

## **Reading Resources: Wetlands**

Wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems in the world, comparable to rain forests and coral reefs. They include areas where water saturation is the main factor determining the nature of soil development and the types of animals and plants living in that particular habitat. Wetland components include water, soil, vegetation and wildlife. Examples include marshes, bogs and swamps.

Wetlands are home to a variety of plant and animal species, some endangered, that have evolved to live in the wetland's unique conditions. This habitat acts as a filter, removing pollutants, including metals from runoff. Wetlands also serve as reservoirs; they facilitate flood and erosion control by absorbing excess water.

Along the U. S. coasts, salt marshes are the most prevalent types of tidal marshes and are characterized by salt tolerant plants such as saltgrass, pickleweed and cordgrass. Salt marshes have one of the highest rates of primary productivity associated with wetland ecosystems because of the inflow of nutrients and organics from surface and tidal water.

### **Books for Adults**

California Naturalist Handbook/Greg DeNevers. Univ CA Press. 2013.

Coastal Wetlands of the World / David B. Scott. Cambridge Univ. Press, 2009

Handbook for Restoring Tidal Wetlands / Joy Zedler. CRC Marine Science. 2000

Southern California's Coastal Wetlands – Pamphlet. Robin Madrid and Michelle Clemente. Back Bay Science Center and Sea Grant. 2011.

Tidal Wetlands Primer/Ralph W. Tiner. Univ. of Mass. Press. 2013.

Triangulating Archaeological Landscapes: The US Coast Survey in California, 1850-1895/R. Scott Byram. Regents of the Univ. of California. 2013

Wetland Ecology: Principles and Conservation, 2nd ed./Paul Keddy. Cambridge Univ. Press. 2010.

Wetland Ecosystems/William J. Mitsch. Wiley & Sons. 2009.

Wetland Environments: A Global Perspective/James S. Aber. Wiley-Blackwell. 2012.

Wetland Habitats of North America: Ecology and Conservation Concerns/Darold P. Batzer and Andrew H. Baldwin. Univ. of California Press. 2012.

Wetlands, 2nd. Ed./Mitsch, William J. 1993

Tidal Wetlands Primer / Ralph W. Tiner. Univ. of Mass. Press. 2013.

Wetland Ecology: Principles and Conservation, 2nd ed. / Paul Keddy. Cambridge Univ. Press. 2010.

Wetland Ecosystems / William J. Mitsch. Wiley & Sons. 2009.

Wetland Environments: A Global Perspective. James S. Aber. Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.

Wetlands Handbook / Maltby, Edward. Wiley-Blackwell. 2009

### **Featured Websites**

EPA – Wetlands Protection and Restoration

[www.epa.gov/wetlands](http://www.epa.gov/wetlands)

National Wetlands Research Center – The Fragile Fringe: A Guide for Teaching about Coastal Wetlands

[www.nwrc.usgs.gov/fringe/ff\\_index.html](http://www.nwrc.usgs.gov/fringe/ff_index.html)

Southern California Coastal Water Research Project

[www.sccwrp.org](http://www.sccwrp.org)

Southern California Wetlands Mapping Project

[www.socalwetlands.com/website/main.htm](http://www.socalwetlands.com/website/main.htm)

State of California Coastal Conservancy

[www.scc.ca.gov](http://www.scc.ca.gov)

U.S. Coast Survey Maps of California (Topographic sheets of the California Coast)

[www.caltsheets.org](http://www.caltsheets.org)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – National Wetland Inventory

[www.fws.gov/wetlands](http://www.fws.gov/wetlands)

Whitcraft Wetlands Lab

<https://web.csulb.edu/~cwhitcra/>