

Building Strong Collaborative Relationships for a Sustainable Water Resources Future

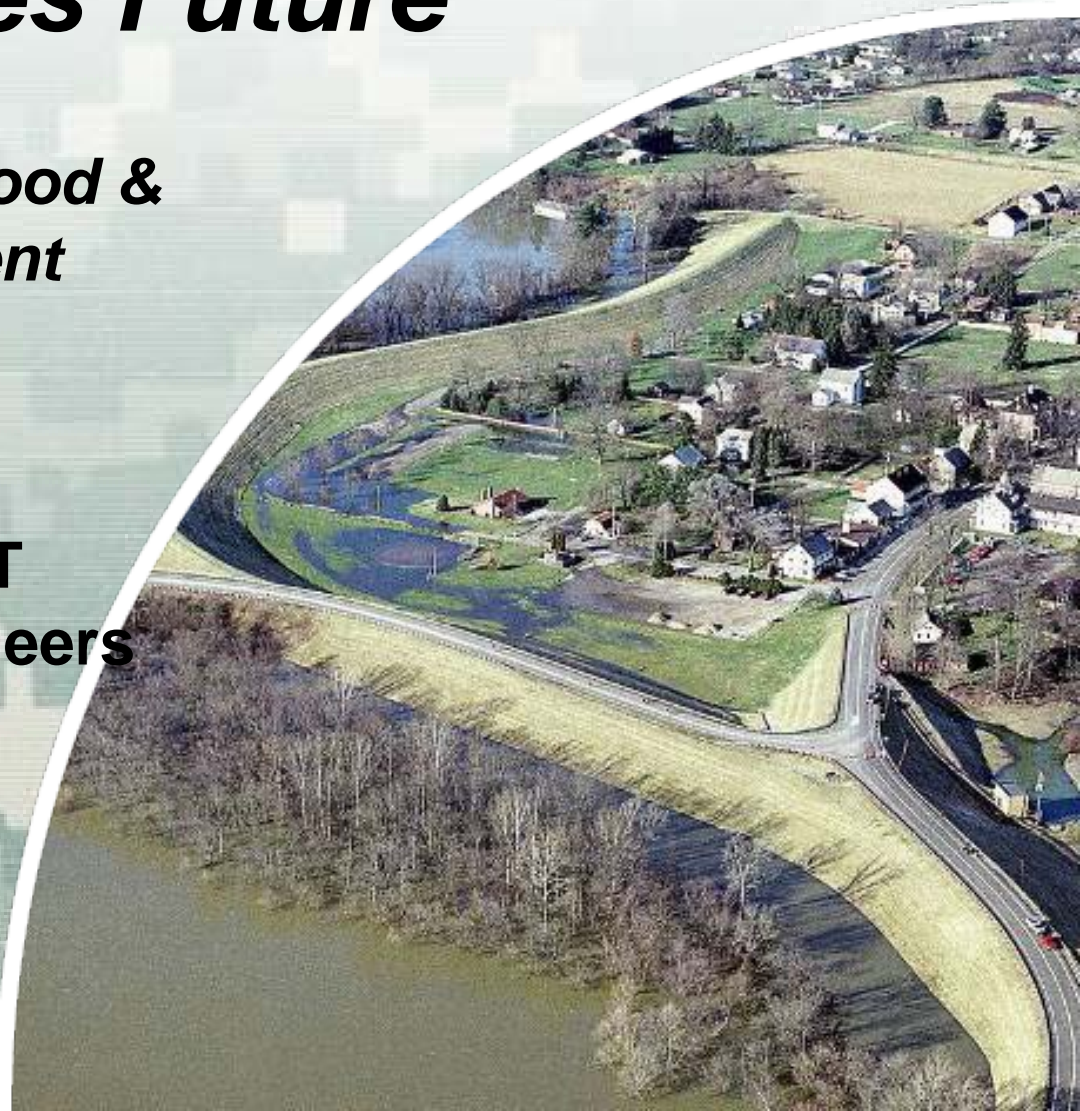
***Presentation to
National Association of Flood &
Stormwater Management
Agencies***

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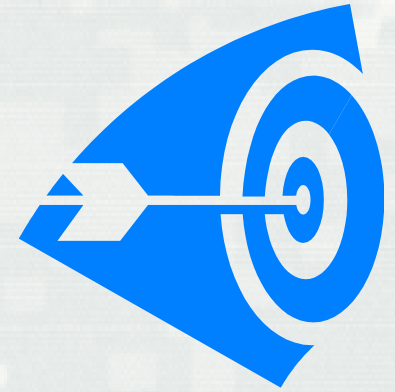
What Drives this Initiative?



