

# USGS Coalition

---

American Fisheries Society  
American Geological Institute  
American Geophysical Union  
American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
Association of American Geographers  
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies  
Association of State Floodplain Managers  
California Institute of Technology  
Clean Beaches Council  
Crop Science Society of America  
Earthquake Engineering Research Institute  
Ecological Society of America  
Geological Society of America  
Geo-Institute of ASCE  
The Groundwater Foundation  
Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology  
International Association of Fish and Wildlife  
National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges  
National Association of University Fisheries and Wildlife Programs  
National Council for Science and the Environment  
National Ground Water Association  
National Institutes for Water Resources  
NatureServe  
NBII Coalition  
Ornithological Council  
Seismological Society of America  
Society of Economic Geologists, Inc.  
Soil Science Society of America  
Southern California Earthquake Center at the University of Southern California  
University of Southern California  
Water Environment Federation  
Weed Science Society of America  
Western States Seismic Policy Council  
The Wildlife Society

## RECOMMENDATIONS ON FY 2007 FUNDING FOR THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) provides essential and independent research, analyses and assessments of the biological, geological, and hydrological assets of our nation. It also supports international efforts, where relevant, to assess our strategic resources within the global community. The USGS provides the private and public sectors, including policymakers, with crucial information about natural resources, natural hazards and wildlife. Furthermore, the USGS provides geospatial data, from maps to satellite images, for improved land, water and wildlife management.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the USGS was praised for quickly arriving on the scene and providing specialized geospatial maps to locate victims trapped in flooded neighborhoods and support rescue efforts. The USGS provided water level and flow measurements from stream gages for the dewatering of New Orleans and performed health-based water quality and sediment analyses throughout the Gulf Coast. The USGS works in every region of the country at the forefront of natural hazards mitigation by providing assessments, probabilities and warnings to communities that are most vulnerable to hurricanes, volcanoes, floods, earthquakes, landslides, droughts, wildfires and tsunamis.

Natural resources—from energy to freshwater supplies—captured the public’s attention in 2005. The USGS conducts essential assessments of water levels, flow rates and quality, and of mineral, coal, oil and natural gas resources. These comprehensive assessments are often the only reliable source of data for natural resource management at a national level.

The potential for an avian flu pandemic remains a global concern. The USGS is conducting targeted surveillance of aquatic birds for avian flu in North America. Other biological programs assess the health, distribution, and diversity of wildlife and provide information necessary to track and respond to infectious diseases that can be transmitted from wildlife to people. Still other programs help sustain land and water resources and monitor the spread of invasive species that can pose significant economic threats.

The USGS is a cost-effective agency. It leverages its limited resources by partnering with over 2,000 governmental, not-for-profit, and private organizations. In addition, many USGS programs provide information that lead to future savings. For example, a recently released report by the Multihazard Mitigation Council concludes that “a dollar spent on mitigation saves society an average of \$4.”

**The Coalition recommends a budget of at least \$1.2 billion for the U.S. Geological Survey in FY 2007.** This level of funding would enable the USGS to meet new challenges while continuing to provide data for land-use management, sustainable natural resource development, economic growth, and enhanced security from natural and manmade hazards. More investment is needed to strengthen USGS partnerships, improve monitoring networks, produce high-quality digital geospatial data and deliver the best possible science to address societally important problems. 0

*The USGS Coalition is an alliance of organizations united by a commitment to the continued vitality of the unique combination of biological, geographical, geological, and hydrological programs of the United States Geological Survey. For additional information please contact Robert Gropp of the American Institute of Biological Sciences at [rgropp@aibs.org](mailto:rgropp@aibs.org) or Craig Schiffries of the National Council for Science and the Environment at [schiffries@NCSEonline.org](mailto:schiffries@NCSEonline.org) or visit <http://www.USGScoalition.org/>.*