

# ACWI Advice & Recommendations

To Assure Strong Water Science  
in a Shrinking Budget



# Asst Sec'y Castle's Request to ACWI:

- **Intent**: for USGS to continue and strengthen its leadership
  - Water Monitoring Networks
  - Assessments
  - Research
- **Expectation**: federal budgets will continue to be severely constrained, possibly declining for the foreseeable future
  - FY-2015 Request will be developed on usual schedule
  - Anticipate 5% - 10% cut
  - Stakeholder advice & recommendations will assist in identifying, evaluating & prioritizing options
- **Options**: identify, evaluate & prioritize

# Options include:

- New Funding Sources
- New Opportunities for Collaboration and Leverage of Funds
- New and Emerging Technologies
- Prioritize the Selection of Monitoring Sites, Data Parameters & Interpretive Studies
- Enhance the Utility of Geospatial Data & Statistical Analysis
- Reduce Cost for Monitoring
- Streamline the Collection, Management & Delivery of Data & Applications for Public Use
- Other ideas...?



# Schedule

- Jun-Nov = Draft Request
- December = Organize,
- **Jan-Feb** = Review 3 Monitoring Networks, Strategic Direction, Data Mgm't & Water Census
- **March** = Review Related Science, Research
- **Apr-May** = Assess Needs that are Served by USGS Water Mission and Identify, Evaluate & Prioritize Recommendations
  - Interior & OFA Needs & their “tolerance for uncertainty”
  - Tribal, State, Interstate & Local Needs & their “tolerance ...”
  - Private Sector Needs & their “tolerance ...”
  - Universities, NGOs, & Public Needs & their “tolerance ...”

**QUESTION: Assess the Needs in What Terms?  
Other Angles? Other Questions?**

# Schedule Update

- May 27 is Memorial Day; can we switch to Tuesday, May28?
- Any other conflicts?
  - Peter Evans unavailable 5/31-6/17
- Asst Sec'y review
  - What is our target?

# Are Key Stakeholders Here?

- Federal Agencies –
- Tribes, State Agencies & Interstates –
- Local Agencies & Utilities –
- Private Sector –
- Universities –
- Recreation –
- Environmental –
- Others?

**Note:** most have concern for water quantity, quality & habitat interests



# Assess the Needs? in What Terms?

- What Justifies Federal Funding?
  - It used to be that every great idea did!
  - Do we need to develop a new list of categories/explanations?
    - **Federal Responsibility**
      - international & tribal treaty compliance?
      - federal project operations?
      - federal regulatory standards
      - federal permit compliance?
      - etc.
    - **National Priority**
      - Flood forecasting for public safety along interstate rivers?
      - interstate allocation of water supplies?
      - interstate pollution?
      - impartial assessment in multijurisdictional management?
      - etc.
    - **Scientific Research**
      - estimating flow and ecological use at ungaged locations?
      - impacts of hydrofracking?
      - Use of remote sensing, other emerging technologies for monitoring
    - **Other Effective Categories?**
      - USGS is doing it now?
      - nobody else has resources to do it, either?
      - other...?



# How to Organize Our Recommendations?

- Opportunities for
  - Cost Efficiency?
  - New Revenue?
  - Leveraging Funds?
  - Furnished Records?
  - Collaborative Implementation?
  - ??????

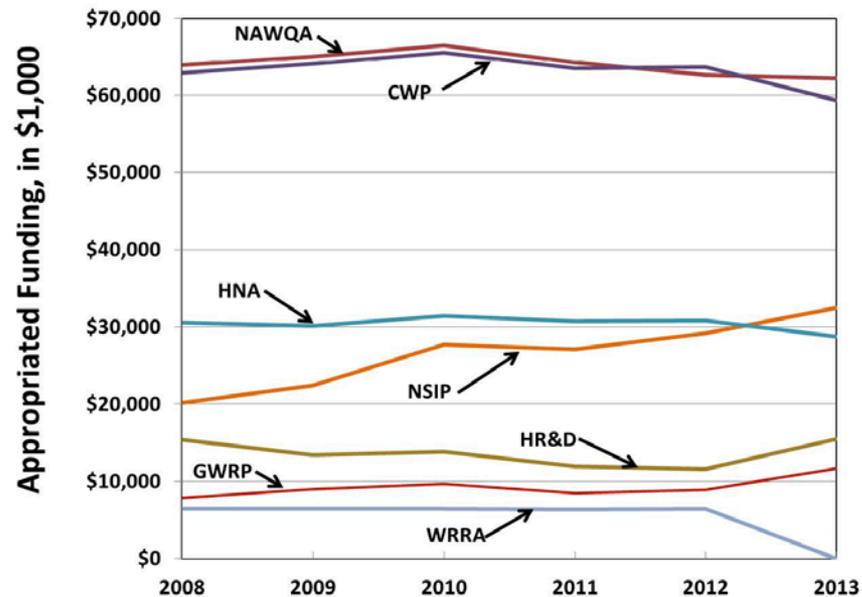


# What “Tools” Would Help Us?

- Parking Lot? On ACWI Website?
- Subcommittees to organize & present the Needs & Tolerance for Uncertainty? to tabulate survey results?
- Subcommittee for Drafting Report?
- OFA presentations?
- Survey to identify Stakeholder Priorities?
  - Among 27 Strategic Actions?
  - Among “Line Items?”
- **What is your idea???**

# How would You redirect the \$200M?

## Water MA Appropriated Funding (FY13 = President's Budget)





Observations?

Questions?

Ideas?

Volunteers?