

November 5, 2019

Fall Meeting Reminder

The Utah Geological Survey will be hosting a wetland working group meeting at 1 pm on November 20th. The meeting will be held at the Department of Natural Resources building at 1594 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah in rooms 1040 and 1050. Join us to hear from a variety of speakers discussing wetland-related projects happening here in Utah and to take part in general discussion with the group. Planned speakers for the meeting include Ann Neville from The Nature Conservancy discussing the development of a new in-lieu fee mitigation program, Tess Webb discussing the new Bureau of Land Management lentic monitoring protocol, and Kathleen Dwire discussing fen mapping and its use in U.S. Forest Service land management.

Remote participants can join the meeting via [Hangouts Meet](#) with call-in number 424-379-1360, PIN: 949 628#

New Wetlands Spatial Data Available Online

The Nature Conservancy has posted a new gallery to Data Basin with spatial datasets to help us better understand wetlands in Utah. The datasets were created by Marion Clement, a Directorate Fellow for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to help The Nature Conservancy develop an in-lieu fee wetland mitigation program in northern Utah. All data are available for viewing or download [online](#), and are organized into three datasets. **Historical wetland conversions** shows the estimated change in wetlands from 1938 to 2018 based on modeled historical land cover data. **Wetland restoration opportunities** shows the location of current or historical wetlands based on overlap with multiple datasets depicting existing or potential wetlands. The **wetland restoration prioritization tool** is designed to help prioritize mitigation projects according to the goals of the in-lieu fee wetland mitigation program and is based on three datasets also available in Data Basin, historical impacts, potential project lift, and project resilience.

Grand Canyon Trust Spring Assessment in Southeastern Utah

The Grant Canyon Trust recently completed an assessment of 41 springs around Elk Ridge and Cedar Mesa in southeastern Utah. The assessment focused on springs on both sides of the revised boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument and examined effects of humans, vehicles, and grazing to spring condition. Surveyors collected data on location, water

abundance, disturbances, wildlife water accessibility, and condition at all sites, plus vegetation, wildlife, invertebrates, flow, and water quality at some sites. The report is available [online](#).

Water Banking Survey

The State of Utah is exploring water banking as a potential way to better support Utah's agricultural needs and meet increased social, environmental, and economic water demands. Water banking is a market tool to facilitate voluntary and temporary transactions that may provide both income to water rights owners and greater water access flexibility. One potential benefit of water banking could be an increased ability to secure instream flows and water for wetlands. The Legislature has asked for recommendations on water banking for the 2020 Legislative Session. More information about water banking and a link to draft legislation created by a stakeholder group can be found [online](#), where you can also provide [input](#) about water banking.