

The U.S. Geological Survey Strategic Plan

Relevant 1999
Impact 2009

About the Plan

This new version of the USGS Strategic Plan builds on our first strategic plan, which was developed in 1996, and focuses specifically on strategic goals in four areas: customers, programs, people, and operations of the USGS. The new Strategic Plan has a strong emphasis on measurement and accountability. Annual actions have been established to monitor progress toward achieving the four strategic goals. The new USGS Strategic Plan also forms the basis for the 5-year strategic plan mandated by the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), which focuses on our science programs.

These four strategic goals for customers, programs, people, and operations enable the USGS to provide the excellent, innovative science needed in our changing world. For additional information, visit the USGS web site at www.usgs.gov.

About the USGS

Established by Congress in 1879, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is responsible for providing the Nation with critical geologic, cartographic, biologic, and hydrologic information. This information comprises maps, data bases, and reports containing analyses and interpretations of water, energy, mineral, and biological resources, land surfaces, marine environments, geologic structures, natural hazards, and the dynamic processes of the Earth. Through over 400 field offices, the USGS shares this information and works with more than two thousand Federal, State, county, and municipal agencies; other Nations; and international organizations.



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Vision

USGS is a world leader in the natural sciences through our scientific excellence and responsiveness to society's needs.

Mission

The USGS serves the Nation by providing reliable scientific information to:

- describe and understand the Earth;
- minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters;
- manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and
- enhance and protect our quality of life.

Strategic Direction

Combine and enhance USGS' diverse programs, capabilities, and talents and increase customer involvement to strengthen our scientific leadership and our contribution to the resolution of complex issues.

Customer Strategic Goal

Optimize service to our customers (users of our information) and broaden customer base with timely, innovative products and effective interaction as outlined in our mission.

Customer Long-term Goals

- **Measurement Framework**
Understand the USGS customer base, their needs, and their interactions with its programs.
- **Products and Services**
Develop new products and services that are responsive to and reflect internal and external customer needs.
- **Customer Engagement**
Increase involvement of multiple partners and cooperators/coalitions in contributing to mutually beneficial program outcomes and impacts.

Program Strategic Goal

Provide science for a changing world in response to present and anticipated needs.

Program Long-term Goals

- **Hazards**
Ensure the continued transfer of data, risk assessments, and disaster scenarios needed by our customers before, during, and after natural disasters, and increase the delivery of real-time hazard information to minimize loss of life and property.
- **Environment and Natural Resources**
Maintain, provide, and improve long-term environment and natural resource information, systematic analyses and investigations, and predictive tools for scenario building and decision making about natural systems.
- **Mix of Science Activities**
Balance the mix of long term data collection and monitoring, research and development, and assessments and applications to be responsive and flexible.

People Strategic Goal

Attract and maintain a diversified, quality workforce with the skills that enhance our programs and serve our customers.

People Long-term Goals

- **Skills**
Enhance science and technical skills of the USGS workforce.
- **Reward System**
Reinforce strategic direction through reward system.
- **Flexibility**
Achieve human resources flexibility to meet changing needs.
- **Leadership**
Foster visionary leadership and management professionalism.

Operations Strategic Goal

Continuously improve our infrastructure and operational processes and practices to efficiently and effectively support our people, programs, and customers.

Operations Long-term Goals

- **Information Infrastructure**
Ensure efficient data integration and access to satisfy both internal and external customers.
- **Operational Process and Practices**
Improve the efficiency of the bureau's administrative and science support and programmatic activities through streamlining, quality improvements, and cost reductions.
- **Facilities Infrastructure**
Optimize facilities location, distribution, and use to reduce costs while ensuring program effectiveness and quality of work environment.
- **Communication**
Clearly communicate to all audiences consistent USGS messages about our strategic direction and programs.

Customer

Program

People

Operations