

Building Strong Collaborative Relationships for a Sustainable Water Resources Future

The Federal Support Toolbox for Integrated Water Resources Management

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May 5, 2011

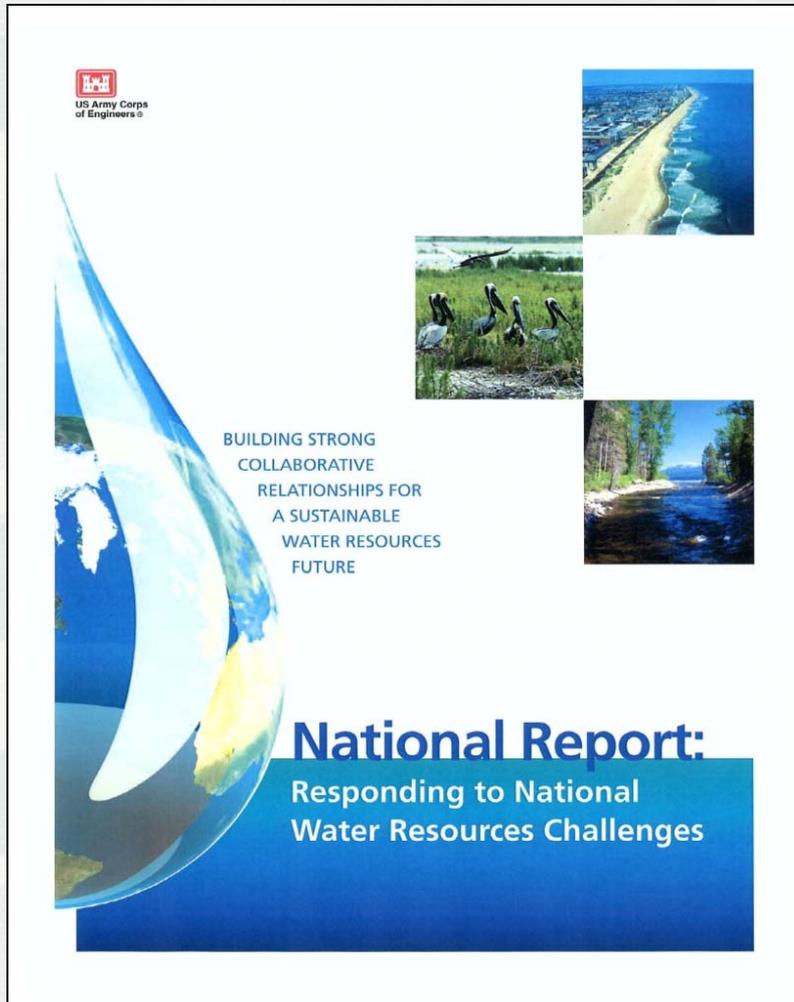


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Approach to a More Sustainable Water Future



- 1) Integrated Water Resources Management
- 2) Governance and Management
- 3) Future National Water Resources Direction
- 4) Collaboration
- 5) Water Resources Investment Strategies
- 6) Managing Extreme Events
- 7) Knowledge & Technology Transfer
- 8) Enhance Water Resources Leadership
- 9) Communications and Education



Federal Support Toolbox for IWRM: Purpose

Provide a comprehensive hub of information and capabilities through a common data portal for integrated water resources management across the nation and across Federal agencies



Federal Support Toolbox for IWRM: Goal

Provide States, Tribes, Federal, regional and local water resources agencies with a system to readily access Federal water resources information, planning assistance and capabilities to improve their ability to optimize the management of water resource through an IWRM approach



Participating Federal Partners



Primary Roles:

- Monitoring
- Science
- Prediction
- Management
- Conservation
- Regulation
- Protection
- Mitigation
- Restoration
- Response
- Recovery

