# SURVEY OF SELECTED SPRINGS OF BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT









By: Marc Coles-Ritchie
mcolesritchie@grandcanyontrust.org
Grand Canyon Trust
April 28, 2017



# Contents

ntroduction	3
Hydrology	5
Vegetation	5
Disturbance	7
Condition	7
Site Summaries	8
Spring 7	9
Spring 4	10
Spring 12	11
Maverick Spring (Spring 136)	12
Todie Spring	13
Dripping Springs Wetland	14
Spring 13	15
Spring 11	16
Spring 14	17
Side Canyon of Dripping Springs Stream	18
Spring 54	19
Dripping Springs	20
Spring 1	21
Spring 46	22
Spring 46 East	23
Spring 44 East	24
Spring 46 South	25
Spring 55 Upper	26
Spring 44 North	27
Spring 55 North	28
Navajo Spring	
Appendices	
Appendix 1. Plant list sorted by scientific name, within life form groups	
Appendix 2. Plant list sorted by common name, within life form groups	
Appendix 3. List of plants observed at each spring	

#### Introduction

A survey of 21 springs in the Bears Ears National Monument, in southeastern Utah, was conducted by Sarah Dunn (Whitman College student) and Marc Coles-Ritchie (Grand Canyon Trust) during March 20-22, 2017. These springs are a subset of hundreds of springs that are in Bears Ears Monument. The survey and this report focus on basic conditions observed at each of the 21 springs.

The locations of known springs were determined from the following databases:

- Geographic Names Information System (https://nhd.usgs.gov/gnis.html);
- National Hydrography Dataset (https://nhd.usgs.gov/); and
- Springs Stewardship Institute (http://springstewardshipinstitute.org/).

Because the survey was undertaken early in the season, lower elevation sites were selected to visit, rather than higher elevation sites where snow or mud would make access difficult. In order to maximize the number of springs surveyed, we chose to visit springs that were accessible (a short walk) from roads (paved or dirt). As we visited previously identified springs, we found six additional springs that had not been listed in the databases. In total, twenty-one spring sites were surveyed (map in Fig. 1). At each spring, basic data were collected on flow, vegetation, disturbance, wildlife evidence and overall condition. Numerous photos were taken at each site, some of which are included below (others are available upon request to Grand Canyon Trust). Twenty of these sites were on land managed by the BLM; one site (Maverick Spring) was on Forest Service land. All were within the boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument.

The conditions at nearly all of the 21 springs would benefit from better protection, particularly from livestock, and restoration. The potential for recovery, given the presence of water, is high. Springs are critically important for water, spring-dependent plants and wildlife, humans, and our shared future amid climate change. Establishment of the Bears Ears National Monument encourages us all to take a fresh look at springs and the roles they play in our lives and the lives of all who depend upon them.

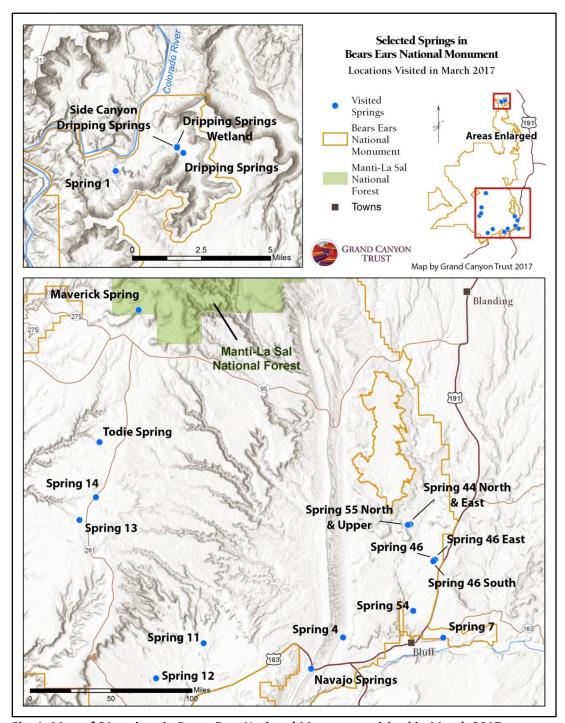


Fig. 1. Map of 21 springs in Bears Ears National Monument visited in March 2017.

#### **Hydrology**

In the semi-arid setting of low-elevation southeastern Utah, the springs tend to be relatively small in terms of both flow and the wetland that the groundwater discharge supports. When there was visible flow, it was just a trickle. In some cases (Spring 7, Spring 4, Spring 12) there seemed to be diffuse groundwater discharge over a broad area, creating a significant wetland. A summary of hydrology (groundwater discharge and the presence of surface water) of the sites is described in Table 1.

Table 1. Hydrologic characteristics of surveyed springs.

Hydrologic Characteristics	Number of Sites
Groundwater discharge (flow) and standing water.	9
Standing water in pools, but no visible groundwater discharge.	3
Puddles, but no visible groundwater discharge.	6
No standing water; no visible groundwater discharge; but evidence	3
of wet soil or past flow.	

#### Vegetation

Many of the sites had a limited amount of native wetland vegetation cover. The most common woody species were the following: tamarisk (non-native); greasewood (native, but not a wetland species); and species of willow (native, wetland species) which were narrowleaf (or coyote willow), arroyo willow and Goodding's willow. Narrowleaf willow is the only clonal (rhizomatous) willow that grows at lower and mid-elevations in Utah. Fremont cottonwoods were at seven of the sites, but in most cases there was only one old tree that was in poor condition and seemed to be dying. Only one site (Spring 4) appeared to have any cottonwood regeneration (a few young trees in addition to the old or dying tree).

Many of the sites had only a minimal amount of herbaceous cover, probably due to livestock grazing. At the few sites that had abundant herbaceous vegetation, the species were usually cattail (*Typha latifolia*) and common reed (*Phragmites australis*). The common reed observed at these sites is the native subspecies (*Phragmites australis ssp. americanus*), not the non-native, invasive subspecies (*Phragmites australis* ssp. *australis*) that is a problem in northern Utah (such as around the Great Salt Lake). Arctic (or Baltic) rush (*Juncus arcticus*; formerly *Juncus balticus*) was somewhat abundant at a few sites and dominant at one site (Maverick Spring).

A complete list of all plants observed at the springs is in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. Lists of all plants observed at each site are in Appendix 3.

The vegetation observed at the springs was categorized according to vegetation associations listed in the US National Vegetation Classification (http://usnvc.org/explore-classification). The

number of sites where those associations were the dominant vegetation is listed in the table below.