- Growing concern about reliability of water infrastructure
- Intractable water conflicts between States
- Need to synchronize Federal programs
- Discretionary funding is declining while entitlement programs are growing
- Need to leverage resources in a budget-constrained era
- Need to better define Federal, State and local roles and responsibilities
- The need to build “will” to elevate water resources as a national priority
- Tee up ideas/initiatives for the Administration’ to consider: Policy, Authorization and Budget



Project First Phase (Assessment) Aims



- Identify Key water resources needs/critical priorities and planning trends—50 States and others
- Build support among stakeholders (Federal agencies, States, NGOs, tribal governments and river basin commissions) for IWRM
- Identify Federal agencies' Programs, capabilities and opportunities for collaboration /partnerships
- Identify areas for smart water resources investments
- Improve dialogue about key water challenges
- Gain support for a common data portal - the Federal Support Toolbox



Project Geographical Regions



Regional Water Resources Needs

ACROSS REGIONS		
WESTERN STATES	CENTRAL STATES	EASTERN STATES
Funding	Funding/Resources/ Comprehensive Investments	Funding
Data and Information	Data and Information	Data and Information
Technical assistance	IWRM/Multipurpose Water Management	IWRM/Multipurpose Water Management
IWRM/ Balancing Competing Needs	Infrastructure	Water Supply
Infrastructure	Water Supply/ Water Conservation	Water Quality
Water Supply	Ecosystem Needs	Planning & Policy
Streamflow Gauging	Regulatory/Authorities	Regulatory/Authorities

National Report Themes

➤ **Integrated Water Resources Management**

- Make IWRM more understandable and a preferred way to plan and manage public water and related water resources planning and management

➤ **Governance and Management**

- Strive to revitalize/reshape means at all level of government to improve WR management and build the public will to act for IWRM

➤ **Future National Water Resources Direction**

- Foster continued dialogue about a sustainable national water resources future direction and develop supporting strategies to elevate water resources and related water infrastructure as a critical national priority

➤ **Collaboration**

- Promote opportunities & mechanisms for collaborative water resources planning and management



National Report Themes (Cont'd)

➤ **Water Resources Investment Strategies**

- Promote and develop innovative and sustainable financing mechanisms for public water resources solutions, including water infrastructure, at Federal and state levels

➤ **Managing Extreme Events**

- Increase the ability to anticipate risks and manage emergency and evolving natural or man-made disasters, especially as related to water resources

➤ **Technology Transfer and Knowledge Capacity Building**

- Base the development of water resources plans and decision making upon good science and the sharing of information and technology