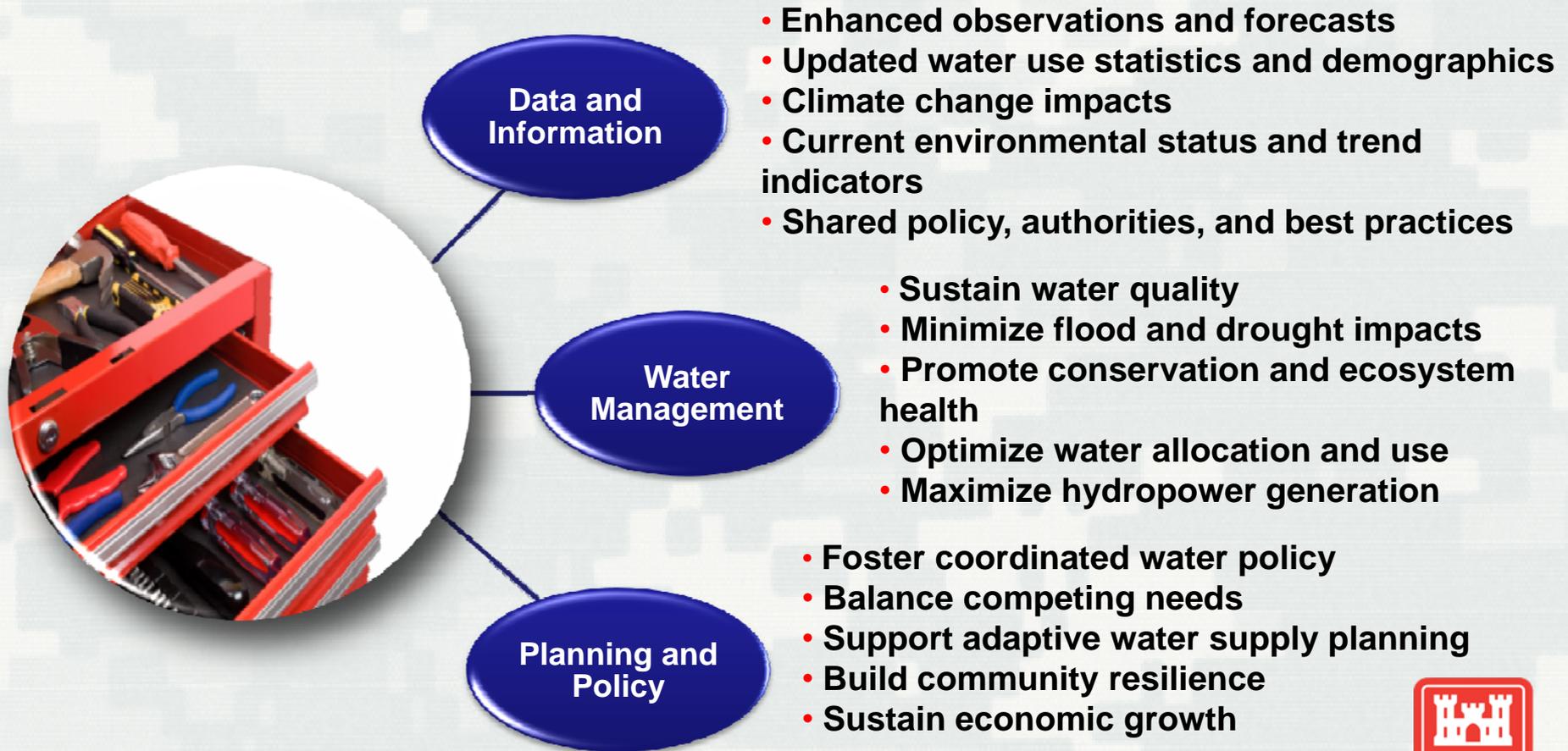
Assessment Agencies:

- U.S. Forest Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**
- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- **U.S. Geological Survey**
- Tennessee Valley Authority



Federal Support Toolbox/IWRSS - Benefits

Integrate and improve access to information, enable collaborative workflow, and establish a common operating picture to support critical decision making

