

Assessing Institutional Information Needs for Climate Adaptation Policy

Morey Burnham | Human Dimensions of Ecosystem Science and Management | Utah State University
Zhao Ma

Goals

- Assess current use of and additional needs for climate change information and data by agricultural water management institutions in the Wasatch Range Metropolitan Area (WRMA)
- Assess the landscape on which adaptive policy decisions about water management under future climate scenarios are or can be made

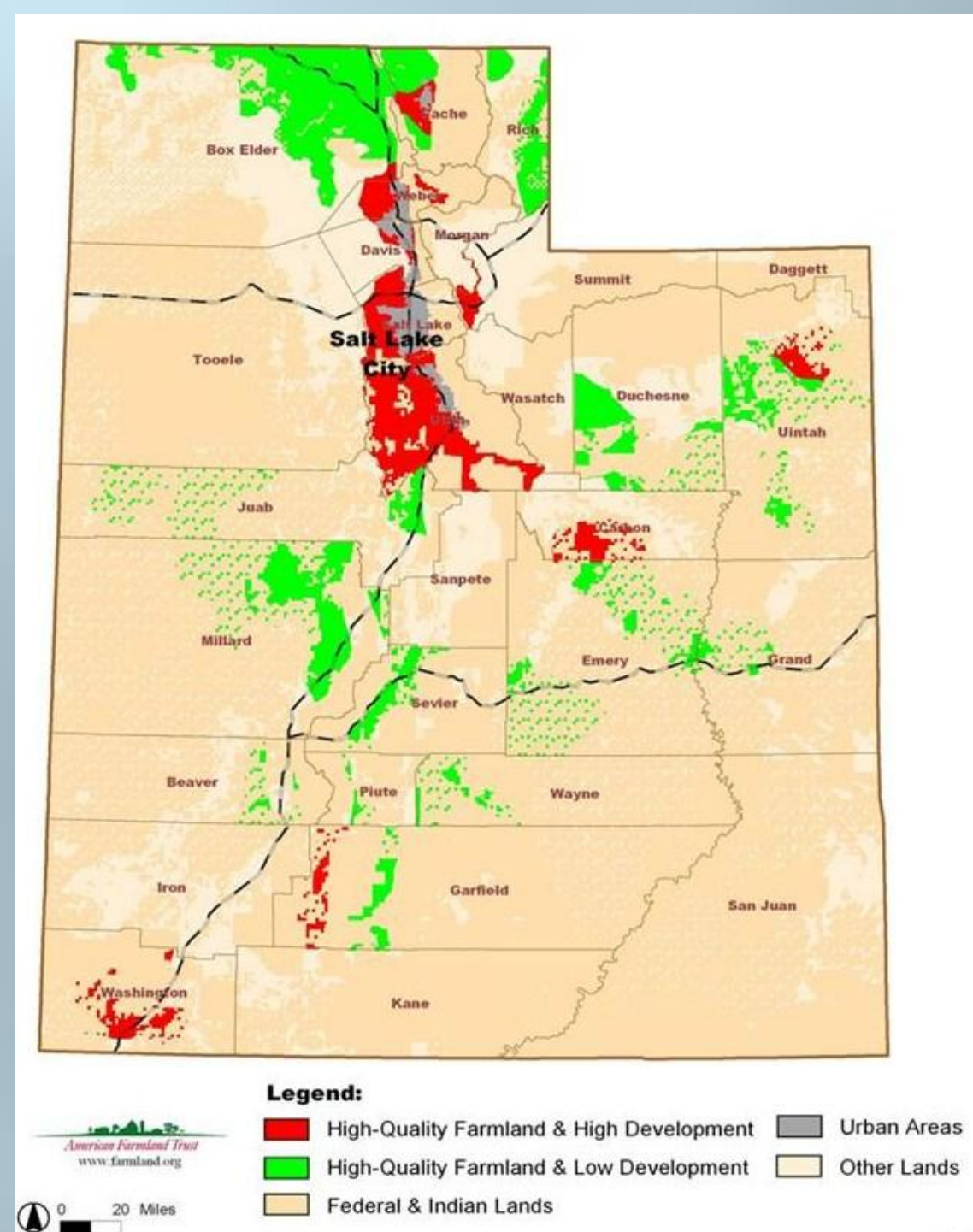


Figure 1. High-quality agricultural land in the WRMA is located in areas experiencing rapid population growth and development.

