

The USGS Science Impact Program: Linking Science and Society

USGS science is used every day, by decision makers across the Nation, to help deal with a broad spectrum of societal issues. The USGS achieves this level of success by adhering to its core values of Science Excellence, Science Leadership, and Science Impact.

Technology, decision-making processes, and data accessibility have changed dramatically in recent years. Decision makers and citizens want accessible, timely, and integrated science products that objectively address policy-relevant issues. As the world around us changes, approaches for developing and delivering accessible science are evolving. To provide focus, leadership, and direction to these efforts, the USGS has established the Science Impact Program.

What Is Science Impact?

Science Impact is a focused effort to increase the use and value of USGS science in decision-making. It encompasses three principal activities:

Science Synthesis

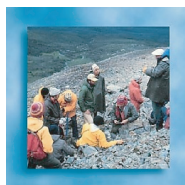
Develop, test, evaluate, and apply methods and processes that facilitate expanded and more effective use of USGS science in informing decision making.

Science Applications

Develop, test, and implement multidisciplinary tools and products that integrate USGS science with other relevant factors including socio-economic information to inform decision making more effectively.

Science Evaluations

Develop methods and conduct analyses to evaluate and measure the effectiveness of USGS scientific information and programs in informing decision making.



MISSION OF THE USGS

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is a bureau of the Department of the Interior (DOI). Since 1879, the USGS has served the Nation by providing reliable scientific information to:

- Describe and understand the Earth;
- Minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters;
- Manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and
- Enhance and protect our quality of life.

Science Impact External Partnerships

The Science Impact Program has established external partnerships with five universities. These partnerships provide external centers of innovation in the use of USGS science information and make available specialized skills beyond those traditional to the USGS. Current partnerships include:

- *Science Impact Laboratory for Policy and Economics:* University of New Mexico
- *Science Impact Laboratory for Urban Systems:* Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
- *Indigenous Knowledge Center for Education and Science Impact:* Sinte Gleska University
- *Science Impact Center for Scientific Visualization and Delivery:* Prescott College
- *MIT -- USGS Science Impact Collaborative:* Massachusetts Institute of Technology

For More Information:

Carl D. Shapiro
U.S. Geological Survey
104 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Phone: 703 648-4446
Email: cshapiro@usgs.gov