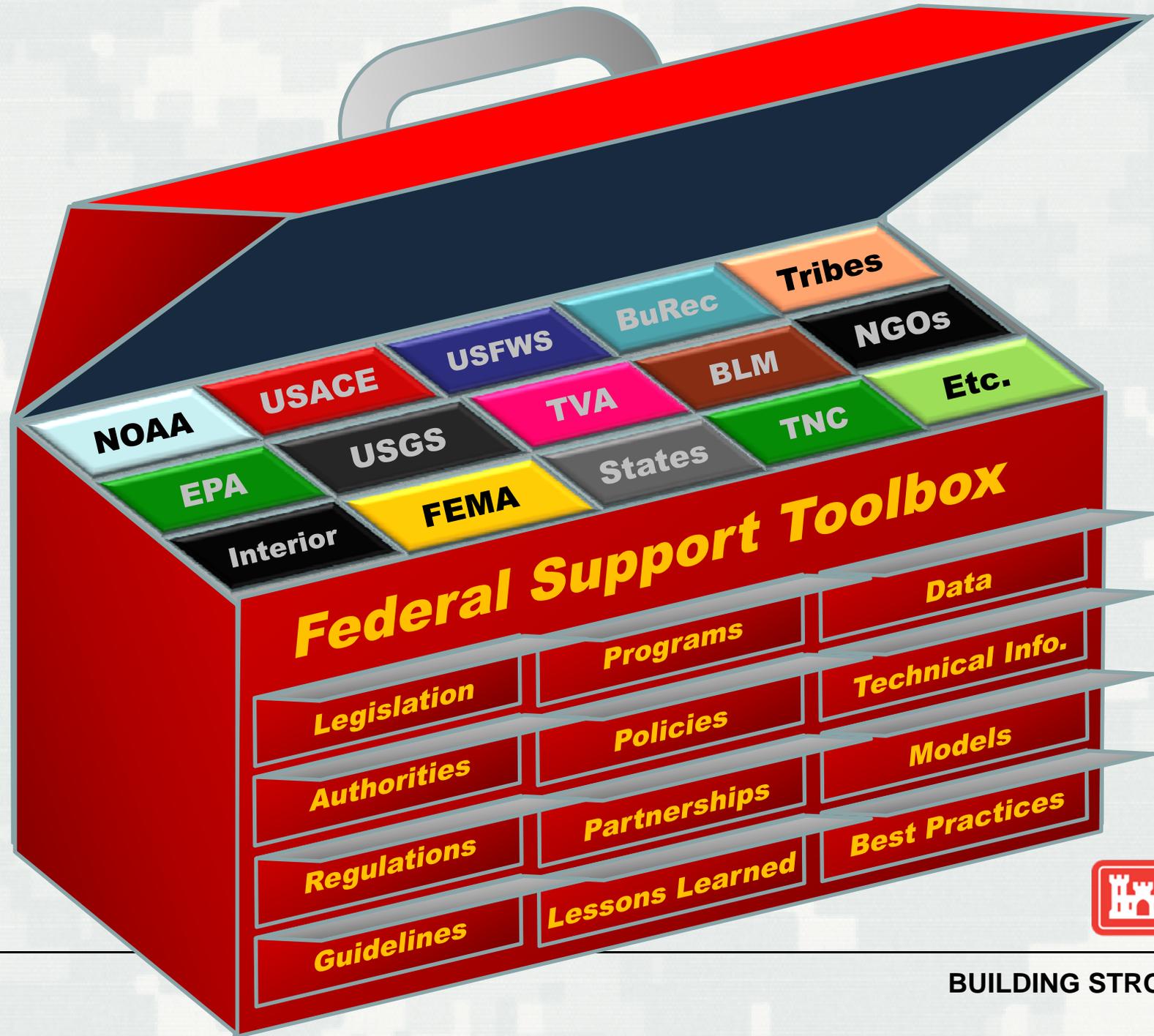


Single Portal for Water Information



- One-stop shopping for Federal water information, data, policies, tools, programs
- Integrated multi-agency information (States, Federal, etc)
- Simplified access
- A new business model to support water needs, interagency efficiency and collaboration





Federal Support Toolbox Components

Components

- **Data, Forecasts, and Services** (integrated at all scales)
- **Models and Tools** (catalog and guidance to help users)
- **Information** (agency programs, authorities, policies, regulations, legislation, science, new initiatives, etc)
- **Federal Capabilities** (match stakeholders' needs and establish regional center to share information and co-develop products, etc)
- **Management** (best practices, lessons learned, investment strategies, portal links, collaborations, points of contacts, etc)

Characteristics

- Interoperability between decision support systems and tools
- Seamless data exchange
- Flexible and extensible design

