

# Exploratory Assessment of Water Management Organizations at the Meso-scale

Andrea Armstrong

Sociology, Social Work & Anthropology, |  
Douglas Jackson-Smith

Utah State University

## Goals

- Analyze how meso-scale water management organizations in the Wasatch Resource Management Area make decisions
- Identify key decision-making processes
- Understand how decisions are influenced by state or federal partners, individual water users, and other meso-scale organizations

## Research Methods

- **Literature review** to identify the theoretical and empirical gaps related to meso-scale water organization management in the Intermountain West
- **Semi-structured interviews** to identify decision-making processes
- **Meeting attendance and observation** to understand decision-making structures, processes, and responses to changing landscapes and water availability

## Preliminary Results

- Literature on water companies is scarce; more research focuses on municipal managers
- Urbanization and stormwater management necessitate new forms of collaborations
- Changing weather patterns stress existing infrastructure; increased efficiency is a perceived panacea

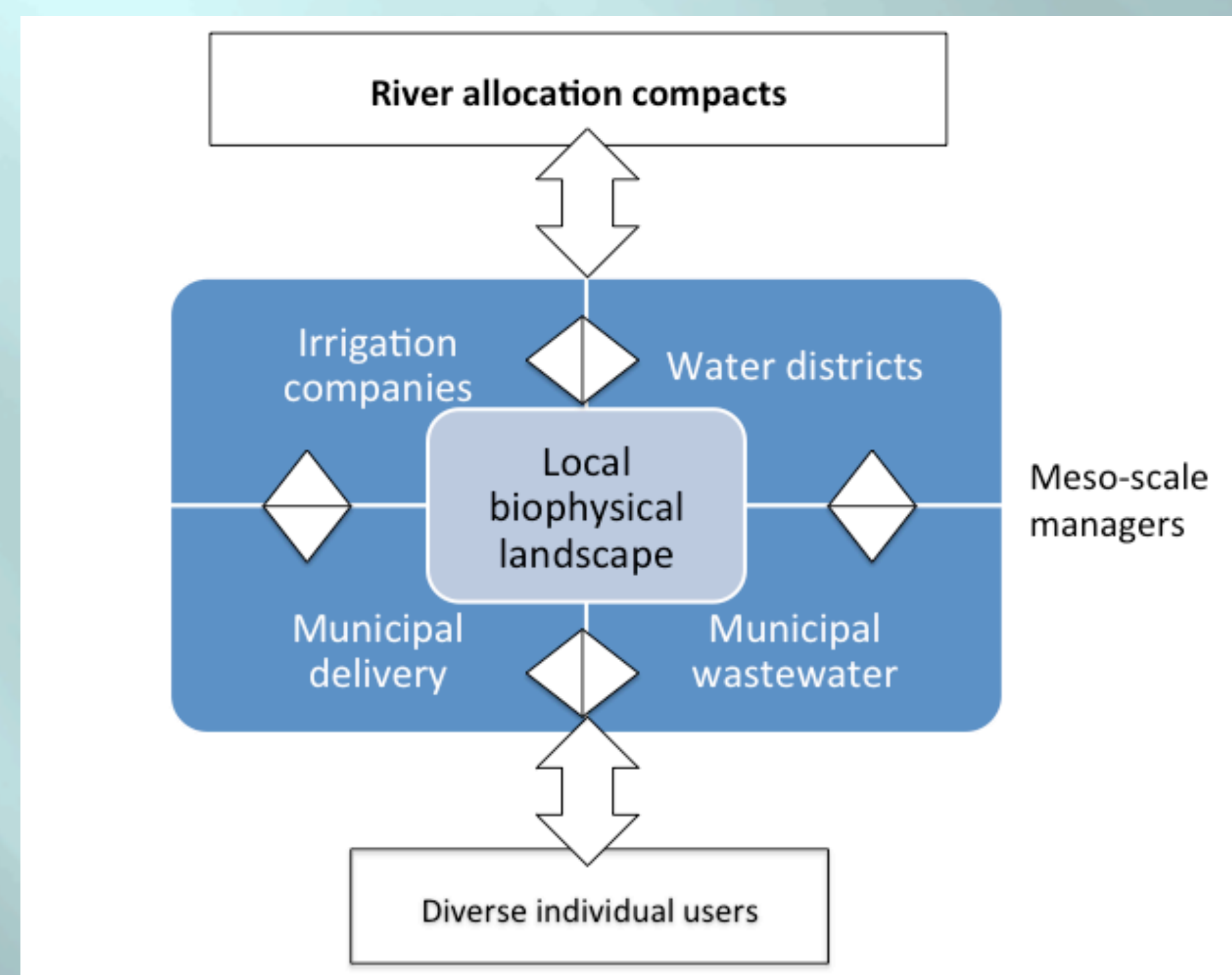


Figure 1. Meso-scale water management organizations in the WRMA

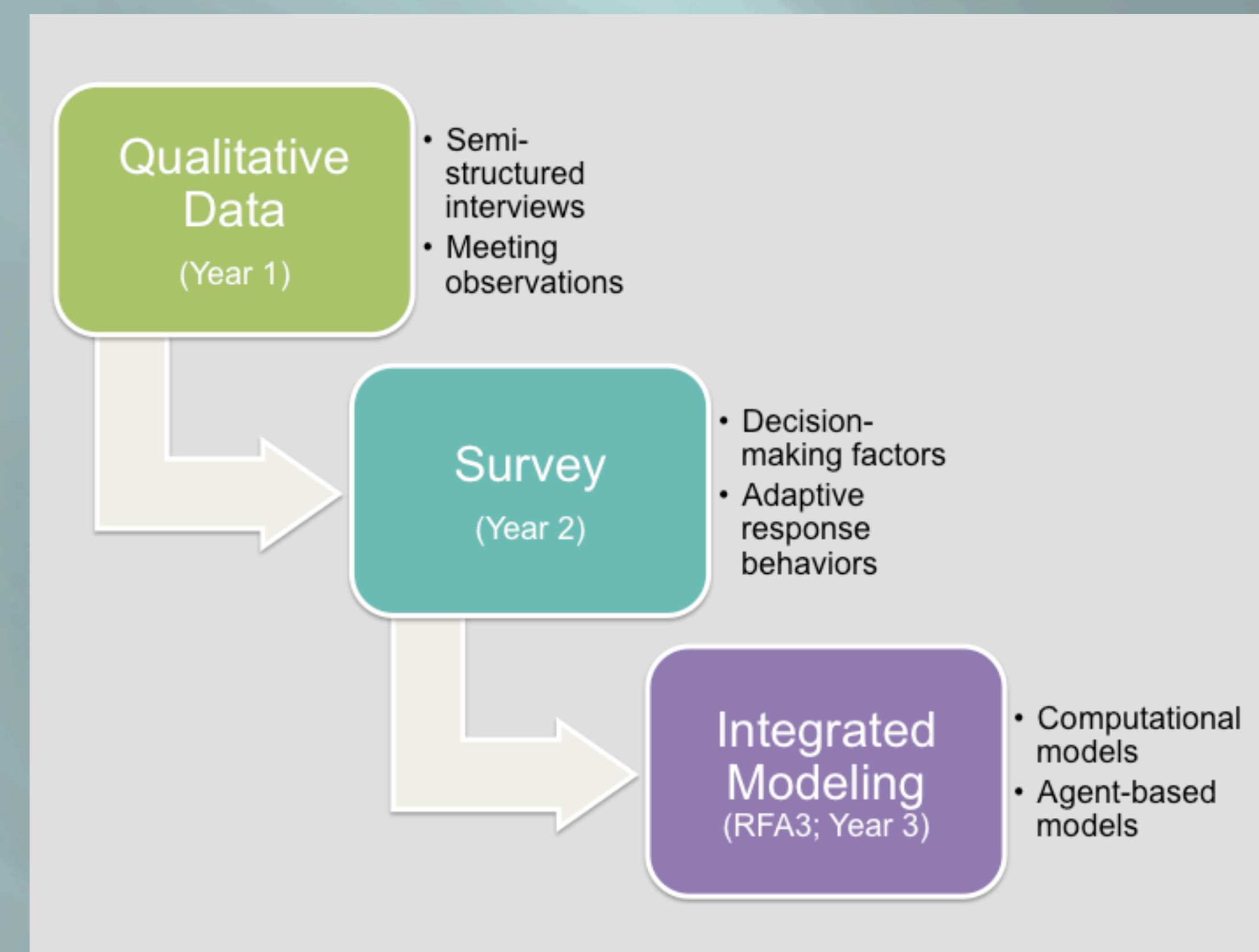


Figure 2. Data collection and integration plan



Figure 3. An example of overlapping irrigation and stormwater infrastructure



armstrong.usu@gmail.com

GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



<http://iutahepscor.org>

