

USGS Coalition

American Congress on Surveying and Mapping
American Fisheries Society
American Geological Institute
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Institute of Professional Geologists
American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Water Resources Association
American Water Works Association
AmericaView, Inc.
Applied Technology Council
Association of American Geographers
Association of Metropolitan Sewer Agencies
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators
Association of State Floodplain Managers
California Institute of Technology
Clean Beaches Council
Clean Water Action
Crop Science Society of America
Ecological Society of America
Geological Society of America
Geoscience Information Society
The Groundwater Foundation
Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology
Interstate Council on Water Policy
National Association of University Fisheries and Wildlife Programs
National Council for Science and the Environment
National Groundwater Association
National Institutes for Water Resources
National Mining Association
NatureServe
NBII Coalition
OhioView
Ornithological Council
Seismological Society of America
Sierra Club
Society of Economic Geologists, Inc.
Soil Science Society of America
Southern California Earthquake Center at the University of Southern California
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
University of Southern California
Water Environment Federation

RECOMMENDATIONS ON FY 2006 FUNDING FOR THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

In 2004, the news was awash in headlines related to natural hazards. From volcanic activity at Mount St. Helens to the California mudslides, hurricanes in Florida and Indian Ocean tsunami to ongoing battles against Chronic Wasting Disease and the zebra mussel: the biological, geological, hydrological, and geographic management work done by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) contributed to every citizen's well-being. USGS scientists regularly provide the public and policymakers with information they need to make informed decisions. In addition to high profile work, the USGS plays the central role in assessing water quality and availability, providing emergency responders with essential geospatial data, collecting mineral commodity information, preparing seismic hazard analyses that are used in formulating building codes nationwide and providing the science needed to combat invasive species and wildlife diseases that can cause billions of dollars in agricultural losses.

In addition to underpinning the Department of Interior's (DOI) land and wildlife management decisions, USGS information, research support and assessments are used by federal, state, local and tribal lawmakers, resource and emergency managers, engineers and planners, surveyors and cartographers, educators, the private sector and the public. To accomplish this important work on a limited budget, the USGS leverages resources by partnering with approximately 2,000 governmental, not-for-profit, and private organizations. These partnerships produce research in every state that underpins the wise use of natural resources, provides for environmental protection and leads to economic development.

In FY 2005, the DOI budget saw significant across-the-board cuts, while fixed costs such as salaries and the cost of maintaining core scientific research and monitoring activities continued to rise. These budget reductions are disproportionately affecting USGS core programs in biology, geology, hydrology and mapping, which have an extremely limited ability to absorb cuts without affecting program activities. Without full funding of these cost increases, on-going research may be curtailed hindering or preventing the delivery of data needed by natural resource managers and emergency planners. This would certainly increase our vulnerability to natural disasters and the associated costs of recovery.

In a year when all Americans, as well as citizens of the globe, have a greater appreciation of the importance and value of USGS research and information, we urge Congress and the Administration to fully fund all fixed costs and provide an overdue increase for USGS core programs. A \$1 billion budget for USGS would accomplish this and provide the country with working stream gages with which the National Weather Service can issue flood warnings, an accelerated timetable for the deployment of the Advanced National Seismic System, continuity of remotely sensed land data to support a broad array of economic, agricultural and environmental issues and other robust technology that will contribute to increased public health and safety, hazard mitigation, and increased economic prosperity and security.

The USGS Coalition is an alliance of organizations united by a commitment to the continued vitality of the unique combination of biological, geographical, geological, and hydrological programs of the United States Geological Survey. The USGS Coalition supports increased federal investment in USGS programs that underpin responsible natural resource stewardship, improve resilience to natural and human-induced hazards, and contribute to the long-term health, security and prosperity of the nation. For additional information, or to learn more about the USGS Coalition, please contact Emily Lehr Wallace of the American Geological Institute at elw@agiweb.org or visit <http://www.USGScoalition.org/>.