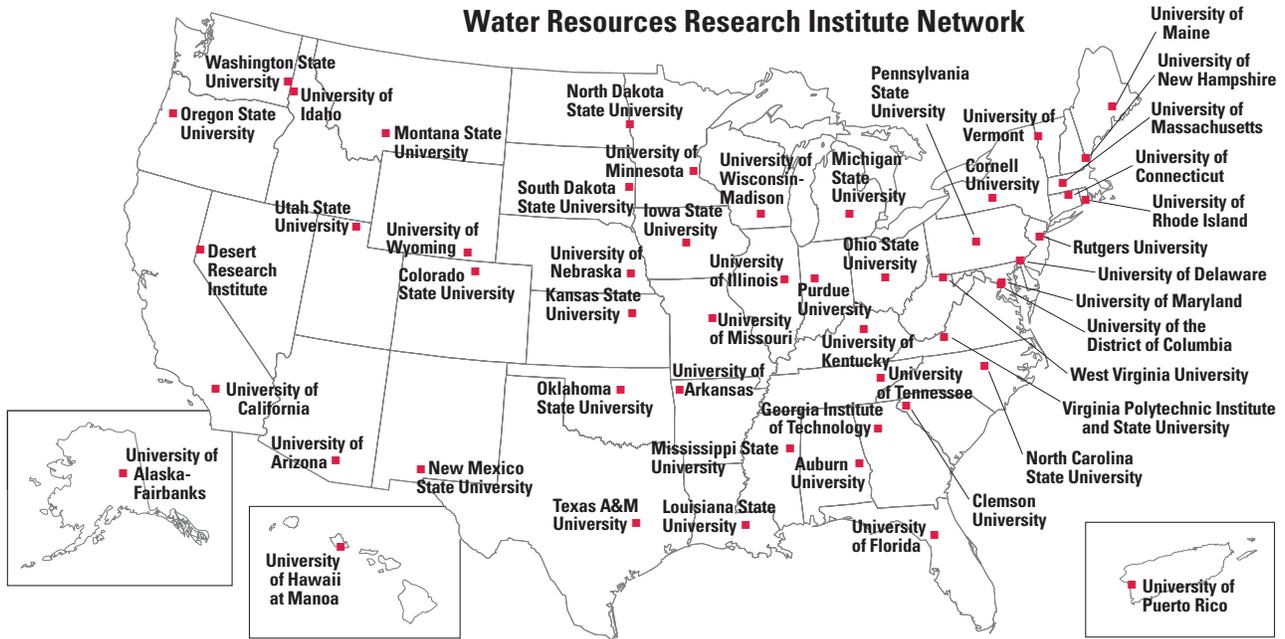


National Institutes for Water Resources in Cooperation with U. S. Geological Survey

State Water Resources Institute Program



The Nation's water resources and its water problems vary greatly across its broad and diverse landscape. Management of the Nation's water resources requires knowledge of local water resources and institutions, as well as the integration of knowledge from many different scientific disciplines, both in the natural and the social sciences. It also requires collaborative efforts of local and state governments and the federal government. The State Water Resources Research Institute Program brings an interdisciplinary, collaborative approach to addressing the Nation's water problems at the state, local, and national level. The program is a partnership between the U.S. Geological Survey and designated universities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Guam.

Most of the Institutes are located at land-grant universities, where they cooperate with and draw upon the full range of their State's universities' resources in all academic disciplines and upon their extension networks. The institutes have established themselves as a primary link between water-related personnel in the academic community, in local and state gov-

ernment, the federal government, and in the private sector. The Institutes are an important part of the Nation's water resources research, education, and technology transfer infrastructure.

A COST-SHARED PROGRAM

The Water Resources Research Act provides for funding of the Institutes through two cost-sharing programs. The first is a grant of equal size to each Institute to support a program of research, education, and information transfer. The Institute must match each dollar received under this grant with two dollars from non-Federal sources. Research projects supported under these grants address state priorities and are to be selected in statewide competitions.