Table 2. Vegetation associations (from US National Vegetation Classification) of surveyed

springs.

Common Name of Vegetation Association	Scientific Name of Vegetation Association	Number of Sites
Greasewood / Rubber Rabbitbrush	Sarcobatus vermiculatus /	6
Wet Shrubland	Ericameria nauseosa Wet Shrubland	
Tamarisk species Ruderal Riparian	Tamarix spp. Ruderal Riparian	6
Shrubland	Shrubland	
Narrowleaf Willow / Mesic	Salix exigua / Mesic Graminoids	3
Graminoids Western Wet Shrubland	Western Wet Shrubland	
Arroyo Willow / Barren Ground Wet	Salix lasiolepis / Barren Ground Wet	1
Shrubland	Shrubland	
Baltic Rush Wet Meadow	Juncus balticus Wet Meadow	1
(Broadleaf Cattail, Narrowleaf	Typha (latifolia, angustifolia)	1
Cattail) Western Marsh	Western Marsh	
Common Reed Western Ruderal	Phragmites australis Western	1
Wet Meadow	Ruderal Wet Meadow	
Goodding's Willow / Narrowleaf	Salix gooddingii / Salix exigua	1
Willow Riparian Woodland	Riparian Woodland	
Stretchberry Wet Shrubland	Forestiera pubescens Wet Shrubland	1

Note: "ruderal" refers to plants that colonize disturbed lands.

A few sites had secondary vegetation associations, which were mainly those listed above. One site (Spring 7) had a vigorous wet wall association of Mancos Columbine - Eastwood's Monkeyflower Hanging Garden (*Aquilegia micrantha - Mimulus eastwoodiae* Hanging Garden). A few other sites (Spring 54 and Todie Spring) had wet walls with very sparse vegetation, presumably due to disturbance.

Plants classified as noxious weeds by the State of Utah (http://ag.utah.gov/divs-progs/50-plants-and-pests/hay-grain-seed/599-noxious-weed-list.html) were recorded at 17 of the 21 sites. The noxious plant species observed were:

- Five-stamen tamarisk (Tamarix chinensis) at 17 sites;
- Russian olive (Elaeagnus angustifolia) at 1 site; and
- Hardheads or Russian knapweed (Acroptilon repens) at 1 site.

Other non-native species observed, generally at low abundance, were:

- African mustard (Malcolmia africana);
- Alfalfa (Medicago sativa);
- Cheatgrass (Bromus tectorum);
- Crested wheatgrass (Agropyron cristatum); and

• Prickly Russian thistle (Salsola tragus).

Other noxious species and certainly other non-native plants were likely present but not detected because this was a rapid survey conducted early in the season (March). At this time of year many plants did not have leaves or flowers, making plant detection and identification difficult in some cases.

#### Disturbance

The most common disturbance was livestock grazing, which was evident from hoof prints, trampling, trails, grazed vegetation, scat, and streambank erosion at nearly all sites. Only Spring 7 (high condition) and Navajo Spring (poor condition, near road) did not have evidence of livestock.

Seven sites had visible hydrologic alteration in the form of pipes, troughs or earthen dams. Nearly all sites had evidence of livestock that had altered the hydrology through erosion and/or downcutting. One site (Maverick Spring) had a functional fence around a small ( $^{\sim}25' \times 75'$ ) spring-fed wetland. Another site (Spring 54) had a fence ( $^{\sim}20' \times 40'$ ) that seemed partially effective at keeping livestock away from a wet wall and the pool that it fed.

Two sites (Spring 1 and Spring 44 East) had earthen dams that were designed to pond water for livestock access, although there was no standing water at the time of our visit. Some other sites had evidence of earthen dams that have eroded away.

Native ungulate tracks were present at some spring sites, contributing to some disturbance. However, livestock evidence (tracks and scat) was much greater than that of wild ungulates.

One site (Navajo Spring) seemed to be impacted by rock that fell down the slope, into the spring area from highway construction. This site was dry, and it is near roads and ORV routes, and probably had other impacts that we could not discern.

#### **Condition**

The general condition of each spring site was rated based on hydrology, vegetation, soil stability, and level of disturbance (Table 3). Sites were given high condition scores if they were closer to these characteristics.

- Flowing water and no hydrologic alteration.
- Native wetland vegetation that was abundant.
- No erosion or downcutting.
- Minimal impacts from livestock and other disturbances.

Table 3. Spring condition of spring sites.

Spring Condition	Number of Sites
High	1
Medium	5
Low	7
Very Low	8

Based on our observation, factors that likely contributed to sites being in better condition and less vulnerable to livestock impacts, and higher condition, included:

- Large size of wetland, with abundant forage, and significant water.
- More forage in surrounding area.
- Difficult access, such as a deep ravine.

Sites that appeared to be in better condition had more evidence of wildlife, such as tracks. Logically, wildlife would be attracted to spring sites that had significant water and vegetation (good habitat) more than sites that had minimal water and/or vegetation (poor quality habitat).

Factors that likely contributed to negative impacts to sites, and lower condition included:

- Small size of wetland, so not a lot of forage or water; hence animals have a relatively high impact on those small areas.
- Minimal vegetation in surrounding area.
- Easy ungulate access.

These condition assessments were based on a brief survey, early in the growing season; they are not a detailed baseline assessment for monitoring trend.

#### **Site Summaries**

Summaries for each of the 21 sites are presented in the following pages. The sites are listed from highest (best) condition to lowest condition. These summaries list the common plants at each site. Complete lists of plants observed at each site can be found in Appendix 3. The coordinates (NAD 83 UTM) of each spring (the orifice) are listed with each site summary; and a list of all sites and coordinates is in Appendix 4.





	Spring 7	
	On the east edge of town of Bluff, above St. Christopher's Episcopal	
Location	Mission.	
UTM (at source)	4127942 N, 631746 E.	
	There is a long, linear, wet wall with a small area of visible discharge.	
Hydrology	Below the wall, water comes out of a cave and flows as a stream.	
Common woody species	Narrowleaf willow (Salix exigua).	
	Stretchberry (Forestiera pubescens), singleleaf ash (Fraxinus	
Other woody species	anomala).	
	On wet wall: cavedwelling primrose ( <i>Primula specuicola</i> ), which is endemic to SE Utah (see photo); in broader spring area is common reed ( <i>Phragmites australis</i> ).	
Common herbaceous		
species	Cavedwelling primrose	
	Five-stamen tamarisk ( <i>Tamarix chinensis</i> ) and Russian olive	
Noxious weeds	(Eleagnus angustifolia).	
	Mancos Columbine - Eastwood's Monkeyflower Hanging Garden;	
Vegetation association	and Stretchberry Wet Shrubland.	
Wildlife	Rodent droppings and tracks.	
Disturbance	None observed.	
	High condition. Much vegetation and diversity of species. No evidence of erosion or other human impacts. Wet wall has endemic plants. This is an impressive spring and riparian area. There are some non-native plants. Private land is below the site, which may have	
Condition	prevented access by livestock or other disturbances.	





