

# Assessing Institutional Barriers to Adapting Agricultural Water Management to Climate Change in Utah

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## Goal

- Assess the institutional landscape on which adaptive decisions about agricultural water management under future climate scenarios are made.
- Assess the barriers to climate adaptation among state and federal institutions, with a focus on issues related to cross-agency collaboration and how institutions think about and deal with new and unexpected water management challenges.

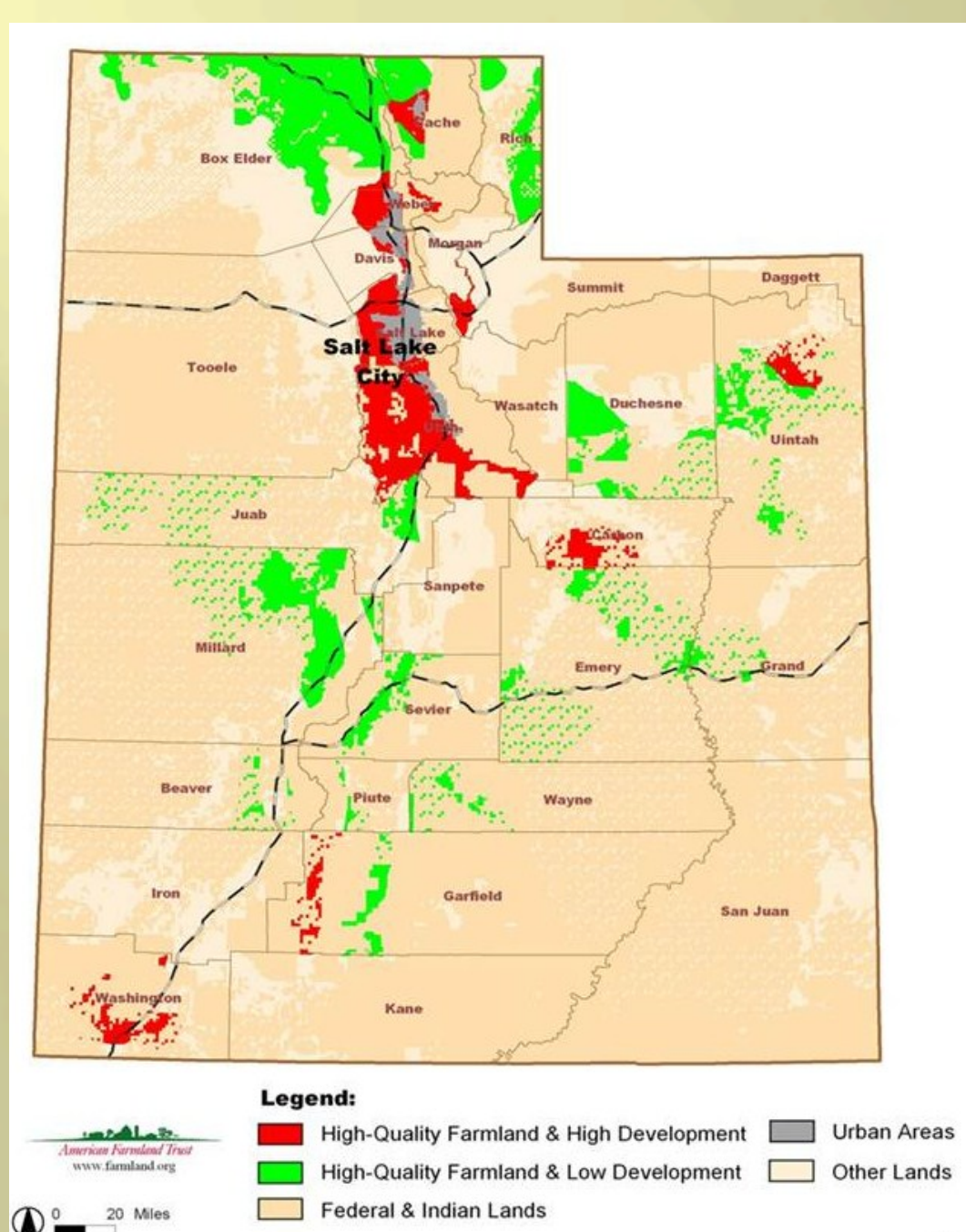


Figure 1. High-quality agricultural land in the WRMA is located in areas experiencing rapid population growth and development. Water for irrigation will have to compete with municipal uses and climate change may exacerbate scarcity.

