

WRRC Water Webinar

**Empowering Arizona's Water Resource Management:  
Navigating Equity, Economic, and Ecological Challenges with  
Cutting-Edge Decision-Support Tools**

**Abubakarr Mansaray, Ph.D.**

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Oklahoma State University

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# Presentation Outline

## My story

1. About me
2. Examples of our work
3. Contribution to AZ water management frontiers

# My childhood



Food



Supply source



Conveyance



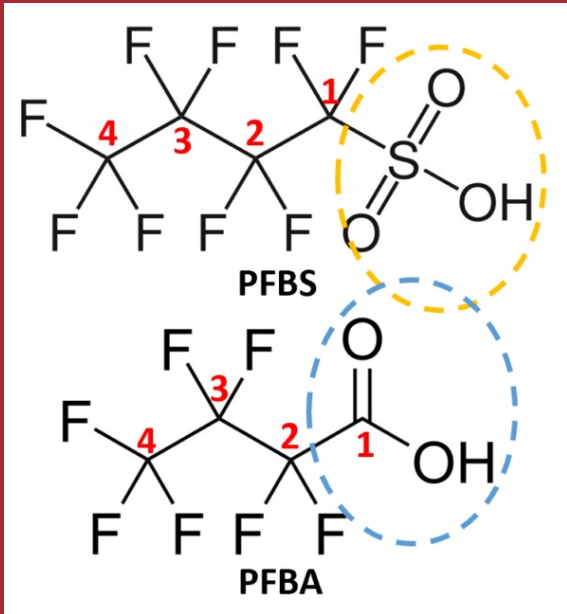
Recreation



Water Quality

My daily routine was centered around water

# I went to school and got degrees



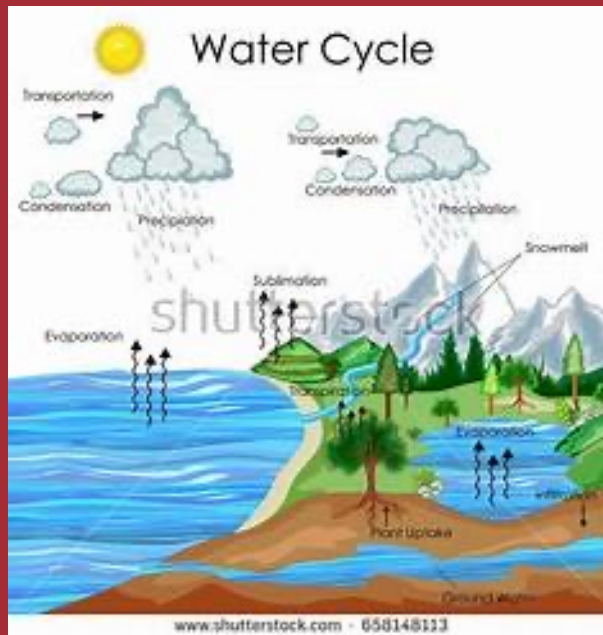
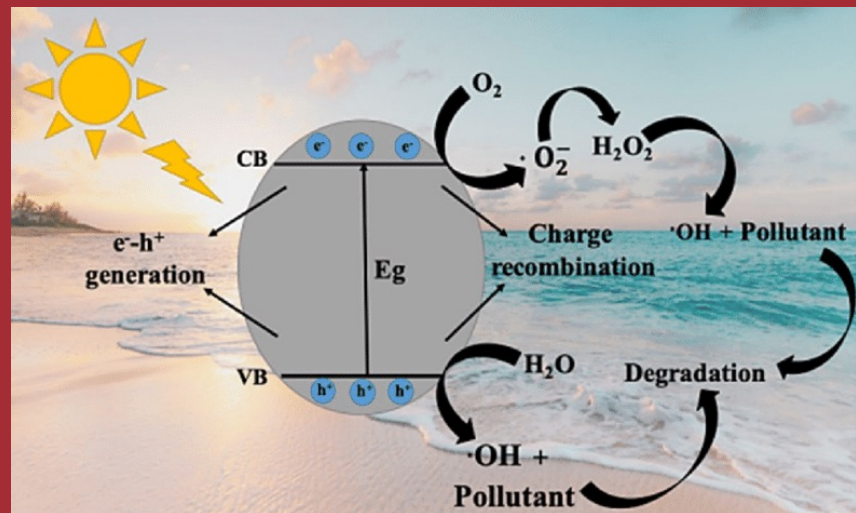
Why do I get sick from drinking water?