Spring 4		
Location	West of town of Bluff, near Comb Ridge.	
UTM (at source)	4127952 N, 620940 E.	
Hydrology	There is a pool and some flow in the stream. Water seems to be close to surface over a large area.	
Common woody species	Narrowleaf willow (Salix exigua); a very large Fremont cottonwood (Populus fremontii) and a few small trees.	
Other woody species	Five-stamen tamarisk ( <i>Tamarix chinensis</i> ).	
Common herbaceous species	Common reed ( <i>Phragmites australis</i> ).	
Noxious weeds	Five-stamen tamarisk (Tamarix chinensis).	
Wildlife	Canid tracks, rodent scat, bird observed (maybe flycatcher) and nest.	
Vegetation association	Narrowleaf Willow / Mesic Graminoids Western Wet Shrubland; and Common Reed Western Ruderal Wet Meadow.	
Disturbance	Livestock.	
	Medium condition. This spring supports a lot of wetland vegetation. Apparently there is much water close to the surface. It is in a canyon that is somewhat difficult to access, which may protect it from overgrazing. Abundant riparian vegetation is present along the stream for miles, so that also	
Condition	may have reduced pressure from livestock on this site.	





Spring 12	
Location	In Valley of the Gods.
UTM (at source)	4123559 N, 600810 E.
Hydrology	Standing water and wetland vegetation are present; and some flow in the channel.
Common woody species	Narrowleaf willow (Salix exigua).
Other woody species	Five-stamen tamarisk ( <i>Tamarix chinensis</i> ), singleleaf ash ( <i>Fraxinus anomala</i> ).
Common herbaceous species	Broadleaf cattail ( <i>Typha latifolia</i> ) and hardstem bulrush ( <i>Schoenoplectus acutus</i> ).
Noxious weeds	Five-stamen tamarisk ( <i>Tamarix chinensis</i> ).
	Narrowleaf Willow / Mesic Graminoids Western Wet
Vegetation association	Shrubland; and Broadleaf Cattail Marsh.
Wildlife	No signs observed.
Disturbance	Livestock; non-functioning, old trough.
	Medium condition. The spring is in a channel setting, with significant water that supports a lot of wetland vegetation at this site and downstream. Livestock have removed much vegetation especially on the margins, but dense vegetation remains. A terrace above the channel is significantly disturbed by livestock, with salt crusts, much bare ground, and saltgrass. The site is degraded, but still a functional spring and wetland. Robust biocrusts (pinnacled with dark cyanobacteria, crustose and gelatinous lichens, and moss)
Condition	are nearby.





	Maverick Spring (Spring 136)
'	wiaverick Spring (Spring 130)
	Along road (Elk Mountain FR 0088) to Bears Ears buttes,
Location	above Natural Bridges National Monument.
UTM (at source)	4163242 N, 598931 E.
	A pipe from the ground sends flow into the tank (looks like
Hydrology	a bathtub) which overflows to a fenced wetland.
Common woody species	Wetland is mostly herbaceous vegetation.
	Rubber rabbitbrush (Ericameria nauseosa), two-needle
	pinyon (Pinus edulis), Utah juniper (Juniperus osteosperma),
Other woody species	Woods' rose (Rosa woodsii).
Common herbaceous species	Arctic (or Baltic) rush (Juncus arcticus).
Noxious weeds	None observed.
Wildlife	Bear scat; other scat.
Vegetation association	Baltic Rush Wet Meadow.
Disturbance	Livestock.
	Medium condition. This spring is developed to provide
	water to livestock. A pipe feeds a tank that overflows and
	supports a rush wetland that is fenced. Outside the fence
	the vegetation is heavily grazed, with much bare ground.
	Rose and rabbitbrush are heavily browsed outside the
Condition	fence. The fenced area is in good condition.





Todie Spring	
Location	Cedar Mesa, off Highway 261, near Todie Spring Trailhead.
UTM (at source)	4149013 N, 594722 E.
Hydrology	A small pool of still water of about 15 square ft is present. There is no visible flow.
Common woody species	Narrowleaf willow (Salix exigua) and arroyo willow (Salix lasiolepis).
Other woody species	Five-stamen tamarisk ( <i>Tamarix chinensis</i> ).
Common herbaceous species	Almost no herbaceous vegetation.
Noxious weeds	Five-stamen tamarisk ( <i>Tamarix chinensis</i> ).
Vegetation association	Arroyo Willow / Barren Ground Wet Shrubland.
Wildlife	Pellet scat; and birds observed.
Disturbance	Livestock and broken, old water tank.
	Medium condition. Livestock seem to have removed much of the herbaceous vegetation and caused erosion. A rock face to the north is about 15' tall; water seeps from there. Willows dominate the site but there is significant bare ground. Robust biocrusts (pinnacled with dark cyanobacteria, crustose and gelatinous lichens, and moss)
Condition	are nearby between trailhead parking area and the spring.





Dripping Springs Wetland		
	East of Colorado River, South of Hurrah Pass. This is toward	
Location	the lower end of the Dripping Springs complex.	
UTM (at source)	4255694 N, 618176 E.	
	No surface water is visible, but common reed indicates	
	water is in the soil. The spring is not part of the stream	
	channel where Dripping Springs flows, but it contributes to	
Hydrology	the Dripping Springs stream.	
Common woody species	Five-stamen tamarisk (Tamarix chinensis).	
Other woody species	Fragrant sumac (Rhus aromatica).	
Common herbaceous species	Common reed ( <i>Phragmites australis</i> ).	
Noxious weeds	Five-stamen tamarisk (Tamarix chinensis).	
Vegetation association	Common Reed Western Ruderal Wet Meadow.	
Wildlife	None observed.	
Disturbance	None obvious.	
	Medium condition. This hillslope wetland has abundant	
Condition	vegetation, but no surface water is visible.	