Research Methodology

Use document reviews and interviews with key local, state, and regional agricultural water management stakeholders to determine:

1. What climate information and data agricultural water management institutions are currently using?
2. What practices and policies are already in place that address or can be built on to address climate change with respect to water management?
3. What pressing questions these stakeholders have about climate change adaptation and what information they need and barriers they face to incorporate climate change into their planning?

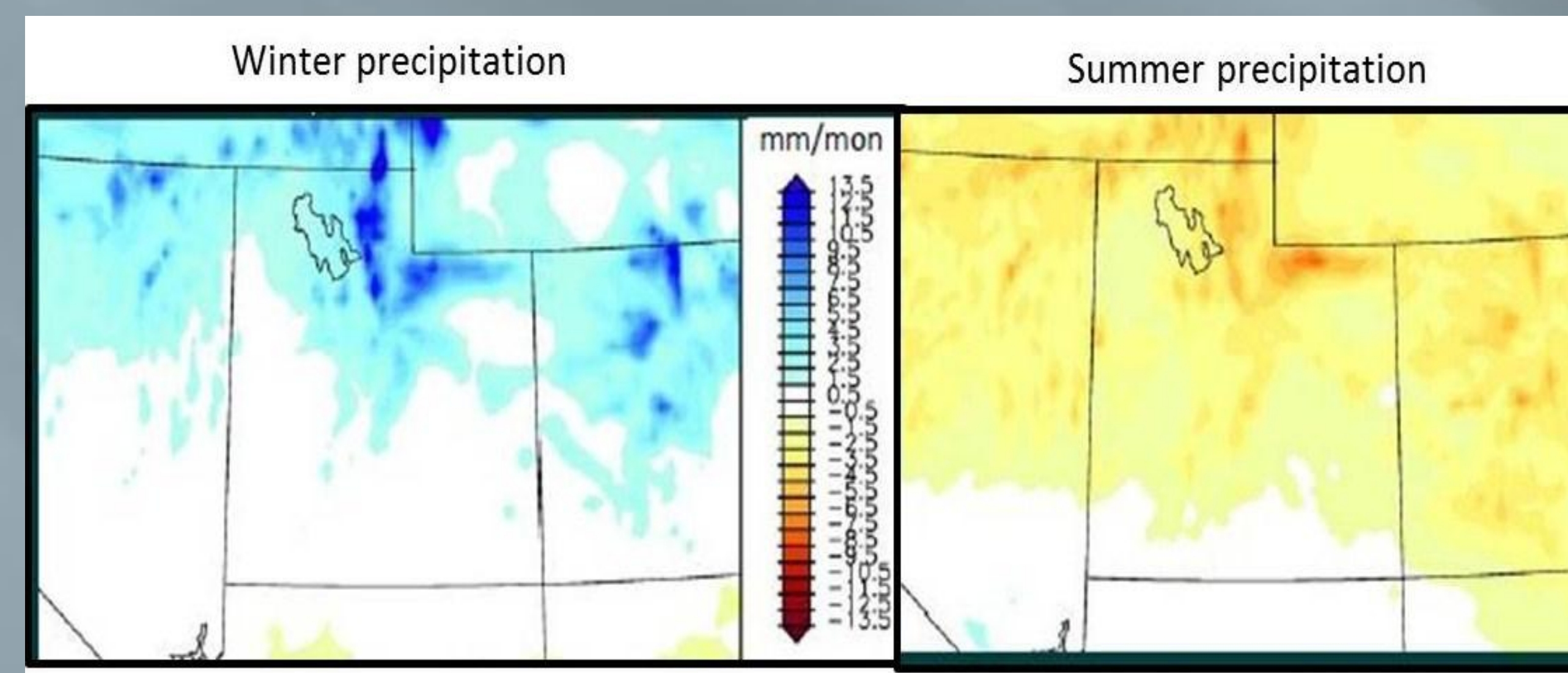


Figure 2. Winter precipitation is projected to increase, likely in the form of rain, and summer precipitation is projected to decrease, affecting the timing of agricultural water availability. Source: Reichler 2009.

