

# USGS COALITION

Established by Congress as a branch of the Department of the Interior in 1879, **the US Geological Survey has a truly national mission** that extends beyond the boundaries of the nation's public lands to positively impact the lives of all Americans. The USGS plays a crucial role in protecting the public from natural hazards, assessing water quality, providing geospatial data, and conducting the science necessary to manage our nation's living, mineral, and energy resources. Through its nationwide offices, the agency works with over 2,000 partners to provide high-quality research and data to policymakers, emergency responders, resource managers, educators, and the public. A few examples of essential USGS services include:



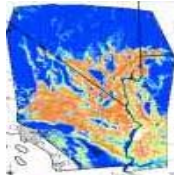
**Climate Change:** USGS research is vital to predicting the impacts of climate change on sea level, wildfires, water resources, and ecosystems. The USGS is also assessing the nation's potential for carbon sequestration.



**Energy and Minerals:** USGS surveys of energy and mineral resources inform environmentally prudent development and conservation, contributing to the nation's energy independence and economic growth.



**Water:** The USGS monitors water quality and surface and groundwater availability. It collects data which is used by other agencies to issue flood warnings and to assess flood risk, drought impacts, and water availability.



**Geospatial Data:** As the nation's mapper, the USGS provides topographical maps and works with partners to provide a new generation of high-quality, digital geospatial data products that inform policy decisions.



**Environment:** USGS research informs management of endangered species, aids in the control of invasive species (e.g. zebra mussels), and monitors wildlife diseases (e.g., Avian Flu, Chronic Wasting Disease).



**Natural Hazards:** The USGS monitors and forecasts the threat of floods, volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, and wildfires, saving lives and helping to reduce the economic impact of potentially calamitous events.

**The USGS Coalition** is an alliance of over 70 organizations united by a commitment to the continued vitality of the unique combination of biological, geographical, geological, and hydrological programs of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The 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.

