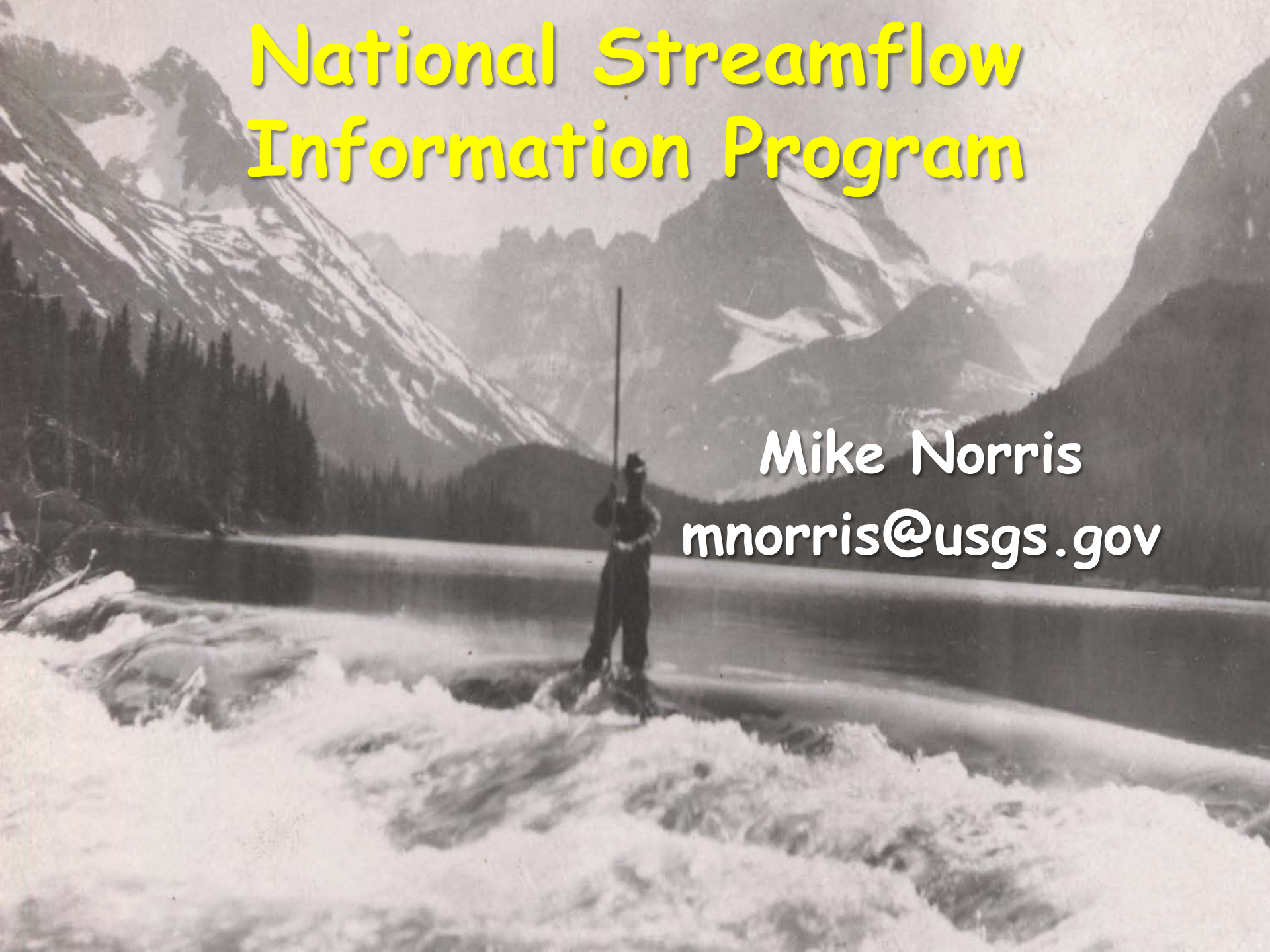
National Streamflow Information Program

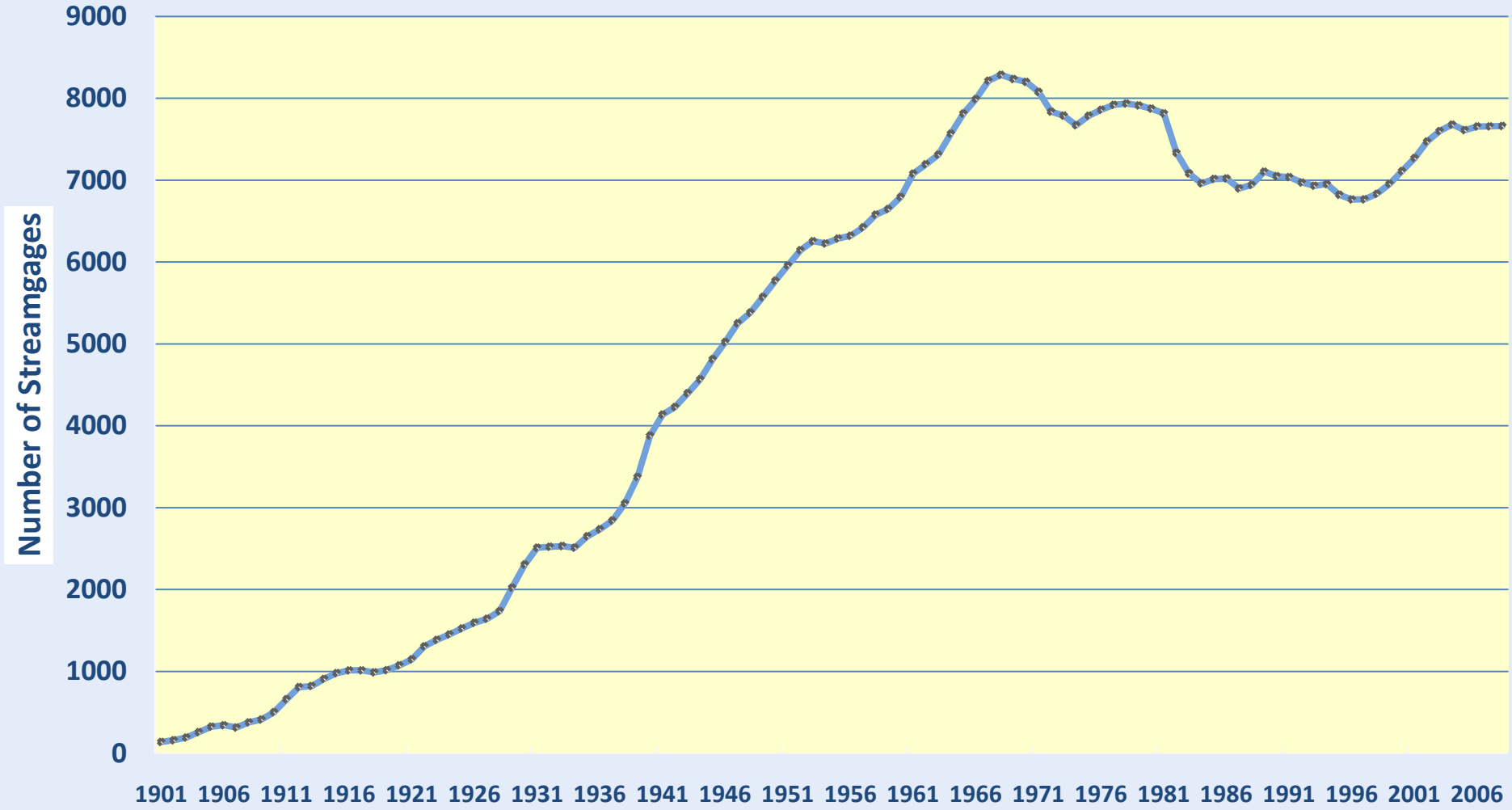


Mike Norris
mnorris@usgs.gov

Discuss….