A national competitive research grant program authorized by the Act is the second means of

The Water Resources Research Institutes authorized by the Water Resources Research Act (42 USC 10301 et seq.) are to:

- "plan, conduct, or otherwise arrange for competent research that fosters (A) the entry of new research scientists into the water resources fields, (B) the training and education of future water scientists, engineers, and technicians, (C) the preliminary exploration of new ideas that address water problems or expand understanding of water and water-related phenomena, and (D) the dissemination of research results to water managers and the public, and
- "cooperate closely with other colleges and universities in the State that have demonstrated capabilities for research, information dissemination, and graduate training in order to develop a statewide program designed to resolve State and regional water and related land problems."
- "cooperate closely with other institutes and other organizations in the region to increase the effectiveness of the institutes and for the purpose of promoting regional coordination."



Photo by Paul Godfrey, University of Massachusetts

Cooperators from the USGS, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, the University of Massachusetts Water Resources Research Center, and Massachusetts Water Watch Partnership Volunteers discuss lake water quality monitoring techniques.

providing funding to the Institutes. These grants are to support research on water problems and issues of a regional or interstate nature and address specific priority topics identified jointly by the USGS and the institutes. The research projects con-

ducted under this National Competitive Grant Program are selected in a national competition. Projects involving collaboration with the USGS are given preference in the selection process. The institutes must match each federal dollar received under these grants with one dollar from non-federal sources.

THE PROGRAMS OF THE WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH INSTITUTES

Each Institute maintains a program of research, education, and information transfer designed in consultation with a local advisory panel. The advisory panels consists of local, state, and federal officials, representatives of water user groups, and members of the interested public. These panels develop research and program priorities and review the allocation of funds among various competing projects. In this way, the Institutes ensure that limited funds are spent on research and information needs that address the most pressing water problems and issues in their states.

Research

Each year, the Institutes support over 200 research and information transfer projects with their federal grants and matching funds. Descriptions of these projects are provided at <http://water.usgs.gov/wrri/projects.html>. The Institutes support an additional 700 projects funded by local, state, and federal agencies and other organizations.

Education

The Institutes annually provide support and training to nearly 700 students engaged in the research and information transfer projects funded under the Water Resources Research Act. The Institutes support an additional 600 students under projects funded by other sources. These students range from undergraduate students to post-doctoral students. The State Water Resources Research Institute program is an important source of training for the future scientists, engineers, and technicians necessary to meet the many federal

and state mandates pertaining to water resources management, such as the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

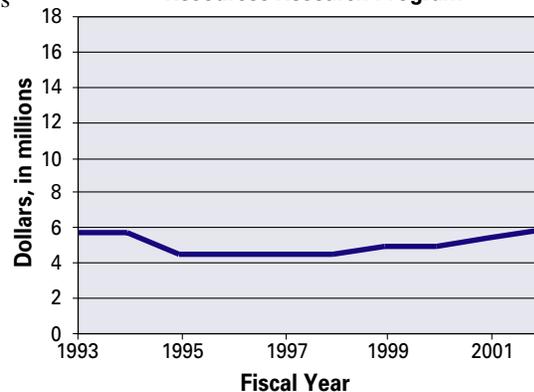
Information Transfer

The information transfer and outreach activities of the institutes result in about 1000 technical publications each year and more than 200 conferences, seminars, and workshops. Nearly every institute maintains a web site, which can be reached through the web site at <http://water.usgs.gov/wrri/>.

FUNDING LEVELS

In FY 2002, \$4,748,000 was appropriated for the state institute grants and \$1 million for the national competitive grants, for a total appropriation of \$5,748,000. In addition, \$252,000 was appropriated for administration of the program.

Appropriations for the State Water Resources Research Program



The Water Resources Research Act authorizes a total appropriation of \$10 million for the state institute grants and \$4 million for the national competitive grants. The authorization level for the program increases to a total of \$18 million in FY 2004, \$12 million for the state grants and \$6 million for the national competitive grants.

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The National Institutes for Water Resources

The 54 Water Resources Research Institutes are organized as the National Institutes for Water Resources. NIWR:

- Provides a mechanism for the exchange of information among the Institutes.
- Facilitates consultation and collaboration between the Institutes and federal, state and local water-related agencies, water user associations, and others involved in planning, financing, implementing, coordinating, and conducting water resources activities.
- Advises and assists the USGS in planning, implementing, coordinating, and conducting the Institute Program.
- Assists the USGS in identifying needed state, regional, and national water-related research.
- Disseminates information and transferring water-related technology.