



NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

in the

HYDROLOGIC

SCIENCES

**U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
Circular 1195**

The U.S. Geological Survey
National Research Program
in the
Hydrologic Sciences

EDITED BY

Mary Jo Baedeker

Linda C. Friedman

U.S. Geological Survey

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Bruce Babbitt
Secretary

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Charles G. Groat
Director

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For additional information, contact:

Assistant Chief Hydrologist for Research
436 National Center
U.S. Geological Survey

Additional copies, free on application to:

U.S. Geological Survey
Information Services
Box 25286
Denver, CO 80225-0286

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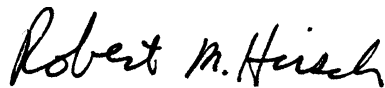
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Foreword

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has been engaged in the scientific study of water resources virtually from its start in 1879. Issues of water supply, flood hazards, erosion, and water chemistry have been among the topics of USGS scientific data collection and study for many decades. During the 1950s under the leadership of Chief Hydrologist, Luna Leopold, the USGS embarked on an effort to highlight and focus its efforts in hydrologic research. Luna recognized that for the USGS to carry out its mission of describing and understanding the water resources of the Nation, it must have a part of its staff dedicated to improving the fundamental understanding of the processes that influence the resource and improving the methods of measurement and study of water. To accomplish this, he founded the National Research Program (NRP), a small but crucial component of the overall staff of the Water Resources Division of the USGS. The NRP has developed techniques and understandings that are the backbone of the programs carried out across the Nation in the many district and field offices of the USGS. The scientific products of the NRP have been used by hydrologists in other agencies, academia, and the private sector, here in the United States and around the world.

This brief report is intended to provide an overview of the National Research Program and highlight some examples of its very important contributions to the broader mission of the USGS and its contributions to hydrologic science.



Robert M. Hirsch
Associate Director for Water Resources



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The National Research Program

The mission of the National Research Program is to generate and disseminate knowledge by conducting fundamental and applied research on complex hydrologic problems, to develop techniques and methodology, and to provide scientific leadership in hydrology to the USGS. The NRP focuses on long-term investigations that integrate hydrological, geological, chemical, climatological, and biological information relating to water resources and environmental problems.

