

Hi everyone. I'm Angee Doerr, the Chair of ESA's Early Career Section. We are so excited to see you all at this year's Annual Meeting, taking place entirely online August 3<sup>rd</sup> to August 6<sup>th</sup>.

With more than 400 members, ranging from rangeland ecologists to data scientists and everything in between, the Early Career section exists to support ecologists during their transition from school into careers, and to help you work through all of the opportunities and challenges that present themselves in the professional world. Towards that end, we are excited about the variety of programming a virtual meeting makes possible, including a networking social event, an ecological trivia night, and a session on navigating dual-career relationships.

While I'm sure many of you, like me, are disappointed not to visit Salt Lake City in person, there are people hard at work designing virtual fieldtrips and social events. The four day conference will include all of the things that make ESA so informative and worthwhile. There will be more than 3000 scientific presentations—all available on-demand, so you no longer have to choose between concurrent sessions. You'll be able to ask the presenters questions, and they will get back to you when they receive them. Hopefully, this will allow for more in-depth conversations than would usually be possible. The plenary talks will have live Q&A and each day will have a live daily panel on a hot topic in ecology.

Our hope is that the virtual meeting will allow attendance and engagement by people that otherwise could not have attended ESA. And while I know many of us will miss the in-person energy of the Annual Meeting, we will hopefully learn things during this process that will allow us to offer more virtual or livestreamed opportunities for future Meetings. There are also a large number of registration grants available, so if you're concerned you may not be able to participate because of the cost, please check out the Annual Meeting webpage!

The Early Career Section is hoping to make this Meeting fun and interactive, and if you have any ideas or suggestions, please do not hesitate to email me, reach out to us on Twitter, or respond to the survey we sent out in the June Newsletter. We're looking forward to seeing you all soon!