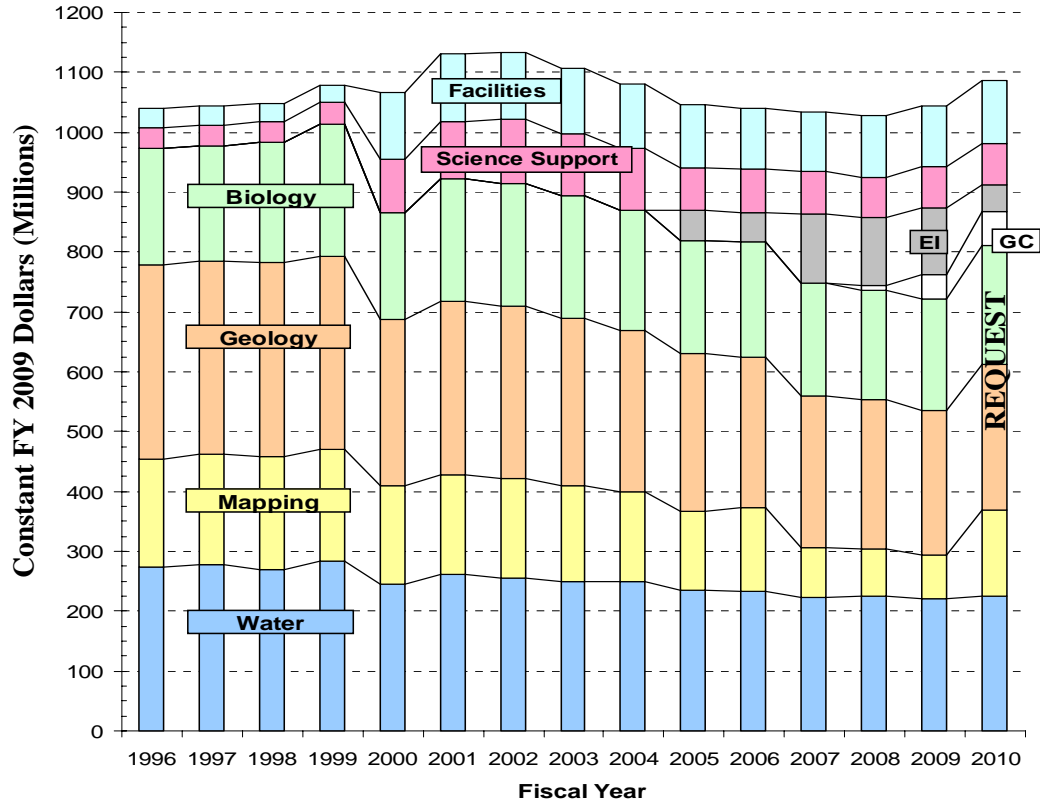
# Addressing a Funding Shortfall

The USGS budget has declined in real dollars for six consecutive years from FY 2003 to FY 2008. **In real terms, funding for the USGS is at its lowest level since FY 1997**, as can be seen in the figure below. The decline in funding for the USGS would have been even greater if Congress had not repeatedly restored proposed budget cuts.

**The need for science in support of public policy decision-making has never been greater.** USGS scientists and engineers provide hydrological, geological, biological, geospatial and other types of data that support water, energy and mineral resource management, wildlife and ecosystem management, and protection and prevention measures for natural disasters.

In order to meet the tremendous need for science to support public policy decision making, **more investment is needed.** That investment should be used to strengthen vital USGS partnerships, improve monitoring networks, implement bioinformatics programs, produce high-quality digital geospatial data, and deliver the best possible science to address societal problems and inform decision makers.

Please help to ensure that the USGS is adequately supported in FY 2010 and in future appropriations. We appreciate the support of Congress on this important issue.



EI=Enterprise Information  
GC=Global Change

## USGS Coalition Member Organizations

American Congress on Surveying and Mapping • American Fisheries Society • American Geological Institute • American Geophysical Union • American Institute of Biological Sciences • American Institute of Professional Geologists • American Society for Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing • American Society of Agronomy • American Society of Civil Engineers • American Water Resources Association • American Water Works Association • AmericaView • Applied Technology Council • Association of American Geographers • Association of American State Geologists • Association of Ecosystem Research Centers • Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists • Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies • Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies • Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies • Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities • Association of State Floodplain Managers • The Botanical Society of America • Bureau of Economic Geology, University of Texas at Austin • California Institute of Technology • California Seismic Safety Commission • Cartography and Geographic Information Society • Clean Beaches Council • Council of Entomology Department Administrators • Council of Science Editors • Crop Science Society of America • Earthquake Engineering Research Institute • Ecological Society of America • ESRI • Geological Society of America • Geoinstitute of ASCE • Geoscience Information Society • The Groundwater Foundation • Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology • International Association of Emergency Managers • Interstate Council on Water Policy • Kansas Geological Survey • Natl. Assn. of University Fisheries & Wildlife Programs • Natl. Cooperators' Coalition for USGS Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Units • National Council for Science and the Environment • National Flood Determination Association • National Geographic Society • National Ground Water Association • National Institutes for Water Resources • National Mining Association • Natural Science Collections Alliance • NatureServe • NBII Coalition • North American Benthological Society • OhioView • Ornithological Council • Phycological Society of America • Renewable Natural Resources Foundation • Seismological Society of America • Society for Range Management • Society of Economic Geologists • Society of Envir. Toxicology & Chemistry — North America • Soil Science Society of America • Southern California Earthquake Center at USC • Universities' Council on Water Resources • University Consortium for Geographic Info. Science • University Corporation for Atmospheric Research • University of Southern California • Water Environment Federation • Weed Science Society of America • Western States Seismic Policy Council • The Wildlife Society

For more information about the USGS Coalition, please visit our web site at [www.USGScoalition.org](http://www.USGScoalition.org) or contact co-chairs Craig Schiffries ([cschiffries@geosociety.org](mailto:cschiffries@geosociety.org)) or Robert Gropp ([rgropp@aibs.org](mailto:rgropp@aibs.org)).