Spring 13		
Location	Cedar Mesa, off Cigarette Springs Road.	
UTM (at source)	4140624 N, 592547 E.	
Hydrology	Small pools of still water are visible, but no visible flow.	
Common woody species	Narrowleaf willow (Salix exigua).	
Other woody species	Five-stamen tamarisk (Tamarix chinensis).	
Common herbaceous species	Arctic rush (Juncus arcticus).	
Noxious weeds	Five-stamen tamarisk (Tamarix chinensis).	
	Narrowleaf Willow / Mesic Graminoids Western Wet	
	Shrubland; and Tamarisk species Ruderal Riparian	
Vegetation association	Shrubland.	
Wildlife	Ungulate (deer or pronghorn), rodent, and canine tracks.	
Disturbance	Livestock.	
	Low condition. This spring has standing water and some	
	wetland vegetation. There is significant erosion and	
	downcutting (especially in the upper part), much bare	
	ground and trampling. Non-native vegetation is abundant,	
	in addition to some native vegetation. Robust biocrusts	
	(pinnacled with dark cyanobacteria, crustose and	
Condition	gelatinous lichens, and moss) are nearby.	



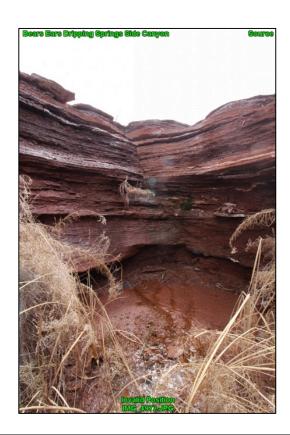


Spring 11		
Location	Near Valley of the Gods.	
UTM (at source)	4127337 N, 605929 E.	
	There are numerous small pools, with a little flow between	
	pools. Downstream the stream drips over rock ledge (15'	
Hydrology	drop) into a large pool.	
Common woody species	Five-stamen tamarisk ( <i>Tamarix chinensis</i> ).	
	Fragrant sumac (Rhus aromatica), singleleaf ash (Fraxinus	
Other woody species	anomala).	
	Arctic rush (Juncus arcticus), swordleaf rush (Juncus	
Common herbaceous species	ensifolius).	
Noxious weeds	Five-stamen tamarisk ( <i>Tamarix chinensis</i> ).	
	Rodent or rabbit scat/pellets; canid tracks and scat; aquatic	
	organisms observed in water (water bug, caddisfly, water	
Wildlife	shrimp, eggs, mayfly, tadpole, snail).	
Vegetation association	Tamarisk species Ruderal Riparian Shrubland.	
Disturbance	Livestock.	
	Low condition. This spring discharges into the stream	
	channel. There are ungulate impacts (likely livestock) such as	
	grazing of vegetation and bank disturbance. There are small	
	patches of rushes. This is a surprising little wet oasis in the	
	desert. There is not a lot of vegetation, and much bare	
	ground, probably because of ungulate grazing. There are	
	some native, wetland plant species, and numerous aquatic	
Condition	organisms.	





Spring 14	
Location	On Cedar Mesa, along highway 261, above a culvert.
UTM (at source)	4143073 N, 594318 E.
Hydrology	Water is in small pools in the channel with a bit of flow.
Common woody species	Five-stamen tamarisk (Tamarix chinensis).
Other woody species	Minimal woody vegetation.
Common herbaceous species	Arctic rush (Juncus arcticus).
Noxious weeds	Five-stamen tamarisk (Tamarix chinensis).
	Birds (multiple species) observed; canid track; rodent track;
Wildlife	wild horse scat.
Vegetation association	Tamarisk species Ruderal Riparian Shrubland.
Disturbance	Livestock.
	Low condition. Spring site has significant erosion and downcutting, probably due to livestock. There is not much cover of riparian vegetation. The site is mostly bare, eroded soil. It seems that water seeps out between rock layers along this stream for a few hundred feet at least, above and below a culvert under Highway 261. There are multiple
Condition	headcuts (erosion drops) both above and below the culvert.





Side Canyon of Dripping Springs Stream	
	South of Hurrah Pass. This is a side canyon of the Dripping
Location	Springs complex.
UTM (at source)	4255626 N, 618167 E.
Hydrology	A small but steady flow for about 80 ft.
Common woody species	Five-stamen tamarisk (Tamarix chinensis).
Other woody species	Fragrant sumac (Rhus aromatica).
Common herbaceous species	Saltgrass (Distichlis spicata).
Noxious weeds	Five-stamen tamarisk (Tamarix chinensis).
Vegetation association	Tamarisk species Ruderal Riparian Shrubland.
Wildlife	None observed.
Disturbance	Livestock.
Condition	Low condition. This spring is tucked away, up a narrow side canyon, with a small cliff/water drop at the upper end, so it is a bit more protected than the main part of the Dripping
Condition	Springs complex. There is still much bare ground.





	Spring 54	
Location	Just north of Bluff, off powerline road.	
UTM (at source)	4130834 m, 628514 m	
	Some large pools total about a few hundred square ft, with	
	stagnant water. A small amount of flow from the wet wall	
Hydrology	feeds the pool at the base.	
Common woody species	Goodding's willow (Salix gooddingii).	
Other woody species	None.	
Common herbaceous species	None evident.	
Noxious weeds	None observed.	
	Goodding's Willow / Narrowleaf Willow Riparian	
Vegetation association	Woodland.	
Wildlife	None observed.	
	There is a fence around the spring source. Livestock are a	
Disturbance	significant impact.	
	Low condition. The site is in a narrow canyon with vertical	
	walls so the only access is from the downstream end. The	
	spring is a wet wall, forming a pool at the base. Surprisingly	
	there is no herbaceous vegetation; cows apparently have	
	eaten it all. It is mostly bare ground and old willow trees,	
	which are breaking and falling. Cow dung is abundant. A	
	fence blocks access to the spring source (wet wall) and	
	most of the pool, but some cow dung is inside the fence.	
	The wet wall has some hanging garden vegetation, but it	
	was not possible to get close enough to identify it, due to	
Condition	the fence and pool.	





Dripping Springs	
	East of Colorado River, South of Hurrah Pass. This is the
Location	upper-most point of the Dripping Springs complex.
UTM (at source)	4255325 N, 618535 E.
	Water drips from rock layers at various points and accumulates in the channel. There is much salt encrusted soil and rock. Both small (3 square ft) and larger (20 square ft) pools are present, and there is some flow
Hydrology	between pools in the stream channel.
Common woody species	Five-stamen tamarisk ( <i>Tamarix chinensis</i> ).
	Fragrant sumac (Rhus aromatica), narrowleaf willow
Other woody species	(Salix exigua).
Common herbaceous species	Saltgrass (Distichlis spicata).
Noxious weeds	Five-stamen tamarisk ( <i>Tamarix chinensis</i> ).
Vegetation association	Tamarisk species Ruderal Riparian Shrubland.
Wildlife	Hawk flying, deer tracks.
Disturbance	Livestock and native ungulates.
	Low condition. There is little vegetation at this spring and
	riparian area, with a lot of bare ground and a significant
	amount of invasive species. This site appears to be
	heavily impacted by livestock based on tracks, trails,
Condition	browse and scat.





