

Ecosystem Services and Water Resources Investments

IMPLEMENTING CEQ'S PRINCIPLES, REQUIREMENTS, AND GUIDELINES
(PR&GS) FOR WATER AND LAND RELATED RESOURCES
IMPLEMENTATION STUDIES

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What are the PR&Gs?

A compilation of

- ▶ Principles & Requirements for Federal Investments in Water Resources (CEQ 2013)
- ▶ Interagency Guidelines (CEQ 2014)
- ▶ Agency Specific Procedures (DOI 2015)
- ▶ Statement of policy (not regulation)
- ▶ Replace 1983 Principles and Guidelines for Water and Land Related Resources Implementation Studies

PR&Gs: Two Key Concepts

- ▶ Federal investment
- ▶ Public benefit

What do the PR&Gs Do?

Provide a common framework for analyzing water resources projects, programs, activities, and related actions involving federal investment, in accordance with the Water Resources Development Act.

PR&Gs: What's New ?

Explicit emphasis on:

- ▶ Ecosystem services
- ▶ Watershed-based approaches
- ▶ Increased collaboration

Broader application and use

- ▶ Beyond Reclamation & water supply projects

PR&Gs: Ecosystem Services Objectives

- ▶ Identify baseline changes in quantity & quality of ecosystem services
- ▶ Use best available science and analytical tools
- ▶ Collaboration (federal agencies, states, tribes, and others)
- ▶ Identify and quantify risk and uncertainty
- ▶ Guiding principles: Healthy & resilient ecosystems; sustainable economic development; floodplains; public safety, environmental justice, watershed approach

Which Federal Water Resources Investments are Included in the PR&Gs?

- ▶ Projects
- ▶ Programs
- ▶ Plans

Which Federal Investments are not Included in the PR&Gs?

- ▶ Exemptions – When existing analysis meets the purpose and intent of the PR&G
- ▶ Exclusions
 - ▶ Regulatory actions
 - ▶ Research or monitoring
 - ▶ Emergency actions
 - ▶ Below monetary thresholds

Upcoming PR&G/Ecosystem Services Analyses

- ▶ Grand Canyon National Park
(NPS)
- ▶ Central AZ Project (Reclamation)

Ecosystem Services -- DOI Efforts

- ▶ DOI ES Workplan
- ▶ Additional CEQ Guidance

DOI ES Work Plan Action Items - Status

- ▶ Establish a DOI Ecosystem Services Community of Practice (ES-COP)
 - ▶ USGS SEC “dashboard” will be the future home/resource center for the DOI ES- COP.
 - ▶ Continuing internal discussion about design, functionality and what will/should be included on the site
 - ▶ Drafted charter for “implementation team”
 - ▶ Department-level Ecosystem Services Policy Memo
 - ▶ “... identify principles and provide an overall direction for the Department.”
 - ▶ Does not and should not supersede efforts already underway

DOI ES Work Plan Action Items - Status

- ▶ Data Gap Analysis (USGS) -- Plan: employ a survey using the Importance Performance Analysis (IPA) method to conduct the initial Gap Analysis
 - ▶ Catalogue and categorize existing efforts across the Department to document ES research needs
 - ▶ Will incorporate gap analysis in research agenda.
- ▶ Analytical Tool Analysis
 - ▶ Review existing tools and develop guidance on the extent to which they are appropriate for use in bureau and office land- and water-management decisions.
- ▶ Standardization
 - ▶ Review of the peer-reviewed and gray literature on ES metrics
 - ▶ Drafted Issue paper, "Consistency of Ecosystem Services Metrics."

What's Next?

- ▶ Continue to develop guidance on using existing tools
- ▶ Develop new tools if appropriate
- ▶ Consider the extent to which standard metrics can be identified and used
- ▶ Identify data and research gaps
- ▶ Capacity building and communication