Where can we find water?

How much and how safe is the water?

Where does the rain go? Why is its pattern changing?

How can we model all of these?



# And so, percentages like....

Colorado River - 36%

Groundwater - 41%

In-state rivers - 18%

Reclaimed water - 5%,

**Reminds me of my days as a “child water manager”**

**Seen it, studied it, done it!**

**ABC news: Arizona commits \$1 billion to boost water supply with alternative water projects**

# **2023 WATER PROJECTS**

**\$27.8 MILLION – GILBERT WELLS PROJECT**

**\$25 MILLION - SANTA ROSA CANAL ALTERNATIVE**

**\$20 MILLION – LITTLE COLORADO RIVER LEVEE**

**\$16.2 MILLION - ON-FARM IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY GRANTS**

**\$11 MILLION - BRACKISH GROUNDWATER PILOT**

**\$10 MILLION – PEORIA WELLS PROJECT**

**\$9.5 MILLION - WATER QUALITY FEE FUND DEPOSIT**

# I became a water professional



Diversity of sources  
(Supply mgt.)



Conveyance:  
(Supply mgt.)



Non-consumptive:  
(Demand mgt.)



Consumptive:  
Food, Ag., etc.  
(Demand mgt.)



Water Quality:  
(supply mgt.)



# ABC news: Arizona commits \$1 billion to boost water supply with alternative water projects

**\$7 MILLION - WATER INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT FUNDING**

**\$5 MILLION - STATEWIDE WATER RESOURCES PLANNING PROGRAM**

**\$5 MILLION - PFAS MITIGATION**

**\$3.4 MILLION – MOHAVE WASH RECHARGE BASIN**

**\$3 MILLION - RURAL WATER LEGAL ASSISTANCE**

**\$810K – GLENDALE IRRIGATION SYSTEM AND XERISCAPING**

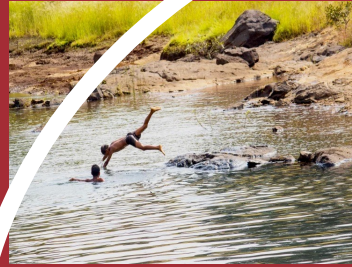
**\$100K - BRACKISH WATER STUDY**

**\$10 MILLION – PEORIA WELLS PROJECT**

**\$9.5 MILLION - WATER QUALITY FEE FUND DEPOSIT**



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Consumptive:  
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Non-consumptive:  
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Water Quality:  
(supply mgt.)





## AZ to end groundwater deal with Saudi Arabian company

OCT. 3

MORE FROM THIS SHOW

Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs' administration announced on Monday two steps to stop a controversial Saudi Arabian company from using groundwater beneath state land in western Arizona to grow and export alfalfa.

Hobbs said in a statement the Arizona State Land Department had canceled one of its leases to [Fondomonte Arizona](#), and would not renew three others that are set to expire in February.

SPOTLIGHT

AIRS DEC. 3  
**See Trans-Siberian Orchestra at the Footprint Center December**

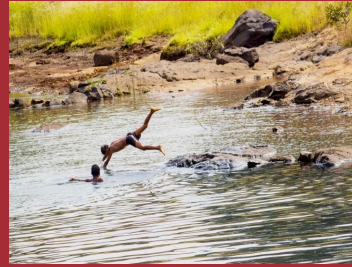
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FIRST

LAST

# I became a water professional



Consumptive:  
Food, Ag., etc.  
(Demand mgt.)

Diversity of sources  
(Supply mgt)

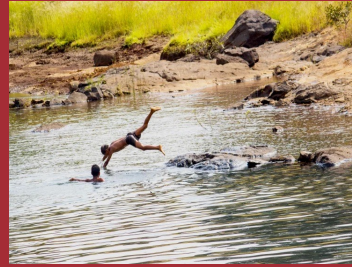
Conveyance  
(Supply mgt.)

Non-consumptive:  
(Demand mgt.)