## Research Methodology

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

1. What are the institutional barriers to climate change adaptation?
2. What practices and policies are already in place that address or can be built on to address issues related to climate change adaptation?
3. What pressing questions stakeholders have about climate change adaptation and what information they need to incorporate climate change into their planning?

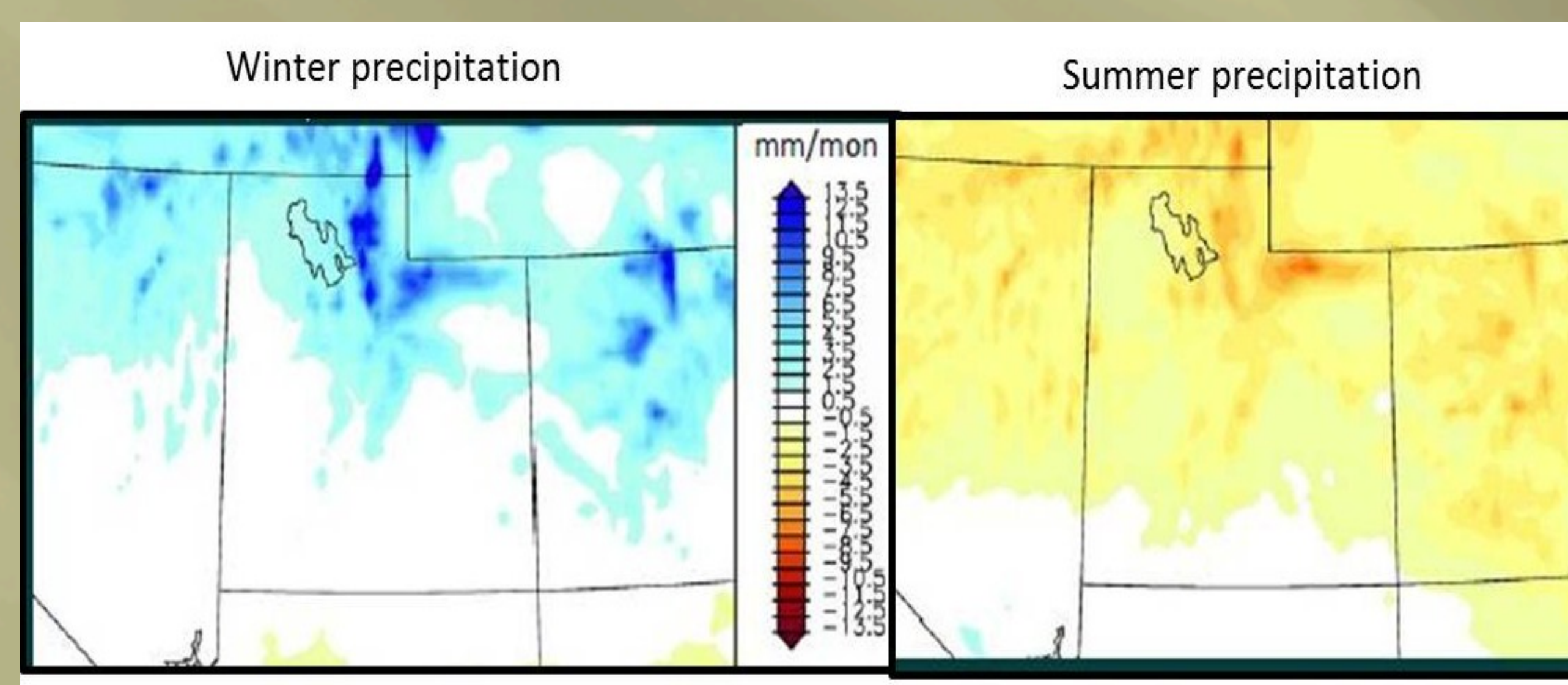


Figure 2. Winter precipitation is projected to increase, likely in the form of rain, and summer precipitation is projected to decrease, affecting the timing of agricultural water availability. Source: Reichler 2009.

