

# Eurasian Watermilfoil Symposium

October 18, 2024

10:00AM–2:00PM MT



**BEAR  
LAKE  
WATCH**

An up-to-date comprehensive symposium with top aquatic plant scientists and organizations. The symposium is open to the public, scientists, administrative agencies and press to discuss challenges and opportunities for protecting Bear Lake.



Janet Quinney Lawson  
Institute for Land, Water & Air  
UtahStateUniversity



Bear Lake Watch, together with the Utah State University Janet Quinney Lawson Institute of Land, Water, and Air; the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation, and the Aquatic Plant Management Society are sponsoring a virtual scientific symposium to inform stakeholders of Bear Lake (UT/ID) on up-to-date Eurasian Watermilfoil science and best practices for management of invasive species. Stakeholders include governmental agencies, research scientists, Bear Lake Watch, consultants, applicators/contractors, and the general public.

The symposium will take place on Zoom and talks will be recorded and posted for viewing afterwards on the Bear Lake Watch website. Top scientists and groups will be participating in the symposium, covering a variety of important and timely topics, including recent updates on Bear Lake's science.

*"Bear Lake Watch is excited to convene this outstanding group of top scientists and organizations whose work and experience protects lakes from threats such as Eurasian Watermilfoil and other invasive species. This symposium will inform plans to monitor, treat, prevent invasive species and provide long-term protection against threats to Bear Lake for generations to come,"* said Brady T. Long, Executive Director of Bear Lake Watch.

The symposium is free-of-charge to all attendees. For more information, or to **REGISTER** for the event:

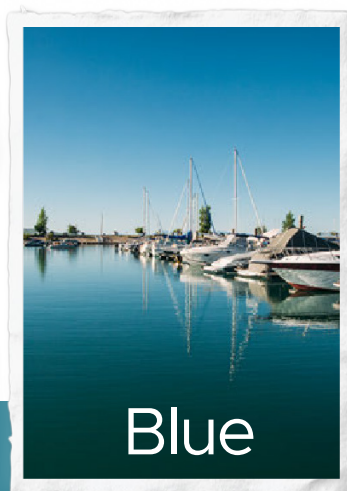
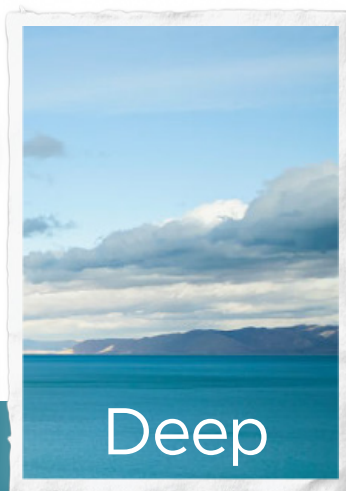
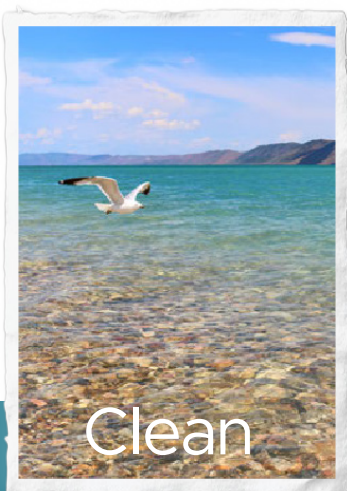
**Scan the QR code or visit [bearlakewatch.org/symposium](https://bearlakewatch.org/symposium)**



# Bear Lake UT/ID Virtual Eurasian Watermilfoil Fall 2024 Scientific Symposium Preliminary Agenda October 18, 2024 10:00AM–2:00PM MT



- **Welcome and Purpose of the Symposium, Brief overview of Bear Lake (10 min)** – *Greg Critchfield, Co-Chair, Bear Lake Watch Science Committee*
- **Invasive plant projects underway at Bear Lake (20 min)** – *Jessie Danninger, Lands Program Manager, Forestry, Fire and State Lands – State of Utah; Austin Prestwich, Agriculture Program Specialist, Noxious Weeds Section – Idaho State Department of Agriculture*
- **Overview of Eurasian Watermilfoil: challenges and opportunities (20 min)** – *John D. Madsen, Consulting Scientist, former research biologist with USDA ARS Exotic and Invasive Weed Research Unit, Davis CA*
- **Molecular biology of watermilfoil (20 min): Eurasian, North American and hybrid varieties** – *Ryan Thum, Professor, Ecological genetics and genomics of aquatic and invasive plants, Montana State University; Mirella Ortiz, Assistant Professor, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Plants, Soils and Climate Department (PSC), Utah State University*
- **Extent of EWM problem in western U.S. (20 min)** – *Damian Walter, Biologist, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Walla Walla District*
- **Prevention programs (20 min)** – *Tom Woolf, Aquatic Invasive Species Bureau Chief State of Montana*
- **Monitoring of Eurasian Watermilfoil (20 min)** – *Rob Richardson, Aquatic and Non-Cropland Weed Scientist, Department of Crop Science, North Carolina State University*
- **Management of Eurasian Watermilfoil (20 min)** – *Ryan Wersal, Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Minnesota State University at Mankato*
- **Plant Management Program Development (20 min)** – *Ben Sperry, Research Biologist – US Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center | CAIP Faculty*
- **Fireside chat with experts (30 min)**– *Panel of Speakers/Attendees*
  - Both prepared & extemporaneous questions from attendees
  - End with Panelists General Recommendations and next steps for Bear Lake
- **Next steps/Adjournment (5 min)**
  - Post symposium talks online
  - Develop a site-specific management plan by engaging experts who visit Bear Lake and work with local scientists and stakeholders – spring 2025
  - Solicit specific research grant proposals as warranted
  - Schedule follow-up symposium to take place in 2026/2027



**Working together to keep Bear Lake CLEAN, DEEP, and BLUE**

**REGISTER at [www.bearlakewatch.org/symposium](http://www.bearlakewatch.org/symposium)**