

April 6, 2020

Hello! What a strange season is upon us. I hope you are all staying safe and healthy.

The UGS Wetland Working Group meeting will still be held on April 20th from 10 am to 12 pm, albeit in an online format only. I hope you are able to join us to hear our great presenters: Janice Gardner (Wild Utah Project) and Ashley Kijowski (Utah Division of Wildlife Resources) speaking about their research into Great Salt Lake wetland management, Sarah Quistberg (U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service) speaking about wetland classification in the Bonneville Basin, and Theron Miller (Wasatch Front Water Quality Council) speaking about recent and upcoming water quality research around Great Salt Lake.

The meeting will be hosted via Google Hangouts Meet. You can participate online at meet.google.com/eaz-gepg-qxy and use your computer audio and microphone or call in to (US)+1 405-380-9068 PIN: 586 660 425#.

Bear River Wetland Report

The UGS recently completed a report on wetlands in the Bear River watershed, [Central Basin Bear River Watershed Wetland Assessment and Landscape Analysis](#). The report describes the results of a field study that was conducted in 2017 in the Central Basin and Range portion of the watershed (which includes portions of Cache and Malad Valleys and Great Salt Lake) and also includes a landscape analysis looking at land ownership and landscape stress by wetland type. Like other studied watersheds in the state, wetlands in the Bear River Watershed face water quality and hydroperiod stressors, as well as widespread non-native plant invasion.

Wetland Spatial Data and the UGS Wetland Map Application

The UGS has completed a wetland mapping project in a portion of the Uinta Basin including Vernal and a stretch of the Green River. The data are currently in the hands of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and will soon be published to the [National Wetlands Inventory mapper](#). The updated data will also be made available through [AGRC](#) and on the [UGS wetland map application](#). Please reach out to us if you need this updated data before it is officially published.

We recently added the NRCS Hydric Soils Classes layer to the [UGS wetland map application](#) to help answer frequent landowner questions about possible wetlands on their property. While a definitive answer requires a field visit, the combination of hydric soil and wetland spatial data can be a useful starting place to determine how likely it is that wetlands may be at a site. A recent [Survey Notes article](#) published by the UGS provides further guidance on how you can recognize a wetland on your property.

New Book About Great Salt Lake Biology

We are excited about the upcoming publication of the first comprehensive book on Great Salt Lake biology, [*Great Salt Lake Biology: A Terminal Lake in a Time of Change*](#). Published by Springer and edited by Bonnie Baxter and Jaimi Butler, the book should be available in June. The book includes chapters exploring the plants and animals that are found around the lake, factors such as water use and climate change that are impacting the lake, and special features of the lake including salinity, microbialites, and tar seeps. There is even a chapter that discusses how Great Salt Lake is being used as an analogue for ancient Martian aqueous systems!