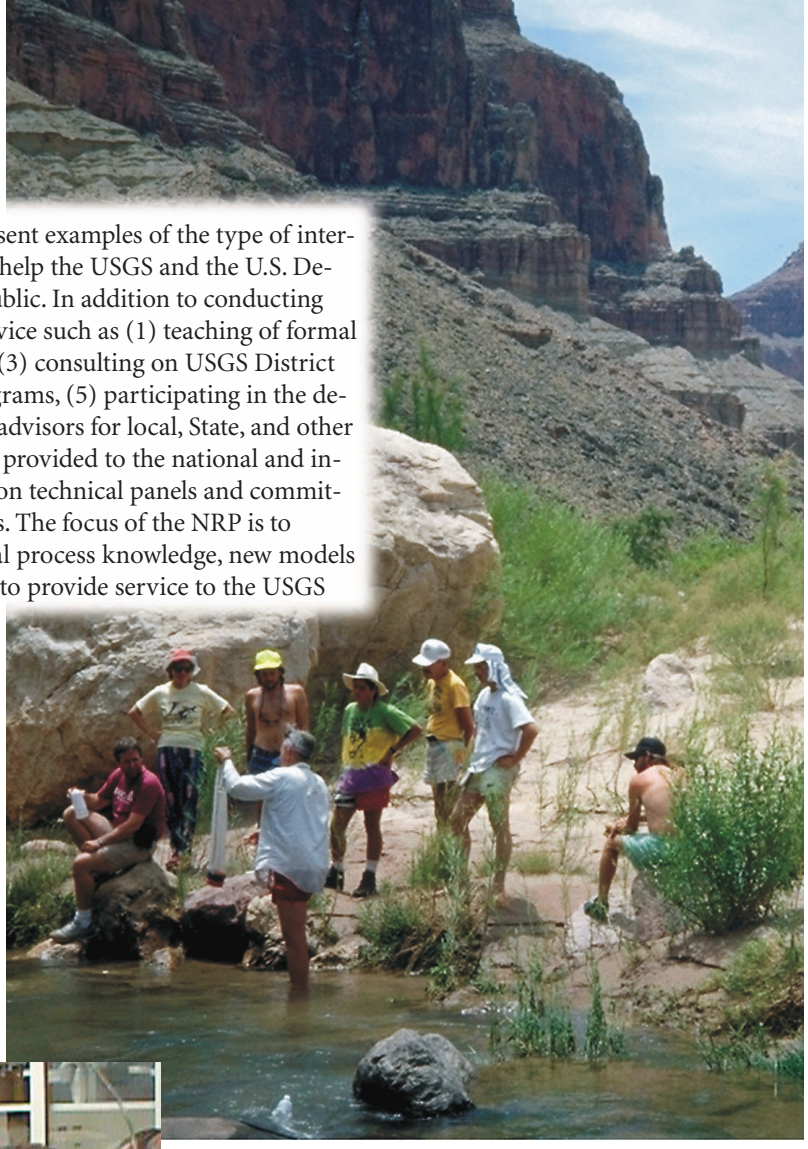
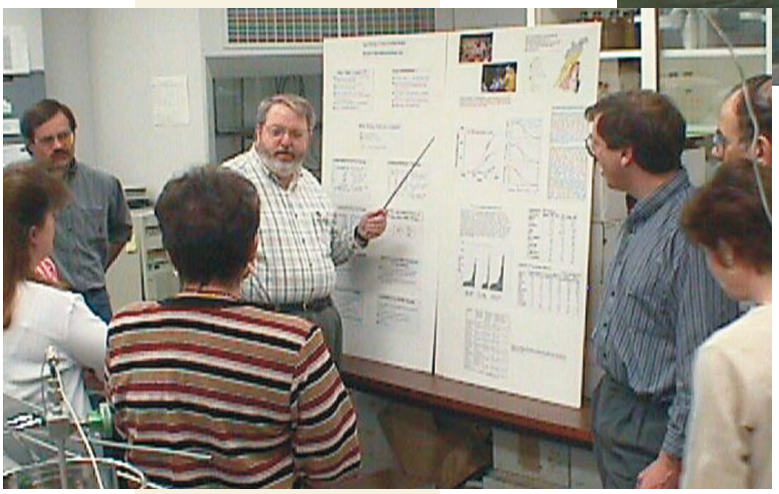
Scientific Leadership

The research highlights presented in this circular represent examples of the type of interdisciplinary research conducted by NRP scientists to help the USGS and the U.S. Department of the Interior meet their goals in serving the public. In addition to conducting research, scientists in the NRP provide leadership and service such as (1) teaching of formal training courses, (2) participating in technology transfer, (3) consulting on USGS District (State) projects, (4) participating in reviews of USGS programs, (5) participating in the development of new programs, and (6) serving as scientific advisors for local, State, and other Federal agencies, and for the public. Scientific expertise is provided to the national and international scientific community as well, through service on technical panels and committees and participation in activities of professional societies. The focus of the NRP is to conduct research directed toward developing fundamental process knowledge, new models or methods, to resolve difficult hydrologic questions, and to provide service to the USGS and the at-large scientific community.





Concluding Remarks

Research in the hydrologic sciences will continue to be important to the Nation. There will always be floods, droughts, depletion of resources, new water-quality issues, and the need for better assessments. Water shortages can arise from climate change, distribution problems, depletion of resources and/or water-quality constraints. Increasing population, shifting centers of population, and new industrial and agricultural practices will stress the Nation's water-supply systems even more in the future. At the same time, demands are increasing to reserve or allocate more water for environmental protection and restoration. Water quality is a major concern. Specifically, contamination of water supplies is a continuing threat to the health and safety of the public and the environment. New chemical products are continually being introduced to the environment, and their fate and transport through environmental pathways, as well as their health risks, are often unanticipated by manufacturers, users, and regulators. Pathogens are an increasing concern in drinking-water supplies. Optimal and safe use of the Nation's limited surface and subsurface freshwater resources will require continued monitoring, development of increased understanding of hydrologic processes, and improved predictive tools. NRP scientists, in cooperation with scientists in other parts of the USGS, other Federal and State Agencies, and Universities, will continue to strive to conduct the innovative research and development needed to help the Nation live successfully within the limits imposed by human and natural constraints on the hydrologic environment.

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