



NEWS ALERT
September 16, 2010

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What: USGS Coalition Congressional Reception Honoring Representatives Moran and Simpson
When: Monday, September 20, 2010, 5:30—7:30PM
Where: Rayburn Foyer

USGS Coalition to Honor Representatives Jim Moran & Mike Simpson at Congressional Reception

WASHINGTON, DC— Representatives Jim Moran (D-VA) and Mike Simpson (R-ID) will be presented with the annual USGS Coalition Leadership Award at a congressional reception on Monday, 20 September, 2010. They will be honored for their continuing support for the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Representative Moran is the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Environment while Representative Simpson is the Ranking Member. In addition to the awards, the USGS Coalition reception will highlight research, information sharing, and services provided by the USGS.

“Our vulnerability to natural hazards was emphatically demonstrated by the devastating earthquake in Haiti and volcanic eruptions in Iceland this year,” said Dr. Craig Schiffries, co-chair of the USGS Coalition and director for geosciences policy at the Geological Society of America.

“Representatives Moran and Simpson recognize that the U.S. Geological Survey plays a pivotal role in reducing risks from earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and other natural hazards that jeopardize human lives and cost billions of dollars in damages every year. The USGS helps prevent natural hazards from becoming natural disasters.”

Dr. Robert Gropp, co-chair of the USGS Coalition and director of public policy at the American Institute of Biological Sciences added, “The USGS Coalition is pleased to honor Representatives Moran and Simpson. They understand how important USGS science is to the nation and that funding for the USGS is an investment that pays returns in the form of improved public safety from natural hazards, wise ecosystem management, and improved conservation of biological diversity. Indeed, the USGS is much more than the science agency for the Department of the Interior. Data and products developed by the USGS and its highly skilled workforce are vital to our economy and can help drive the development of new products and markets.”

USGS scientists and their collaborative partners will be on hand at the reception to discuss the vital work the USGS conducts in the biological, geographical, geological, and hydrological sciences. The

reception will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 PM in the Rayburn Foyer of the Rayburn House Office Building. Members of the news media interested in attending the reception or receiving additional information about the USGS Coalition should contact Kaitlin Chell at kchell@agu.org.

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The USGS Coalition is an alliance of 70 organizations united by a commitment to the continued vitality of the unique combination of biological, geological, hydrological, and mapping programs of the USGS. The USGS provides independent, high-quality data, information, research support, and assessments needed by federal, state, local and tribal policymakers, resource and emergency managers, engineers and planners, researchers and educators, and the public. The Coalition supports increased federal investment in USGS programs that underpin responsible natural resource stewardship, improve resilience to natural and human-induced hazards, and contribute to the long-term health, security, and prosperity of the nation.