



Utah Wetland Working Group In-Person Meeting

December 4, 2025

Utah Core Research Center



Agenda

9:00 - 9:15 - Arrival

9:15 - 9:20 - Welcome and opening comments

9:20 - 10:40 - Presentations

10:40 - 10:55 - Break

10:55 - 11:15 - Wetland Working Group and Wetland Program Plan updates

11:15 - 12:00 - Wetland Working Group planning and breakout session

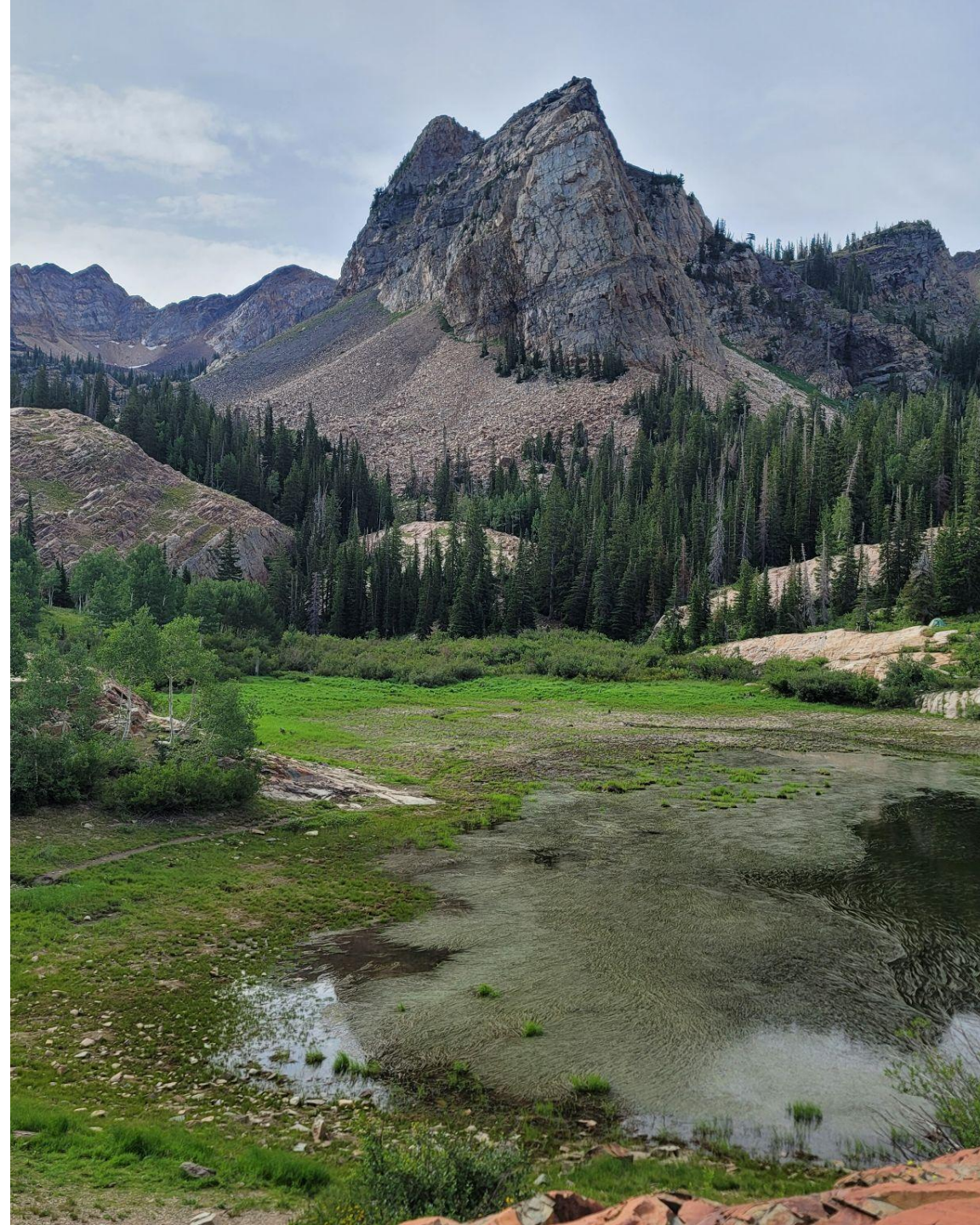
12:00 - 12:30 - Light Lunch

12:30 - Meeting Ends

Hydric Spaces in High Places: Assessing Utah's Montane Wetlands

Elisabeth Stimmel

Utah Geological Survey



Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Restoration: Experimental Results and Propagation Recommendations