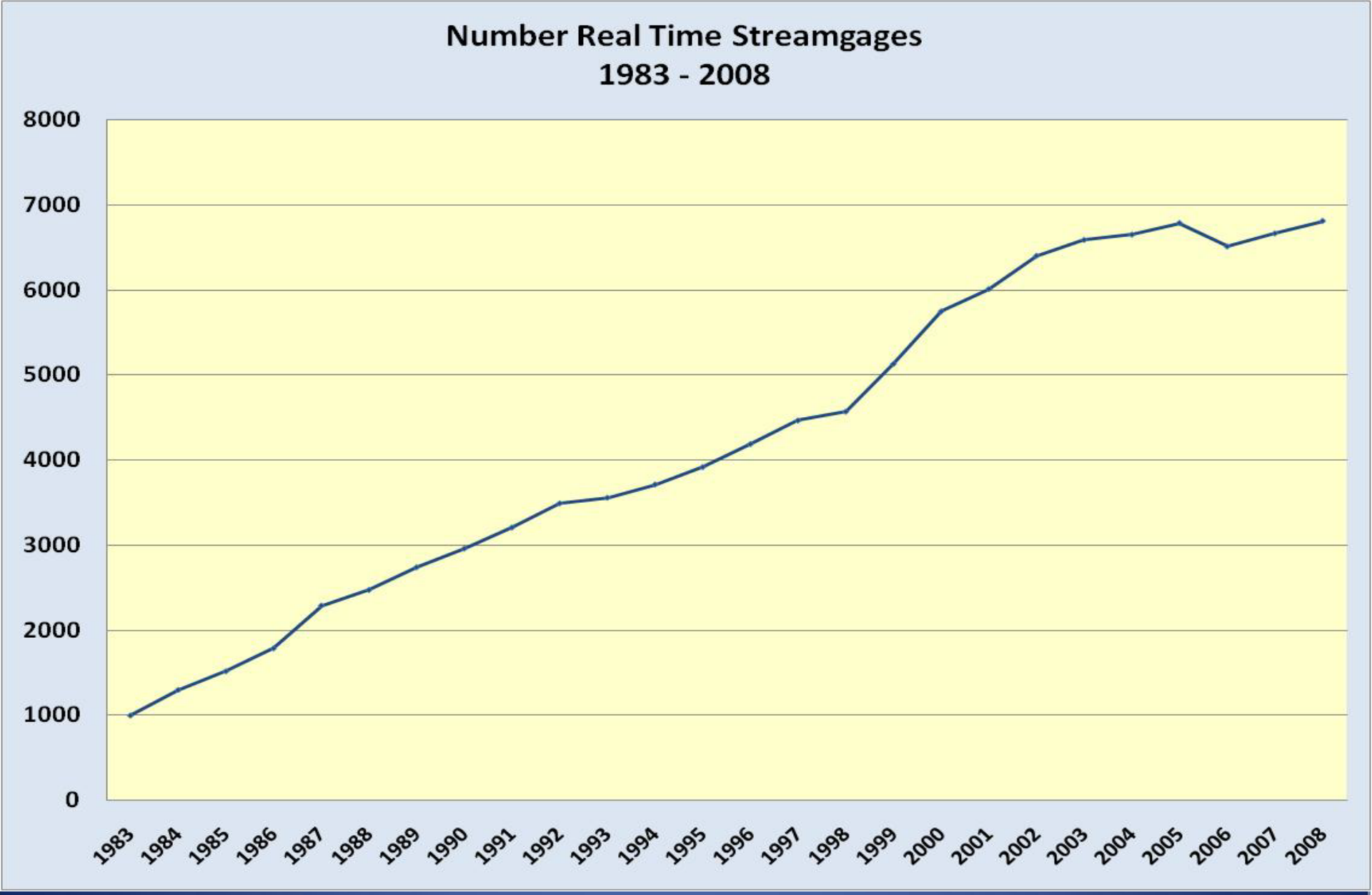
- Why the NSIP
- What the NSIP is
- Future NSIP funding potential
- Effects of a fully funded NSIP

Active USGS Streamgages 1901-2008



USGS

NSIP
National Streamflow Information Program



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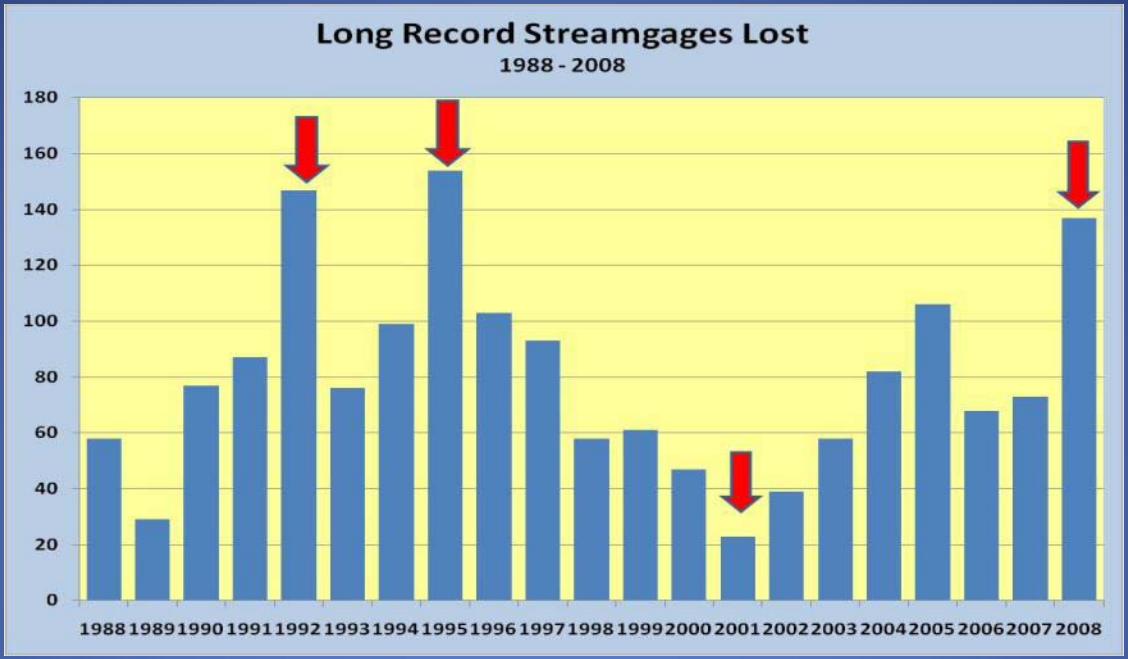
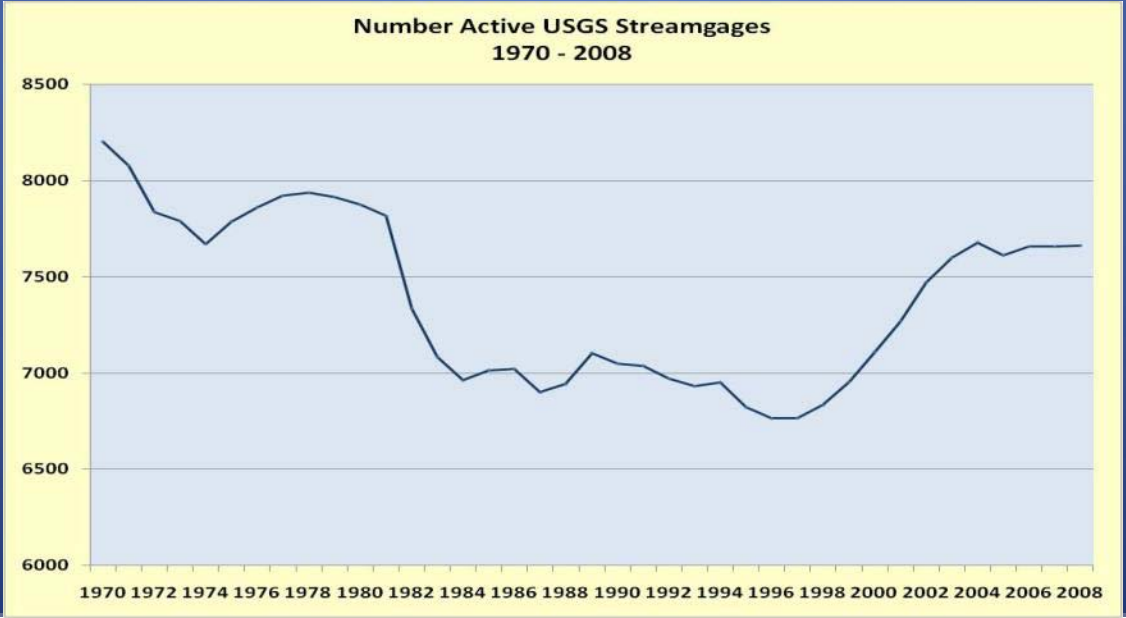
Streamgaging Network Instability





