

HOW CAN WE ASSESS STAKEHOLDER PRIORITIES FOR USGS WATER DATA & SCIENCE PROGRAM INVESTMENTS IN A “SHRINKING” FEDERAL BUDGET?

19 MARCH 2013 DRAFT PROPOSAL

Overview

The purpose of this proposal is to provide the ACWI Workgroup with an option (or a starting point) for assessing stakeholder community priorities for the investment of FY-2015 funds in USGS water data and science.

Implementation Proposal

- 1) Organize an **implementation team**, to include the team leader from each of the **five “community sub-teams”**
 - a) Other federal agencies
 - b) States, tribes & other non-federal agencies
 - c) Environmental & recreation users organizations
 - d) Private sector businesses; and
 - e) Universities & other academic.

- 2) Use the “27 Strategic Actions” from USGS Strategic Directions to collect stakeholder priorities
 - a) Develop questionnaire with Implementation Team coordination
 - i) Short document with the table relating the 27 Strategic Actions to the 5 goals, a link to the full document, and a simple, clear voting formula that reveals the stakeholder’s highest and lowest priorities, from the perspective of USGS contributions to the stakeholders’ ability to do their work
 - Example: limit “high priority” votes to no more than 10/stakeholder and require that each stakeholder vote “low priority” on at least 5 of the 27
 - ii) Might supplement the 27 with a question to evaluate preference between strengthening existing programs and starting new/neglected programs
 - b) Invite Workgroup participants into the appropriate community sub-teams (could participate in one or several)
 - c) Each sub-team, lead by a **sub-team leader**, uses their networks (conferences?) to invite leaders from their community to complete the questionnaire in April
 - d) Each sub-team, collects and compiles responses from their community in early May

- 3) Each sub-team leader reports results to the implementation team, where the results are summarized (not necessarily combined), to highlight any significant similarities or distinctions among the six communities’ priorities