Sandy Johnston

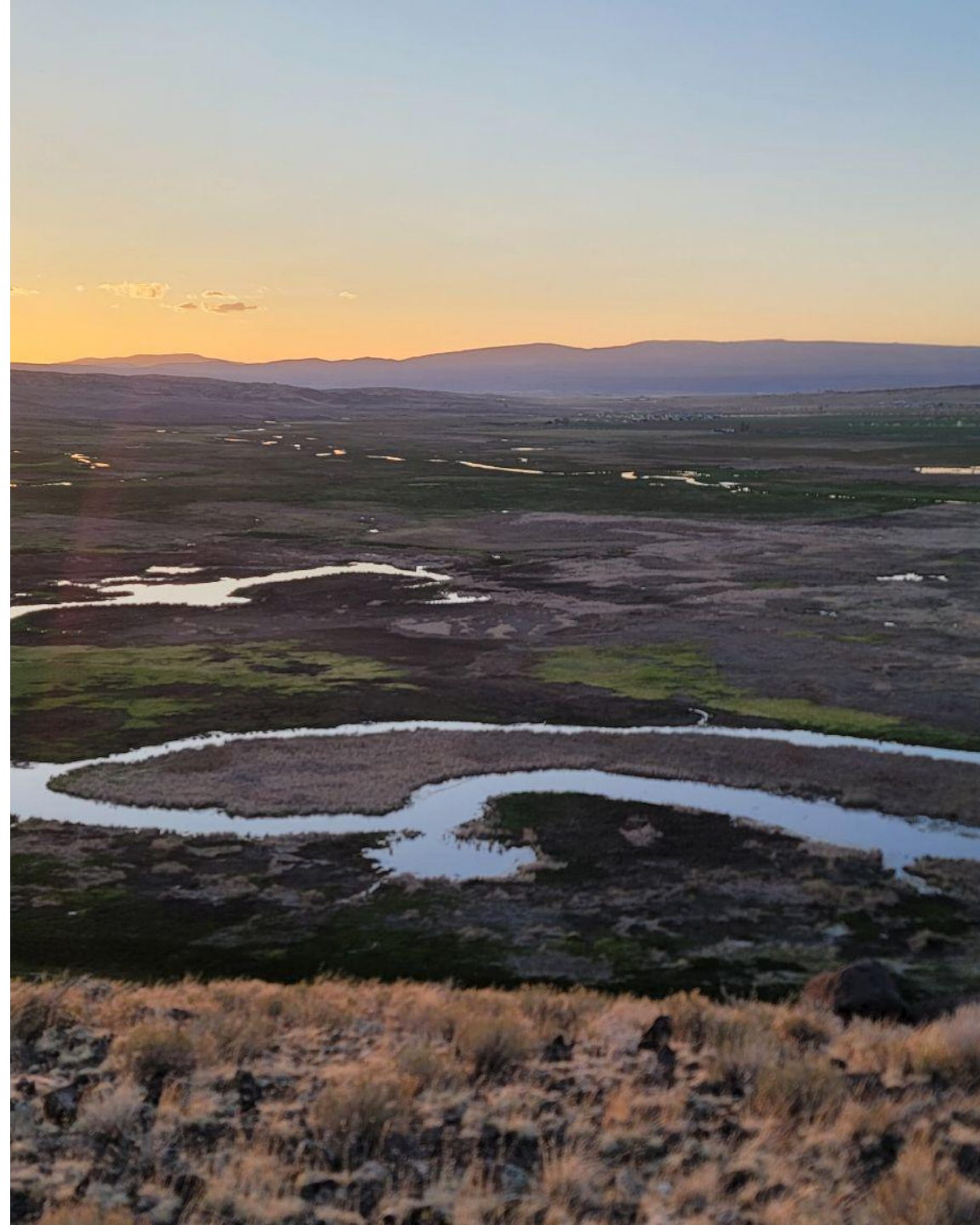
Utah State University



Exploring existing & novel tools to protect riparian corridors in rapidly growing communities of the Intermountain West, USA

Dr. Jennifer Follstad Shah

University of Utah



General Updates

Weber River Symposium

CONFLUENCE 2026

What: The annual Weber River Symposium

When: January 13, 2026: 9 am to 4 pm and 4 pm to 7 pm

Where: Weber State University - Shepherd Union Ballroom

<https://www.weberriverpartnership.org/general-8>



General Updates

Wetland Working Group Website is Live!

