Assessment of USGS Water Program Value to Stakeholders				
The 27 "Strategic Actions" are taken directly from the new Strategic Directions" document published by USGS				
	http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2012/1066/			
		Choose up to 10 HIGH and at least 5 LOW priorities		
	These descriptions are taken directly from the USGS text:	Mark Your Priority (place an "x" in the appropriate boxes below)		
Strategic Action#	**Strategic Action Description**	**High**	**Medium**	**Low**
1	Maintain and enhance existing national networks that accurately measure, analyze, and report information about each of the compartments of the water cycle. Improve and expand networks and techniques to reduce uncertainty about the resource to an acceptable level and to expand our capability to estimate the resource in ungaged or unmeasured areas			
2	Seek ways to expand the Nation's understanding of the hydrologic resource not only through its own monitoring networks but also through optimizing the use of hydrologic data collected by and through other public agencies. Work through the Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI), as has been done through the National Ground Water Monitoring Network, to establish a systematic approach for the utilization of records furnished by others for all major quantity compartments of the water cycle			
3	Devote expanded resources to the integration of remote-sensing products into hydrologic model-ing analyses for parameter estimation, forcing, and verification of modeled states and fluxes. Establish closer links between USGS hydrologists and remote-sensing experts, as well as with other agencies that collect, analyze, and use remotely sensed information for modeling			
4	Direct resources to defining a set of hydrologic parameters that can be researched in the paleo-record and developed into a time series of data for the purpose of deep-time trend analysis. At a minimum, this would include flood flows and recurrence; drought recurrence; changes in storage in lakes, wetlands, snow, and icefields; and changes in groundwater storage			
5	Commit to long-term data collection at a core set of nationally important surface-water-quality sites that would constitute a national surface-water-quality observation network, incorporating all available measurement techniques, including the use of automated sensors, the use of surrogates, the use of discrete measurements, in addition to coordinating with the hydrologic networks of Strategic Action 1			
6	Develop robust water-quality spatial modeling tools and make use of remotely sensed information to interpolate data from the national observation networks to high spatial resolution			
7	Commit to long-term data collection at a core set of nationally important groundwater-quality sites that would constitute a national groundwater-quality observation network. Design the network to measure the quality of the Nation's principal and regionally important aquifers, coordinating with the hydrologic networks of Strategic Action 1. To the extent possible, take advantage of the existing infrastructure provided by the network of USGS groundwater-level sites where data collection has been ongoing			
8	Working through USGS resources and in collaboration with others, expand USGS capabilities to assemble, integrate, and serve information that assists in the assessment of hydrologic data, with the intent of improving the ability to detect trends, draw comparisons between differing hydrologic settings, lessen uncertainty, and improve the description of hydrologic functions			
9	Produce new 3-D and 4-D hydrogeological framework models and property databases that are inte-grated with flow and transport models and data to effectively trace water movement and water-quality changes in complex systems under varying hydrologic conditions			
10	Use data and studies of hydro-logical variability on historic and prehistoric (geologic) time scales, along with data and models of human effects on watersheds, to improve understanding and anticipation of climate effects on water availability			
11	Conduct integrated research relating water availability to sustainable aquatic ecosystems, including the timing of streamflow variations, hydrodynamics of groundwater/surface-water interactions, water quality and biogeochemistry, competing human demands, and relations to ecosystem structure and health			
12	Conduct monitoring, research, and modeling activities, in coordination with various water-related management actions, to improve understanding of benefits, limitations, and adaptive strategies			
13	Through internal and external collaboration, incorporate socioeconomic drivers such as competing uses, values, and costs into water-availability research, assessments, and models			

14	Develop and apply predictive models for coupled systems integrating geology, hydrology, water quality, and ecosystems, including potential effects of nonlin-ear behavior and feedback			
15	Develop and apply 3-D and 4-D (transient) hydrologic prediction models at a range of spatial scales (local to regional) and temporal scales (short to long timeframes), including methods to bridge these scales			
16	Develop and apply improved methods to estimate uncertainty in model simulations, and routinely assess and communicate model uncertainty to end users			
17	Work with partners to develop improved methods for prediction of future water-use demand and develop strategies to track, validate, and update water-use predictions through time			
18	Develop and apply methods to quantify the potential for expanded future use of alternative water sources (saline water, marginal water, and reused water, among others)			
19	Develop scientific data, information, and analyses to help communities understand their exposure to extreme hydrologic events			
20	Develop new sensor and telemetry technologies to better detect conditions that can lead to water-related emergencies, and install monitoring stations that can provide data for multiple hazards			
21	Develop new science-based tools and enhance existing tools, such as flood inundation mapping, that use observation network data to assist communities with hazard planning, response, and recovery			
22	Provide resources such as observations, analyses of hydroclimatic processes, and analyses of vulnerabilities in water-supply systems that allow resource managers to develop preparedness and response plans for water shortages because of imbalances between groundwater recharge and pumping, drought, and infrastructure damage from flooding or geological hazards			
23	Provide scientific expertise to assist water providers in making decisions regarding disaster/emergency declarations, water conservation, water transfers, alter-native water supplies, and water conservation during extreme or prolonged water shortages			
24	Develop tools that provide an understanding of how water-quality degradation can affect water supplies and allow managers to detect and respond to emergencies involving water-quality degradation			
25	Ensure that a wide variety of hydrologic information is obtainable through map interfaces available on the Web that allow the user to geospatially search, locate, and link hydrologic parameters, access historical information and conduct trend analyses, and construct water-availability analysis tools, such as water budgets			
26	Provide timely hydrologic data and develop dynamic integrated models and visualization products in formats appropriate for the 21st century that enhance water science, educate the public, and communicate to policymakers			
27	Develop decision-support systems to aid resource managers and policymakers			