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# AASG

Association of American State Geologists

The Association of American State Geologists (AASG) membership consists of the leaders of geological surveys in each of the 50 states and Puerto Rico. The objectives of the AASG are:

- To advance the science and practical application of geology and related earth sciences in the United States and its territories, commonwealths, and possessions;
- To improve the effectiveness of state geological surveys through the interchange of ideas pertaining to their organization, programs, and applications to geologically related issues;
- To improve methods of assembling and disseminating data and information to the mining, energy, agriculture, utility, construction, insurance and banking industries, educational institutions, civic and professional organizations, legislators, governmental agencies, and the public; and
- To effectively coordinate activities with federal and state agencies working in related fields.

The responsibilities of the various state geological surveys differ from state to state, however all function as the fundamental geologic scientific information source for the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of their state governments.

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## Major priorities

### Geologic mapping

The AASG strongly supports geologic mapping as an essential government service for the good of the public. Geologic maps are the basis for a wide range of economic, environmental, and health and safety applications.

- Accurate geologic mapping is critical to the assessment of and responsible development of energy and mineral resources.
- The National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program's (NCGMP) STATEMAP component is matched dollar for dollar by states.
- The peer-reviewed, competitive STATEMAP component has produced more than 4,000 geologic maps since 1992.
- The EDMAP component helps train the geologic mappers of the future and is matched by participating colleges and universities.

### Energy and mineral resources

The AASG strongly supports adequately funded programs to investigate domestic energy and mineral resources within the relevant federal agencies.

- Such programs are essential for sound energy, mineral and environmental policy decisions.
- Access to critical resources strengthens the economy and promotes national security.
- Whenever practical, these programs should be conducted on a cooperative basis or contracted to state geological surveys for maximum cost effectiveness.

### Water resources

Managing water resources through efforts to map the distribution and characteristics of the nation's critical water resources is vital to sustainability. The AASG supports the USGS efforts to make stream gaging and groundwater monitoring networks a national priority.

- Monitoring aquifer status and analyzing the impacts of groundwater use are critical in assuring sustainable resources for the nation's freshwater needs.
- Geologic maps provide the geologic framework to identify aquifers, overlying recharge areas or subcrops, and provide for the protection of groundwater.

### Hazard mitigation

The AASG advocates the use of geologic information, including hazard maps, for mitigation of natural disasters, such as landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and floods.

- Mitigation should occur prior to a natural disaster because prediction, planning, and avoidance significantly reduces risk and cost.
- Geologic maps are the basis for most natural hazard maps, which are needed to effectively reduce risks to people and property.
- The AASG urges support of an advanced national seismic research and monitoring system, research focused on the geology of the USA, and language that stresses the usefulness of geologic information in legislation concerning hazard mitigation.

### Geoscience data preservation

The AASG supports cooperative federal and state funding for the acquisition and preservation of geoscience samples, data, and information vital to economic growth; the occurrence of energy, mineral, and water resources; reduction of risks from natural hazards; and environmental protection.

### Research and education

The AASG supports federal and state funding of fundamental and applied research in the geological earth-science education about mineral, energy, water resources, geologic hazards, conservation, and environmental protection. The AASG encourages rigorous training of the next generation of geologists to meet workforce needs in industry, government, and academia.

## Cooperation with federal agencies

The AASG and its members have worked collaboratively with many federal agencies, including the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Justice, State, Transportation and EPA, FEMA, NASA, and NSF. The AASG has current memoranda of understanding with OSM, NASA, NRCS, USFS and the USGS.

## Critical support

The AASG supports and advocates for programs that support a cost-effective way to leverage USGS, state geological survey, and other state funding to meet the needs of the nation including:

- Fully authorized funding for the *National Geologic Mapping Act*;
- Fully authorized funding for the *National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program;*
- Fully fund efforts to clarify potential domestic supplies of *strategic and critical mineral resources* ;
- Continued support of the *National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program* as an effective mechanism to make our nation more resilient to geologic hazards;
- Continued support of the *National Groundwater Monitoring Network Program* to support the building of a national network of wells and springs to characterize, and make more resilient the nation's groundwater resources; and
- Continued support of federal water-related initiatives to ensure a sustainable water resources future for the nation.

**For more information, please contact:**

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**Or visit the AASG Web site at www.stategeologists.org to access:**

- AASG Fact Sheets on programmatic interests;
- Links to all state geological surveys;
- AASG Journal and detailed directories;
- and much more…