<https://geology.utah.gov/water/info/wetland-working-group/>

- Previous meeting agendas and presentations
- Wetland Program Plans
- Working Group History



WATER & WETLANDS

MAPS

UTAH WETLAND WORKING GROUP

The Utah Wetland Working Group was established in 2015 as a statewide forum for the working group is to raise awareness of the Utah Geological Survey's wetland resources, partners to share information, identify needs, and coordinate efforts. Since its inception, the group has developed Program Plans, which outline statewide goals and strategies for wetland research and management.

For more information about the working group, meetings, and getting involved, please visit the [Wetland Working Group website](#).

Upcoming Meetings:

📅 WETLAND WORKING GROUP ANNUAL MEETING

December 4th, 2025 – Location TBD

[+ Previous Meetings](#)

Wetland Program Plans

Wetland Program Plans are voluntary plans encouraged by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a particular period of time. The Utah Geological Survey is currently developing a Wetland Program Plan for priority projects within the state. Members of the Wetland Working Group are encouraged to provide input on the plan, which is anticipated to be finalized in winter 2026.

Previous Wetland Program Plans:

- Wetland Program Plan, 2018–2023
- Wetland Program Plan Addendum, 2016–2017

Survey Results

This question helped guide focus group organization and the development of the Wetland Program Plan Key Elements.

Regarding updating and developing a strategic Wetland Program Plan to focus the UGS and Partners' work, please rank the following wetland action priorities by importance:

Rank	Category
1	Monitoring and Assessment
2	Mapping and Landscape Planning
3	Sustainable Funding
4	Regulations
5	Data Communication and Access
6	Water Quality Standards
7	Voluntary Restoration and Protection
8	Outreach, Education, and Engagement

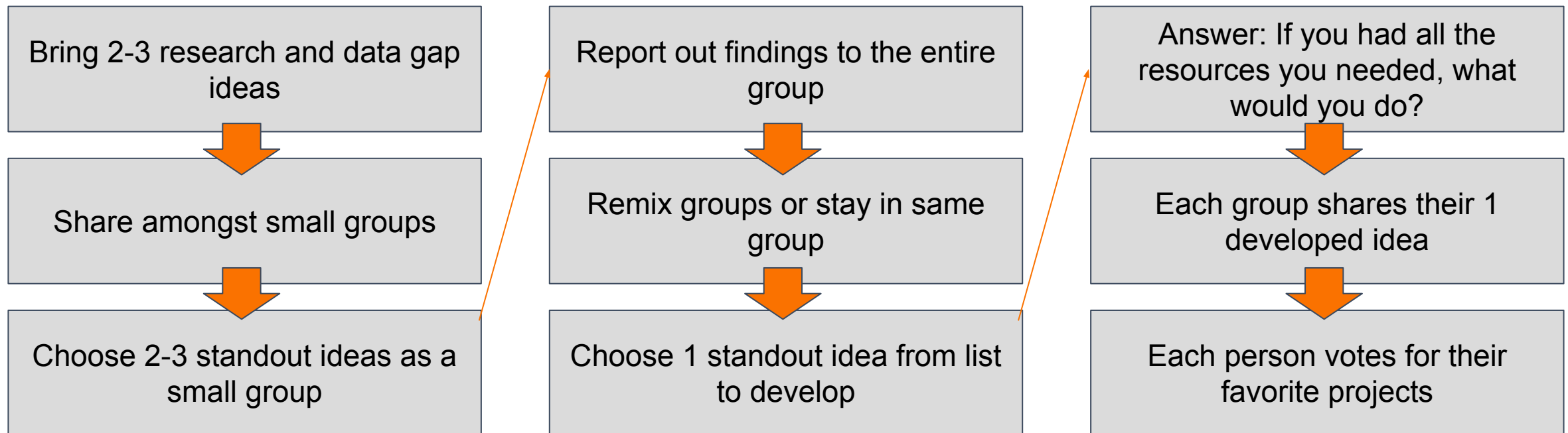
Focus Group Results

1. Three focus groups
2. Over 20 participants
3. Group sessions organized around:
 - a. Mapping and Spatial Analysis
 - b. Planning, Policy, and Regulations
 - c. Education, Outreach, and Engagement
 - d. Wetland Management
 - e. Monitoring and Assessment
 - f. Restoration



