

All Budget Survey Comments

(Note: All comments are reported as submitted, with one minor exception involving a grammatical correction.)

The programs described are the core responsibilities of a viable Earth science agency. To eliminate any is to strike at the heart of what a public science agency is meant to be.

Once these programs go, they are extremely hard to get back - it's not like cutting a school budget, but then being able to hire teachers later. Geologic Information is important to land use, climate change, mining, real estate transactions and to educating people about the earth they live on. Please reconsider these cuts, and make them much less drastic!

As an Exploration Geologist new basic bedrock geologic mapping and preservation of existing historic geologic records are my highest needs.

Do not do what California did, keep this alive and stress education - of politician and public

A very comprehensive survey.

Under normal circumstances, I would select all as very important, but under current circumstances, I would try to preserve the geological expertise of the Survey. If that is lost, everything else matters little with nobody to collect or interpret the geologic data.

Please stick around in some form. Hopefully you can come back to full strength soon. Can any funds from "real estate, construction & transportation" help pay for the fissure mapping?? All need geo hazard info and should help pay for it.

I see the data and report repository and the on-going mapping programs essential to the mission of the survey. During this economic down-turn, a few programs could be put on hold until the state's budget improves.

Everything the AZGS does is worthwhile.

Do not see how you can cut much from your budget and still fulfill your mission. Good luck!!

Can you work with other entities (e.g., universities) to pursue grants to cover some of these functions? The negative ratings are not reflective of the service value just the which areas might have lower priorities during lean budget years

I wouldn't say that any of these are not important, but the items I ranked lower were ones I wonder if there's overlap with USGS activities--or there should be overlap? Where does one agency's efforts end and the other's begin?

Concentrate on what others won't do: geologic mapping, report writing, data preservation, sample preservation. Efforts to make material available online are possibly duplicated by others?

It's all important! But here are my suggestions (Nothing followed, MC)

AZGS has been a great source of info for me over the years. Tighten the belt but keep the core of this

valuable organization intact until times improve.

The most important tasks for AZGS are those that no one else is completing - efforts relating to public health and safety and information dissemination. Tasks relating to identifying and assessing mineral and energy resources should be completed by those industries themselves.

Lee, This sucks. I didn't see a single thing on this list that I didn't consider an important state survey function. My ranking is based on the necessity of making cuts, and I couldn't bring myself to rank anything as unimportant. My preference was to let the Energy and Mineral industry do their own mapping, research, and literature searches.

Obviously, the activities that directly benefit commercial enterprises or private groups should, to the extent possible, be funded by those beneficiaries (something AGS is getting good at under Lee Allison's direction). The public outreach, bibliography, and data repository functions are critical to all in the state, but they are much harder to pass on the costs. The importance of these activities are what the state legislature needs to understand and support.

Lee Allison, the AZ State Geologist, has done an outstanding job in increasing the public visibility and importance of the AZGS. Under his leadership, the AZGS has become one of the best state geological surveys in the Nation. Virtually all of the programs of the AZGS are vital to the well being of the people and/or economy of Arizona. Knowledge of the bedrock geology, surficial geology, geologic hazards, and maintaining data and rock samples are crucial. Unlike some other sciences, old data and reports commonly contain valuable information that is just as useful today as it was when it was written, sometimes over a century ago. If such geologic knowledge and data are lost or mishandled, this vital information and institutional knowledge would not be recoverable. Speaking as a research geologist with the US Geological Survey, it would be virtually impossible for the USGS to replace the functions and highly specialized knowledge of the AZGS. I would be happy to elaborate on any part of this survey and am willing to testify in person about my opinions and what I have written.

It would be helpful in making these selections to know which functions can be partially or totally met by other agencies, in particular the USGS.

This is truly heartbreaking. I wish you guys the best of luck. Hang in there!

Geologic investigations are pivot in environmental work, infrastructure, property transactions, and NEPA projects. The AZGS provides crucial information for numerous geologic applications.

Need to try to fund as many programs as possible, even if reducing the level of service but at least maintaining some of the program.

(1) Many of these functions could be (and some are) shared by other entities such as universities, but the AZGS is the most sensible lead agency for these functions. (2) Given the size of Arizona, increased decentralization of AZGS through online services and branch offices (Phoenix definitely, and perhaps Flagstaff also?) should be pursued.

If find issues related to the general public the most important - like fissures and geologic hazards. I don't find as important programs to support industry (they have their own money). If they want your services they need to lobby for them.

It's shameful that all these cuts are taking place. Shame on the corporate greed that is ruining this country.

THERE SHOULD BE MENTION OF METALS-RELATED INDUSTRY WORK

The AZGS is a critical resource to the State of Arizona and its end users in the Government, Commercial, and Private sectors.

This is a terrible task to have to judge! You guys are so important and have a relatively small budget compared to what you do. It won't really save a lot to gut you in the big picture, yet it will be a big intellectual loss of capital and talent.

I am a college student and having access to the information on this website is very helpful for my learning. Please consider this when making your final determination.