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What are the Issues?

- Network's ability to meet long-standing Federal goals declined because of:
  - An increasing instability in the network caused by a loss of critical streamgages *due to the way the streamgaging program is funded.*
- New issues and new technologies have increased the demand for streamflow information.
- New technologies are needed to:
  - Improve reliability
  - Decrease costs
  - Decrease uncertainty

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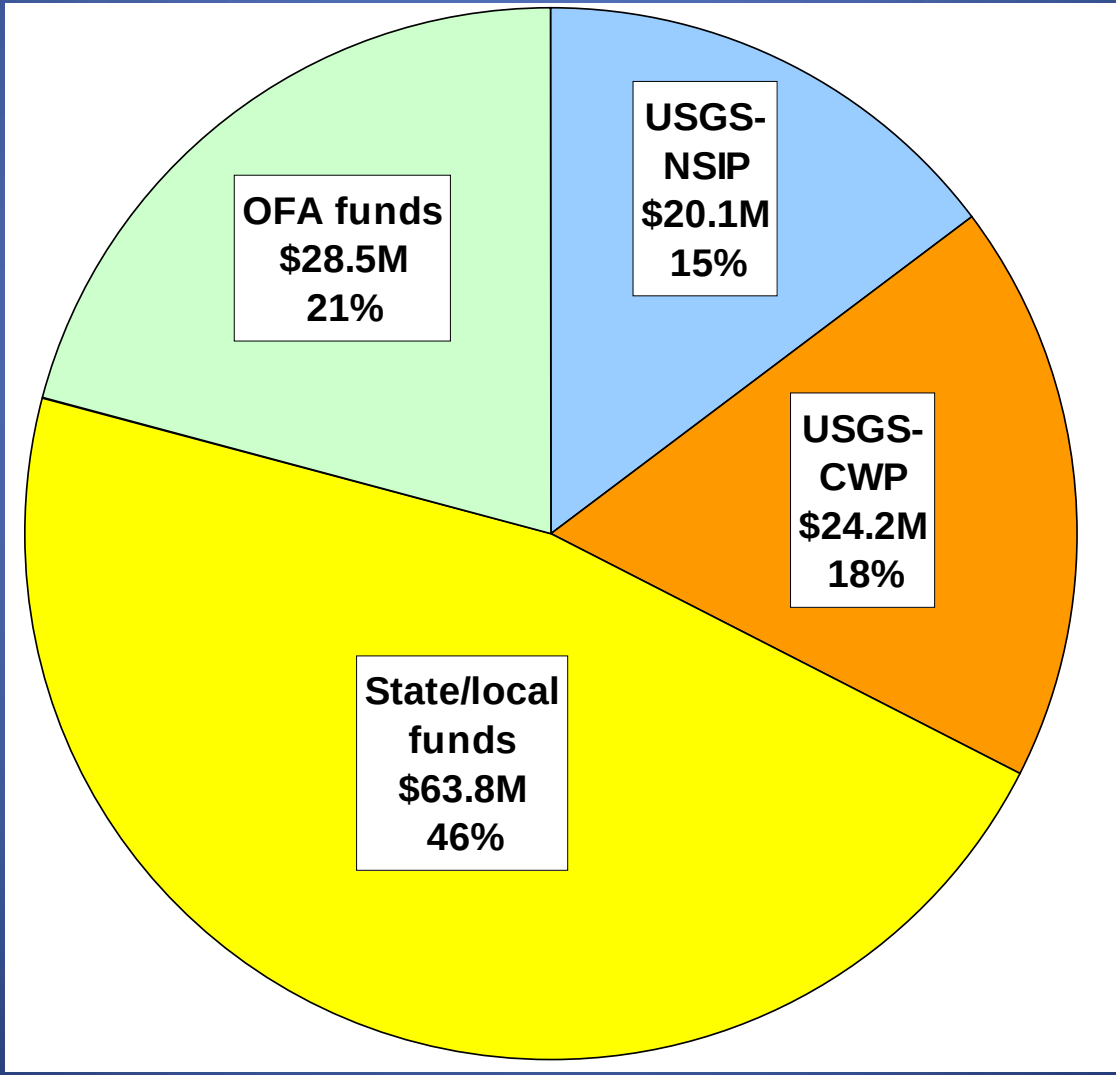
NSIP National Streamflow Information Program

