

**Wetlands Assessment using the
NEW MEXICO RAPID ASSESSMENT METHOD (NMRAM)
Playa Wetlands Version 1.0**

Introduction and Training
September 27-29, 2017
Clovis-Carver Public Library, Clovis, New Mexico

On behalf of the New Mexico Environment Department Surface Water Quality Bureau Wetlands Program and our partners, University of New Mexico Natural Heritage New Mexico, you are invited to participate in wetlands rapid assessment training on September 27-29, 2017 at the Clovis-Carter Public Library in Clovis, New Mexico.

We will be using the New Mexico Rapid Assessment Method (NMRAM) for Playa Wetlands Version 1.0. The first two days of the training will take place at the Clovis-Carver Public Library with the afternoons in the field at local playas. The third day of the training will be in the field using the Rapid Assessment Method on a local playa. It is recommended that participants make accommodations in Clovis during the training. We plan to start at 10 am on the first day and end at 3 pm on the final day.

NMRAM for Playa Wetlands Version 1.0 provides guidelines and protocols for the rapid assessment of wetland condition for playa wetlands of the Southern High Plains of New Mexico.

The classroom portion of the first day will be an introduction to NMRAM and the landscape and biotic metrics, with a field application of the landscape and biotic metrics during the afternoon. The second morning will be an introduction to the abiotic metrics, stressor checklists, site scoring and roll up and the NMRAM interactive pdf data collection worksheets, with a field application of those same metrics in the afternoon. The third day will be a field run through of the entire assessment method performed in small groups on a playa field site.

Training materials and supplies will be available for the training. Snacks and coffee but not lunch will be provided the first and second day. Bring a sack lunch and water for each day as there are no time for obtaining lunch during the day. Hats, boots and field clothes for working in wetlands are advised for all days. The assessment method is designed to assess playa condition while a playa is dry, so waders will not be needed.

The training is FREE but seats are limited due to logistical constraints. Please RSVP early to ensure your space in the training. If you can provide a vehicle for carpooling to the field sites, please let us know. If you will need a ride to Clovis, also let us know as we can connect you to others attending the training. To obtain further information about the training, contact Elizabeth Milford at the New Mexico Natural Heritage Program, University of New Mexico (emilford@gmail.com), and Maryann McGraw (maryann.mcgraw@state.nm.us.)

As the training date approaches, we will provide more information about the training sites and the agenda.