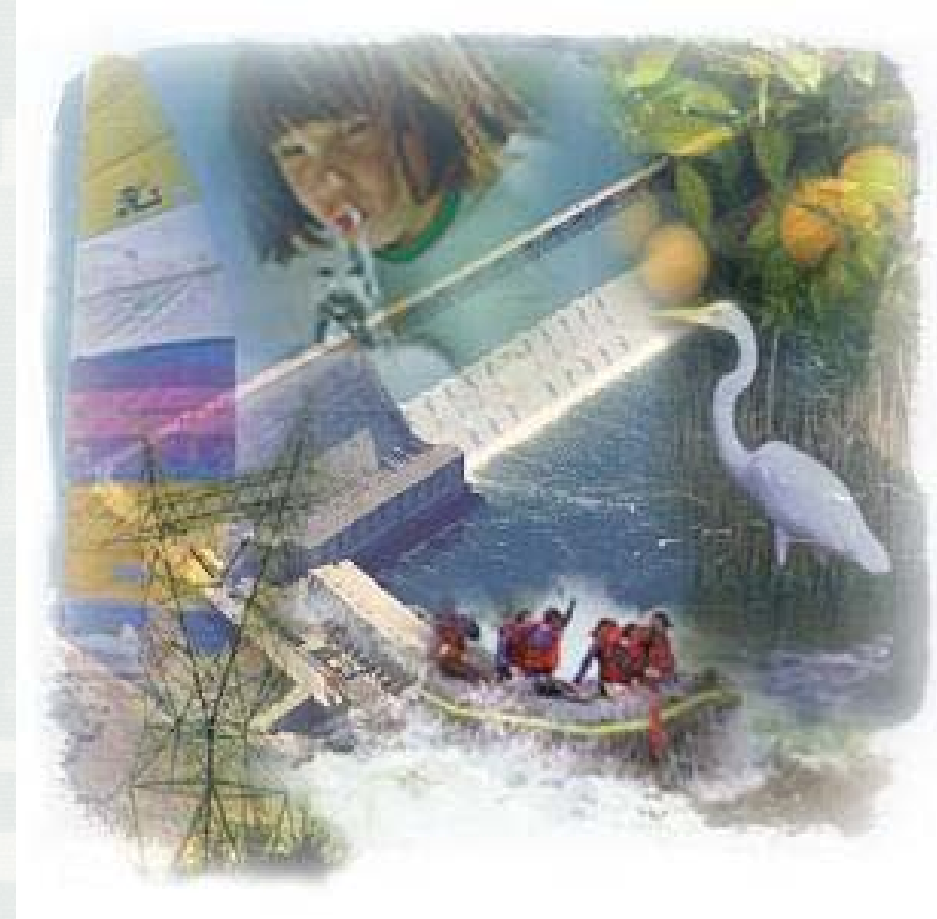
➤ **Enhance Water Resources Leadership and Education**

- Enhance the ability of public officials at all levels to understand/communicate WR priorities & investments



Integrated Water Resources Management

- Promote understanding with clear examples about IWRM
- Identify watersheds to focus planning using a systems-based approach
- Continue to develop system based-watershed policies and guidance
- **Work with the national water team on pilot IWRM projects**



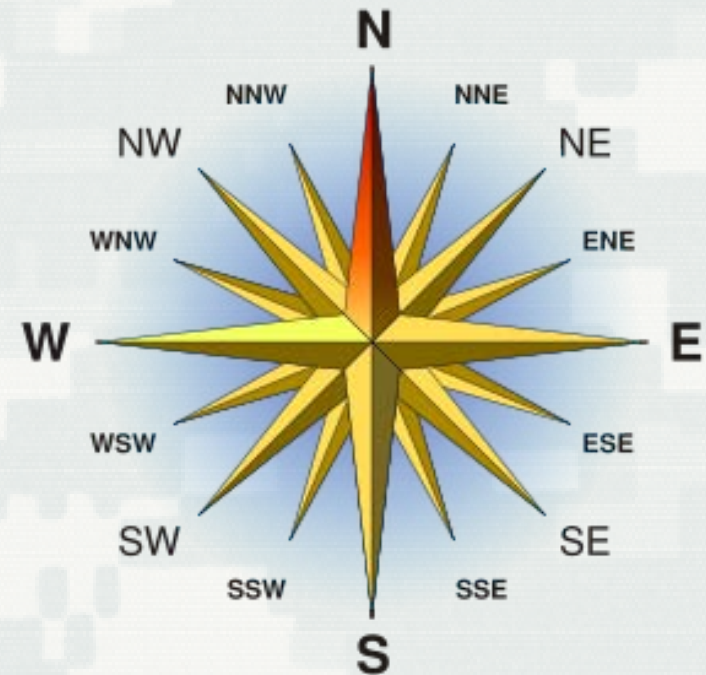
Governance & Management

- Explore mechanisms to better align Federal programs
- **Establish an interagency mechanism for water policy development/coordination**
- Develop strategies and governance mechanisms to address fragmentation of policies, communications and coordination at all levels



Future National Water Resources Direction

- *What is the water resources direction for this Nation? What does the water future looks like?*
- Continued dialogue about a sustainable national water resources direction , a vision—AWRA collecting proposals through a blog
- Develop strategies to elevate water resources and related water infrastructure as a critical national priority