Funding for USGS Streamgaging Network, FY 2008 Total $136.6M



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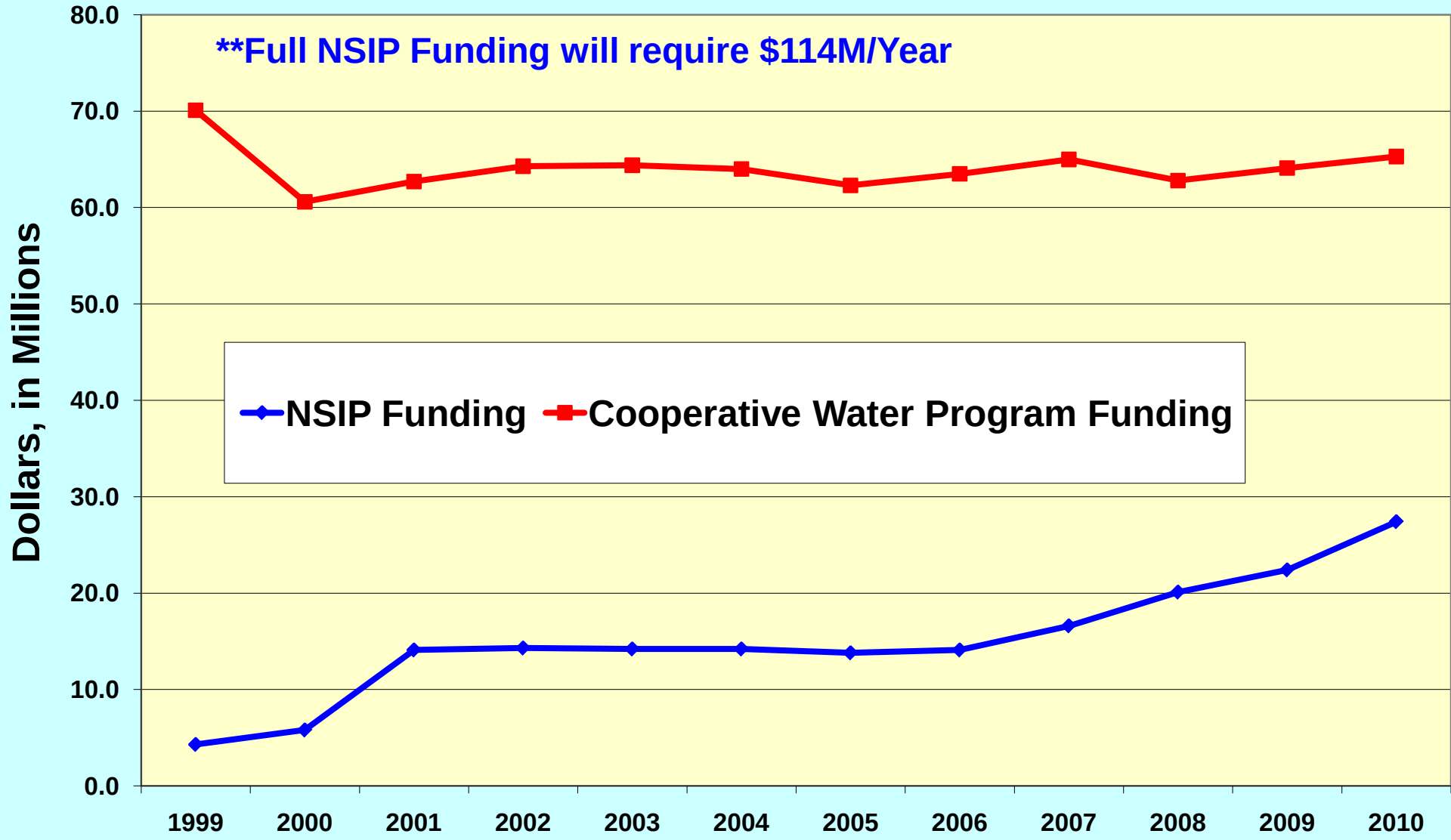

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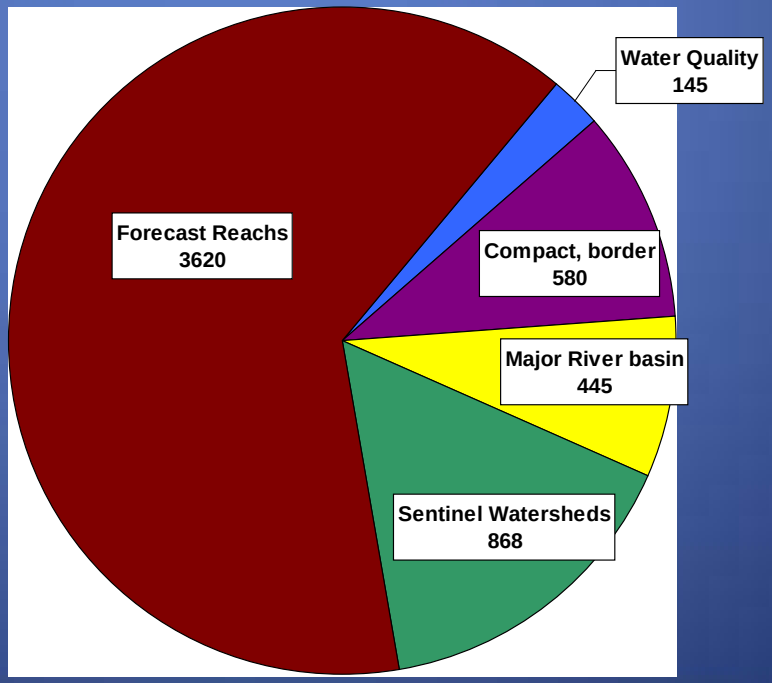
What the NSIP is.

Five National Streamflow Information Program Goals

- 1. Stabilize the streamgaging network
  - National backbone network of streamgages to meet *Federal needs fully funded by the USGS.*
  - Modernize and harden the network streamgages



4,757 NSIP Federal Goal Streamgages
(914 streamgages meet more than one need)

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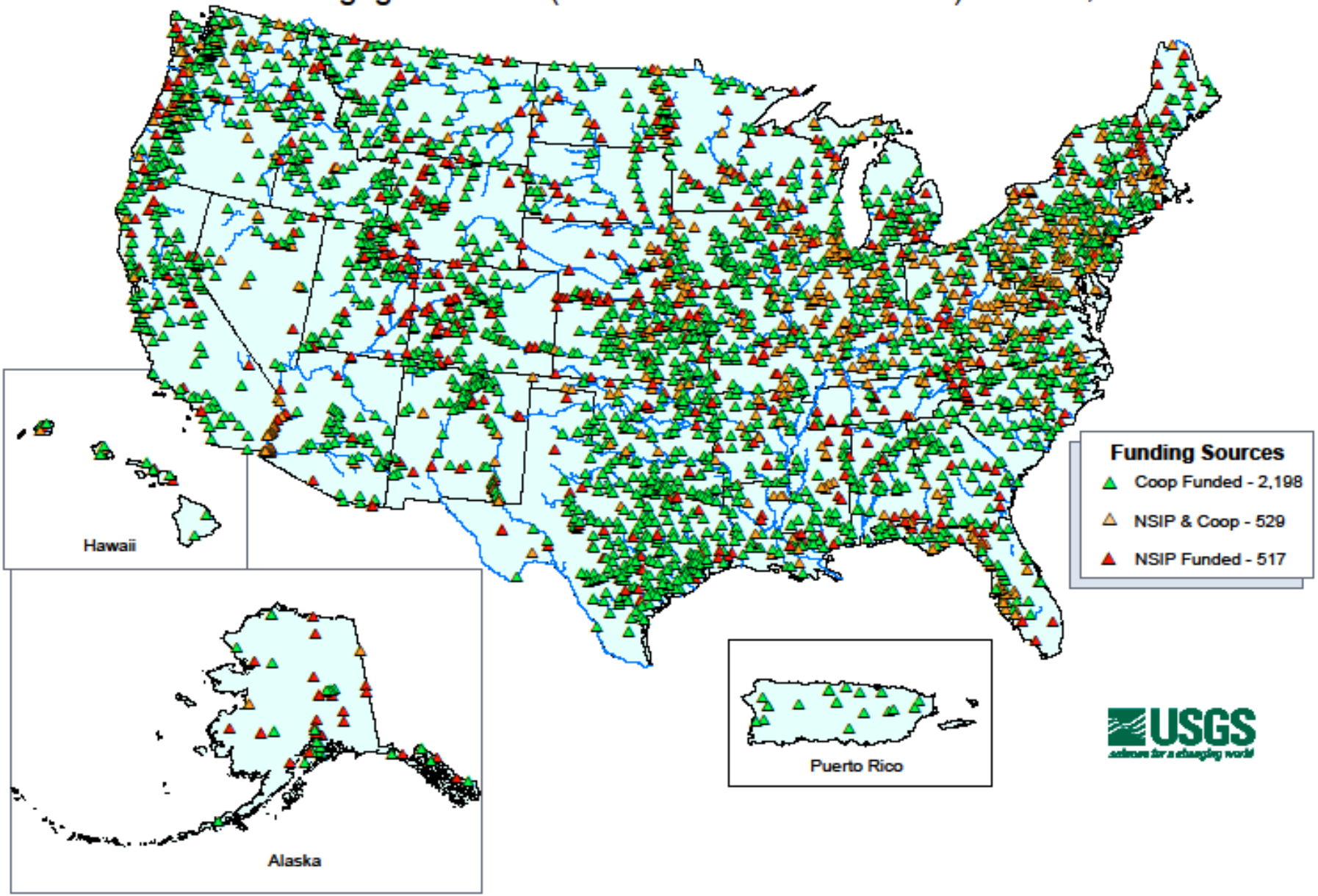
National Streamflow Information Program