Water Quality:  
(supply mgt.)



# I became a water professional



Consumptive:  
Food, Ag., etc.  
(Demand mgt.)



Diversity of sources  
(Supply mgt)

Conveyance:  
(Supply mgt.)

Non-consumptive:  
(Demand mgt.)

Water Quality:  
(supply mgt.)



# Examples of our work: Remote Sensing of Water



- Integrating data from a suite of satellites into frameworks that support preparedness and response to water challenges.
- Example:

Satellite	Spatial Res	Temporal Res	Spectral Res	Cost	Coverage area
Landsat 8/9	30 m	8 days	11 bands √	Free √	Large √
Sentinel 2	10 m	5 days	13 bands √	Free √	Medium √
PlanetScope	3 m √	Daily √	8 bands	Commercial	Small



Article

# Comparing PlanetScope to Landsat-8 and Sentinel-2 for Sensing Water Quality in Reservoirs in Agricultural Watersheds

Abubakarr S. Mansaray <sup>1,\*</sup>, Andrew R. Dzialowski <sup>2</sup>, Meghan E. Martin <sup>3</sup>, Kevin L. Wagner <sup>1</sup> ,  
Hamed Gholizadeh <sup>4</sup>  and Scott H. Stoodley <sup>3</sup>

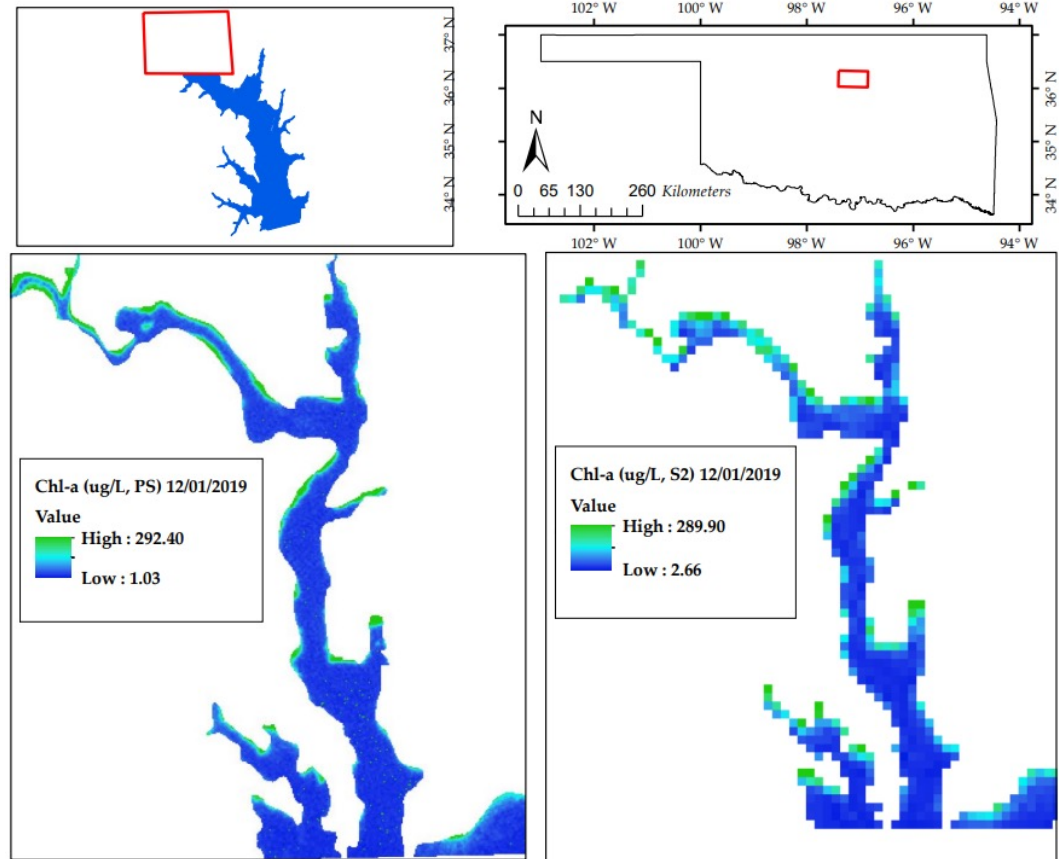
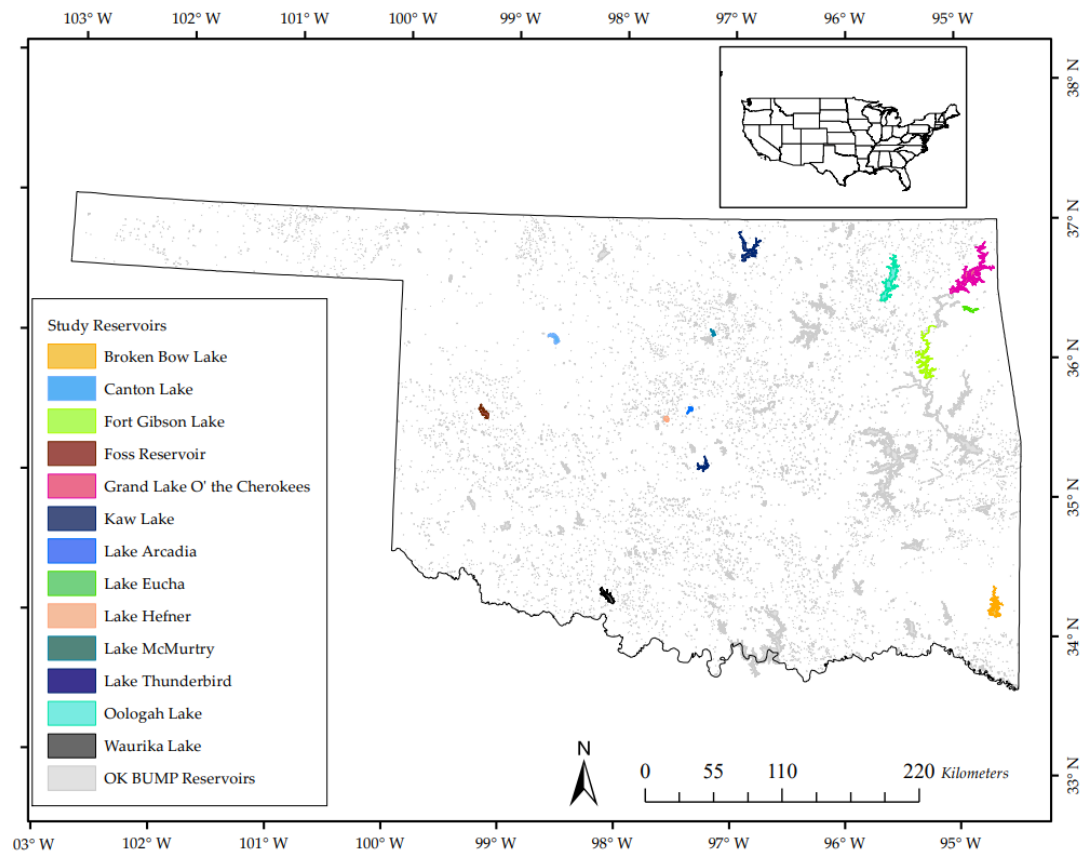
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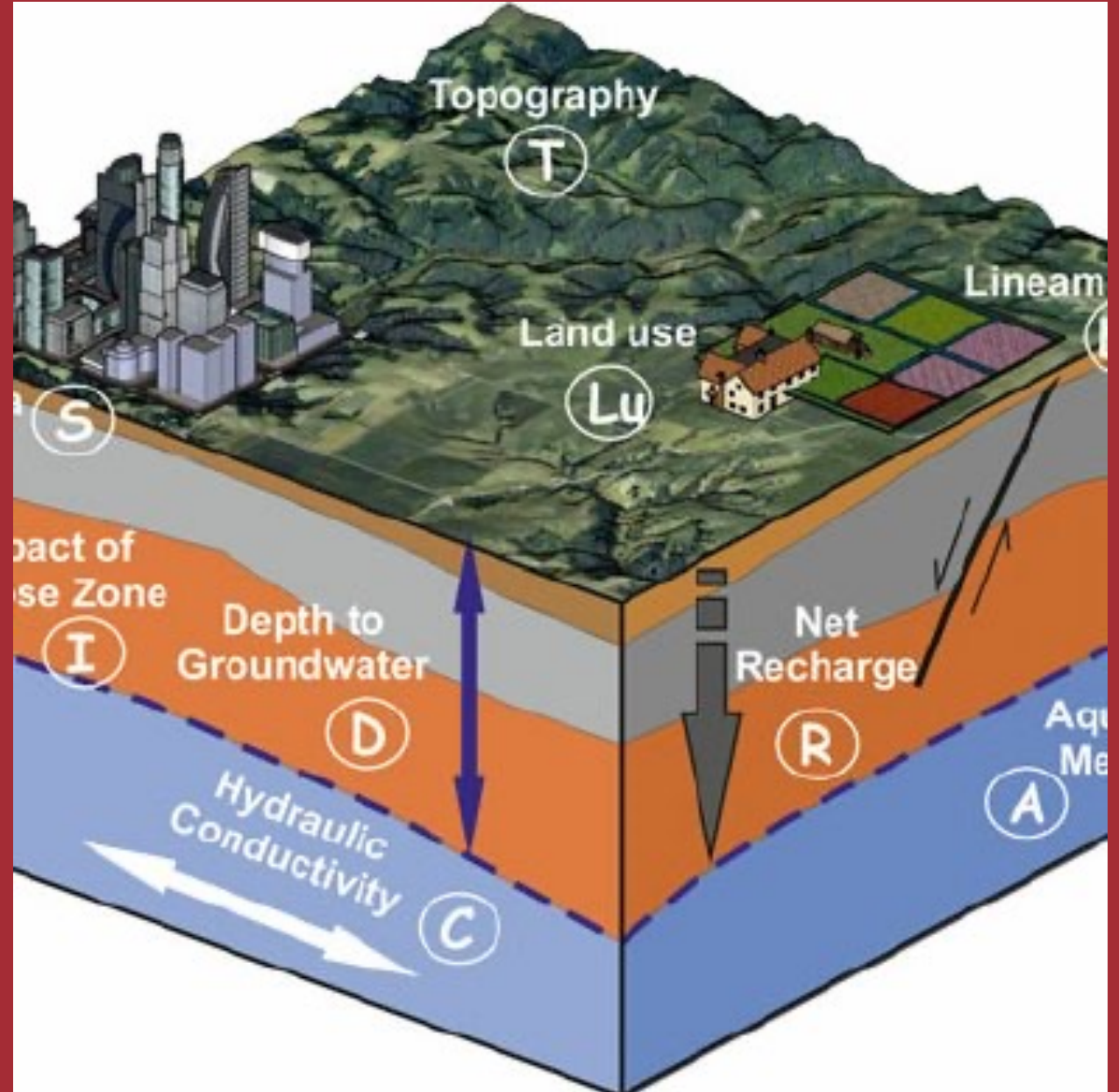
<sup>4</sup> Department of Geography, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078, USA; hamed.gholizadeh@okstate.edu