	Spring 1	
	East of Colorado River, South of Hurrah Pass and south of	
Location	the Dripping Springs stream, along a well-traveled road.	
UTM (at source)	4254264 N, 614587 E.	
	This appears to be a pond dug out behind an earthen dam	
	created as a livestock water source. No surface water is	
	visible, but abundant wetland vegetation indicates soil	
Hydrology	moisture.	
Common woody species	Five-stamen tamarisk (Tamarix chinensis).	
Other woody species	Greasewood (Sarcobatus vermiculatus).	
Common herbaceous species	Broadleaf cattail (Typha latifolia)	
Noxious weeds	Five-stamen tamarisk (Tamarix chinensis).	
Vegetation association	Tamarisk species Ruderal Riparian Shrubland.	
Wildlife	None observed.	
Disturbance	Berm, dug from pond; vehicles, livestock.	
	Low condition. This site is heavily impacted by the creation	
	of an artificial pond and use by livestock. Water is seeping	
	down past the pond berm, creating moist soil below. This	
	site is adjacent to a dirt road with parking area and garbage	
Condition	can. Bare ground predominates.	





Spring 46	
Location	North of Bluff and west of Hwy 191.
UTM (at source)	4136290 N, 630731 E.
	Water trickles from a pipe and flows down a degraded
Hydrology	channel.
Common woody species	Greasewood (Sarcobatus vermiculatus).
	Fragrant sumac (Rhus aromatica), rubber rabbitbrush
Other woody species	(Ericameria nauseosa).
<b>Common herbaceous species</b>	Minimal herbaceous vegetation.
Noxious weeds	None observed.
Vegetation association	Greasewood / Rubber Rabbitbrush Wet Shrubland.
Wildlife	None observed.
Disturbance	Livestock, pipe, old trough (log).
	Very low condition. This is a highly degraded hillslope
	spring. There is erosion and downcutting of ~3' in depth in
	some places. A lone cottonwood is not healthy or
Condition	vigorous. Bare ground predominates.





Spring 46 East	
Location	North of Bluff and west of Hwy 191.
UTM (at source)	4136321 N, 630876 E.
Hydrology	Tiny puddles of water are present, but no visible flow.
Common woody species	Five-stamen tamarisk (Tamarix chinensis).
Other woody species	Rubber rabbitbrush ( <i>Ericameria nauseosa</i> ).
Common herbaceous species	Alkali sacaton (Sporobolus airoides).
Noxious weeds	Five-stamen tamarisk ( <i>Tamarix chinensis</i> ).
Vegetation association	Tamarisk species Ruderal Riparian Shrubland.
Wildlife	Canid tracks, deer observed.
Disturbance	Livestock.
	Very low condition. This is a highly impacted hillslope spring with minimal vegetation. There are patches of grass and one dying cottonwood. Bare ground and erosion are
Condition	extensive.







Spring 44 East	
Location	North of Bluff and west of Hwy 191.
Coordinates (if not on photo)	4140156 N, 628212 E.
Hydrology	Puddles of water are in hoof prints in the mud.
Common woody species	Greasewood (Sarcobatus vermiculatus).
Other woody species	Five-stamen tamarisk ( <i>Tamarix chinensis</i> ).
Common herbaceous species	Minimal herbaceous vegetation.
Noxious weeds	Five-stamen tamarisk ( <i>Tamarix chinensis</i> ).
Vegetation association	Greasewood / Rubber Rabbitbrush Wet Shrubland.
Wildlife	None observed.
Disturbance	Livestock trampling and grazing (cows observed at site); earthen dam and dry pond; a barbed wire fence is down; old pipes.
	Very low condition. This hillslope spring is highly disturbed. It is mostly bare ground, and eroding soil. An earthen dam has been constructed to create a pond, but the pond site is dried, mud-cakes of hoof prints. This is a
Condition	heavily degraded site.





Spring 46 South		
Location	North of Bluff and west of Hwy 191.	
UTM (at source)	4136172 N, 630658 E.	
Hydrology	The soil is wet, with small puddles in hoof prints.	
Common woody species	Greasewood (Sarcobatus vermiculatus).	
Other woody species	Five-stamen tamarisk (Tamarix chinensis).	
Common herbaceous species	Alkali sacaton (Sporobolus airoides).	
Noxious weeds	Five-stamen tamarisk (Tamarix chinensis).	
Vegetation association	Greasewood / Rubber Rabbitbrush Wet Shrubland.	
Wildlife	None observed.	
Disturbance	Livestock.	
	Very low condition. This is a highly degraded hillslope	
	spring with minimal vegetation. The site is close to a dirt	
	road. Cow trails and bare ground are common. A lone	
	cottonwood is not vigorous. There are many salt crusts.	
Condition	Even the tamarisk is struggling to stay alive here.	





Spring 55 Upper	
Location	North of Bluff and west of Hwy 191.
UTM (at source)	4140088 N, 627933 E.
Hydrology	The soil is wet, with small puddles in hoof prints.
Common woody species	Greasewood (Sarcobatus vermiculatus).
Other woody species	Five-stamen tamarisk ( <i>Tamarix chinensis</i> ).
Common herbaceous species	Minimal herbaceous vegetation.
Noxious weeds	Five-stamen tamarisk (Tamarix chinensis).
Vegetation association	Greasewood / Rubber Rabbitbrush Wet Shrubland.
Wildlife	None observed.
Disturbance	Livestock; an old log trough and piping are not functional.
	Very low condition. This is a highly degraded spring and
	stream channel. Almost no live vegetation is present along
	the stream. The site is heavily trampled, with bare ground
Condition	predominating.





	Spring 44 North
Location	North of Bluff and west of Hwy 191.
UTM (at source)	4140095 N, 627987 E.
	Muddy puddles of water are in hoof prints. About 200'
Hydrology	downstream additional puddles of water are present.
Common woody species	Greasewood (Sarcobatus vermiculatus).
	Rubber rabbitbrush ( <i>Ericameria nauseosa</i> ), Utah
Other woody species	serviceberry (Amelanchier utahensis).
Common herbaceous species	Minimal herbaceous vegetation.
Noxious weeds	Five-stamen tamarisk (Tamarix chinensis).
Vegetation association	Greasewood / Rubber Rabbitbrush Wet Shrubland.
Wildlife	None observed.
Disturbance	Livestock.
	Very low condition. This is a highly degraded hillslope spring
	with minimal riparian vegetation. It is heavily trampled and
	there is much bare ground. There are a few cottonwoods
Condition	but they are dead or dying.