Collaboration

A close-up photograph of two hands shaking in a firm grip. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with the fingers interlocked. The person on the left is wearing a dark pinstriped suit jacket over a white shirt with thin blue stripes. The person on the right is wearing a dark grey or black suit jacket over a white shirt. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

- Promote opportunities and mechanisms for collaborative Water resources planning and management
 - ▶ Support an effort for 50 States and 50 Watersheds or a United Watershed program
 - ▶ Response to Executive Memorandum on Transparency & Open Government
 - ▶ Increase opportunities for public participation
 - ▶ Identify gaps and opportunities for partnerships and joint efforts

Water Resources Investment Strategies

- Promote investment strategies to shift crisis-driven funding toward IWRM
- Explore and promote system-based budgets
- Promote legislation that incentivize good planning/IWRM
- Develop a communication strategy to communicate water resources investment needs



Managing Extreme Events



- Work with Federal/state agencies on general emergency planning to summarize the state of readiness, adequacy and effectiveness of response and contingency plans
- Incorporate climate change assumptions into WR planning and models
- Provide technical assistance to states to develop comprehensive plans



Technology Transfer & Knowledge Capacity Building

- Develop and interagency Federal Support Toolbox
- Promote policies and accountability mechanisms for science-based decision making
- Develop formal partnerships with other agencies



Enhanced Water Resources Leadership & Education

- Address governance issues to promote effective management , collaboration, leadership and stewardship
- **Work with Native American tribes to raise WR awareness and conservation**
- Identify education/outreach programs to develop multimedia communication strategies



Next Steps...

- Public release of National Report – Aug 2010
- Public release of project documents website
- Continue into second phase-implementation:
 - Assemble a small national water team to work on the implementation phase
 - Develop an implementation plan
 - Prioritize actions and determine funding streams (leverage interagency resources)
- Develop guidance for districts and divisions to move out with some of the recommendations/actions
- *Continue to engage with nationwide partners*