None of the AZGS programs are "unimportant" as suggested by the lowest category of the rating system, however in the light of current budget reality, some must be rated lowest. My responses are cast with the expectation that all programs will ultimately be revived, and lost time/data can then be brought up to date.

This is kind of scattershot here. Other choices, such as temporarily paring back certain activities, should be looked at. As should increases in certain fees, more cost sharing with the Universities, etc., as alternatives to program elimination, could be identified (as I know you are doing). Also, some of these activities are revenue generating, and as such should be categorized as such. On the same vein, we don't know how much each of these programs cost to maintain, and more important, we don't have a good sense of the value lost in shutting down (and later reestablishing) a long-term monitoring program.

All of the AGS functions are important and very important to the state and the scientific community. The AGS is among the best of the state geological surveys in producing and distributing high-quality scientific information about the state's geologic framework, hazards, and resources. Arizona depends more than most states on its natural resources. It would be a serious loss to the people of the state, to industries in the state, and to the environment for investment to be diminished in the high-quality work of the AGS.

DAMN: Once a program is cut, it takes a long time to rebuild it when times are better. Keep the core functions operant at the Survey.

The AZGS is the ONLY agency to provide non-biased information to the public and advise decision makers on issues relating to geology and geologic hazards. Universities cannot fill the gap as they research what is of interest to them, not necessarily what is of interest to the public. The AZGS is critical to maintain public safety; please do not reduce its ability to protect the people of Arizona. As a geo-hazard consultant, publicly available maps and reports are extremely useful and valuable, please maintain online services!

Budget cuts of this magnitude by the Legislature and Governor are irresponsible and short sighted. All of these programs are important to the health and safety of the general population from natural hazards through awareness. I cannot imagine having to decide which program to eliminate as they all provide important information for our company to perform their work to protect the public. AZGS does a great job for the state of Arizona!

In these times when you must prioritize, maintain the core SCIENTIFIC functions. This is the foundation you will need to rebuild or resume when better times return. Good luck! Geologic work that is conducted in the public interest and to guide decisions is fundamental to society. The AGS works closely with the USGS on a variety of projects that benefit both agencies. Look elsewhere for government waste.

The Arizona Geological Survey provides a crucial role in: (1) centralizing geologic reports, maps, and other data on the geology of Arizona; (2) conducting research on the geologic resources of the state; and (3) supplying crucial information on geologic hazards in the state. Any cuts in funding will compromise the mission of the AZGS, undermining its service to both the public and geoscience researchers, and so I hope cuts in funding can be minimized to the degree possible.

If you are dumping services, the ones you had better leave are the publications/store/library and the programs that generate most of the pubs, otherwise you may as well shut down all together. There comes a point when "you are skinned down to the bone" that it will become pointless to operate since you will no longer be providing a public service. To my knowledge, the directors position would be an ideal candidate to expend as he is limited to just working the \$\$ figures...of which you will have very few to manage in the end apparently.

Some areas seem to overlap (enterprise geodatabase, website; seismic network would seem to relate to geohazards). Other ideas: Cut the librarian position while leaving library open (make library more of a self-help style). Close the phoenix office! Down-grade any unnecessary office systems (i.e. phones, outside web-hosting). Furlough days. Down-size vehicle fleet. Ask for donations. Get a grant through Rio Nuevo to bring more folks into the lobby. Write an editorial to the Star. Make the AZGS more known to Tucsonans.

I think it is very short-sighted for the State of Arizona to institute a permanent cut to the Arizona Geological Survey.

As a geologist I feel that all of this is important. The AZGS should have the resources to continue to actively further the geologic understanding and be an active partner in ongoing research.

To whom it may concern: I am a research geologist at the U.S. Geological Survey, and much of my work is in Arizona. I make extensive use of many AZGS products and services. In the above list of programs, I consider every one of them to be "Very Important," and crucial to resource management in the state of Arizona. I would be very dismayed to see any of them scaled back or eliminated. It is my understanding that the AZGS budget is very modest (<\$1 million in state funding), but despite this, the agency performs many crucial functions related to resource management and science, which serve the state of Arizona and the nation. I understand they are facing a 30% budget cut, which would result in major loss of value for customers like myself. I also understand that much or most of the funding for AZGS comes from external funding sources, including the USGS. These sources count on leveraging work being funded by the state, and thus the real losses of the proposed budget cut could be even greater than the already extremely large 30% cut that is being proposed. I strongly urge the state to preserve funding for the AZGS, if at all possible. Please contact me if you would like more information. Sincerely, Daniel Malmon

All of these functions are important, but perhaps the items checked as unimportant can be paid for by the users of these services.

We need to be more like the Utah Survey and produce more usefull books and maps

ALL of the AGS programs are vital to the economic and environmental well-being of the residents of Arizona. The AGS is already cut to the bone--cutting it more will severely restrict its reach and effectiveness.

wow 800k is no money in the state budget. It is amazing what is produced with so little money. Seems like a tragedy to screw that up.

I cannot think of a more critical component than the surficial mapping group. Especially given the current state of the climate, etc.