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# Examples of our work: GIS based modeling of groundwater vulnerability





- Vulnerability to groundwater depletion
- Vulnerability to anthropogenic groundwater contamination
- Overlaid in a GIS environment
- Analysis of vulnerability in that study area.





Article

# Vulnerability of a Tunisian Coastal Aquifer to Seawater Intrusion: Insights from the GALDIT Model

Adel Zghibi <sup>1,\*</sup> , Amira Merzougui <sup>2</sup>, **Abubakarr S. Mansaray** <sup>3</sup> , Ali Mirchi <sup>4</sup>, Lahcen Zouhri <sup>5</sup> , Anis Chekirbane <sup>2</sup>, Mohamed Haythem Msaddek <sup>1</sup> , Dhekra Souissi <sup>1</sup>, Amina Mabrouk-El-Asmi <sup>6</sup>  and Abdelmadjid Boufekane <sup>7</sup> 

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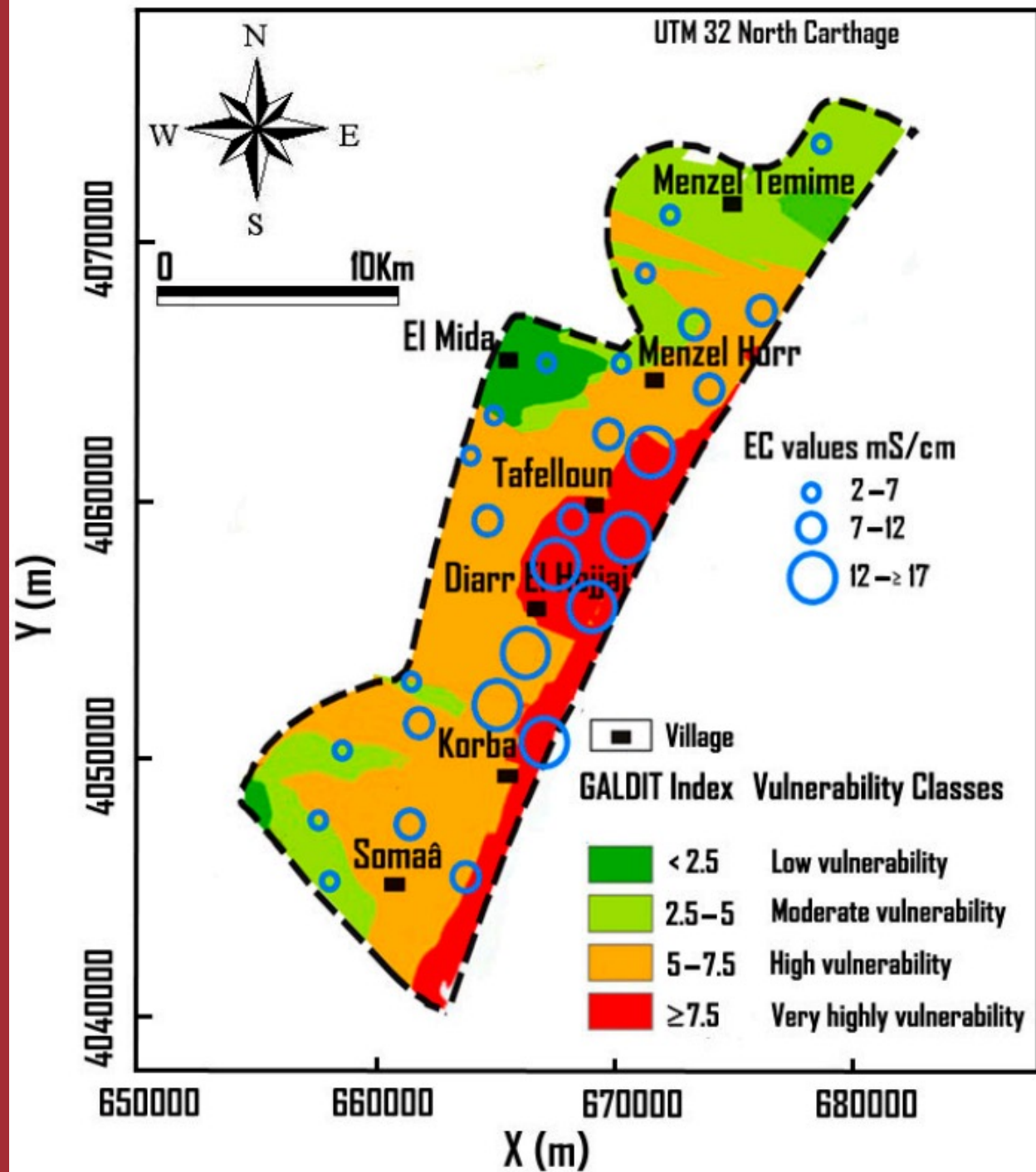
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<sup>6</sup> Laboratory of Sedimentary Basins and Petroleum Geology, Department of Geology, Faculty of Sciences of



# Examples of our work: Climate impacts

- We use climate projections to build scenarios of dry spells, precipitation frequency and intensity, and temperature trends.
- We use the SC-CASC's Climate Projections Evaluation Project (C-PrEP)
  - Contains 27 projections per variable and emissions scenario
  - Uses three different global climate models (GCMs): Community Climate System Model (**CCSM4**), Model for Interdisciplinary Research on Climate (**MIROC5**), *and* Max Planck Institute Earth System Model (**MPI-ESM-LR**)
  - Created with three different statistical downscaling techniques: Delta method (**DeltaSD**), Equidistant Quantile Mapping Method (**EDQM**), and a Piecewise Asynchronous Regression Method (**PARM**).
  - Uses three observational datasets to provide training data for statistical downscaling: **Daymet**, **Livneh**, *and* Parameter-elevation Relationships on Independent Slopes Model (**PRISM**).
  - Utilizes historical and three futuristic representative concentration pathways (RCPs): **rcp26**, **rcp45**, *and* **rcp85**