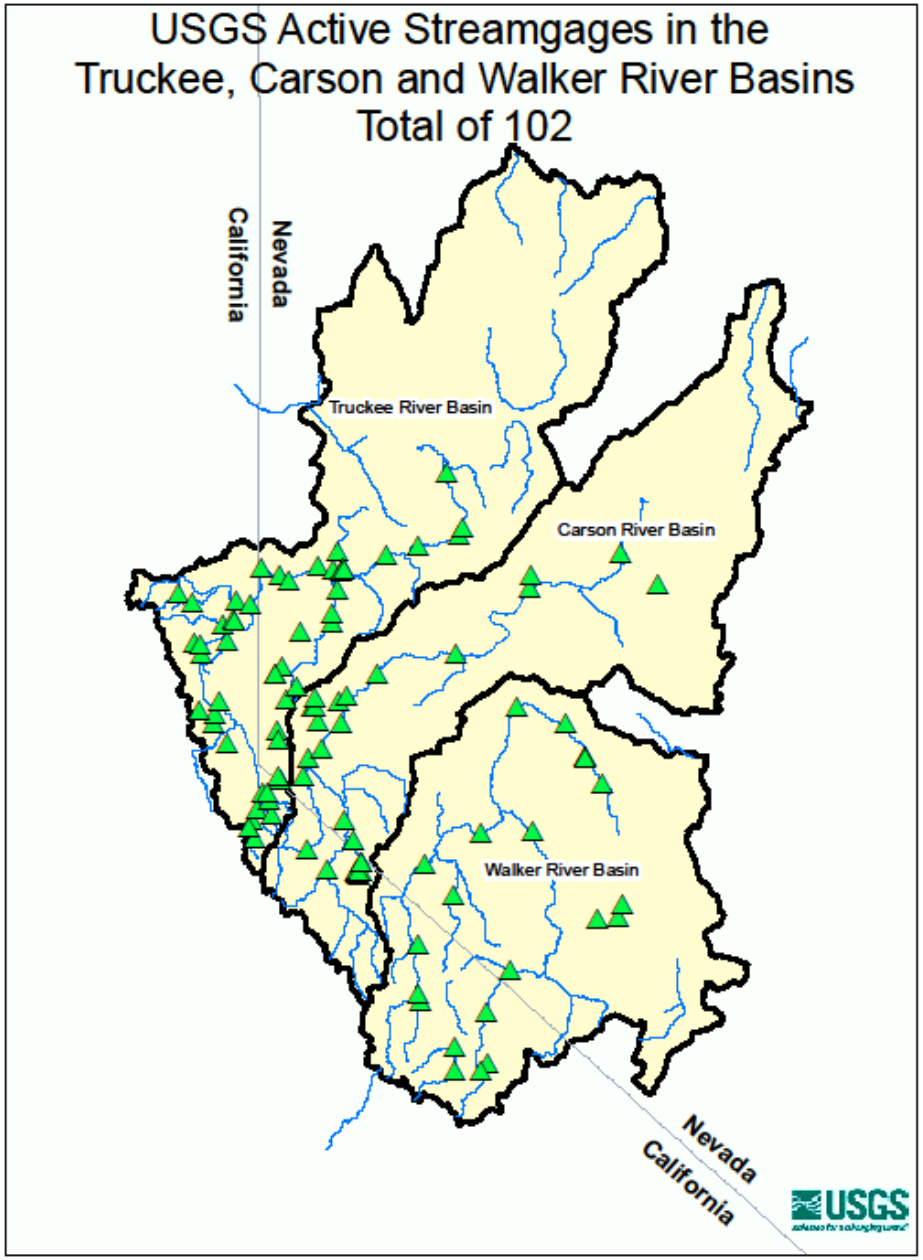
National Streamflow Information Program (cont.)

- 2. Floods and droughts
- 3. Regional assessments of streamflow characteristics
- 4. Improved information delivery
- 5. Methods development and research

NSIP Funds Allocation to WSCs

Funding Sources of the Active USGS National Streamflow Information Program Streamgages in 2008 (Continuous & Partial-record) - Total 3,244





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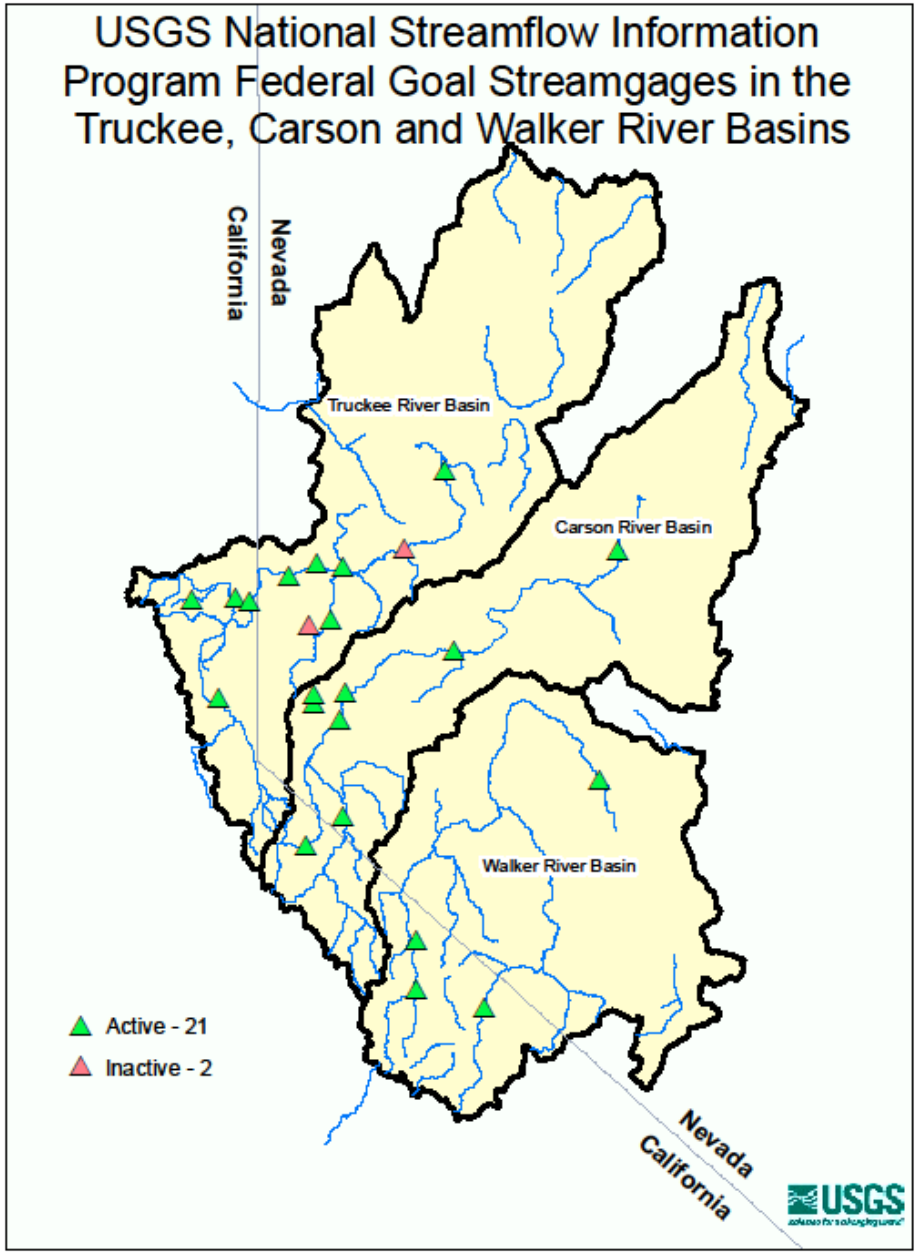

