

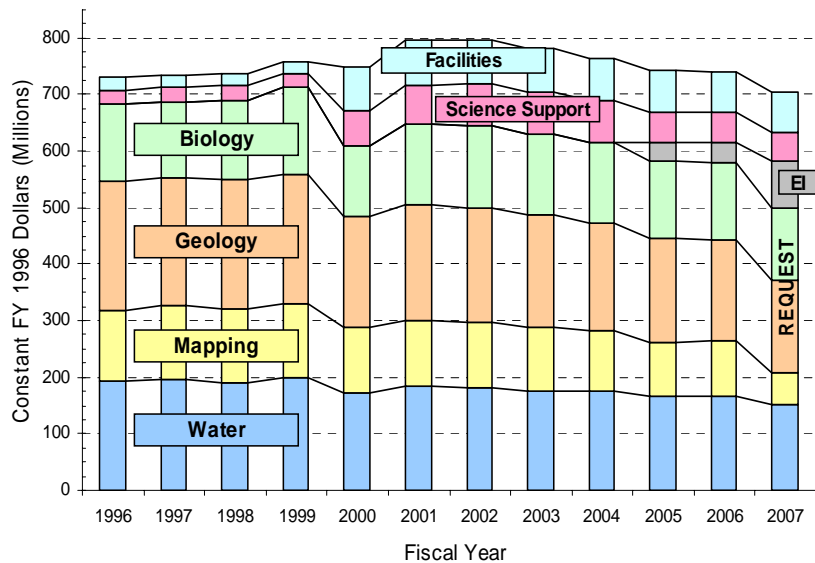
# USGS Coalition: Addressing a Funding Shortfall

*The USGS Coalition is an alliance of 70 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. 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.*

Established by Congress as a branch of the Department of the Interior in 1879, the **USGS has a truly national mission** that extends beyond the boundaries of the nation's public lands to encompass the homes of all citizens, through natural hazards monitoring, drinking-water studies, natural resource assessments, and other activities. The agency provides high-quality research and data to policymakers, emergency responders, resource managers, educators, and the public. The USGS has nearly 400 offices, located across the nation in every state. To aid in its interdisciplinary investigations, the USGS works with over 2,000 federal, state, local, and private agencies.

## Funding Shortfall

During the past nine years, total federal spending for non-defense research and development has risen by nearly half from \$37 billion to almost \$55 billion in constant dollars. **By contrast, funding for the USGS has been nearly flat**, as can be seen in the accompanying chart. This flat funding for the USGS even reflects the restoration by Congress of proposed budget cuts.



In language accompanying the FY03 spending bill, the House Appropriations Committee strongly urged the Administration “to **continue to fund these critical science programs** in the base budget in future years.” For its part, the Senate Appropriations Committee urged the Administration “to bear in mind the expressed public support across the United States for the Survey’s programs.”

**The need for science in support of public policy decision-making has never been greater.** USGS scientists and engineers produce knowledge and geospatial and other types of data that support water, energy and mineral resource management, wildlife and ecosystem management, and protection and prevention measures for natural disasters.

In order to meet the tremendous needs of the future, **more investment is needed.** That investment should be used to strengthen USGS partnerships, improve monitoring networks, produce high-quality digital geospatial data and deliver the best possible science to address societal problems and inform decision makers.

## Essential Services for the Nation

USGS water-quality studies help to protect the nation's **drinking water** and fresh water resources by assessing how environmental and human factors affect the condition of our streams and ground water over time. The National Weather Service uses data from the USGS streamgauge network to issue **flood warnings**. Other agencies use the data for assessing flood risk and drought impacts.

Not only does USGS produce the topographic maps familiar to many, but it also works with partners to provide a whole new generation of high-quality, **digital geospatial data** products that help inform decisions by resource managers, state and local officials, and the public.

**Invasive species** are a major environmental and economic problem. USGS researchers track the pathways of these species and study their effects on the native organisms and ecosystems.

Nearly 80 million people in 39 states are at risk from destructive **earthquakes**. New USGS sensor arrays can produce real-time groundshaking maps and other products to help vulnerable urban areas reduce the human and economic effects of future quakes.

USGS assessments of **energy and mineral resources** provide crucial information for environmentally prudent development and conservation, contributing to the nation's economic security.

USGS biologists are studying **wildlife health** issues like chronic wasting disease and West Nile virus. Because such diseases can also affect human populations, this research has important medical value as well.

With elevated **homeland security** concerns, the USGS and its federal partners are developing and deploying advanced sensors to monitor vulnerable water bodies and natural resources. As the nation's mapper, USGS provides geospatial data for an array of homeland security needs.

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## Coalition Member Organizations

American Congress on Surveying and Mapping	International Association of Emergency Managers
American Fisheries Society	International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
American Geological Institute	Interstate Council on Water Policy
American Geophysical Union	Kansas Geological Survey
American Institute of Biological Sciences	Natl. Assn. of State Universities & Land Grant Colleges
American Institute of Professional Geologists	Natl. Assn. of University Fisheries & Wildlife Programs
American Society for Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing	Natl. Cooperators' Coalition for USGS Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Units
American Society of Agronomy	National Council for Science and the Environment
American Society of Civil Engineers	National Flood Determination Association
American Water Resources Association	National Geographic Society
American Water Works Association	National Ground Water Association
AmericaView	National Institutes for Water Resources
Association of American Geographers	National Mining Association
Association of Ecosystem Research Centers	Natural Science Collections Alliance
Association of Engineering Geologists	NatureServe
Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies	NBII Coalition
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies	North American Benthological Society
Association of State Floodplain Managers	OhioView
The Botanical Society of America	Ornithological Council
Bureau of Economic Geology, University of Texas at Austin	Phycological Society of America
California Institute of Technology	Renewable Natural Resources Foundation
California Seismic Safety Commission	Seismological Society of America
Clean Beaches Council	Society for Range Management
Council of Etomology Department Administrators	Society of Economic Geologists
Council of Science Editors	Society of Envir. Toxicology & Chemistry — North America
Crop Science Society of America	Soil Science Society of America
Earthquake Engineering Research Institute	Southern California Earthquake Center at USC
Ecological Society of America	Universities' Council on Water Resources
Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.	University Consortium for Geographic Info. Science
ESRI	University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
Geological Society of America	University of Southern California
Geo-Institute of ASCE	Water Environment Federation
Geoscience Information Society	Weed Science Society of America
The Groundwater Foundation	Western States Seismic Policy Council
Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology	The Wildlife Society

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For more information about the USGS Coalition, please visit our web site at [www.USGScoalition.org](http://www.USGScoalition.org) or contact co-chairs Craig Schiffries ([schiffries@NCSEonline.org](mailto:schiffries@NCSEonline.org)) or Robert Gropp ([rgropp@aibs.org](mailto:rgropp@aibs.org)).