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Sara Hughes is a postdoctoral fellow at NCAR through the Advanced Studies and Integrated Science programs. Prior to joining NCAR, Sara was a postdoctoral associate at the University of California, Los Angeles in the Institute for Environment and Sustainability with the Center for Sustainable Urban Systems. Sara received her Ph.D. from the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at the University of California, Santa Barbara in June 2011 under the supervision of Oran Young. Her specialization areas are political institutions, science in policy, and water resources management. Sara's dissertation was supported by fellowships from the Australian –American Fulbright Commission and the CALFED pre-doctoral science program. Sara received an M.S. in 2006 and a B.S. in 2004 from the Fisheries and Wildlife department at Michigan State University. She has a master's degree specialization in Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change and her master's thesis examined a new model of collaboration in policy making for groundwater resources in Michigan.