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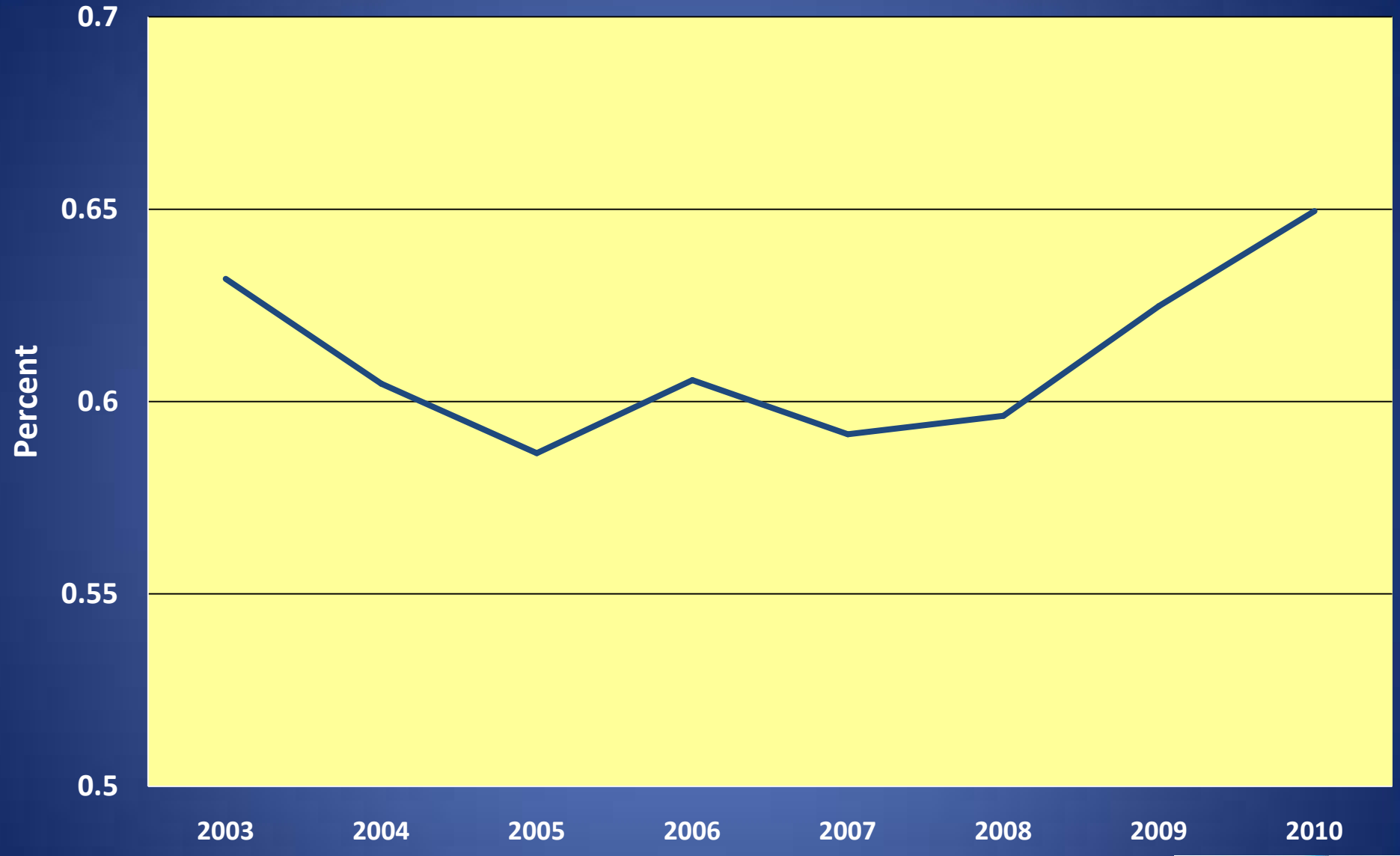
Ratio Of WSC Allocated to Total NSIP Funds