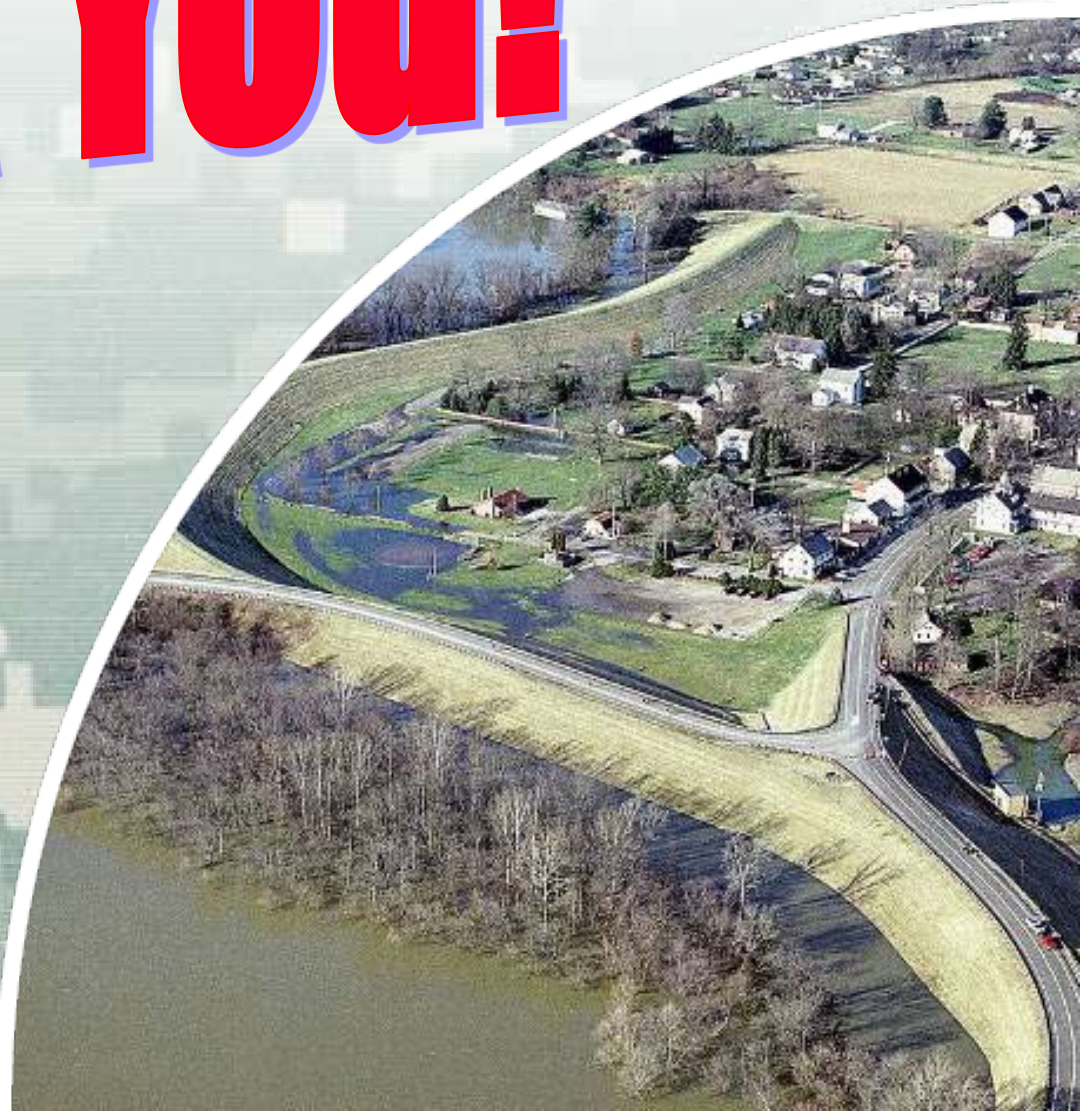


Thank You!



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USACE's Campaign Plan

USACE Vision

A GREAT engineering force of highly disciplined people working with our partners through disciplined thought and action to deliver innovative and sustainable solutions to the Nation's engineering challenges.

USACE Mission

Provide vital public engineering services in peace and war to strengthen our Nation's security, energize the economy and reduce risks from disasters.

GREAT is

- Delivering superior performance.
- Setting the standard for the profession.
- Making a positive impact on the Nation and other nations.
- Being built to last by having a strong "bench" of educated, trained, competent, experienced, and certified professionals.

Goal 1

Deliver USACE support to combat, stability and disaster operations through forward deployed and reach back capabilities.

Objective 1a:

Ready, responsive and reliable.

Objective 1b:

Support the Operating and Generating Force.

Objective 1c:

Establish human resources and family support programs that promote readiness and quality of life.

Objective 1d:

Institutionalize USACE capabilities in interagency policy and doctrine.

Goal 2

Deliver enduring and essential water resource solutions through collaboration with partners and stakeholders.

Objective 2a:

Deliver integrated, sustainable, water resources solutions.

Objective 2b:

Implement collaborative approaches to effectively solve water resource problems.

Objective 2c:

Implement streamlined and transparent regulatory processes to sustain aquatic resources.

Objective 2d:

Enable Gulf Coast recovery.

Goal 3

Deliver innovative, resilient, sustainable solutions to the Armed Forces and the Nation.

Objective 3a:

Deliver sustainable infrastructure via consistent and effective military construction & real estate support to customers.

Objective 3b:

Improve protection, resilience and lifecycle investment in critical infrastructure.

Objective 3c:

Deliver reliable infrastructure using a risk-informed asset management strategy.

Objective 3d:

Develop and apply innovative approaches to delivering quality infrastructure.

Goal 4

Build and cultivate a competent, disciplined, and resilient team equipped to deliver high quality solutions.

Objective 4a:

Identify, develop, maintain, and strengthen technical competencies.

Objective 4b:

Communicate strategically and transparently.

Objective 4c:

Standardize business processes.

