

April 4, 2022

Hello! I hope you are all having a lovely spring and not melting down in the unseasonably warm weather. I am not organizing a spring working group meeting this year due to a busy field schedule, but I am very much looking forward to returning to an in-person meeting this fall. In the meantime, enjoy the newsletter and go attend the Great Salt Lake Issues Forum in May to get your fill on Utah wetlands talks.

Results of Wetland Stakeholder Survey

Thank you to the 34 folks who responded to the wetland stakeholder survey and provided great feedback about the strengths, weaknesses, and possible directions for the wetland working group. Overall, respondents found the group useful and working well. Some respondents were interested in returning to in-person meetings and setting aside more time to discuss and meet with colleagues at these meetings. Others mentioned that the remote format was working well and preferred for them. Based on that feedback I hope to organize an in-person meeting this fall and will try to organize one in-person and one virtual meeting per year. There was interest in more frequent wetland updates — so expect to receive a few other emails from me about timely issues in addition to these biannual newsletters. Other feedback included increasing the number and type of participants, strong support for a future wetland conference, and interest in forming focused subgroups on topics such as restoration or mapping. I hope to discuss these ideas at the next meeting.

New Data Available on UGS Wetland Application

The UGS has added two new datasets to our online plant application: landscape data and wetland assessment study results. The Landscape Data layers summarize information about the types, distribution, and ownership of aquatic features in the state at five different spatial scales. With this data, you can visualize attributes such as the density of emergent wetlands by HUC12 watershed unit or the percent of vegetated wetlands under federal ownership by ecoregion. The landscape data also includes surface water extent trends at the HUC12 and HUC8 scales and groundwater well trend data at the HUC8 scale. The second new layer, Wetland Assessment Study Results, can be found by expanding the Wetland Condition section of the legend. Data in this layer summarizes major findings from our field-based rapid assessment surveys. You can also view all results from a survey by clicking on a feature under Wetland Assessment Projects and then clicking on Study Results on the pop-up. The new layers can be viewed [online](#) or [downloaded](#) with detailed metadata. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Save the Date—Great Salt Lake Issues Forum

The Friends of the Great Salt Lake will be hosting the Great Salt Lake Issues Forum from May 18 to 20th. This year's theme is *Great Salt Lake: The Gift that Keeps on Giving, Just Add Water*

and talks are centered around themes such as salinity balance, declining lake levels, and tools in the watershed. In addition to three days of speakers, the forum includes a 3-day poster session, awarding of scholarships, and a Friday evening reception and banquet. Learn more here: <https://www.fogsl.org/2022forum>.

UGS Wetland Plant Species Trait Database and Report

The Wetland section at the Utah Geological Survey recently completed an Open-File Report entitled, *Trait data for Utah's Central Basin and Range wetland plants*. This report details our effort to assign trait values to wetland plant species based on species' sensitivity to disturbances (e.g., cattle grazing, nutrient inputs) and value for functions (e.g., wildlife habitat, water quality improvement). These traits can be summarized for wetland sites to infer the wetland's condition and ability to provide certain functions. As part of the report, we analyzed the relationship between species-based nutrient tolerance scores and nutrient input data collected in the field and found that the species-based scores correlated well with field predictions of nutrient tolerance. The report is available [online](#); contact the UGS for a copy of the trait database if you are interested.

Great Salt Lake Restoration Guidance

The Utah State University Extension recently published a [factsheet](#) about restoring native plants in Great Salt Lake wetlands. The factsheet details best practices for establishing native wetland vegetation via seeding following any disturbance, including Phragmites treatment.

RadioWest Series on Great Salt Lake and Utah Lake

RadioWest recently completed a three-part series on Great Salt Lake and started a new series on Utah Lake. I have only listened to one of the programs so far but found the program interesting and informative. The shows can be streamed online for free at the links below.

Great Salt Lake: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#)

Utah Lake: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#)

Ripple Effect Podcast And Recent Episode on 2022 Legislative Session

Clyde Snow Attorneys at Law host the Ripple Effect podcast focusing on water issues in Utah. In a recent episode, hosts discussed key water-related bills from the 2022 Utah Legislative Session; [check it out](#).

Utah Lake Phragmites Control StoryMap

The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands recently published a StoryMap showcasing collaborative efforts to remove Phragmites from the Utah Lake shoreline. Phragmites covered approximately 8000 acres of Utah Lake's shoreline in 2012; that cover has been reduced by approximately 70% thanks to "research-backed best management practices, collaboration, and persistence." Check out the [StoryMap](#) to learn more and see some great before and after photos.