

# **PART, Evaluation, and Impacts**

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## **What does this mean for Water?**

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# Goal

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Improve understanding of:

- Why performance and impacts
- The PART process and CSREES
- CSREES' performance and challenges
- What does CSREES need for impacts
- What we can we do to improve impact reporting, results documentation, and program performance



# Federal Mandate

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- GPRA – Government Performance and Results Act enacted by Congress in 1993
  - Focus federal programs on performance
- President's Management Agenda
  - Released by OMB in 2002 to address lack of progress on government performance
  - 5 government-wide initiatives
    - e.g. expand electronic government
  - Budget and Performance Integration
    - Integrate performance review with budget decisions
    - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/>



# PART

- Program Assessment Rating Tool
- Standardized questionnaire
  - 25 questions about performance and management; repeated every 5 years
  - Four parts to a PART:
    - Program purpose and design
    - Strategic planning
    - Management
    - Results/Accountability
  - Numerical score is determined which corresponds to a rating range
  - Assessment of Relevance, Quality and Performance

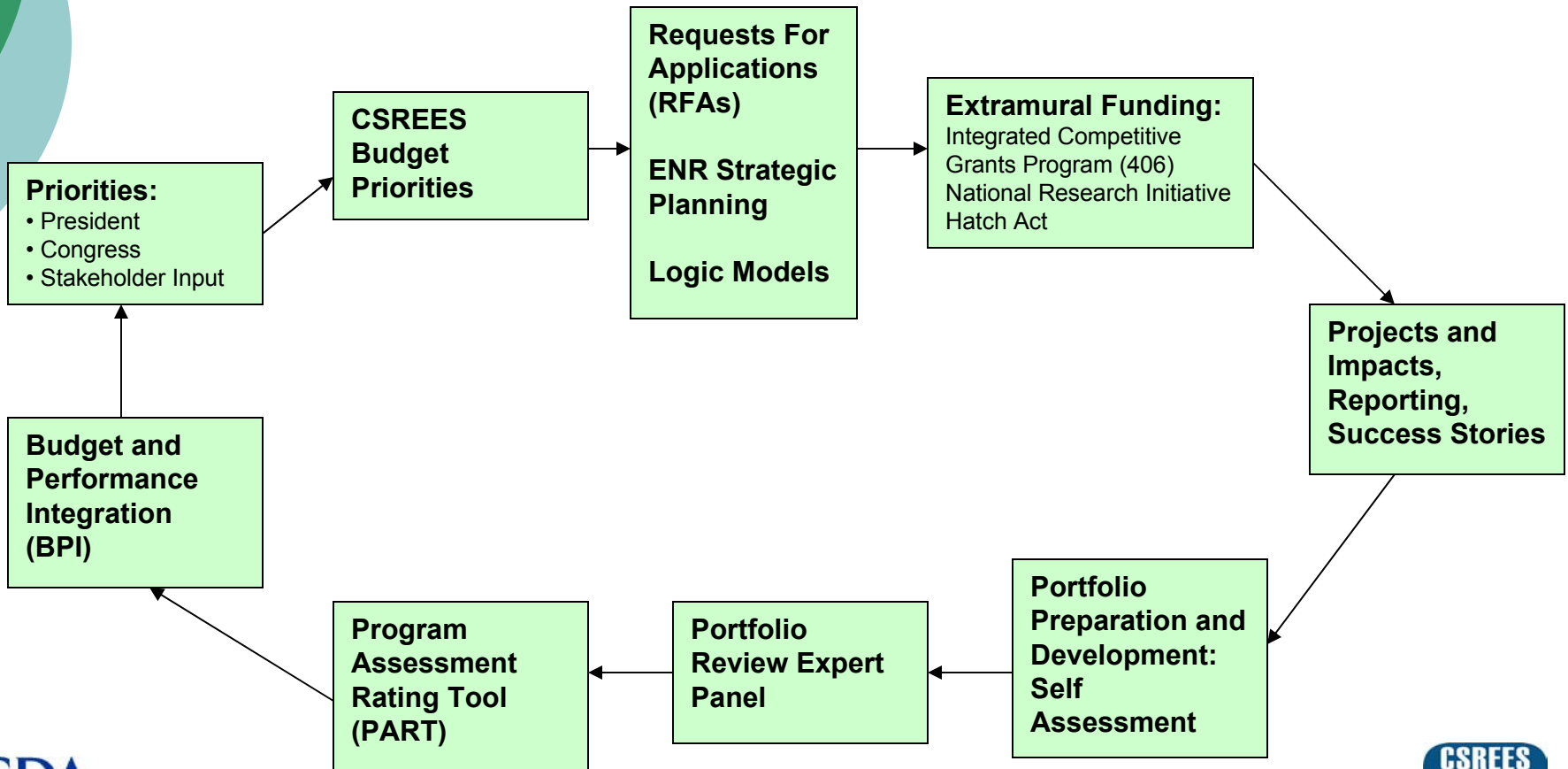
# PART & BPI

- 5 rating ranges
- Performing:
  - Effective 15%
  - Moderately Effective 29%
  - Adequate 28%
- Not Performing:
  - Ineffective 4%
  - Results Not Demonstrated 24%
- CSREES Natural Resource Programs
  - Score – 81, Moderately Effective
  - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/expectmore>
  - USDA Natural Resource Base and Environment (Grants)



# CSREES Approach

## CSREES Strategic Planning and Accountability



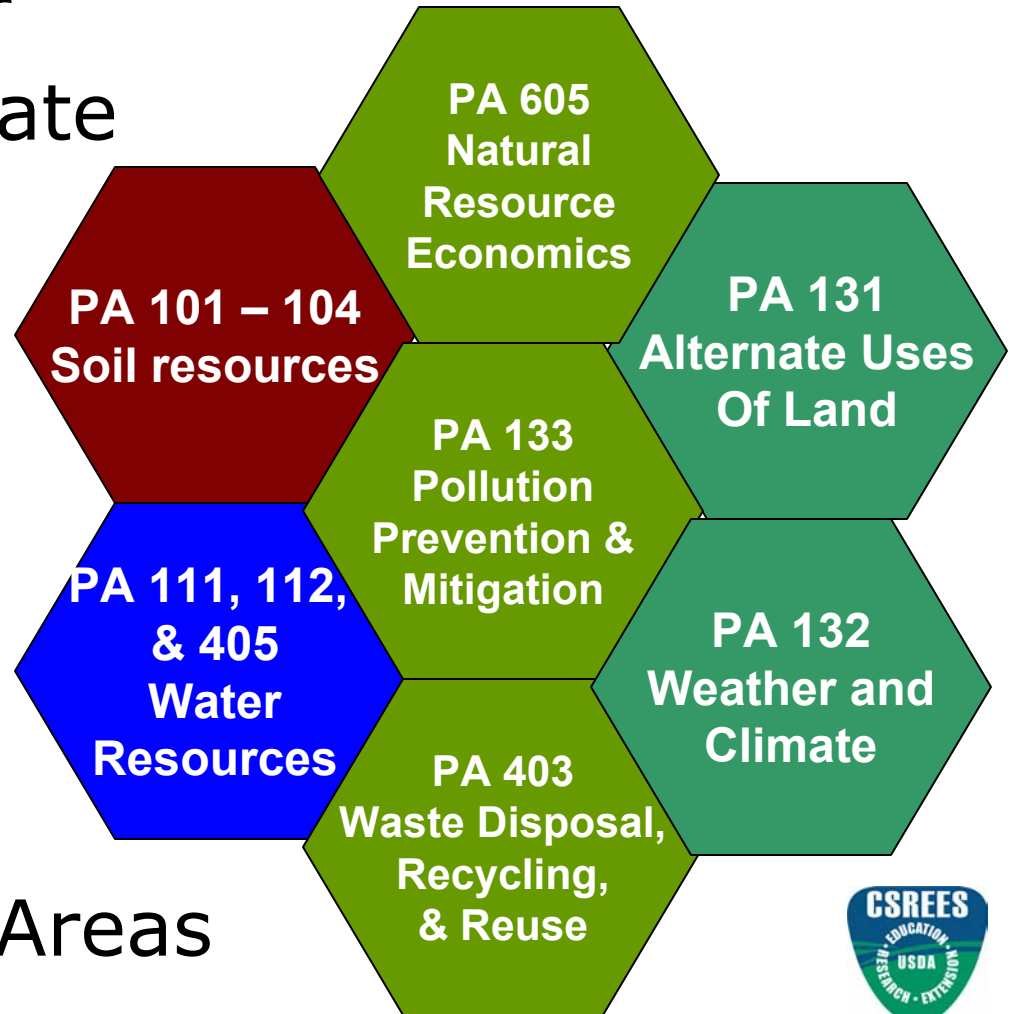
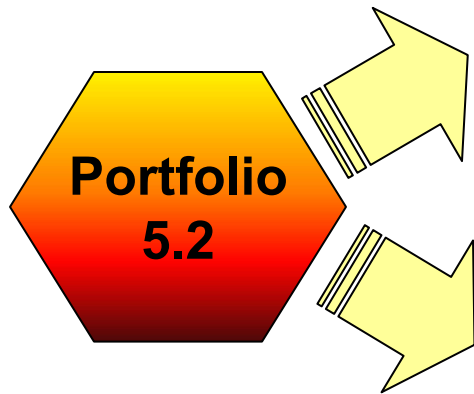
# CSREES Approach

