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.

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.
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.