

October 3, 2022

Hello,

I scheduled a Wetland Working Group meeting for early November. Read below for details, as well as other Utah wetland news. Happy fall!

Next Wetland Working Group Meeting

I have scheduled the next Wetland Working Group meeting for November 8th from 10 am to 12 pm. This will be a hybrid meeting with both an in-person and remote option for attendance. The meeting will be in the DNR Auditorium at 1594 W. North Temple in Salt Lake City. As always, please feel free to invite others who may be interested. For folks attending remotely, here is a link to the meeting invite:

Google Meet Video Conference:

<https://meet.google.com/rwr-quoo-wqe>

Telephone (backup):

470-285-0085 PIN: 540 334 026#

The first half of the meeting will feature three speakers discussing online tools and Utah-specific databases for aquatic resources. First, Patrick Donnelly with the Intermountain Joint Venture will present the Wetland Evaluation Tools he developed that use Landsat data to map the location, timing, and trends in surface water across Utah. Second, Diane Menuz will showcase several of the UGS-developed wetland tools and resources, including the GeoDataArchive, the Wetlands Plant App, and the Wetlands app. Last, Becka Downard with the Utah Geological Survey will discuss her plans to create an online tool with data from Great Salt Lake. She will be requesting feedback from meeting attendees about useful features, data to include, and how to best reach possible users.

Following a brief break, we will split into smaller groups organized by topics, such as restoration, planning and policy, management, and education and outreach. Each group will discuss issues and concerns specific to that topic as it relates to Utah's wetlands. I hope each group can 1) come up with a list of priorities for research or action; 2) identify existing groups or people

working on these issues; and 3) determine what role if any the Wetland Working Group could play in addressing the priorities. I will send out more information about the breakout groups as the meeting gets closer.

Updated Cache Valley Wetland Data and Outreach Material

The UGS recently completed new wetland and riparian mapping for Cache Valley, Utah. The new mapping has been incorporated into the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) and replaces mapping from 1980s. We applied additional attributes to the data that capture information about the hydrology, geomorphology, and connectivity of the mapped features not included in typical NWI mapping and assigned each feature ratings based on their likely capacity to provide nine wetland functions. The associated report for this work can be found in [Cache Valley Wetland Mapping—Supplemental Report](#). The NWI mapping can be viewed online on the [UGS wetlands app](#) and [downloaded by state or watershed from NWI](#). If you are interested in the additional attributes and functional data, contact Pete Goodwin (pgoodwin@utah.gov) directly for access and support in using the data to serve your needs. In addition to the report, UGS produced Circular 133, [Updated Wetland Mapping in Cache County](#), to introduce the mapping and discuss data uses for a broad variety of potential data users.

USGS Great Salt Lake Hydro Mapper

The USGS recently created the [Great Salt Lake Hydro Mapper](#). Funded by the Great Salt Lake Advisory Council in 2021, this online resource provides easy access to real-time data on lake surface elevations, surface water inflows and salinity levels. The tool also shows how the current lake level affects important resources on the lake, including wetlands, wildlife, recreation, and economics, based on the Great Salt Lake Comprehensive Management Plan Elevation Matrix.

Great Basin Stream and Riparian Sensitivity and Resilience

The U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station put out a two-part publication on streams and riparian areas in the Great Basin, [Geomorphic sensitivity and ecological resilience of Great Basin streams and riparian ecosystems](#). The first part focuses on key concepts related to geomorphic sensitivity, ecological resilience, and ecological integrity. The second part provides protocols to assess these attributes in streams, riparian areas, and meadows in higher-elevation Great Basin watersheds. The assessments can provide the basis for prioritizing areas for conservation and restoration action.

RadioWest Series on Great Salt Lake

RadioWest continues to discuss Great Salt Lake, as part of their series: The State and Fate of Great Salt Lake. In the fourth and most recent episode, Bonnie Baxter with Westminster College and Christine Rumsey and Ryan Rowland with the U.S. Geological Survey discuss changes they've seen in the lake over the past year. You can listen to all four episodes for free: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#), [Part 4](#)

Utah Wetlands in the News

There are a couple of interesting news articles that came out recently highlighting Utah's wetlands. The Salt Lake Tribune published an [article](#) about threats to the boreal toad and work being done by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the Hogle Zoo to protect the species. And ABC4 published an [article](#) about new wetlands being built by The Nature Conservancy to expand wetland habitat in the Great Salt Lake Wetlands Preserve. Happy reading!