- Organized by CSREES Strategic Goals
- Natural Resources and Environment:
  - Goal 5.1 – Forest and Range, Fish and Wildlife
  - Goal 5.2 – Soil, Water, and Air Resources
- Developed a “portfolio” of programs addressing these goals
- Utilized primarily CRIS data and reports, known success stories, when possible Plan of Work information



# Portfolio 5.2

- Soil, Water, Air
- Land use, Climate
- NR economics



USDA ○ 13 Knowledge Areas





# Water Portfolio



## Core Water Knowledge Areas:

- KA 111 Conservation and efficient use of water
- KA 112 Watershed protection and management
- KA 405 Drainage and irrigation systems and facilities

## Cross-cutting Knowledge Areas:

- KA 133 Pollution prevention and mitigation
- KA 403 Waste disposal, recycling and reuse
- KA 605 Natural resource and environment economics



# Panel Results

- CSREES Natural Resource Programs
  - Score – 81, Moderately Effective
  - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/expectmore>
  - USDA Natural Resource Base and Environment (Grants)
- Four parts to a PART:
  - Program purpose and design 100%
  - Strategic planning 90%
  - Management 100%
  - Results/Accountability 47%



# Recommendations

- Do a better job of getting awardees to **acknowledge** CSREES funding.
- More attention needs to be paid to the **Partnership** & communication.
- Improve the level of **integration** to address CSREES' unique mission.
  - Higher education integration needs to be documented.
- Provide more detail and outcome-based examples of **extension** activities.
  - Extension results need to be documented.



# Recommendations

- Need for more systematic and comprehensive **documentation** of program outcomes & impacts.
- **Logic models**
  - NPLs develop and use logic models more
  - Project directors should incorporate logic models into work plans
- Define, standardize, and expand evaluation **metrics**.
- **Distinguish productivity** between formula, competitive, & congressionally-directed funding. [5.2 comment]

# Example Impacts

- 49,000 acre feet of water conserved annually (through efficient irrigation)
  - \$79 thousand to \$5.9M in potential savings
  - This is what reviewers were looking for...
- Reduction in sulfate emissions in the Northeast quantified through long-term monitoring
  - ...Panel said, so what?
- No-till cropping reduced dust emissions in the Northwest
  - ...Panel asked, by how much?



Wind tunnel research in the Pacific Northwest



# Example Impacts

From the Southern Region Progress and Impact Report:

- Adoption and sustained use of soil testing as a BMP for water resource protection
  - N&P applications reduced by over 4,176,049 pounds
  - Estimated economic impact totaled over \$1,002,820 in fertilizer cost savings
  - Enabled by \$20,000 in 406 NIWQP funding.



# NIWQP Resources

- Logic model
  - Do we need to develop specific metrics?
- RFA requirements for evaluation
  - Are we capturing this information in reporting?
- Reporting requirements
  - Are we capturing the kind of information we need to develop desired impacts?
- Impact reports
- Website/success stories





# Final Thoughts

- Our program is *very* well positioned – with the many tools and resources we have – to exceed in reporting.
- What do we need to do to take better advantage of that?