Objective 4d:

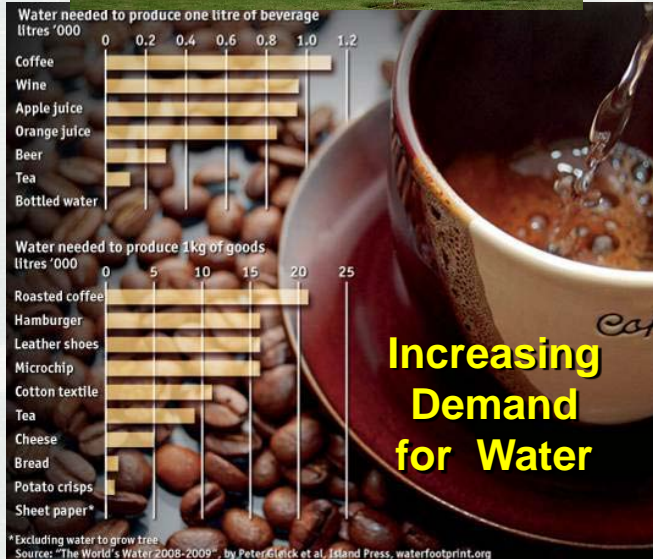
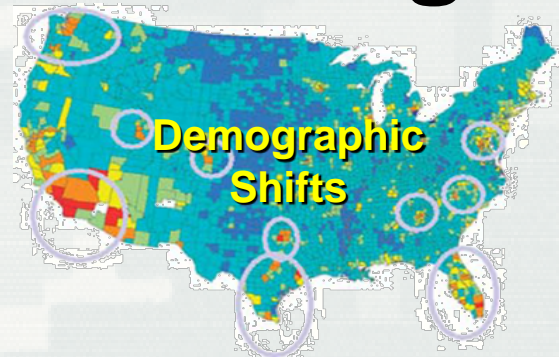
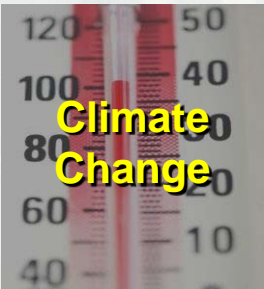
Establish tools and systems to get the right people in the right jobs, then develop and retain this highly skilled workforce.

Transforming the CW Program to Meet 21st Century Needs

- Continue to move the Civil Works direction toward Integrated Water Resources management (IWRM)
- Collaboration
 - ▶ Response to Executive Memorandum on Transparency & Open Government
 - ▶ Increase opportunities for public participation
 - ▶ Technology platforms to improve collaboration
- National water resources direction
 - ▶ Build the public will to support water resources /infrastructure
 - ▶ Raise awareness within the Administration and Congress of water resources challenges and opportunities
 - ▶ Provide data and information nation-wide to assist in planning and management of water resources – A Federal Support Toolbox



National Water Resource Challenges



Building Strong Collaborative Relationships for a Sustainable Water Resources Future

- Identify & leverage opportunities for collaborative efforts
- Identify roles and opportunities where roles can be leveraged
- Create a joint national dialogue for water priorities
- Leverage Federal resources to assist states in their water resources planning and management



Our Vision for this Project

Provide appropriate Federal support to help states and regions tackle America's water problems through collaborative planning, a robust support toolbox and an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) framework

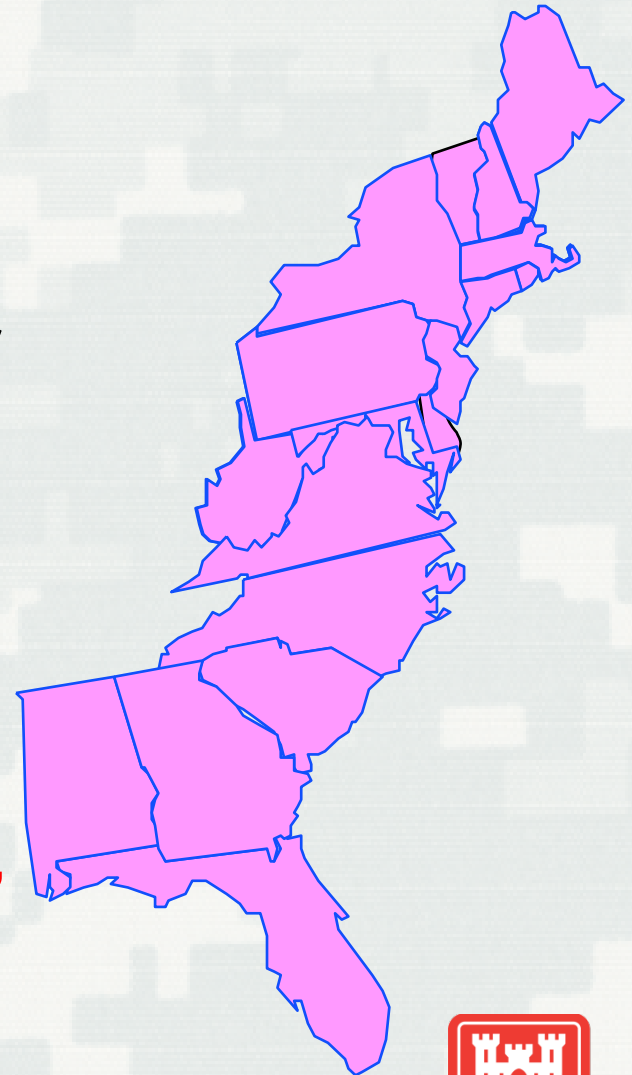
Our Strategy: Integrated Water Resources Management

