

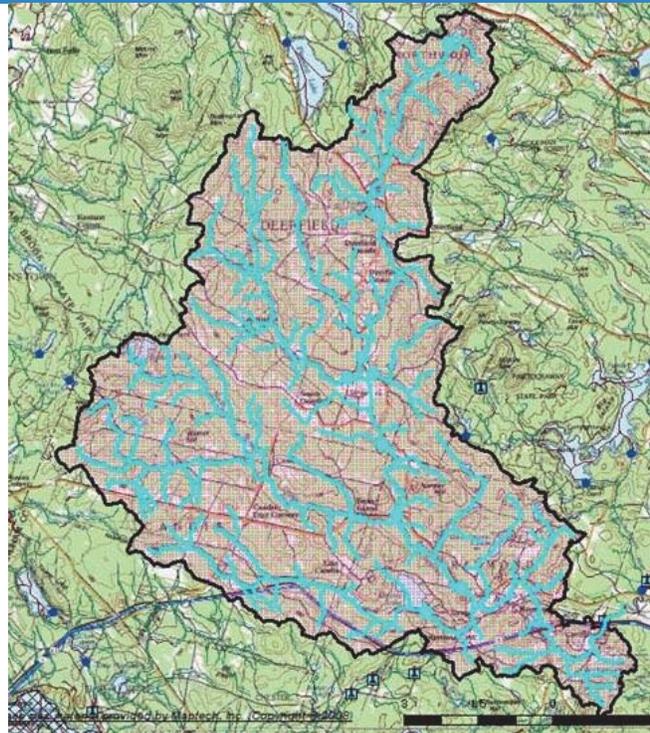
As the OMB Circular A-16 theme lead for inland waters, the U.S. Geological Survey is initiating a requirements assessment to understand business needs and benefits, for improved water data. Multiple scenarios will be evaluated to determine probable cost and benefits for the next generation program to meet priority Federal, state, tribal and other needs.

The assessment is inclusive with respect to public and private input as no one entity can speak to all of the requirements supported by hydrography data. The Assessment will help discover the economies of scale, potential multiple data uses, and universal business requirements that can be met through a more comprehensive national strategy for improving hydrographic data in the United States and its territories, including coastlines.

The first phase of the Assessment is to comprehensively document and validate Federal, state, tribal, and other national needs for hydrographic data. These needs, as well as benefit information, will be documented for each participating organization. A two-step information collection process will include an online questionnaire followed by workshops and interviews to refine and consolidate agency responses. Information collection will take place during the early 2015 and the final report will be completed in early 2016.

Follow on Assessment Tasks

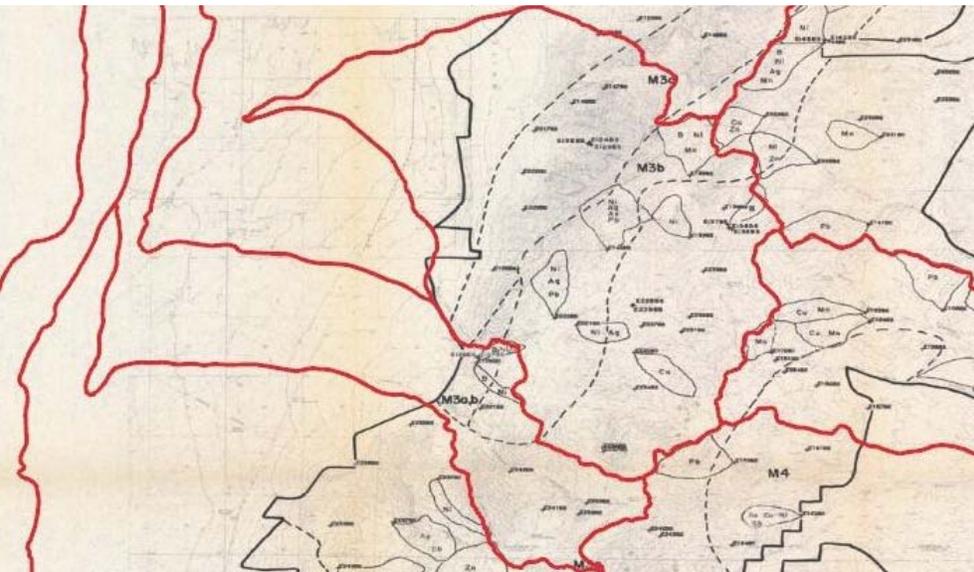
- Analyze the business use and benefits information to develop proposed standardized national dataset options that will address key business uses
- Evaluate emerging technology trends and limitations to provide a high-level technical approach and probable costs for implementing a national program over a 4-7 year timeframe.
- Evaluate and compare alternative program scenarios. Consideration will be given to benefits, costs, risks, and implementation complexity.



The integration of hydrography, elevation, and watershed boundaries provides hydrologists and resource managers with accurate, reliable information to make decisions.

Many applications would benefit from improved national hydrographic data including:

- *Water rights management*
- *Flood forecasting*
- *Protection of drinking water supplies*
- *Accounting of water supply and use*
- *Floodplain determination for insurance rate calculations*
- *Understanding of riparian buffer effectiveness*
- *Fisheries management*



The National Hydrography Dataset and Watershed Boundary Dataset were analyzed by geochemists to delineate potential sediment-sample sources along a stream network.