



Developing an Ecosystems Science Strategy for the USGS and the Nation

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Ecosystem SSPT Co-Chairs

ACWI Meeting
1 March 2011

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey



Core Ecosystem SSPT Members

Name	Position
• Ken Williams (Co-Chair)	Chief, Cooperative Research Units
• Gary Brewer (Co-Chair)	Ocean Science Coordinator, Coastal and Marine Geology Program
• Jim Cloern	Senior Scientist, National Research Program
• Guy Gelfenbaum	Oceanographer, Pacific Coastal and Marine Science Center
• Robb Jacobson	Research Hydrologist, Columbia Environmental Research Center
• Jeff Kershner	Center Director, Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center
• Dave McGuire	Unit Leader, Alaska Cooperative Research Unit
• Jim Nichols	Senior Scientist, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
• Carl Shapiro	Director, Center for Science, Decisions, and Resources Management
• Charles Van Riper	Senior Scientist, Southwest Biological Science Center
• Robin White	Bureau Approving Official, Office of Science Quality & Integrity
• Lynn Wingard	Paleoecologist, Eastern Geology and Paleoclimate Science Center

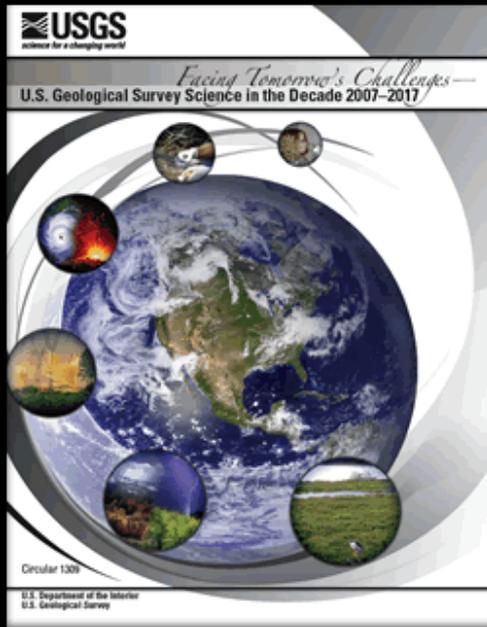
What is Ecosystem Science?

Ecosystem Science is the study of organisms interacting with their environment and the consequences of natural and human induced change on those systems



Science Strategy Planning Team (SSPT) Background

In 2007, USGS releases a Science Plan “*Facing Tomorrow’s Challenges—U.S. Geological Survey Science in the Decade 2007–2017*”



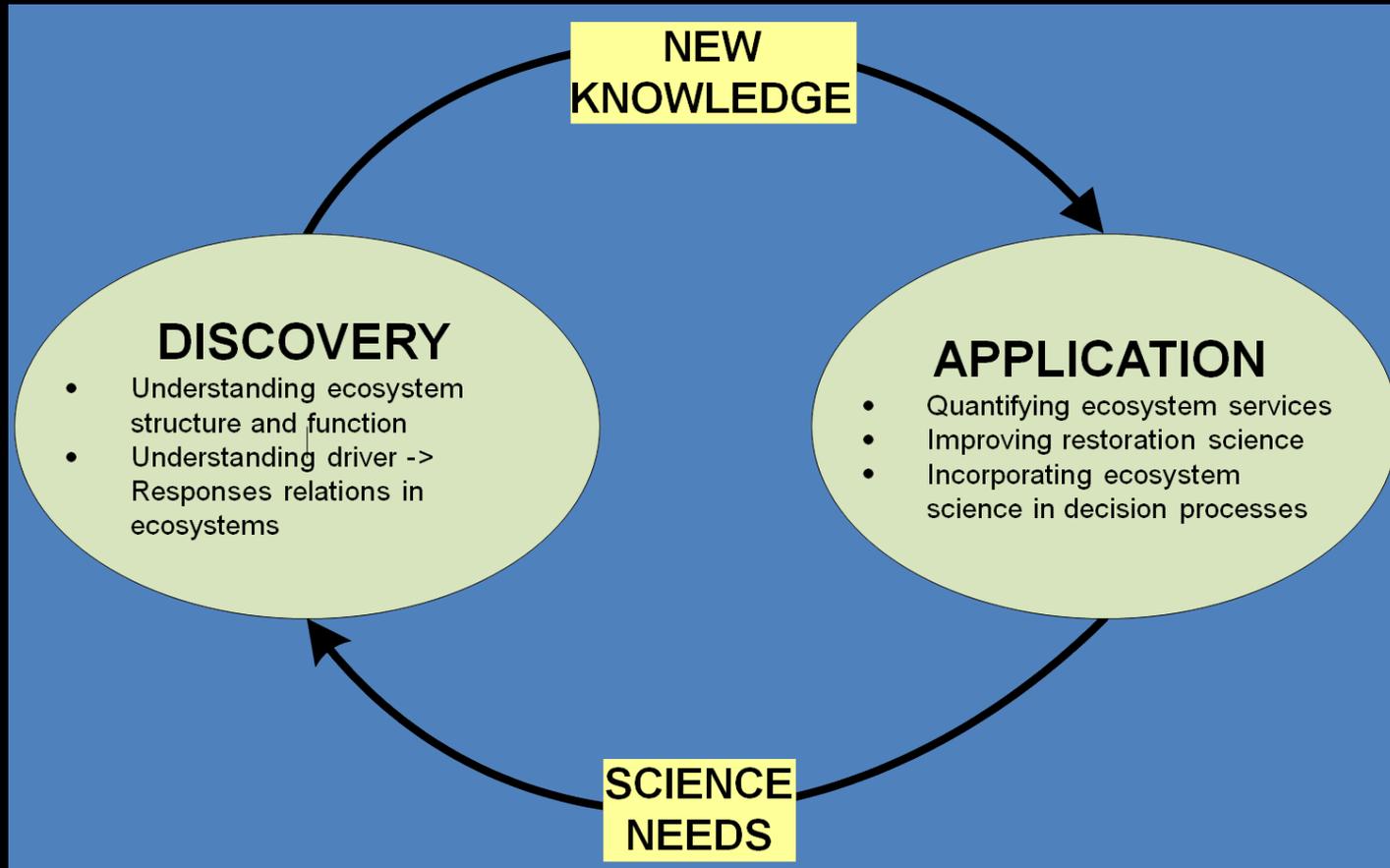
- A comprehensive, high-level framework for USGS science
- Begins a process to realign our organizational structure
- “Ecosystems” are foundational

Steps in Strategic Plan Development

- Inform and engage stakeholders with an open inclusive process
- Identify examples of ecosystem science goals, questions, and actions/products
- Identify extended working groups to flesh-out the Plan's framework
- Consolidate and prioritize input through consensus
- Make drafts available for review by interested stakeholders



Linking Research and Application



Preliminary Examples of Ecosystem Focal Issues (Goals)

- Understanding ecosystem structure, function and processes
- Understanding how drivers and stressors influence ecosystem change
- Understanding the services that ecosystems provide to society
- Science to support strategies for adaptation, restoration and conservation of ecosystems
- Tools and approaches that will better inform decisions about ecosystems



USGS Ecosystem Science

Ecosystem Science is the study of organisms interacting with their environment and the consequences of natural and human induced change on those systems

- What are the most important ecosystem science needs and challenges for the coming decade?
- What actions do you recommend that the USGS take to address these ecosystem science needs and challenges?
- How can USGS better provide relevant and timely ecosystem science information to decision makers, the scientific community, and the public?

http://www.usgs.gov/start_with_science

