11pp.

Scholl, K. G., and G. Betrabet Gulwadi. 2015. Recognizing Campus Landscapes as Learning Spaces. Journal of Learning Spaces 4(1).

Schultz, C. L., S. P. Sayers, S. A. W. Stanis, L. A. Thombs, I. M. Thomas, and S. M. Canfield. 2015. The impact of a signalized crosswalk on traffic speed and street-crossing behaviors of residents in an underserved neighborhood. *Journal of Urban Health92*(5): 910-922.

Sorensen, A. E., D. Clark, and R. C. Jordan. 2015. Effects of Alternative Framing on the Publics Perceived Importance of Environmental Conservation. *Frontiers in Environmental Science: Interdisciplinary Climate Studies.* 3(36).DOI: 10.3389/fenvs.2015.00036

Stein, T.V.  and Paudyal, R. 2015. Why Take a Hike on a Long Distance Trail? Integrating Tourism and Recreation through Research. Invited Seminar at the School for Natural and Built Environments, University of South Australia. August 21. Mawson Lakes, Australia.

Tidball, K. G. 2015. Hunting and the Return of the Warrior: Therapeutic Possibilities for the Chase. Pages 153-160 in D. L. Dustin, K. Bricker, K. A. Schwab, M. Brownlee, K. Schwab, and N. Lundberg (editors) This Land Is Your Land: Toward a Better Understanding of Nature's Resiliency-Building and Restorative Power for Armed Forces Personnel, Veterans, and their Families. Sagamore Publishing, Urbana Illinois.

**Q: What’s the level of commitment?**

A: Since a Multi-state Project is an opportunity to network and exchange ideas, members can choose their level of participation. There are no requirements, but opportunities to participate include an annual meeting with agency leaders, conference calls to discuss funding opportunities, and meet-ups at conferences and professional meetings. There are also service opportunities including committee work and group leadership.

**Q: Will I have to report my research and scholarly activity?**

The Multi-state Project is required to submit an annual report to NIFA that details the research and scholarly activity of its members. For many members, this reporting is voluntary. If you have an Extension appointment, however, you may be required to submit a formal report of your efforts related to the NE1962 Multi-state Project (because its affiliated with Hatch funding).

**Q: How do I join?**

A: To be "formally" involved, one must register in the NIMSS database maintained by the USDA. This helps organizers know who is interested and how to communicate with them. Registration in NIMSS also allows you to be recognized by your own university or agency.

**Q: How do I navigate NIMSS?**

A: To Join the NE1962 Multistate Project, visit [http://nimss.umd.edu](http://nimss.umd.edu/). If it’s your first time, create a login and password. In the Top Menu, select “Participants” then select “Draft/Edit.” On the left side Menu, select "Draft New." Select the project number NE1962, and fill out the form. Click on “submit.”

**Q: What happens next?**

A: Members of the NE1962 Multistate receive access to Dropbox, an on-line file sharing tool. The NE1962 Dropbox contains background documents, annual reports, annual meeting minutes, reporting forms, and a roster of participants and their professional affiliations. Communication notices are generally sent out via email.

**Save the date**: 2017 NE1962 Annual Meeting

 January 26 & 27, 2017

 Location: Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, Washington, DC