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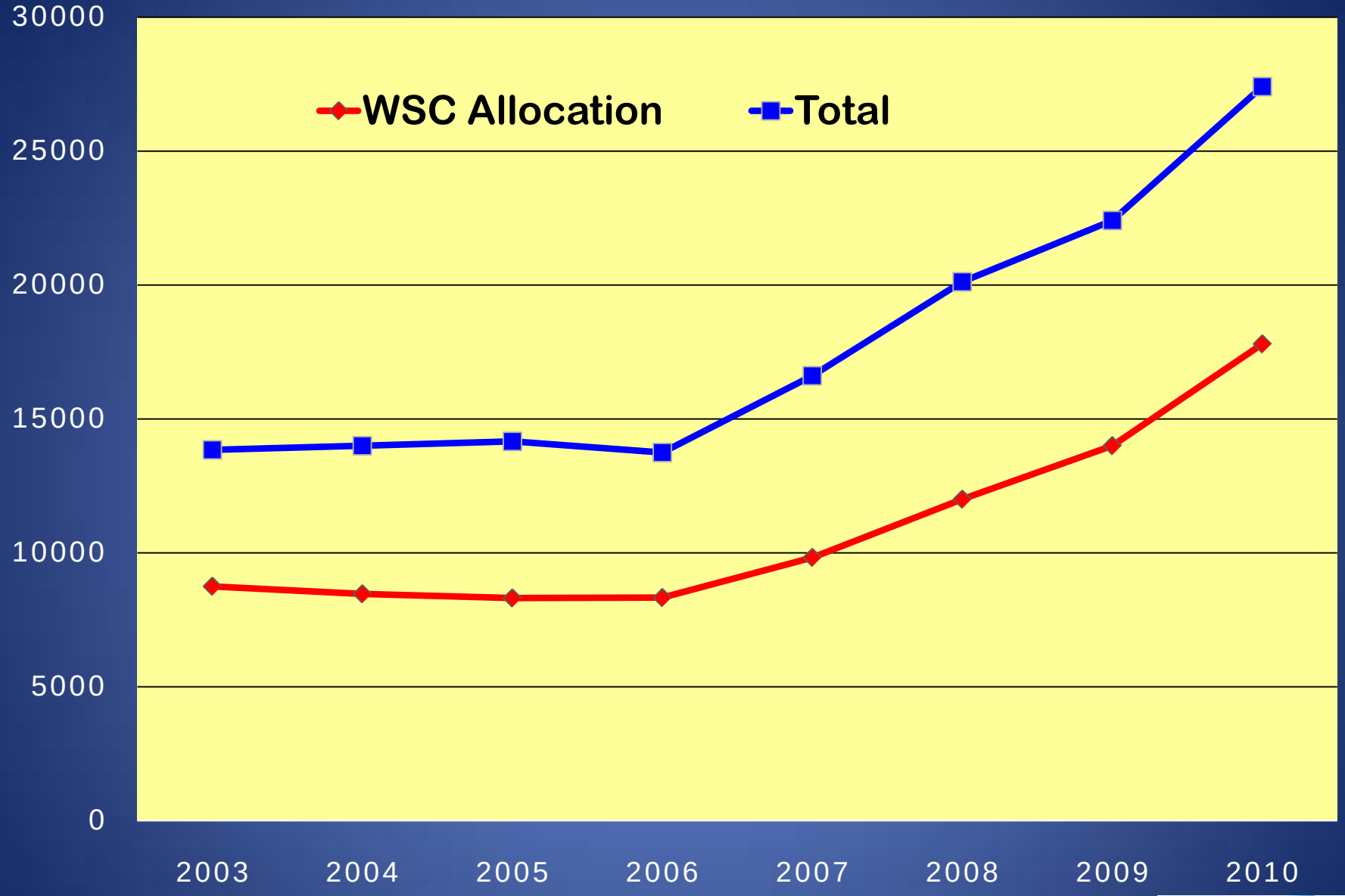

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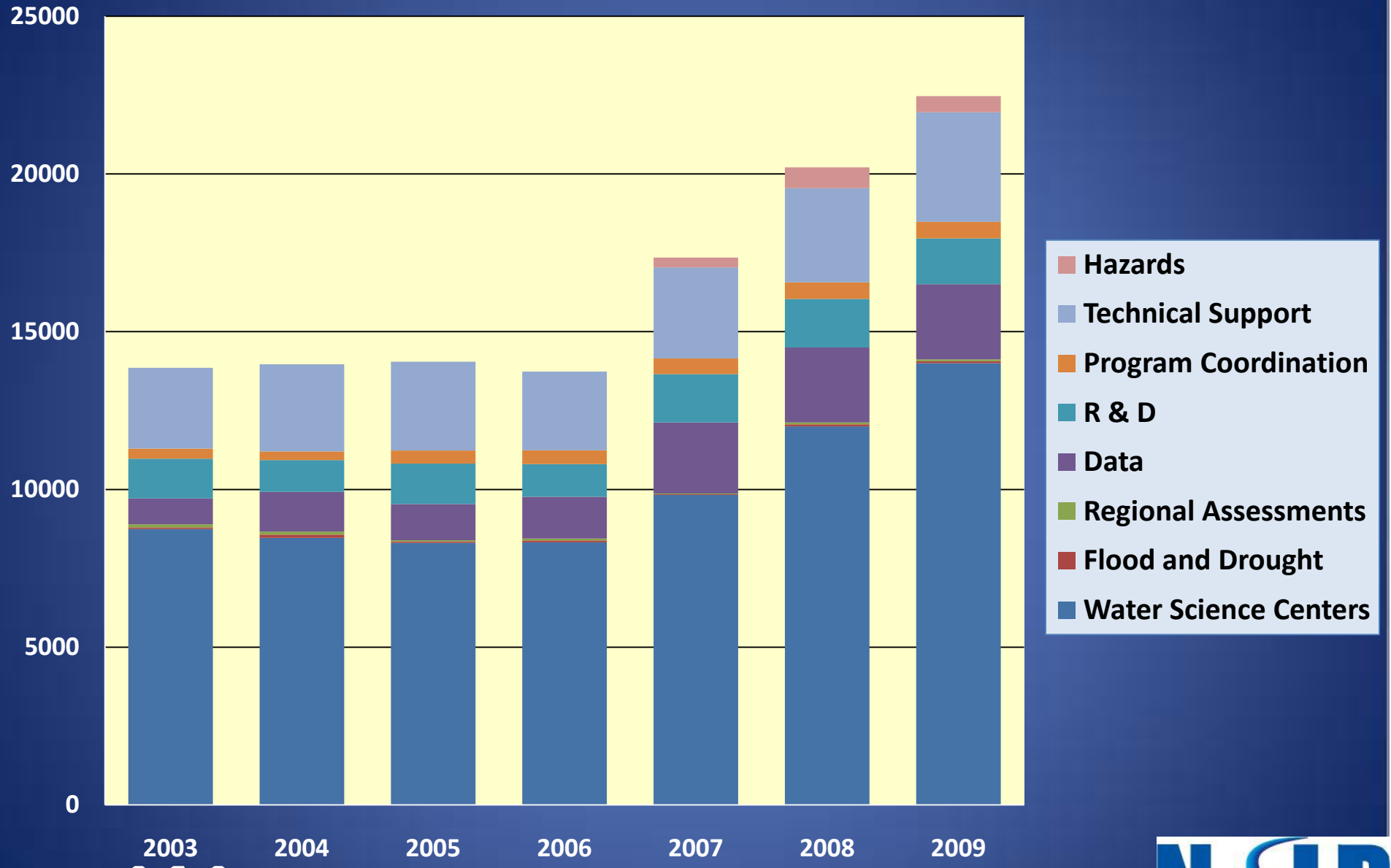
NSIP Funds Distribution



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Major Uses Of NSIP Funding

- 1. Water Science Centers (average about 60% of NSIP investments).
  - Streamgage O&M
  - Data Chiefs Salary (some)
  - Data base Administrators Salary (some)
  - Equipment for NSIP streamgages
  - Shared equipment (ADCP's)
  - Field Vehicle Costs
  - "Fixed costs" of streamgage program

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Major Uses Of NSIP Funding

- 2. Technical Support (Averages about 15% of the NSIP investments)
  - Office of Surface Water
  - HIF Division Goods
  - NWIS Support
  - ADCP support
  - StreamStats

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National Streamflow Information Program

Future NSIP Funding Potential

Stakeholder Support

September 10, 2007

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The Honorable James A. Nussle
Director
Office of Management & Budget
Eisenhower Executive Building
Washington, DC 20503

Regarding: STREAMGAGE SUPPORT IN FY-2009

Dear Secretary Kempthorne and Director Nussle:

The undersigned organizations support the US Geological Survey's Cooperative Water Program (CWP) and National Streamflow Information Program (NSIP) and urge your support for full implementation of the NSIP beginning in FY-2009 and for stronger funding of the CWP at approximately $70 million. Full imple of the NSIP would require $110 million in FY-2009, substantially more than the $16.2 million appr FY-2007.

