April 12, 2023

Hello and happy spring! I hope you all are enjoying the warm weather and respite from all the epic snow we have gotten this winter. I am sending out a summary of wetland news as well as a reminder about the Wetland Working Group meeting next Wednesday.

Next Working Group Meeting

The next wetland working group meeting will be held remotely on Wednesday April 19th from 10 am to 12 pm. We have three speakers for the first part of the meeting (see the list below). For the last part of the meeting, Laurel Saito will lead a discussion on management strategies for groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) in the west. GDEs include any ecosystem supported by groundwater, including springs and seeps, deep-rooted plant communities like greasewood and aspen, and many rivers, lakes, and wetlands. Please think about what strategies you use for managing or sustaining these systems, including strategies related to policy, science/monitoring, and management, and the pros and cons associated with the strategies (e.g., cost, time, effort, logistics, etc.).

Meeting ID meet.google.com/xdz-ssrx-acg

Phone Numbers (US)+1 541-714-3933 PIN: 552 653 645#

Speakers include:

· Christine Rumsey with USGS talking about the Saline Lakes science strategy

· Sarah Marshall with Colorado Natural Heritage Program talking about using remote sensing and machine-learning techniques to map extent of wetlands and beaver ponds on the Colorado Plateau

· Laurel Saito from TNC talking about a stressor and threat assessment for groundwater dependent ecosystems in Nevada

Hope to see you there!

UGS Wetland Map Application

We have made a few updates to our wetland map application. The most notable change is that we have added a layer showing the areas where we have enhanced attributes for the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) data. These enhanced attributes, called Landscape Position, Landform, Water Flow Path, and Waterbody Type (LLWW) descriptions, provide so much additional detail beyond the basic NWI classes and can be crosswalked to Hydrogeomorphic (HGM) classes displayed on our mapper. To download the spatial data, go to the upper-left hand menu on the application, select Database Contents, and scroll down to the section that describes the Additional Attributes and LLWW Data. Feel free to reach out to myself or Pete Goodwin (pgoodwin@utah.gov) if you have any questions.

We plan to make some additional updates to the application in the next few months. If there is anything you would really like to see on the app, please let us know!

Great Salt Lake News

There are a few new resources related to Great Salt Lake worth sharing. First, we compiled reports on Great Salt Lake wetlands that were put together by the Utah Division of Water Quality (UDWQ) into an online archive. These reports represent the results of ten years of surveys at over 130 sites around Great Salt Lake. Check out the latest report or peruse the whole archive.

Second, the Wallace Stenger Center at Utah State University recently hosted a symposium on The Future of Great Salt Lake. You can view select talks from scientists, politicians, and religious leaders from the event online; scroll down to the Event Recordings section to see what is available.

Last, the State created a website to centralize the organizations, tools, and work that contribute to Great Salt Lake's management. Learn more about current conditions at the lake, partners involved in managing the lake and the ecology of this important ecosystem.

Other Great Resources

Here are a few other resources I want to share:

· The USGS created a web product to summarize information on groundwater conditions in Utah, replacing the previously published annual reports on the subject.

· Sageland Collaborative recently shared a video highlighting landowners stewarding restoration projects in the Weber River watershed. The restoration work featured in the video

includes beaver releases, fish passage working, and grazing improvements that came about through an impressive amount of collaboration.

· Check out this recent paper comparing environmental characteristics of natural beaver dam and beaver dam analog projects in the Great Salt Lake watershed.

Call for Items

Please let me know if you have any information you would like shared with this group, which is composed of over 160 stakeholders with an interest in Utah wetlands. I can include the information in a future newsletter, which comes out twice per year, or, for more time-sensitive matters, share with the group right away. Thanks!