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U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
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USGS Director Marcia McNutt's Statement on the Importance of State Geological Surveys

For more than 130 years, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has been working in partnership with State geological surveys to provide science information that is vitally important to the U.S. economy, the safety and health of American citizens, and the sustainability and security of the country's natural resources. The USGS fully recognizes the clear, distinct, and critical role of the State geological surveys in helping to meet the growing challenges society faces in its interaction with a natural world undergoing change from both natural and man-made causes.

The USGS cannot fully implement its mission without the State geological surveys. Over our long and productive history of partnership, we have established successful ways of working together to mutually support our citizenry and reinforce the best features of both Federal and State-based government, without overlap or duplication. For example, the USGS, with input from States, provides national standards, benchmarks, and datums, such that individual State products can be linked at the State boundaries. However, without the contributions of the States, national maps, data bases, models, and resource assessments would be sparsely populated. This relationship allows States to set priorities in developing data sets most important to their constituencies, and at the same time enables easy and efficient integration of those data sets to meet critical needs at regional and national levels.

Partnerships such as this are even more important as resources at the Federal and State level decline. State geological surveys maintain a network of applied geoscience activities throughout the country independent of the distribution of the Federal workforce. By continuing to leverage our resources, information, and knowledge, we will help the Nation and States address future economic, sociological, environmental, and resource challenges now and for generations to come.

Marcia McNutt
Director