# Analysis of climatic trends in climate divisions of Oklahoma, USA

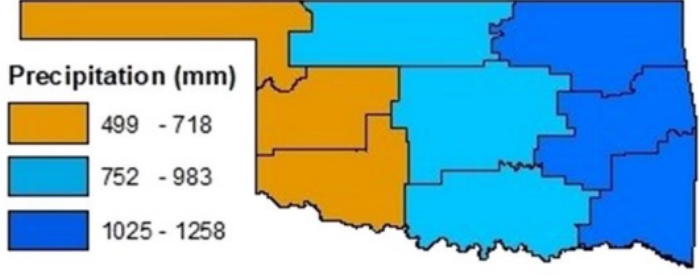
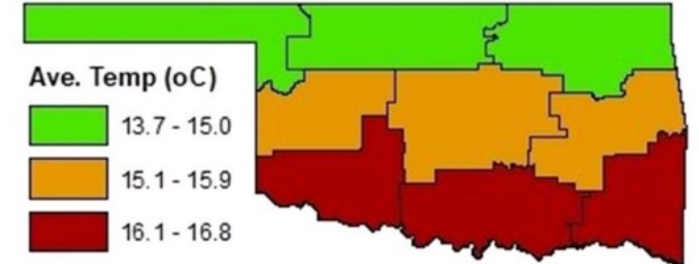
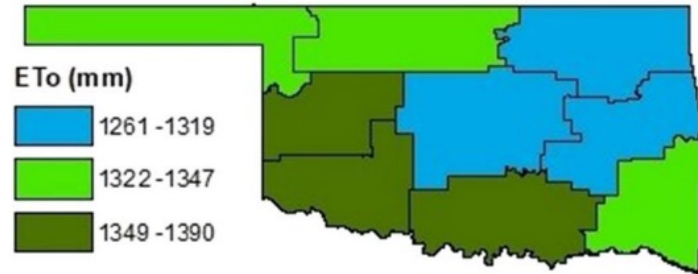
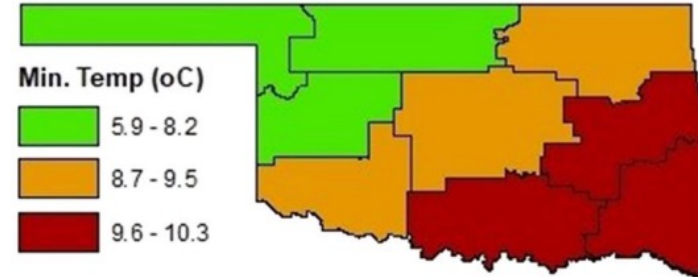
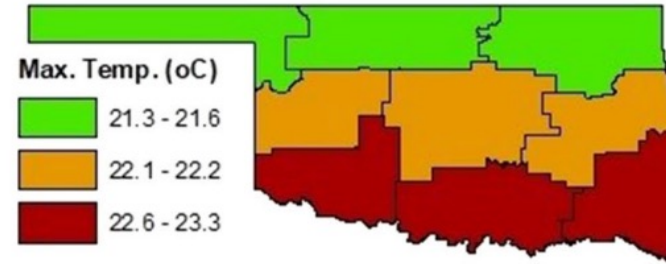
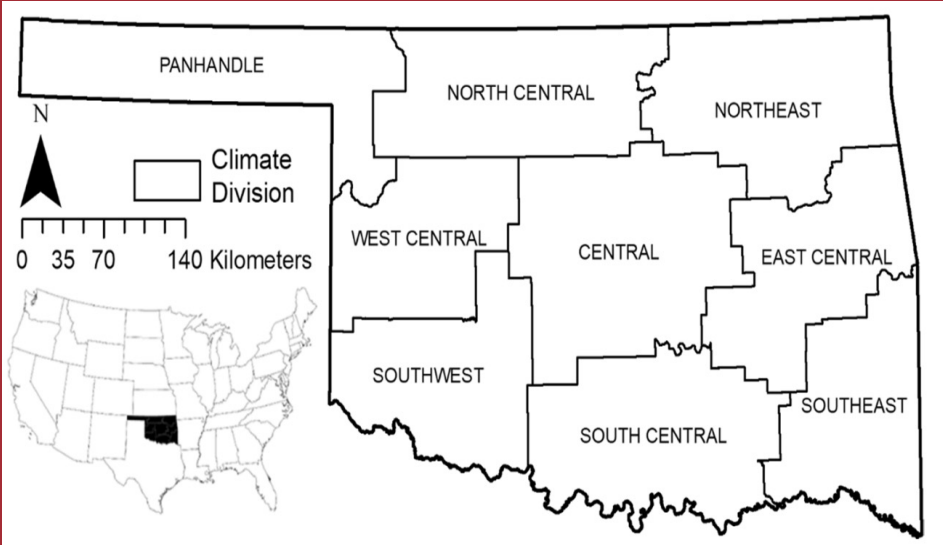
Aseem Singh<sup>1</sup> · Ali Mirchi<sup>1</sup> · Saleh Taghvaeian<sup>2</sup> · Abubakarr Mansaray<sup>3</sup> · Phillip D. Alderman<sup>4</sup> · Daniel Moriasi<sup>5</sup>

