



**NEWS ALERT**  
September 10, 2009

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**What:** USGS Coalition Congressional Reception Honoring Senators Feinstein and Murkowski  
**When:** Monday, September 14, 2009, 5:30—7:30PM  
**Where:** 2168 Rayburn House Office Building (Gold Room)

### **USGS Coalition to Honor Senators Feinstein & Murkowski at Congressional Reception**

WASHINGTON, DC— Senators Diane Feinstein (D-CA) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) will be presented with the annual USGS Coalition Leadership Award at a congressional reception on Monday, September 14, 2009. They will be honored for their continuing support for the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Senator Diane Feinstein is the Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Environment while Senator Lisa Murkowski is the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Additionally, the USGS Coalition reception will highlight the research, information sharing, and services provided by the USGS.

“Senators Murkowski and Feinstein are keenly aware of recent volcanic eruptions in Alaska and ongoing wildfires in California,” said Dr. Craig Schiffries, co-chair of the USGS Coalition and director for geoscience policy at the Geological Society of America. “The USGS provided advance warning of explosive volcanism at Alaska’s Mt. Redoubt and it is working with other agencies to provide maps of California wildfire locations and the potential spread of fires. The USGS helps prevent natural hazards from becoming natural disasters. It plays a pivotal role in reducing risks from volcanic eruptions, wildfires, earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, landslides, and other natural hazards that jeopardize human lives and cost billions of dollars in damages every year.”

Dr. Robert Gropp, co-chair of the USGS Coalition and director of public policy at the American Institute of Biological Sciences added, “Data and products derived from USGS research benefit everyone. The work conducted and supported by the USGS informs drinking-water studies, biological and geological resource assessments, natural hazards monitoring, and other activities. The USGS is more essential than ever before to our national efforts as we try to conserve a growing list of threatened species, develop sustainable and cleaner energy sources, ensure that all Americans have access to clean water, and understand how our rapidly changing environment will impact our way of life.”

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 Gold Room (Room 2168) 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](mailto: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.*