Spring 55 North	
Location	North of Bluff and west of Hwy 191.
UTM (at source)	4140093 N, 627893 E.
Hydrology	There are salt crusts and small puddles in the mud.
Common woody species	Greasewood (Sarcobatus vermiculatus).
Other woody species	None observed.
Common herbaceous species	Minimal herbaceous vegetation.
Noxious weeds	None observed.
Vegetation association	Greasewood / Rubber Rabbitbrush Wet Shrubland.
Wildlife	None observed.
Disturbance	Livestock, trough (old log), pipes.
	Very low condition. This is a highly degraded spring that is
	part of stream channel. Hardly any vegetation remains, and
Condition	the soil is heavily trampled and eroded.





	Navajo Spring		
Location	West of Bluff, where Comb Ridge intersects Highway 163.		
UTM (at source)	4124601 N, 617493 E.		
Hydrology	There is no sign of water, other than some salt crust on the rocks.		
Common woody species	Five-stamen tamarisk ( <i>Tamarix chinensis</i> ).		
	Fremont cottonwood (Populus fremontii), rubber		
Other woody species	rabbitbrush ( <i>Ericameria nauseosa</i> ).		
Common herbaceous species	Russian knapweed (Acroptilon repens).		
	Five-stamen tamarisk (Tamarix chinensis) and Russian		
Noxious weeds	knapweed (Acroptilon repens).		
Vegetation association	Tamarisk species Ruderal Riparian Shrubland.		
Wildlife	None observed.		
	Rock debris from road construction is present, as well as		
Disturbance	litter and invasive plants.		
	Very low condition. This spring does not have much		
	evidence of water or wetland vegetation. It may have		
	been partially buried by rock debris from highway		
	construction above the site. One large cottonwood tree is		
Condition	present, but many non-native plants.		

# **Appendices**

Appendices 1 and 2 list all plants observed at the spring sites that could be identified. At the time of visit, in March, some plants had not yet leafed out or flowered. All plant names (except those in parentheses) are from the USDA PLANTS database (https://plants.usda.gov).

Appendix 1. Plant list sorted by scientific name, within life form groups

Species	Common name	
Forb/Herbaceous		
Acroptilon repens	hardheads (or Russian knapweed)	
Adiantum capillus-veneris	common maidenhair	
Aquilegia micrantha	Mancos columbine	
Artemisia ludoviciana	white sagebrush	
Astragalus sp.	milkvetch	
Cirsium rydbergii	Rydberg's thistle	
Cirsium sp.	thistle	
Gutierrezia sarothrae	broom snakeweed	
Malcolmia africana	African mustard	
Medicago sativa	alfalfa	
Mimulus eastwoodiae	Eastwood's monkeyflower	
Oxytenia acerosa	copperweed	
Primula specuicola	cavedwelling primrose	
Salsola tragus	prickly Russian thistle	
Xanthium strumarium	rough cocklebur	
Gramin	noid (grass-like)	
Achnatherum hymenoides	Indian ricegrass	
Agropyron cristatum	crested wheatgrass	
Bromus tectorum	cheatgrass	
Carex sp.	sedge	
Carex aurea	golden sedge	
Distichlis spicata	saltgrass	
Juncus arcticus	arctic rush (or Baltic rush)	
Juncus ensifolius	swordleaf rush	
Phragmites australis	common reed	
Poa sp.	bluegrass	
Schoenoplectus acutus	hardstem bulrush	
Sporobolus airoides	alkali sacaton	
Typha latifolia	broadleaf cattail	

Shrub		
Artemisia tridentata	big sagebrush	
Atriplex canescens	fourwing saltbush	
Atriplex confertifolia	shadscale saltbush	
Ephedra viridis	mormon tea	
Ericameria nauseosa	rubber rabbitbrush	
Forestiera pubescens	stretchberry (or desert olive)	
Rhus aromatica	fragrant sumac	
Rosa sp.	rose	
Rosa woodsii	Woods' rose	
Salix exigua	narrowleaf willow (or coyote willow or sandbar willow)	
Salix lasiolepis	arroyo willow	
Sarcobatus vermiculatus	greasewood	
Tamarix chinensis	five-stamen tamarisk	
Yucca sp.	уисса	
	Tree	
Amelanchier utahensis	Utah serviceberry	
Elaeagnus angustifolia	Russian olive	
Fraxinus anomala	singleleaf ash	
Juniperus osteosperma	Utah juniper	
Pinus edulis	twoneedle pinyon	
Populus fremontii	Fremont cottonwood	
Salix gooddingii	Goodding's willow	

Appendix 2. Plant list sorted by common name, within life form groups

Species	Common name		
Forb/Herbaceous			
African mustard	Malcolmia africana		
alfalfa	Medicago sativa		
broom snakeweed	Gutierrezia sarothrae		
cavedwelling primrose	Primula specuicola		
common maidenhair	Adiantum capillus-veneris		
copperweed	Oxytenia acerosa		
Eastwood's monkeyflower	Mimulus eastwoodiae		
hardheads (or Russian knapweed)	Acroptilon repens		
Mancos columbine	Aquilegia micrantha		
milkvetch	Astragalus sp.		
prickly Russian thistle	Salsola tragus		
rough cocklebur	Xanthium strumarium		
Rydberg's thistle	Cirsium rydbergii		
thistle	Cirsium sp.		
white sagebrush	Artemisia ludoviciana		
Graminoid (gra	ss-like)		
alkali sacaton	Sporobolus airoides		
arctic rush (or Baltic rush)	Juncus arcticus		
bluegrass	Poa sp.		
broadleaf cattail	Typha latifolia		
cheatgrass	Bromus tectorum		
common reed	Phragmites australis		
crested wheatgrass	Agropyron cristatum		
golden sedge	Carex aurea		
hardstem bulrush	Schoenoplectus acutus		
Indian ricegrass	Achnatherum hymenoides		
saltgrass	Distichlis spicata		
sedge	Carex sp.		
swordleaf rush	Juncus ensifolius		