Focus Group Results

I asked participants to think creatively and out-of-the box to develop project ideas that did not have constraints.



Focus Group Results

These ideas were refined and categorized, and will become a part of the actions within the next Wetland Program Plan.

Example projects developed during the meetings include:

1. Updating NWI data throughout Utah, and include modifiers and additional data that is Utah specific. Update Landscape Position, Landform, Water Flow Path, and Waterbody Type (LLWW) attribution, too.
2. Developing connectivity data for aquatic resources across Utah to streamline permitting and voluntary restoration opportunities.
3. Refine and reformat wetland reference condition data into easy-to-use resources for wetland managers.
4. Expand outreach to private landowners and rural communities that focuses on the benefits of wetland conservation and restoration, with clear examples of viable and sustainable projects (such as BDAs).

2026 Utah Wetland Program Plan

The updated Utah Wetland Program Plan will contain four Core Elements, modified from the EPA's Core Elements Framework and informed by our work this summer. Those Core Elements are similar, as well as different, to what has been in the previous plan:

1. Monitoring and Assessment
2. Mapping and Landscape Planning
3. Voluntary Restoration and Protection
4. **Outreach, Coordination, and Data Dissemination**
 - a. **Education, Outreach, and Coordination?**

2026 Utah Wetland Program Plan

The projects that we identified during focus groups will become Actions and Activities. Actions are broad categories within each Element that UGS aims to complete. Activities are projects or components of projects:

1. Monitoring and Assessment

- a. **Action:** Create wetland monitoring tools that are accessible to a variety of users
 - i. **Activity:** Develop a vegetation-based wetland assessment tool for the Central Basin and Range ecoregion
 - ii. **Activity:** Define wetland reference condition metrics for inclusion in an assessment tool
 - iii. **Activity:** Develop Coefficients of Conservatism for the flora of Utah

2. Voluntary Restoration and Protection

- a. **Action:** Encourage adoption of voluntary restoration through LTPBR techniques
 - i. **Activity:** Partner and collaborate with Utah organizations to connect private landowners with successful examples of LTPBRs and BDAs on public lands

Looking Ahead: Future of the Group

The Wetland Working Group has been pivotal in assessing the current wetland needs across the State.

Now that we are moving towards an updated Wetland Program Plan:

1. **How do we implement the priorities and activities within this plan as a Group?**

AND

2. **What role will the Wetland Working Group play in continuing to contribute to the WPP and to help push priorities forward for the State?**

