

Charge to Science Strategy Planning Team

Purpose. In accordance with Director Marcia McNutt's Memorandum of January 26, 2010, the Science Strategy Planning Team is charged with developing a long-term (10 year) Strategic Plan for the six mission area of the USGS Science Strategy and the programs that support it. The strategic science vision and articulation of priorities developed by this team will be used by national and regional leadership in the development of guidance, implementation planning and accountability reporting.

Background. The USGS "*Facing Tomorrow's Challenges, U.S. Geological Survey Science in the Decade 2007-2017*", commonly known as the science strategy, is a forward-looking document that sets forth 6 bold new strategic science directions and one cross-cutting science direction. These strategic science directions are interrelated and have been used to design the new USGS organization and define our new Mission Areas.

Team composition. The team consists of approximately 10 scientists and managers recommended by Bureau leadership through both a nomination process and a call for interest. The final team composition is approved by the Director. Team members are selected from throughout USGS for their scientific and leadership skills in the mission area. One member from the Office of Budget and Performance will be on the Team to provide technical assistance with respect to budget formulation, appropriations process and management analysis. Membership on the SSPT is rotational with time limited to a maximum of 3 years; team membership will be staggered so that members will serve between one and three years. It is estimated that the time commitment for team members will be 20-25%.

Team Leadership. The Director has appointed the co-chairs of the SSPT. The co-chairs serve for a term of 4 years and report directly to their respective USGS Associate Director, who will serve as the USGS Executive Leadership Team point-of-contact for this effort, as an "executive champion" for the team and ensure regular interactions with the Director and the Executive Leadership Team. Co-chair leads will also comprise an SSPT Advisory Team which will have as its primary goal to ensure cross-mission area coordination. It is estimated that the time commitment for team leaders will be 35-40%.

Outcomes and Products. The co-chairs will lead the SSPT in the development of a 10 year Strategic Plan and high-level budget documents, ensuring coordination and input from USGS scientists, managers, and stakeholders. The Mission Area Strategic Science Plan will begin with the framework provided in the Bureau Science Strategy and build on and update that material and flesh out with specific, implementable actions that USGS can undertake over the next 10 years to achieve the vision outlined. The Strategic Plan and other work products will be reviewed by Bureau leadership as well as more broad distribution, and delivered to the USGS Director by the Associate Director of the respective mission area. The AD will ensure that the ELT is actively engaged by seeking feedback and input at appropriate junctures, and will

similarly facilitate interaction of the teams with stakeholders, scientists, and other Bureau leaders.

The primary product of the team is a **10-year Mission Area Strategic Plan** that encompasses the portfolio of USGS science under the Associate Director, as well as other relevant USGS science. The strategy should be succinct and include a **summary of USGS goals and planned outcomes**. The plan should serve as a **strategic framework** that articulates priorities and primary activities in order to assist leadership in determining actions to be taken in the short-term. It will serve as a key guiding document for the Associate Director's and Regional Executives in science planning and execution, but will not explicitly address annual activities or short-term actions. Bureau leaders expect to use it as a basis for budget initiatives, national guidance, and regional implementation strategies. Accordingly, while the plan should be long-term, strategic and visionary, its goals and planned outcome should be carefully crafted so that they can be used by management. Careful attention should be paid to the **linkages to other themes and opportunities for collaboration**.

Science Strategy Outline

Introduction

USGS Core Strengths

Science Goals and Objectives

(for each goal provide:)

Overview (issue and state of the science)

Vision statement

Major Questions (about 6 to 8 major research questions)

Strategic Actions and Products

Short term (1 to 5 years)

Longer-term (5 to 10 years)

Critical Cross-cutting Capabilities

Implementation Plan and Strategic Actions for Delivering Science to Society

Appendices

Literature Cited

Science Strategy Timeline - 2010 to 2011

October	Call for team member nominations Team membership finalized
	Kick-off Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expectations from Marcia• Teams meet separately and together with AD• REX's input on regional priorities• Briefings on planning model, budget, realignment, etc.• Lessons learned from GC SSPT
October-November	Inputs (facilitated by AD, REXs): Literature review Solicitation of input from scientists: dynamic, open process including but not limited to wiki, drop boxes, etc.
October and throughout	AD's organize listening session at major meetings, designed to elicit high-level input from stakeholders
November	Outline delivered to AD, Director.
January – February	Drafting
March-April	Ideas for FY13 Initiatives to ELT, Director
April	AD review of draft (v.1)
May	Senior Leadership Meeting: presentation of v.2 by team to Director and other senior leaders.
June-August	V.3 Review Period: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All-Employee• Stakeholder• Others?
August-October	Synthesis/Revision
October	Deliver Final to Director