Nevada Water: A Science-With-Society Research and Education Network
Collaboratively addressing water-related issues in a changing climate across the urban-rural spectrum

Why Nevada Water?

- Nevada is the country's driest and most urban state, with a rapidly growing population.
- Most Nevadans get their water from the Colorado River yet most of Nevada lies outside the Colorado River Basin and is dependent on groundwater.
- Like much of the U.S., these urban-rural contrasts lead to diverging views on land and water use so, in many ways, Nevada's water issues are a harbinger for other regions.
- Water scarcity is a way of life for Nevadans.
- Nevada has many committed, thoughtful people working on managing water for the long term.

Nevada Water is leading the way for water resources planning in a time of growth and renewable energy development.

We are working closely with community stakeholders representing rural water, tribes, state agencies, federal agencies, environmental/NGOs, municipal and industrial water, and educators and researchers.

Mission: We bring together diverse organizations, agencies, tribes, and societal groups to collaboratively identify and address complicated urban-rural water challenges. Using convergent research, the Network serves as a trusted source of water-related information, fosters community engagement and facilitates discussions, provides educational resources for all levels, and helps build capacity for communities to co-create pathways toward water sustainability for people and ecosystems.

Vision: A resilient, sustainable, inclusive, equitable, and feasible water future for the state of Nevada that is shaped through a collaborative process and provides knowledge-based strategies to address diverse urban-rural, human, and ecosystem water challenges.

Transformative Science With Society (TSS)

TSS is a proven, grassroots approach that is integrative and inclusive across multiple 'ways of knowing' including Traditional Ecological Knowledge, local knowledge, and multi-disciplinary Western science (Steger et al. 2021; doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2021.102240).

Transformation occurs via Triple-Loop Social Learning

Our Accomplishments

Over the past year, we have engaged over 124 participants representing 65 organizations, agencies, and societal groups, co-developed a mission and vision, created and implemented educational modules, and co-produced an inclusive plan for the network structure, activities, and priorities within the context of Transformative Science with Society and the Theory of Change.

Common Themes & Concerns

- Collaboration is the driving force for success.
- Long-term drought is the overarching issue leading to water over-appropriation and over-use.
- Surface water-groundwater interactions are not well understood and difficult to address with current water policies.
- Changing regulations and lack of agency capacity make it difficult to address complex water issues.
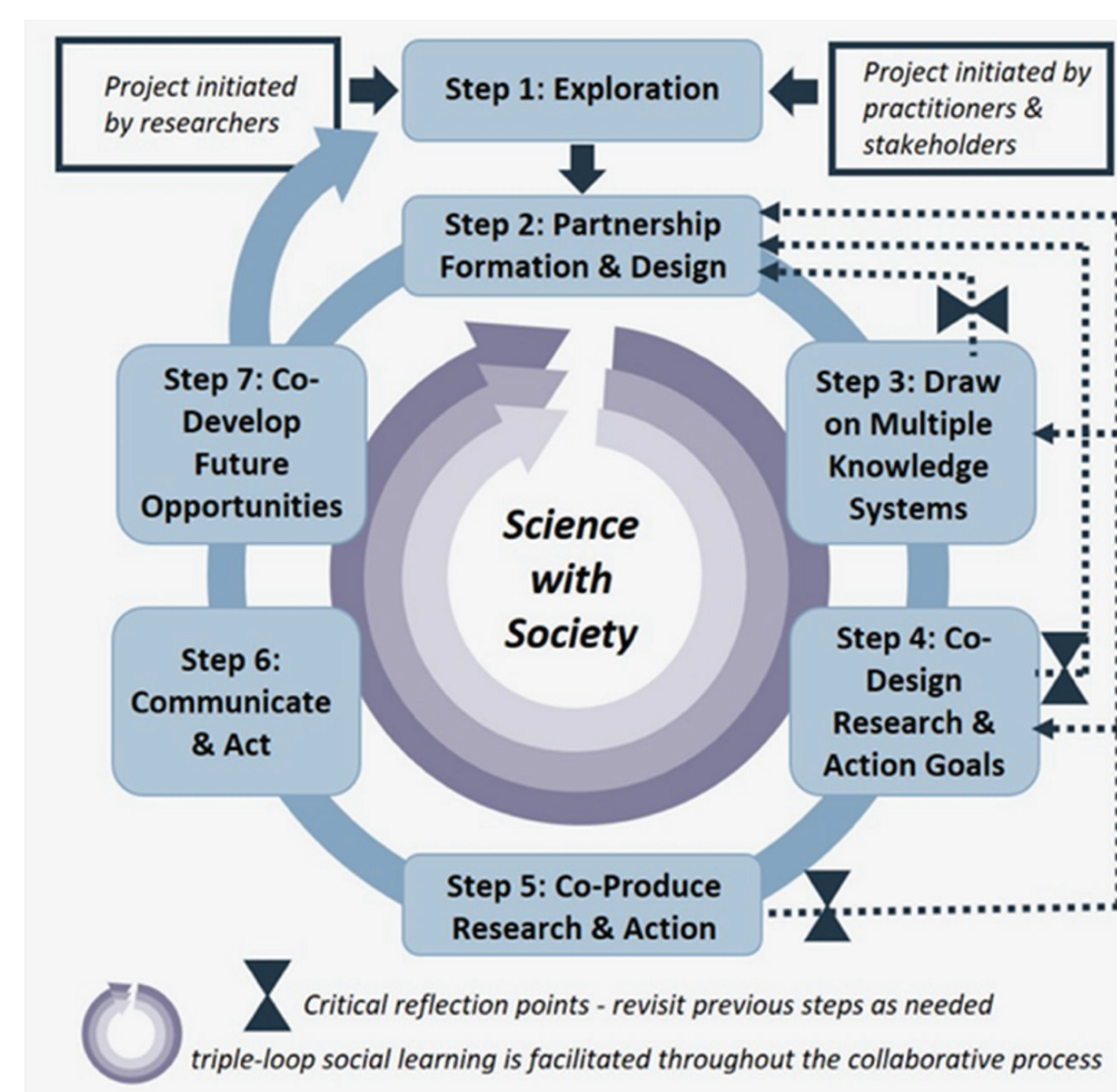
Our Network Goals