## Impact

The results of this study will inform institutional efforts to adapt to climate change by enabling agricultural water management stakeholders and researchers to address barriers, identify opportunities, and facilitate communication and collaboration across agencies and the research community.

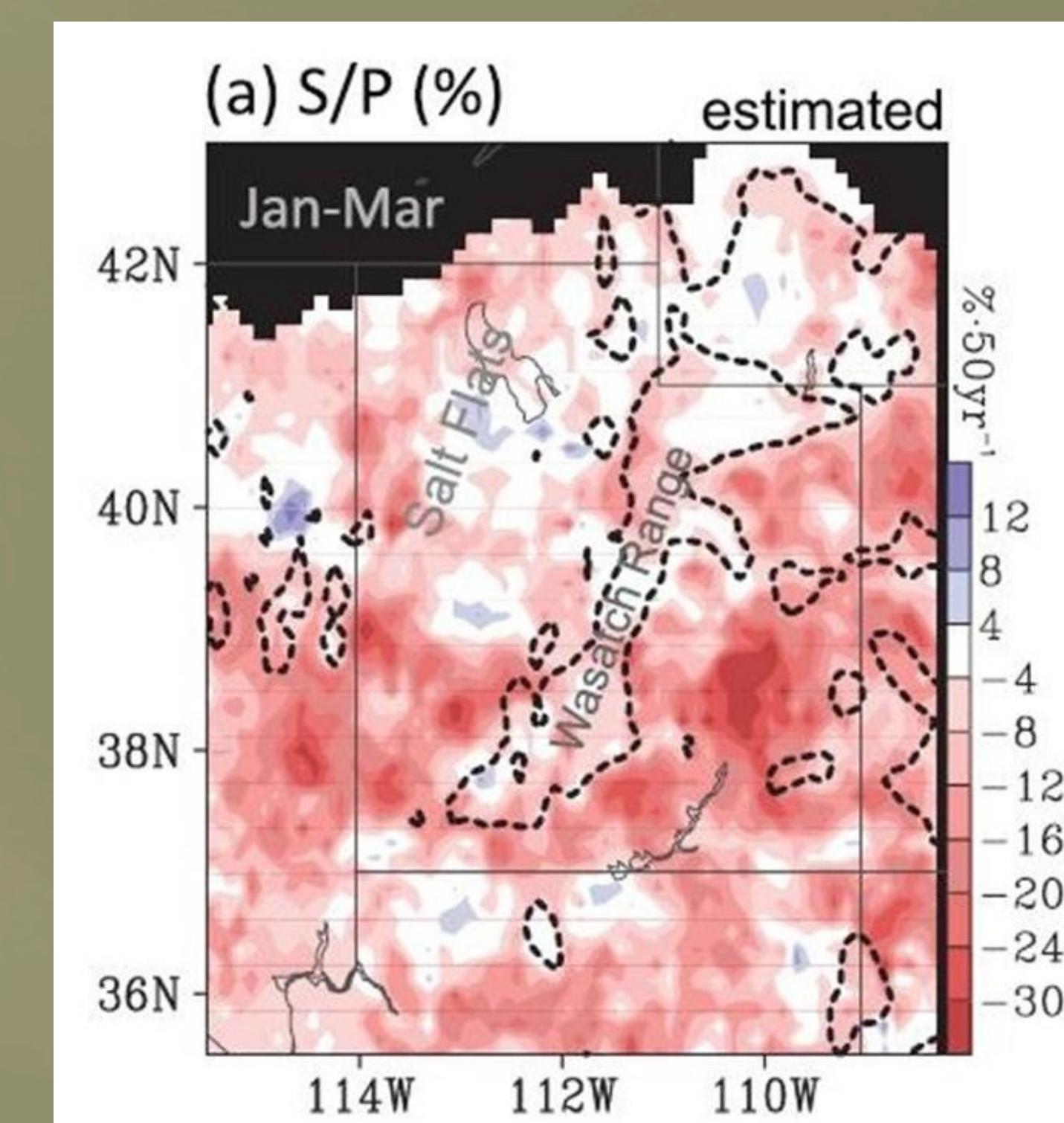


Figure 3. The proportion of winter precipitation falling as snow (S) versus rain (P) has decreased over the last 50 years along the Wasatch Range. This is likely to impact agricultural water management and irrigation practices. Source: Wang et al. 2012



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