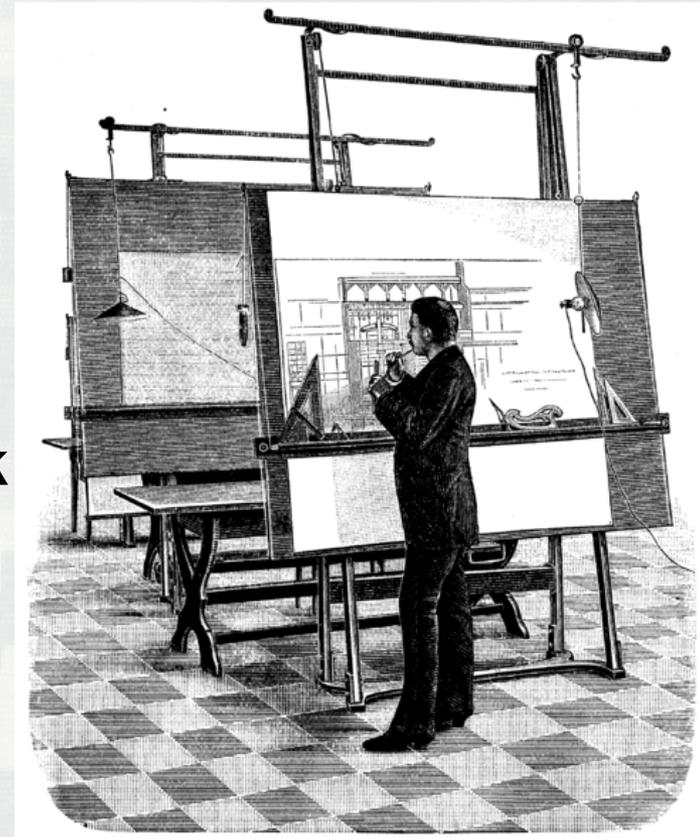
Toolbox Examples

- USACE GIS Management Decision Tool
- Flood inundation mapping services
- StreamStats
- NRCS SNOTEL expansion to the Eastern US
- **Climate Change: Build on existing tools and data:**
 - **USGS Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI)**
 - **US Forest Service Fire Management System**
 - **EPA Regional Vulnerability Assessment Tool**
 - **Program for Climate Model Diagnostics and Intercomparison (PCMDI) archive**
 - **AECOM study for FEMA**



Designing the Federal Toolbox

- Stakeholders input and collaboration
 - Continued engagement
 - Technical representatives
- Robust framework for data exchange and implied information access
- A reliable governance framework
 - Participation
 - Management
 - Funding
 - Maintenance
 - Check points



Where We Are...

- **Leading an Interagency umbrella MOU-“Collaborative Science, Services and Tools for Integrated and adaptive Water Resources Management”**
 - To develop a Federal Support toolbox and IWRSS as prototype
 - Three agencies for now: **USGS, NOAA & USGS**
 - Expect to have 12 Federal agencies to join or more
 - Signing Ceremony in May 2011
 - **USACE - Interagency Agency Press Release**
 - Charters for the initiative
- **Quarterly Interagency Meetings**
 - Currently only **USACE and USGS—NOAA** will join



Where We Are...

- **Assessment of Stakeholders-Inventory Gap analysis:**
 - USACE project Trend Reports and State Plans
 - 50 States
 - 24 Federal Agencies (12 currently participating)
 - River Basin Commissions
 - NGOs, Tribal Governments, other
 - Review of current information portals and potential links
- **Federal Support Toolbox Framework:**
 - **Framework – drafted**
 - **Federal Toolbox Charter – to include 12 agencies**
 - **Communications Strategy – drafted**
 - **Demonstration Projects selection criteria – drafted**
 - Governance Structure
 - Develop mechanisms to sustain long-term stakeholder engagement



Federal Support Toolbox Framework

• Year 1

- Developed MOU, Framework, charters
- Management Structure/form the team
- Complete inventory/gap analysis of information (tools, data..), programs and authorities and identify capability gaps
- Design and conduct stakeholders workshops

• Year 2

- Collect and integrate Federal capabilities and tools (links, websites, models, needs, etc)
- Identify watersheds for demonstration projects
- Develop tools to match capabilities



