The Spring Runoff Conference, hosted by the USU Water Initiative, is held annually on the campus of Utah State University. The conference provides a forum for interdisciplinary sharing and exchange of ideas on water-related issues in Utah and the Intermountain Region.

Online Agenda can be found at www.usu.edu/water/conference/2022-conference
AGENDA Tuesday, March 29

Welcome Address
8:30 am – 8:45 am
President Noelle Cockett—Utah State University

Tribute to Dean Chris Luecke
8:45 am – 9:00 am
Moderator: Dr. David Tarboton

Keynote Speakers
9:00 am – 9:30 am
Dr. Wayne Wurtsbaugh—Emeritus Professor, Utah State University Dept of Watershed Sciences
Dr. Phaedra Budy—Professor, Utah State University Dept of Watershed Sciences and US Geological Survey Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
Dr. Charles Hawkins—Professor, Utah State University Dept of Watershed Sciences

State of Utah Water Year 2022
9:30 am – 10:00 am
Glen Merrill—Senior Service Hydrologist, National Weather Service

State of Intermountain West Drought
10:00 am – 10:30 am
Joel Lusebøe—Drought Early Warning System Coordinator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Plenary 1
10:30 am – 10:55 am
Building Drought Resilience in Utah
Candice Hasenpflug, PE—Director, Utah Division of Water Resources

Conserving Wildlife in the Face of Drought: A State Agency Perspective
11:05 am – 11:30 am
Dr. Frank Howe—Associate Professor, Utah State University Dept of Wildlife Resources and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

The Uncertain Future of the Colorado River
11:30 am – 11:45 am
Dr. Jack Schmidt—Professor, Utah State University Dept of Watershed Sciences and Center for Colorado River Studies

Implementing the Clean Water Act in a Drier World
11:45 am – 12:10 pm
John Mackay, PE—Assistant Director, Utah Division of Water Quality

Lunch On Your Own
12:10 pm – 12:35 pm

Evaluating the Presence and Exposure Risk of PFAS Compounds in a Rural Setting
12:45 pm – 1:00 pm
Chuck Cullom—Executive Director, Upper Colorado River Commission

Plenary 2
1:00 pm – 1:20 pm
Forecasting and Adapting to Drought
Moderator: Dr. Erin Rivers and Hope Brathwaite

Forecasting Drought in the Colorado River Basin
2:00 pm – 2:20 pm
Dr. David Tarboton—Professor, Utah State University, Director, Utah Water Research Laboratory

Forecasting Drought: Low Flows and Modeling at the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
2:20 pm – 2:40 pm
Patrick Kormos—Colorado Basin River Forecasting Center

Seasonal Forecasts of Droughts in the Western United States: How Far Can We Go?
2:40 pm – 3:00 pm
Dr. Wei Zhang—Assistant Professor, Utah State University Dept of Plant, Soils, and Climate

Prioritizing Water Optimization on Utah Farms to Beat Drought!
3:00 pm – 3:20 pm
Dr. Matt Fost—Assistant Professor and Extension Agroclimatic Specialist, Utah State University Dept of Plant, Soils, and Climate

Graywater in Utah
3:20 pm – 3:40 pm
Dr. Roslyn Brain McCann—Associate Professor and Extension Agroclimatic Specialist, Utah State University Dept of Environment and Society

Question and Answer Session
3:40 pm – 4:00 pm

Lightning Talks and Poster Session
4:15 pm – 7:00 pm

Recognition of Outstanding Student Paper Award
4:15 pm – 4:30 pm

Human Appropriation of Net Primary Production
5:00 pm – 5:30 pm
Dr. Charles Hawkins—Professor, Utah State University Dept of Watershed Sciences and Center for Colorado River Studies

Identifying Opportunities to Improve Water Use Productivity
5:30 pm – 6:00 pm
Logan D. Schneider—Assistant Professor, Utah State University Dept of Plant, Soils, and Climate

Estimation of Evapotranspiration of Urban Turfgrass Using Eddy Covariance Flux Measurements and Remote Sensing-Based Models
5:30 pm – 6:00 pm
Koren Meso Capcha—Assistant Professor, Utah State University Dept of Plant, Soils, and Climate

Optimizing Soil-Amendments for Hydrologic and Water Quality Improvements in Low Impact Development (LID) Systems
5:30 pm – 6:00 pm
Lily Wetterlin—Graduate Student, Utah State University Dept of Plant, Soils, and Climate

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As a land-grant institution, Utah State University campuses and centers reside and operate on the territories of the eight tribes of Utah, who have been living, working, and residing on this land from time immemorial. These tribes are the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Indians, Navajo Nation, Ute Indian Tribe, Northwestern Band of Shoshone, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, San Juan Southern Paiute, Skull Valley Band of Goshute, and White Mesa Band of the Ute Mountain Ute. We acknowledge these lands carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity. We recognize Elders past and present as peoples who have cared for, and continue to care for, the land. In offering this land acknowledgment, we affirm Indigenous self-governance history, experiences, and resiliency of the Native people who are still here today.

Utah State University supports a broad community of students and faculty engaged in water education, research and outreach. The USU Water Initiative provides an overarching umbrella for the activities of this community, aimed at fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and collegial sharing of ideas related to water across the departments and colleges of Utah State University. The Spring Runoff Conference provides an opportunity for the sharing of ideas and scholarly debate.

CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS:
Erin Rivers—Assistant Professor and Extension Water Quality Specialist
Hope Braithwaite—Assistant Professor for Watershed Quality

COORDINATING COMMITTEE:
Courtney Flint, Jeff Horsburgh, David Rosenberg, David Tarboton, Peter Wilcock

SPONSORED BY:
Quinney College of Natural Resources
College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
College of Engineering
Utah Water Research Laboratory
Ecology Center

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:
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Forecasting and Adapting to Drought
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