GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- NASA Earth Science has a responsibility to both exploration/disconvery and to addressing societal issues critical to the future of humankind
- Understanding variability and change of the Earth system requires long-term continuity of highly accurate critical measurements and the avoidance of gaps
- NASA Earth Science has important links with US agencies (NSF, NOAA, EPA, USGS….) for both integrative science and for societal applications
- Maintenance of the "brain power" in Earth Science at all levels (scientists & engineers) is critical for U.S. competitiveness
- NASA plays a unique international role in Earth Science in providing full and open access to observational data sets

PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS
(to be revisited tomorrow)

- Make effort to restore R&A funding levels at the earliest opportunity, and fence R&A budgets from any reductions in the future
- Presently planned missions should not be descoped or delayed (leading to cost inefficieny)
- Extend successful missions past design lifetime

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

- Adjudicating cuts in SMD does not mean endoresement; these cuts cause serious harm to the Earth Science capability at NASA and our ability to address for example the demands of the Climate Change Science Program
- We need to improve our partnerships with other US agencies (USGS, NOAA,..) for transition from research to operations and for maintenance of long-term data sets for climate monitoring
- Do we have efficiency in costing and building satellites?
- Rate of development of technplogy is inadequate for enabling scientific innovation and decreasing hardware costs-