

## **Anita Morzillo Recipient of 2017 US-IALE Distinguished Service Award**

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### Contributions to society for over a decade is recognized

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Dr. Anita Morzillo, Assistant Professor in Natural Resources and the Environment in the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources at the University of Connecticut was awarded the 2017 Distinguished Service Award by the US Regional Association of the International Association for Landscape Ecology (US-IALE) at their annual meeting in Baltimore Maryland, in April 2017. The award for Distinguished Service recognizes individuals who have contributed exceptionally to US-IALE. Exceptional service represents a contribution to US-IALE in terms of time, energy and dedication that advanced the mission of US-IALE in an extraordinary manner and thus deserves special recognition.

Dr. Morzillo has been provided near continuous to US-IALE over the past 12 years. She has actively participated in nearly all aspects of the society. She served on the awards committee from 2006 to 2013, including five years as chair. Concurrently she worked on the NASA- MSU Professional Enhancement Awards Program (2005-2013); and co-chaired that program for five years. She twice took on the responsibilities of co-hosting the annual meeting (2011 in Portland and then again just 4 years later at the World Congress in Portland). She has served as Member Liaison for three years, and is currently on the Executive Committee as a Councilor-at-Large.

Dr. Morzillo received her PhD at Michigan State University. She has worked as a Biologist with the US EPA and as an Assistant Professor at Oregon State University. She has been a faculty member at the University of Connecticut since 2014. Her research focuses on interactions between human activities and natural resources. She applies tools from both natural and social science to understand relationships between them. Her broad research areas include landscape ecology and human dimensions of natural resource management. Her research projects have focused on a variety of topics, including include wildlife management, forest management, water resources, urban ecosystems, outdoor recreation, urban-rural relationships, and human-nature conflict within the wildland-urban interface.

Dr. Morzillo's has over 35 scientific publications including in journals such as *Ecological Applications*, *Ecosphere*, *Ecology and Society* and *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*. The nominators for Dr. Morzillo's award noted "We have been inspired and motivated by Anita's dedication and service to the field."

For more information about Dr. Morzillo, please visit her website at <http://anitamorzillo.weebly.com/>

*The United States Chapter of the International Association for Landscape Ecology fosters landscape ecology research and practice. Details about the United States Chapter, and the International Association for Landscape Ecology, may be found at <http://www.usiale.org> and <http://www.landscape-ecology.org>.*

*Photo available here: [http://www.nrme.uconn.edu/Faculty\\_and\\_Staff/Morzillo.php](http://www.nrme.uconn.edu/Faculty_and_Staff/Morzillo.php) (photo by Anne Kuhn)*