Federal Support Toolbox Framework

- **Year 3**
 - Identify locations-NGOs for pilot projects
 - Design/develop prototype
- **Year 4 - Year 5**
 - Fully develop demonstration projects for regional and national implementation



Next Steps

- ▶ **Sign the umbrella MOU**
 - **Get additional Federal water agencies to sign MOU**
 - **Develop governance structure composed of Federal Principals and agency POCs**
 - **Develop and finalize charters for FTB, IWRSS & others**
 - **Get Federal agencies to sign Charters**
- **Preparing implementation plan, including all above and:**
 - **State and other stakeholder involvement**
 - **Nationwide inventory (gap analysis information, etc)**
 - **Business case to quantify benefits**
- **Document cross-agency funding requirements and programming strategy**
- **Identify priorities for development & demonstration**



Questions?

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2008-2009 USACE Assessment

- **Validated need for creation of the Federal Support Toolbox for IWRM (FTB)**
 - **Share technology, models, knowledge, best practices, information, lessons learned, etc**
 - **Access to Federal water resources capabilities**
 - **Match states and water agencies' needs to Federal programs and capabilities**
 - **Leverage resources more efficiently**
 - **Improve partnerships and collaboration**
 - **Cross-pollination of ideas and innovation**
 - **Easy access to a nation-wide database system responsive to water needs**



2008-2009 Federal Agency Assessment

“Building Strong Collaborative Relationships for a Sustainable Water Resources Future”



US Army Corps
of Engineers

50 States

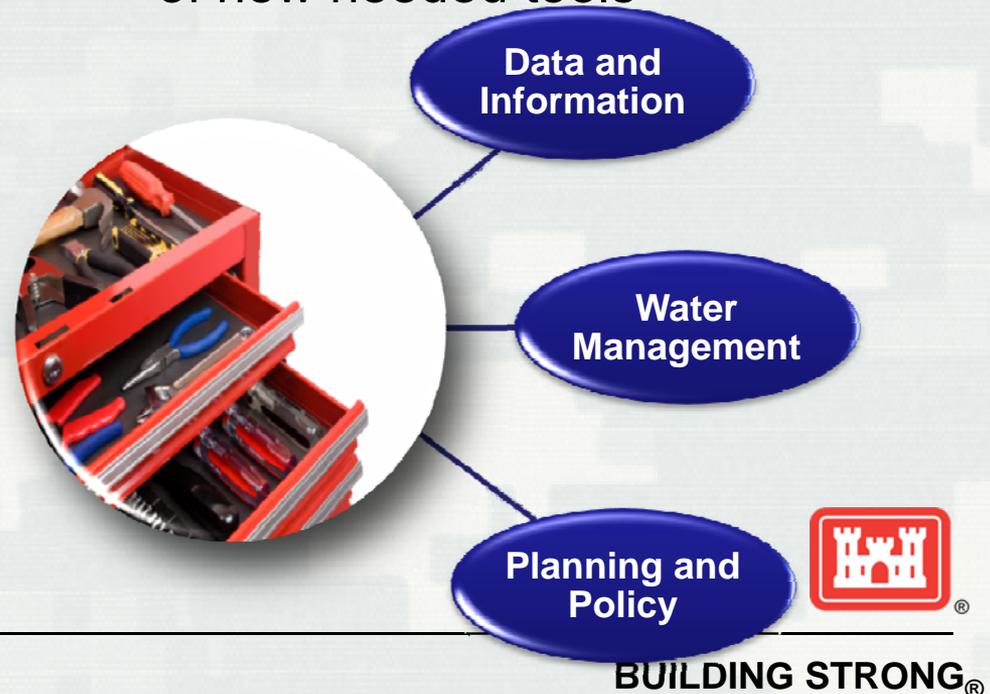
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12 Federal Agencies

2009 USACE National conference recommended the NOAA-led **Integrated Water Resources Science and Services (IWRSS)** to prototype the Federal Support Toolbox

Broadly validated the need for a nationwide “Federal Support Toolbox for IWRM”

- ✓ Access to Federal water resource capabilities and joint collaborations
- ✓ Share technology, information, models, best practices and creation of new needed tools



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