Impact

- A better understanding of institutional information needs and their decision-making process with respect to climate change adaptation. Results can be used to inform future climate scenario building and modeling efforts

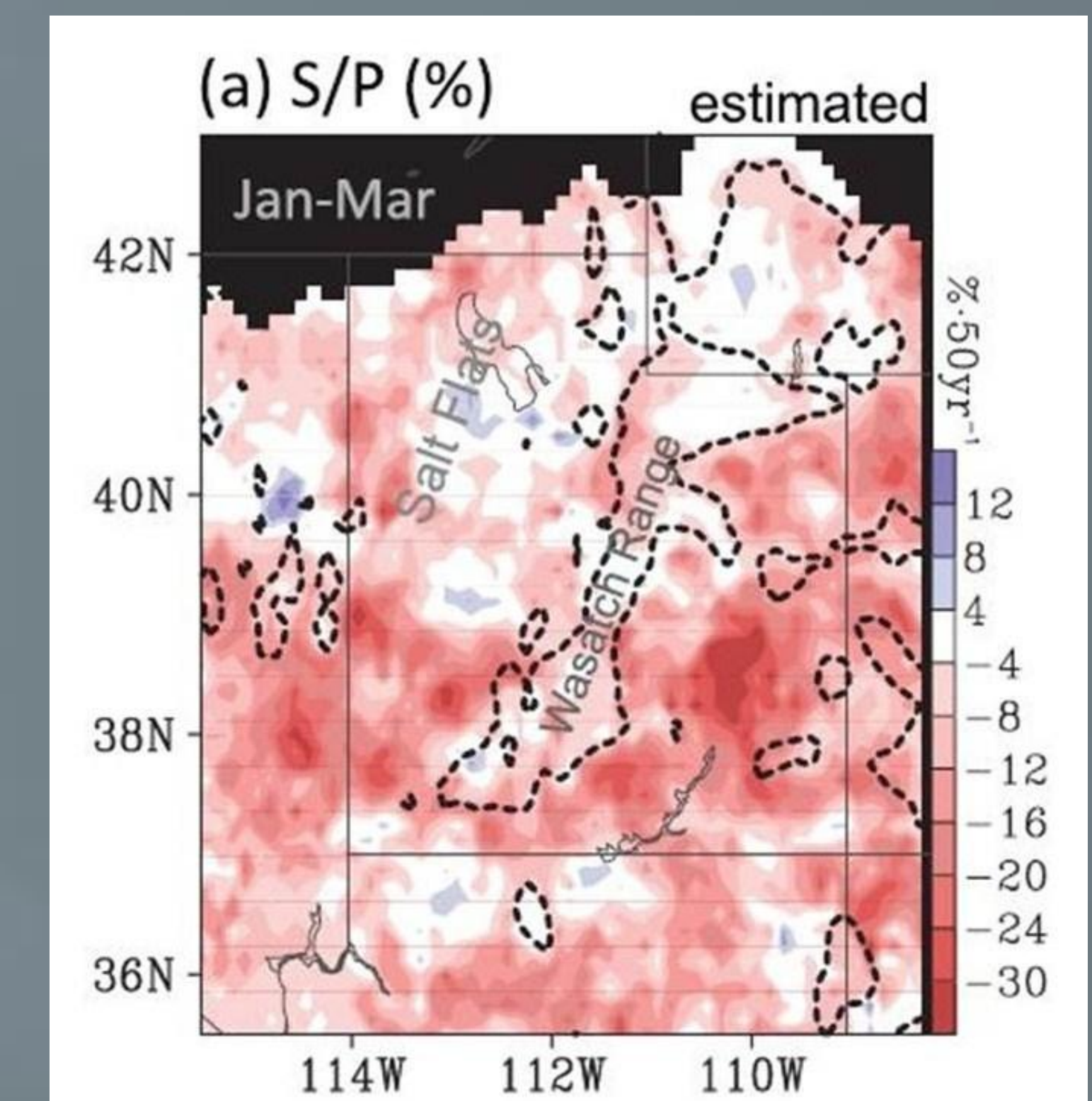


Figure 3. The proportion of winter precipitation falling as snow (S) versus rain (P) has decreased over the last 50 years along the Wasatch Range. This is likely to impact agricultural water management and irrigation practices. Source: Wang et al. 2012.



moreyburnham@gmail.com

GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



<http://iutahepsco.org>