- Provide an inclusive platform for collaboration.
- Fill knowledge gaps.
- Co-develop fit-for-purpose models and accessible tools.
- Engage with communities.
- Build capacity for sustainable water futures.
- Educate and train K-Ph.D., managers, decision-makers, and policy-makers.
- Co-develop multi-sector support to sustain the Nevada Water network for the long term.
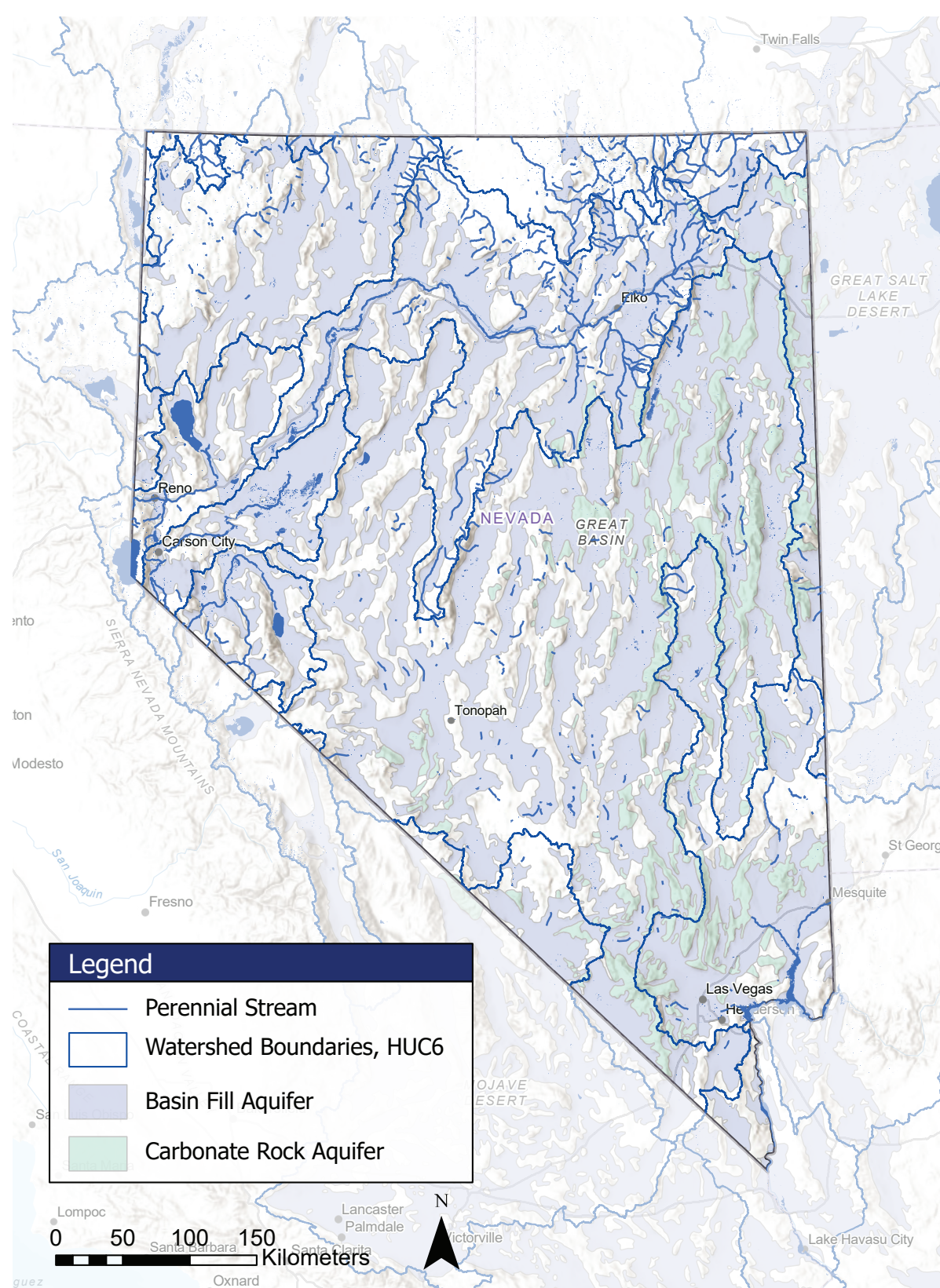
VISIT OUR WEBSITE
unr.edu/nevada-water

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Legend
- Perennial Stream
- Watershed Boundaries, HUC6
- Basin Fill Aquifer
- Carbonate Rock Aquifer