IWRM = A holistic focus on water resource challenges and opportunities that reflects coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources that maximizes economic services and environmental quality, ensures public safety, and provides for the sustainability of vital ecosystems



Regional Perspective: Eastern States

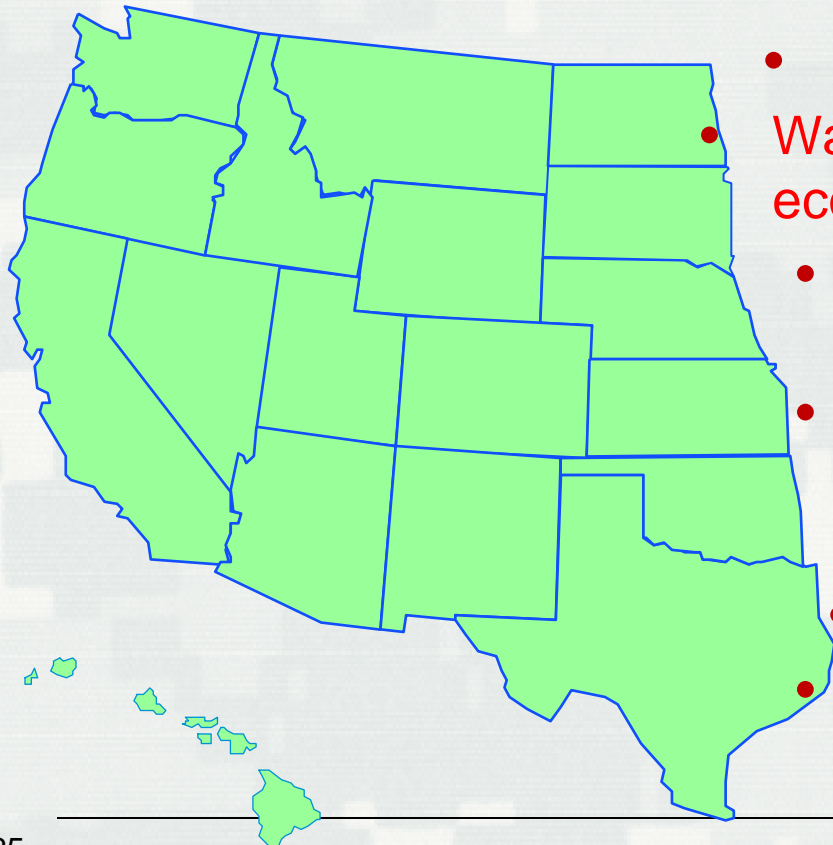
- Focus on water supply and quality
- Collaborative planning is common
- Aging water delivery infrastructure – in many cases back to 1800's
 - Infiltration, leakages, and combined sewer & stormwater drainage systems
 - Require not just refurbishment, but improved engineering
 - Consistent source of funding needed
- Need for ecological concerns to have “voice at the table”
- Desire to reduce regulatory requirements, streamline permit process
- Persistent Tribal water rights issues and needs



Regional Perspective: Western States



- Water rights, often based on Spanish law and history of water use, jealously guarded (“Our first water marshals were Smith & Wesson”)
 - Persistent Tribal water rights issues and needs
- Desire for Federal government to respect States’ role as primary planners, collaborate on water resources planning only at their request