All of these are of some importance. I have merely ranked them based upon my experience. I ranked Oil and Gas low because the state has never been a major oil/gas producer. The Phoenix branch is probably not necessary given electronic communication and the Internet.

Where I checked moderate importance, I assume AZGS has checked with USGS to see where things could be combined to reduce costs. Is there no way to reduce rent - space at U of AZ or USGS, or at one of the local mines (Mission, Sierrita, Silver Bell)? Can staff work at home and commute electronically? Good luck with this - I went through it many times with Asarco.

Phil and AZGS Staff, AZ State Land Department is working with your team to assist us in locating and securing the groundwater for State Trust Lands including performing hydro-geological survey and groundwater water model. It's important that AZGS maintains the Staff for this program and ASLD is committing the funding for a long term. Thanks Ott

The State needs to get back to REALLY important government functions. This is NOT one. By the way, advise is spelled with an 's' not a 'c'. Is this the quality of this Department's work? Advice is a noun, advise is a verb. You used advice as a verb.

The AZ Geological Survey is the only AZ supported bureau that has the opportunity to catalyze or bring billions of tax dollars into the state by providing the data base for mineral exploration. Thus its mineral stimulus activities must be preserved at the expense of all else. If and when the State believes geologic hazards are important and allocates funding for that purpose those activities can be restarted.

I really think prioritizing a local contact in Phoenix is important.

This is a difficult survey to fill out given that I believe the AGS was underfunded before the budget cuts. I've rated all the categories as very important (as I believe they are) unless I found myself not qualified to rate a category. In this case I chose to leave the category unranked. As a registered geologist in the state of AZ (#36429) working for an international earth science consulting firm, I've used the AGS on many occasions to support crucial aspects of professional projects. Obviously the state legislature does not understand the value added to the State of Arizona by the AGS.

it appears to me that a lot of the above questions are simply asking the same thing over and over, but just using different words. Regarding the geotechnical tasks (geohazards, earthquakes, etc.) a lot of this can and is done by geotech consultants that seldom use governmental data bases. I'd whack the Phx office...you existed for a long time without one. Also figure out where you and the USGS overlap. The AGS produces lots of reports, maps etc. so figure out which topics are the best sellers and that's where you place your programs and projects

All of the programs listed above seem to be at the very least - important. These further budget cuts are extremely unfortunate. Why is it that the Federal Gov't sees fit to bail out large private corporations (using taxpayer \$) but cannot help out state-run programs that are the core research and information distribution engines for the very land that we (the taxpayers) inhabit?

With extensive data preservation, the library and bookstore would become less important to maintain. These are tough calls. Would suggest that we all focus on preserving information and our methods to distribute and use what we have, while scaling down the acquisition of new data..... then wait until the budget dust clears a bit....

Try and stick with the core functions of mapping and document preservation. The outreach,

education, and public accessible stuff should be where the cutbacks are. The basic data will still be available, but the public will have to come evaluate it themselves. Economic data may need to be developed by companies seeking to mine it. I hate to see any of these services cut back, and I am sorry for the stress and disruption this causes your staff. Keep up the good work that you do! Good luck.

EQ information could be done out of the universities; Phx branch is small but is it necessary (perhaps it is!)

AZGS provides an invaluable and irreplaceable geologic service. There is simply no other resource in the state for updated geologic and hazard data. There is no private group that has these resources. SRP utilizes the many data bases for siting facilities and reducing the cost of power to Arizona's electric rate payers.

I have looked through your budget planning table, and do not see where you can drop any programs that would not effect the public. In my experience, geology has always gotten short shift in budget planning when compared to how much geology does effect our daily lives. Unfortunately, I do not see how this is going to change in at least the near future.

Given that the cuts must occur, it seems to be more important than ever that relationships between the AGS and USGS are clarified to minimize or eliminate any duplication of effort. This would be a good time to revisit the respective missions of the two organizations in a very specific manner. The AZGS is a tremendous resource for critical decisions regarding mineral and water resources. INCREASE their budget, yes even during a recession, to support decisions on resources challenges with decades-long lead times.

there should be more emphasis on metals mining geological work

This is ridiculous. This is like asking which of your children you want to die first or what body organ is of less importance to you right now. I am at a loss for words and commend anyone who is going to have to make these decisions in the long run.

The 15% of total value of non-federal and contracts and grants worries me. Depending upon the tax status of the party, this would amount to a steep double tax and could be a factor in negating future grants.

All of these functions are important. I have ranked programs highest if they cannot be easily or competently conducted by the private sector and if there will be a (possibly) irreversible loss of data/logs/samples/institutional memory if there is even a temporary curtailment. Time and time again I have relied upon the AZGS to provide geologic data important to my line of work.

Seems to me that most of the above are very important. I find it hard to believe that our legislators are against a 0.5 cent tax increase but for cuts in a budget that already fell short in providing services. Need to separate mission-critical from nice-to-provide functions. It's okay to be "inconvenient" as long as the data is somehow available.