Shrub			
arroyo willow	Salix lasiolepis		
big sagebrush	Artemisia tridentata		
five-stamen tamarisk	Tamarix chinensis		
fourwing saltbush	Atriplex canescens		
fragrant sumac	Rhus aromatica		
greasewood	Sarcobatus vermiculatus		
mormon tea	Ephedra viridis		
narrowleaf willow (or coyote willow or sandbar willow)	Salix exigua		
rose	Rosa sp.		
rubber rabbitbrush	Ericameria nauseosa		
shadscale saltbush	Atriplex confertifolia		
stretchberry (or desert olive)	Forestiera pubescens		
Woods' rose	Rosa woodsii		
yucca	Yucca sp.		
Tree			
Fremont cottonwood	Populus fremontii		
Goodding's willow	Salix gooddingii		
Russian olive	Elaeagnus angustifolia		
singleleaf ash	Fraxinus anomala		
twoneedle pinyon	Pinus edulis		
Utah juniper	Juniperus osteosperma		
Utah serviceberry	Amelanchier utahensis		

### Appendix 3. List of plants observed at each spring.

The following tables list the plants that were observed at each spring. The springs are listed in alphabetical order. This survey was done in March, which is early in the growing season, before many plants have leaves or flowers. Therefore it was not possible to see or identify all plants that would be present and identifiable later in the season. In addition, the objective was to do a quick survey, recording the dominant plant species. Thus this is not a complete species list.

The information under "nativity" and "duration" is from the USDA PLANTS database (https://plants.usda.gov). Nativity refers to whether a plant is native to the United States. Under nativity we also indicate if the species is a noxious weed based on the Utah Noxious Weed list (http://ag.utah.gov/divs-progs/50-plants-and-pests/hay-grain-seed/599-noxious-weed-list.html). Duration refers to whether a species is annual or perennial.

#### **Dripping Springs**

Species	Common Name	Nativity	Duration
Achnatherum hymenoides	Indian ricegrass	Native	Perennial
Artemisia ludoviciana	white sagebrush	Native	Perennial
Bromus tectorum	cheatgrass	Introduced	Annual
Distichlis spicata	saltgrass	Native	Perennial
Oxytenia acerosa	copperweed	Native	Perennial
Rhus aromatica	fragrant sumac	Native	Perennial
Salix exigua	narrowleaf willow	Native	Perennial
Tamarix chinensis	five-stamen tamarisk	Introduced, Noxious	Perennial

#### **Dripping Springs Wetland**

Species	Common Name	Nativity	Duration
Phragmites australis	common reed	Native	Perennial
Rhus aromatica	fragrant sumac	Native	Perennial
Tamarix chinensis	five-stamen tamarisk	Introduced, Noxious	Perennial

#### Maverick Spring (Spring 136)

Species	Common Name	Nativity	Duration
Ericameria nauseosa	rubber rabbitbrush	Native	Perennial
Juncus arcticus	arctic rush	Native	Perennial
Juniperus osteosperma	Utah juniper	Native	Perennial
Pinus edulis	twoneedle pinyon	Native	Perennial
Rosa woodsii	Woods' rose	Native	Perennial

## Navajo Spring

Species	Common Name	Nativity	Duration
Acroptilon repens	hardheads	Introduced, Noxious	Perennial
Ericameria nauseosa	rubber rabbitbrush	Native	Perennial
Populus fremontii	Fremont cottonwood	Native	Perennial
Tamarix chinensis	five-stamen tamarisk	Introduced, Noxious	Perennial

### **Side Canyon of Dripping Springs Stream**

Species	Common Name	Nativity	Duration
Distichlis spicata	saltgrass	Native	Perennial
Ericameria nauseosa	rubber rabbitbrush	Native	Perennial
Rhus aromatica	fragrant sumac	Native	Perennial
Tamarix chinensis	five-stamen tamarisk	Introduced, Noxious	Perennial
Typha latifolia	broadleaf cattail	Native	Perennial

### Spring 1

Species	Common Name	Nativity	Duration
Carex sp.	sedge	unknown	Perennial
Distichlis spicata	saltgrass	Native	Perennial
Oxytenia acerosa	copperweed	Native	Perennial
Salsola tragus	prickly Russian thistle	Introduced	Annual
Sarcobatus vermiculatus	greasewood	Native	Perennial
Schoenoplectus acutus	hardstem bulrush	Native	Perennial
Tamarix chinensis	five-stamen tamarisk	Introduced, Noxious	Perennial
Typha latifolia	broadleaf cattail	Native	Perennial
Xanthium strumarium	rough cocklebur	Native	Annual

### Spring 4

Species	Common Name	Nativity	Duration
Artemisia tridentata	big sagebrush	Native	Perennial
Distichlis spicata	saltgrass	Native	Perennial
Ericameria nauseosa	rubber rabbitbrush	Native	Perennial
Juncus arcticus	arctic rush	Native	Perennial
Phragmites australis	common reed	Native	Perennial
Populus fremontii	Fremont cottonwood	Native	Perennial
Salix exigua	narrowleaf willow	Native	Perennial
Tamarix chinensis	five-stamen tamarisk	Introduced, Noxious	Perennial

### Spring 7

Species	Common Name	Nativity	Duration
Adiantum capillus-veneris	common maidenhair	Native	Perennial
Aquilegia micrantha	Mancos columbine	Native	Perennial
Artemisia ludoviciana	white sagebrush	Native	Perennial
Artemisia tridentata	big sagebrush	Native	Perennial
Astragalus sp.	milkvetch	unknown	unknown
Atriplex canescens	fourwing saltbush	Native	Perennial
Carex aurea	golden sedge	Native	Perennial
Cirsium rydbergii	Rydberg's thistle	Native	Perennial
Elaeagnus angustifolia	Russian olive	Introduced, Noxious	Perennial
Ephedra viridis	mormon tea	Native	Perennial
Forestiera pubescens	stretchberry	Native	Perennial
Fraxinus anomala	singleleaf ash	Native	Perennial
Medicago sativa	alfalfa	Introduced	Perennial
Mimulus eastwoodiae	Eastwood's monkeyflower	Native	Perennial
Phragmites australis	common reed	Native	Perennial
Primula specuicola	cavedwelling primrose	Native	Perennial
Rhus aromatica	fragrant sumac	Native	Perennial
Rosa sp.	rose	unknown	Perennial
Salix exigua	narrowleaf willow	Native	Perennial
Sarcobatus vermiculatus	greasewood	Native	Perennial
Tamarix chinensis	five-stamen tamarisk	Introduced, Noxious	Perennial
Yucca sp.	yucca	Native	Perennial