Our members rely extensively on the trustworthy data and science that these two programs produce are active, financial partners ("Cooperators") in the Cooperative Water Program. Nationwide, our well-informed understanding of streamflow, groundwater, tidal surge, precipitation and other wate attributes continues to increase as a function of our growing population, economy, land uses and awareness.

The NSIP and CWP have proven to be a source for reliable, scientific information concerning Amer resources, information that is required by decision makers in both the public and private sectors variety of planning, design and management functions. Unfortunately, their capacity has not ke America's growing needs despite the strong, national cost-share partnership with over 1,400 Cooperat

NSIP and CWP data are needed on a regular basis by many federal, state, tribal, and local governmen and by many businesses, landowners, public interest organizations and individuals for many essential including the:

- SECURE Water Act

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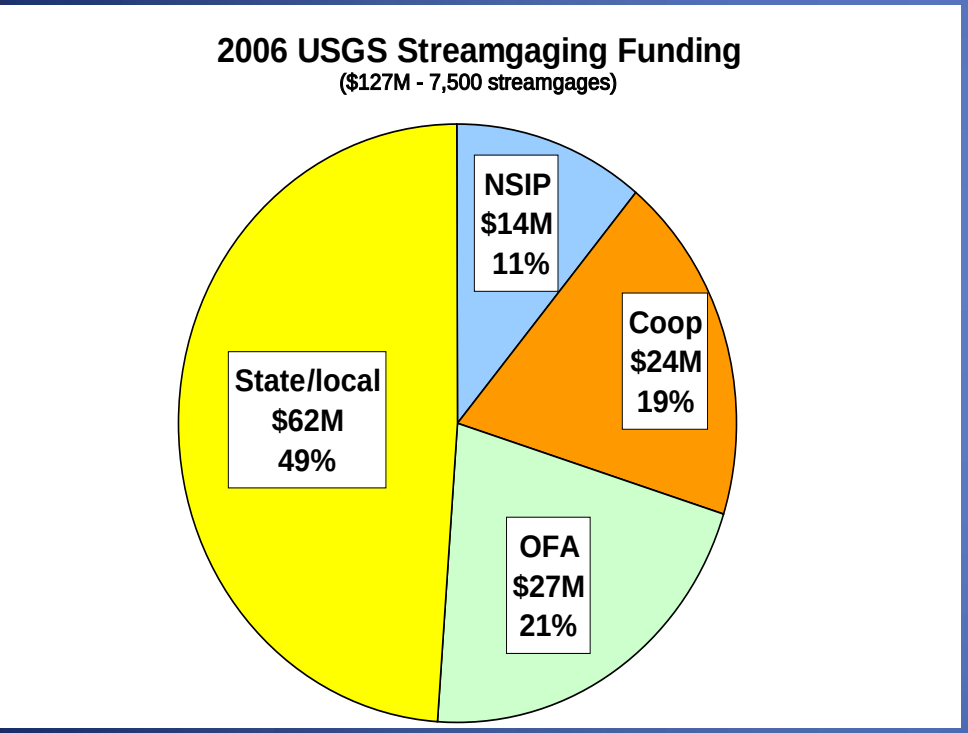
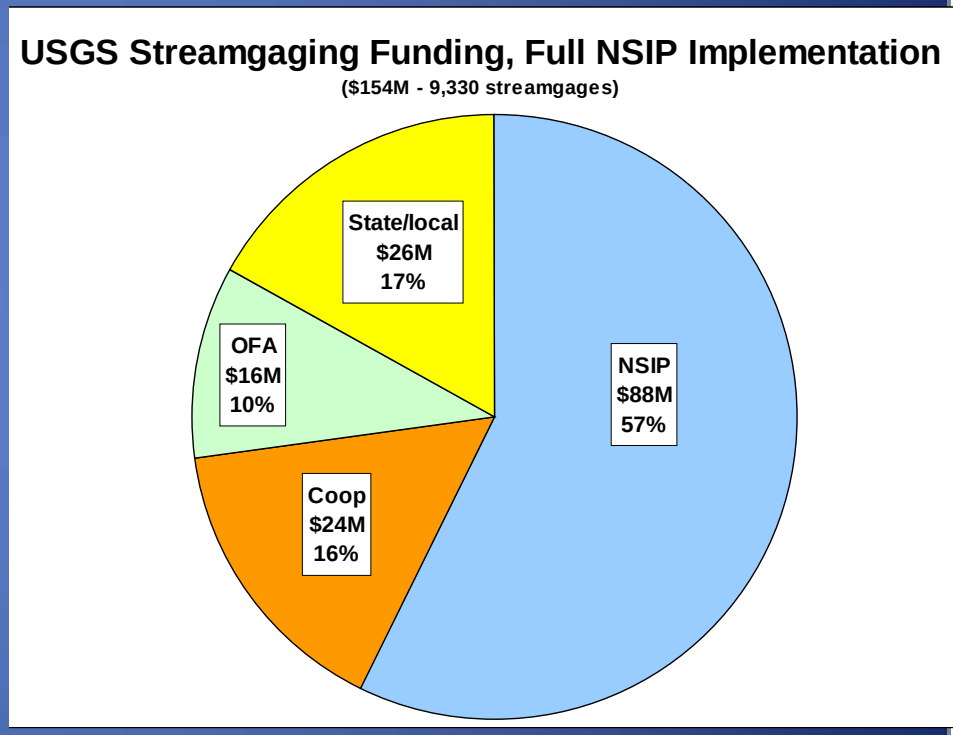
National Streamflow Information Program

Streamgage Network Funding Burden





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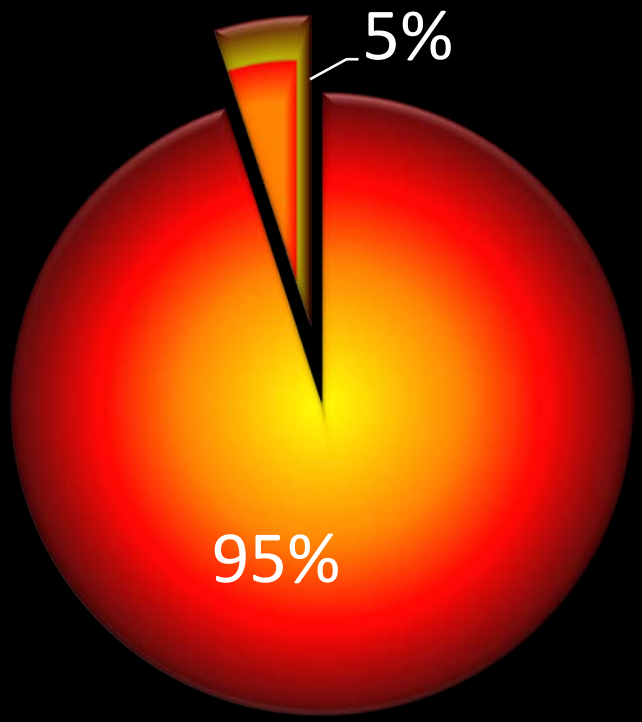
NSIP Full Funding Funds Allocation

95% Data Collection and Delivery

- Streamgage O&M
- Fixed Costs
- QW
- Floods and Droughts
- Info. Processing



5% Analysis and R&D

- Regional Assessments
- New technologies

USGS

NSIP National Streamflow Information Program

Questions/Comments