Please see the Instructions for Authors (IFA) document found at http://esapubs.org/esapubs/ESPFinal.pdf.

\_**X**\_\_\_ 1. Title: The title must be composed of no more than 120 characters, including spaces and punctuation.

\_ **X**\_\_\_ 2. Title page: See pages 1 and 2 of the IFA.

\_\_ **X**\_\_ 3. Check that the hierarchy of headings is discernible.

\_\_ **X** \_\_ 4. Check that the in-text reference style matches the guidelines in the IFA. See page 15.

\_\_ **X** \_\_ 5. Check that the citations in the literature cited section follow the formats outlined on pages 3-5 and that complete information is provided. Most corrections at the page proof stage are associated with in-text references and literature citations.

\_\_ **X** \_\_ 6. Check that the tables follow the guidelines in the IFA beginning on page 5. To determine whether a table will fit on the PDF page, it must fit width-wise in Times New Roman, 10-point type, on an 8.5 x 11 inch page in portrait orientation (NOT landscape) with a minimum margin of 0.5 inch.

\_\_ **X**\_\_ 7. Check that figures are prepared according to the instructions in the IFA beginning on page 9. Figures must be of adequate resolution (at least 200 dpi but not more than 600 dpi), should be trimmed of extra white space around the image, and should be no wider than 15.6 cm and no taller than 17.2 cm. Once you have prepared the figures, we recommend that you print them at 100% and place them alongside a printed page from the PDF version of an article posted in Ecosphere to determine that you are satisfied with the size and quality of the figures. A further fee of $100/figure would be assessed for revision at the proof stage. We urge you to check the figures carefully for any misspellings or other potential errors.

\_\_ **X** \_\_ 8. Check that tables and figures are mentioned in the body of the manuscript in numeric order.

\_\_ **X** \_\_ 9. Display equations must be formatted using MathType software (a trial version is available online). See instructions beginning on page 17.

\_\_ **X** \_\_ 10. Appendices: Figures and tables appearing as appendices must be prepared in the same manner as tables and figures in the body of the article. Appendices are identifie d by letters, i.e., Appendix A, Appendix B, and so on. Tables and figures are identified by appendix letter and number within the specific appendix, i.e., Table A1, Table A2, Table B1, Table B2, Fig. A1, Fig. A2, Fig. B1 and so on.

\_\_ **X** \_\_ 11. Supplements: See instructions regarding the preparation of Supplements for Ecological Archives on page 12 of the IFA.

\_\_\_\_\_ 12. Do not send files by email attachment unless instructed to do so. In order to avoid delaying publication, upload files to Ecosphere's EcoTrack. An initial quality control check is performed and you will be informed if any further preparation by you is necessary.