# Spring 11

Species	Common Name	Nativity	Duration
Distichlis spicata	saltgrass	Native	Perennial
Fraxinus anomala	singleleaf ash	Native	Perennial
Juncus arcticus	arctic rush	Native	Perennial
Juncus ensifolius	swordleaf rush	Native	Perennial
unknown	grass	unknown	unknown
Oxytenia acerosa	copperweed	Native	Perennial
Rhus aromatica	fragrant sumac	Native	Perennial
Tamarix chinensis	five-stamen tamarisk	Introduced, Noxious	Perennial

## Spring 12

Species	Common Name	Nativity	Duration
Distichlis spicata	saltgrass	Native	Perennial
Fraxinus anomala	singleleaf ash	Native	Perennial
Oxytenia acerosa	copperweed	Native	Perennial
Salix exigua	narrowleaf willow	Native	Perennial
Schoenoplectus acutus	hardstem bulrush	Native	Perennial
Tamarix chinensis	five-stamen tamarisk	Introduced, Noxious	Perennial
Typha latifolia	broadleaf cattail	Native	Perennial

### Spring 13

Species	Common Name	Nativity	Duration
Agropyron cristatum	crested wheatgrass	Introduced	Perennial
Cirsium sp.	thistle	unknown	unknown
Juncus arcticus	arctic rush	Native	Perennial
Poa sp.	bluegrass	unknown	unknown
Salix exigua	narrowleaf willow	Native	Perennial
Tamarix chinensis	five-stamen tamarisk	Introduced, Noxious	Perennial

# Spring 14

Species	Common Name	Nativity	Duration
Juncus arcticus	arctic rush	Native	Perennial
Salsola tragus	prickly Russian thistle	Introduced	Annual
Tamarix chinensis	five-stamen tamarisk	Introduced, Noxious	Perennial

## Spring 44 East

Species	Common Name	Nativity	Duration
Bromus tectorum	cheatgrass	Introduced	Annual
Ericameria nauseosa	rubber rabbitbrush	Native	Perennial
Juncus arcticus	arctic rush	Native	Perennial
Sarcobatus vermiculatus	greasewood	Native	Perennial
Tamarix chinensis	five-stamen tamarisk	Introduced, Noxious	Perennial

## Spring 44 North

Species	Common Name	Nativity	Duration
Amelanchier utahensis	Utah serviceberry	Native	Perennial
Ericameria nauseosa	rubber rabbitbrush	Native	Perennial
Populus fremontii	Fremont cottonwood	Native	Perennial
Sarcobatus vermiculatus	greasewood	Native	Perennial
Tamarix chinensis	five-stamen tamarisk	Introduced, Noxious	Perennial

## Spring 46

Species	Common Name	Nativity	Duration
Atriplex confertifolia	shadscale saltbush	Native	Perennial
Ericameria nauseosa	rubber rabbitbrush	Native	Perennial
Populus fremontii	Fremont cottonwood	Native	Perennial
Rhus aromatica	fragrant sumac	Native	Perennial
Sarcobatus vermiculatus	greasewood	Native	Perennial

### Spring 46 East

Species	Common Name	Nativity	Duration
Ericameria nauseosa	rubber rabbitbrush	Native	Perennial
Populus fremontii	Fremont cottonwood	Native	Perennial
Sporobolus airoides	alkali sacaton	Native	Perennial
Tamarix chinensis	five-stamen tamarisk	Introduced, Noxious	Perennial

## **Spring 46 South**

Species	Common Name	Nativity	Duration
Populus fremontii	Fremont cottonwood	Native	Perennial
Sarcobatus vermiculatus	greasewood	Native	Perennial
Sporobolus airoides	alkali sacaton	Native	Perennial
Tamarix chinensis	five-stamen tamarisk	Introduced, Noxious	Perennial

## Spring 54

Species	Common Name	Nativity	Duration
plants on wet wall			
that are hard to see	unknown	unknown	unknown
Populus fremontii	Fremont cottonwood	Native	Perennial
Salix gooddingii	Goodding's willow	Native	Perennial

# Spring 55 North

Species	Common Name	Nativity	Duration
Sarcobatus vermiculatus	greasewood	Native	Perennial

## **Spring 55 Upper**

Species	Common Name	Nativity	Duration
Sarcobatus vermiculatus	greasewood	Native	Perennial
Tamarix chinensis	five-stamen tamarisk	Introduced, Noxious	Perennial

# **Todie Spring**

Species	Common Name	Nativity	Duration
Salix exigua	narrowleaf willow	Native	Perennial
Salix lasiolepis	arroyo willow	Native	Perennial
Tamarix chinensis	five-stamen tamarisk	Introduced, Noxious	Perennial

**Appendix 4. Coordinates of Springs.** 

Site Name	General Location	UTM North	UTM East
Dripping Springs	SW of Moab, just east of Colorado River	4255325	618535
Dripping Springs Wetland	SW of Moab, just east of Colorado River	4255694	618176
Maverick Spring	East of Natural Bridges NM	4163242	598931
Navajo Spring	West of Bluff, where Comb Ridge intersects Hwy 163	4124601	617493
Side Canyon Dripping Springs	SW of Moab, just east of Colorado River	4255626	618167
Spring 1	SW of Moab, just east of Colorado River	4254264	614587
Spring 4	West of Bluff, near Comb Ridge	4127952	620940
Spring 7	East of Bluff	4127942	631746
Spring 11	Near Valley of the Gods	4127337	605929
Spring 12	Valley of the Gods	4123559	600810
Spring 13	Cedar Mesa, off Cigarette Springs Road	4140624	592547
Spring 14	Cedar Mesa, along highway 261	4143073	594318
Spring 44 East	North of Bluff and west of Hwy 191	4140156	628212
Spring 44 North	North of Bluff and west of Hwy 191	4140095	627987
Spring 46	North of Bluff and west of Hwy 191	4136290	630731
Spring 46 East	North of Bluff and west of Hwy 191	4136321	630876
Spring 46 South	North of Bluff and west of Hwy 191	4136172	630658
Spring 54	Just north of Bluff, off powerline road	4130834	628514
Spring 55 North	North of Bluff and west of Hwy 191	4140093	627893
Spring 55 Upper	North of Bluff and west of Hwy 191	4140088	627933
Todie Spring	Cedar Mesa, off Hwy 261, near Todie Spring Trailhead	4149013	594722

# Acknowledgments

Thanks to Sarah Dunn for mapping Bears Ears springs from public databases and spending her Spring Break from Whitman College assessing 21 springs. Matt Redd provided advice on roads and experiences with springs. Stephanie Smith created the map of the 21 springs visited. Mary O'Brien reviewed and edited drafts of this report.