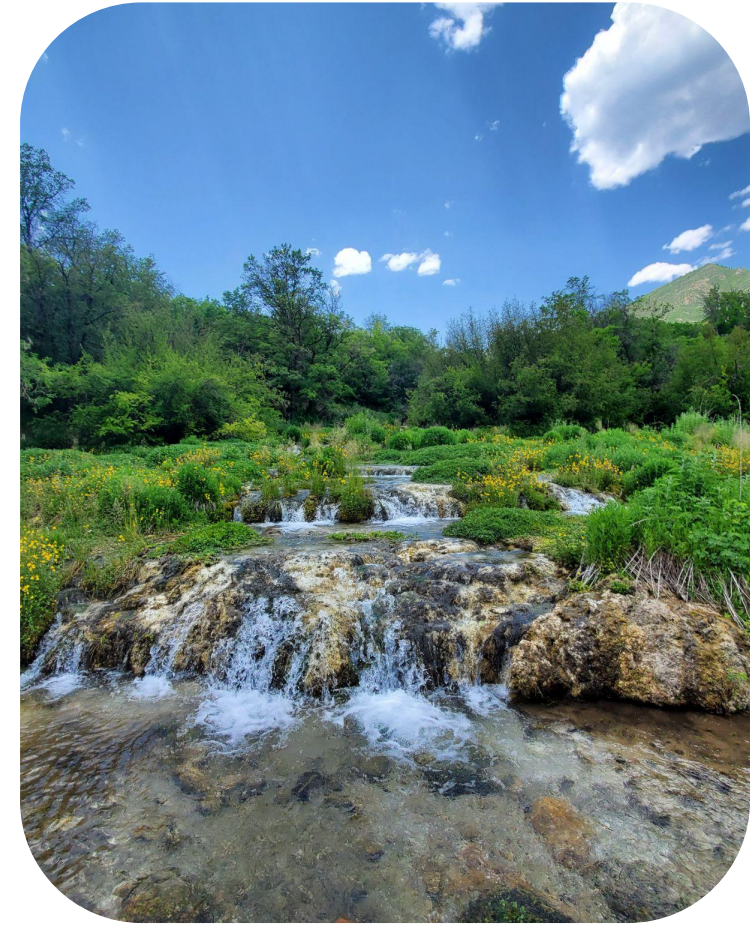


Looking Ahead: Future of the Group

Our next 30-45 minutes will be two fold:

1. I want to learn about how the WWG is currently functioning, and whether you'd like to see changes or improvements.
2. We will then break out into groups and discuss:
 - a. Shaping the future value and function of the WWG
 - b. Brainstorming future involvement of the Group / members in state wide wetland priorities as outlined in the Wetland Program Plan
 - c. Brainstorm how to facilitate professional opportunities as needed and stated by those within this group

Your input will inform future meetings and coordinate priorities, and will guide how this group will continue to support the state's wetland program



Looking Ahead: Future of the Group

Activity 1

Mentimeter

Use your phone's camera to take a picture of the QR code and participate in real time.



Looking Ahead: Future of the Group

Activity 2

Breakouts for Brainstorming and Planning

- 1. Breakout into small groups.**
- 2. Assign a note-taker.**
- 3. Put thoughts and ideas on your giant notepad.**
- 4. There will be four slides with themes and questions as prompts.**
- 5. Label each notepad sheet with the Theme.**

Looking Ahead: Future of the Group

Theme 1

Purpose and Value of the Wetland Working Group

1. What does the Utah Wetland Working Group provide that no other body in Utah currently does?
2. What should the Utah Wetland Working Group exist to do? What role should this group play in the State?
3. What kind of collaborations or support do you want from this group?
4. What do you most value about the Utah Wetland Working Group?
5. Are we primarily a networking group? A technical advisory group? A coordination body? A project-implementing collaboration? All of the above?

Looking Ahead: Future of the Group

Theme 2

Subcommittees

1. What topics and themes warrant a subcommittee?
2. Which parts of the Wetland Program Plan would benefit from focused, ongoing subcommittee work groups?
3. What would a successful subcommittee need in order to get started?
4. What should the expectations be for a subcommittee?
5. How could subcommittees help the Utah Wetland Working Group achieve more than the large group alone?

Looking Ahead: Future of the Group

Theme 3

Collaboration and Contribution

1. **Where do you personally feel you could contribute meaningfully (expertise, experience, connections)?**
2. **Are there opportunities for leadership or contributions you'd be excited to take on?**
3. **What skills or assets exist within this group that we are not currently tapping into?**
4. **Realistically, how much time and capacity can you commit to contributing and collaborating?**
5. **Would your organization be supportive? In what ways would your organization be willing to participate?**

Looking Ahead: Future of the Group

Theme 4

State Wetland Coordinator

1. What do you want or need from the State Wetland Coordinator?
2. How can the Coordinator best support this Group through communication, data sharing, or organizational activities?
3. What support would make it easier for you or your organization to contribute to statewide wetland work?
4. What kinds of connection-making and facilitation would be the most valuable for you and your organization?

Looking Ahead: Future of the Group

END of ACTIVITY

Please leave your notepads where they are.

I will move paper sheets into the main Core Center.

**You will get stickers. Please vote for your favorite
ideas/thoughts/concepts.**

PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH THE CORE.



THANK YOU

December 4, 2025

Utah Core Research Center