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## Abstract

We used monthly climatological datasets from the NOAA US Climate Divisional Database to detect long-term trends (1951–2021) in the nine climate divisions of Oklahoma, USA. We applied Hargreaves-Samani method to calculate reference evapotranspiration (ET<sub>r</sub>) and used 12-month standardized precipitation index to characterize meteorological droughts.



# Honorable mentions:

- Using downscaled GRACE data to delineate changes in groundwater storage.
- International transboundary water management - a good fit for the AZ-Mexico border (both surface and groundwater)
- Hydrologic and Water Quality System for Oklahoma (OK-HAWQS):
  - Support BMP selection, design, and evaluation
  - Support tracking of TMDL plans
  - Support preparedness and response to extreme water quality problems
- Oklahoma Well Owner Network
  - Free well water quality screening and education for private well owners across the state
- Virtual Fencing in grazing lands
  - Promote conservation practices (rotational grazing)
  - Protect stream ecosystems (quarterly stream health assessment)
  - Maximize food production
- My job: Lead grant writing efforts, help recruit students, coordinate implementation, manuscript preparation (reports, journal articles, newsletters, extension factsheets, etc.), provide training, attending meetings, **building relationships**

**Contribution to the ongoing efforts of the  
Arizona Water Resources Research Center**



Environmental

Equity

Economic

University experts (within UA and from other universities in the state), water related agencies, policy makers, tribal nations, local communities, and regional, federal, and international partners

Channeled into the University's Land Grant mission: Teaching, Research & Extension

Secure extramural funding to:

- a) Train the next generation of water professionals
- b) Conduct research to find answers to critical questions about water sustainability
- c) Utilize WRRC's extension and outreach system to work with AZ communities of practice in coproduction of knowledge, tools, and advancement of sustainable water solutions.



# Env. Pillar

Climate variability

Biodiversity

Vegetation cover

Soil health

Soil properties

Pollutant load, etc.

All affect water availability and water quality



## Economic pillar



**Water Demand vs. Water Supply**

**Expanding Infrastructure**

**Food Security (Grazing, farming, poultry, etc.)**

**Technology**

**Public Health**

# Equity



**Rural vs. urban water supply**

**Interested parties (Ag., cities, manufacturing, mining, etc.)**

**Private vs. public**

**Affluent vs. marginalized communities**

**Water urbanization: expansion of cities transforming rural waters to urban waters**

**Allocation - Environmental flows, common interest, economic growth = sustainable water resource management**

# Conclusions

- When it comes to water, the centrality of the Water Center both within the university, across the state and beyond requires someone with the requisite breadth and depth of transdisciplinary water/environmental background that allows actionable engagement and leadership
- What am I bringing?



**Thank  
you!**