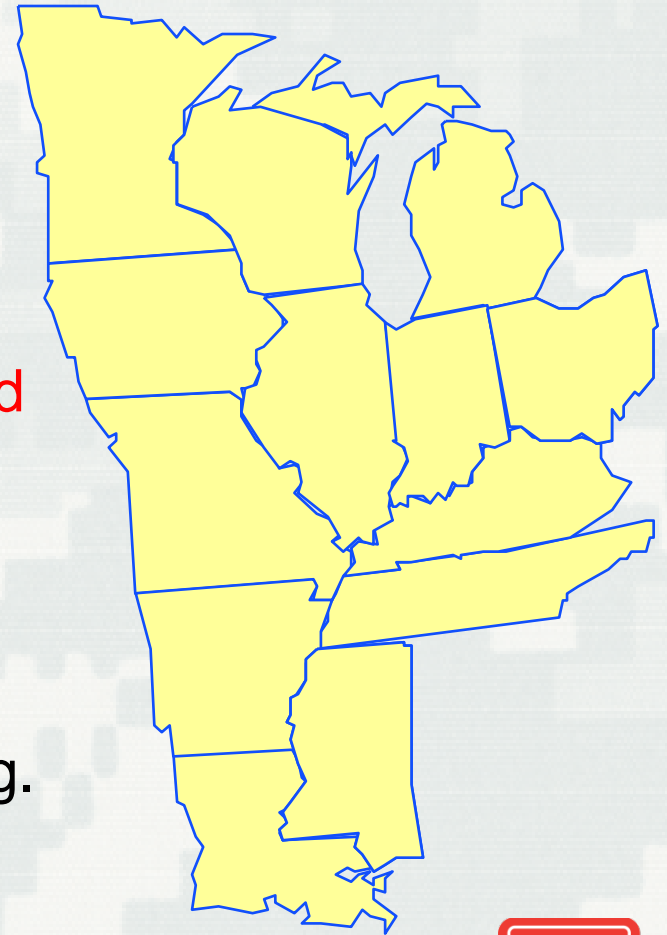


- Well developed State water planning
- Water shortages as result of population and economic growth
 - States offer financial assistance to local water providers
 - Emphasis on conservation, new storage development, enlarging of existing facilities
- Competition among water uses
- Water quality impaired by point, nonpoint source pollution



Regional Perspective: Central States

- “Water rich” region, but subject to extremes of drought and flooding
- Overarching issues include navigation, water supply, allocation & quality, flood risk management, energy-water nexus
- Collaboration well developed within and among States; much planning sponsored by river basin commissions
- Persistent Tribal water rights issues and needs
- Desire for information, monitoring, assessment, research and modeling (e.g. National Streamflow Information Program, National Water Census)



How We Achieve Our Objectives

Adaptive Management

Measure responses to interventions within systems to adjust planning, construction and operations in response to changing conditions.

State-of-the-Art Technology

Improve resiliency of structures

Update design criteria

Improve approaches to planning / design

Leverage remote sensing / GIS / nanotechnology . . .

Coastal / River Information System

Systems Approach

River basins / Watersheds / Coastal zones

From INDIVIDUAL projects to INTERDEPENDENT systems

From IMMEDIATE to LONG-TERM solutions

Single actions trigger ≥ 1 system responses / reactions

Risk-Informed Decision Making and Communication

Consequence analysis (especially populations)

Forestall possible failure mechanisms

Quantify / communicate residual risk

Ask which projects will fail to perform as designed, the likelihood of failure, and the consequences

Recognize limits in disaster prediction

Recognize limits in structural protection

Collaboration and Partnering

Multiple organizations contribute to problem-solving

Leverage funding, data, and talent

Efficiencies, given scarce resources

Sophisticated state / interstate organizations

Tribes, local governments, non-profit organizations

Partnering with profit-making organizations a next step

Integrated Water Resources Management



Federal Support Toolbox

- Leverage existing toolbox of current resources across Federal agencies
- Enhance the Federal family toolbox with regional interstate organizations, NGOs and other Federal agencies
- Develop the Nation's "will" to offer the States a more robust assistance through collaborative alliances and relationships
- Work with States for more integrated and balanced water plans
- Unify visions for Administration and Congress to make water resources infrastructure a national priority

