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Managing Water in the West

**Reclamation Meeting on
Managing For Excellence:
An Action Plan for the 21st Century
Bureau of Reclamation**

**Las Vegas, NV
July 10-11, 2006**



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Research and Laboratory Services

Functional Area: Laboratory Services

- Action Item 32

- Determine where opportunities exist for use of federal and non-federal lab services.

- Action Item 33

- Determine where opportunities exist for retaining, consolidating and/or eliminating lab services within the TSC and Regions.

This is a Reclamation-wide evaluation

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Action Items 32-33: Laboratory Services Team

Tasks:

- Depict the current array of lab services in terms of:
 - Purpose
 - Operations support
 - Design and construction
 - Applied research
 - Technical Capabilities
 - Location
- Depict the current customer profile for each lab service identified above:
 - Regional and Area Offices
 - Dam Safety Program
 - Research Office
 - Others

Tasks for Laboratory Services Team Continued...

- Depict projected future workload
- Identify potential non-Reclamation sources for each lab service
- Compare Reclamation and non-Reclamation sources to identify best value option for providing lab services
- Propose the most effective combination of in-house lab services within Reclamation
- Propose an implementation plan to achieve the appropriate resource staffing levels and distribution of lab services within the agency
- Prepare a final report detailing proposals for lab services

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Action Items 32-33: Laboratory Services Team

Scope: These Action Items are primarily concerned with Laboratory Services

- **We are collaborating with:**
 - Teams 9-12 (Engineering Services)
 - Team 34-35 (Research Program Activities)

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Action Items 32-33: Laboratory Services Team

Objectives:

- The first objective is to identify the scope of current lab services and identify non-Reclamation labs capable of performing the services.
- Through a best value comparison, we will identify opportunities for retaining, consolidating, or eliminating lab services.

Categories Laboratory Services

- **Laboratory Services fall into two distinct categories:**
 - **Standardized testing-** Tests performed according to national standards to determine parameters such as water quality and material properties.
 - **Specialized testing-** Custom designed laboratory experiments conducted to develop solutions to unique issues related to water and power.
 - **Examples of specialized testing include physical hydraulic models and electrical test equipment designed to examine performance of power systems.**

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Example

- Scale model testing to address stilling basin O&M issues at Mason Dam
- Design and construction of successful field demonstration
- Applied research studies in lab to create generalized design criteria for future needs



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Location of Reclamation Laboratories

Testing Labs

- TSC
 - Denver, CO
- LC Region
 - Boulder City, NV
 - Yuma, AZ
- UC Region
 - Provo, UT
 - Grand Junction, CO
 - Alamosa, CO
- GP Region
 - Billings, MT
- MP Region
 - Shasta Lake, CA
- PN Region
 - Boise, ID



Construction Labs

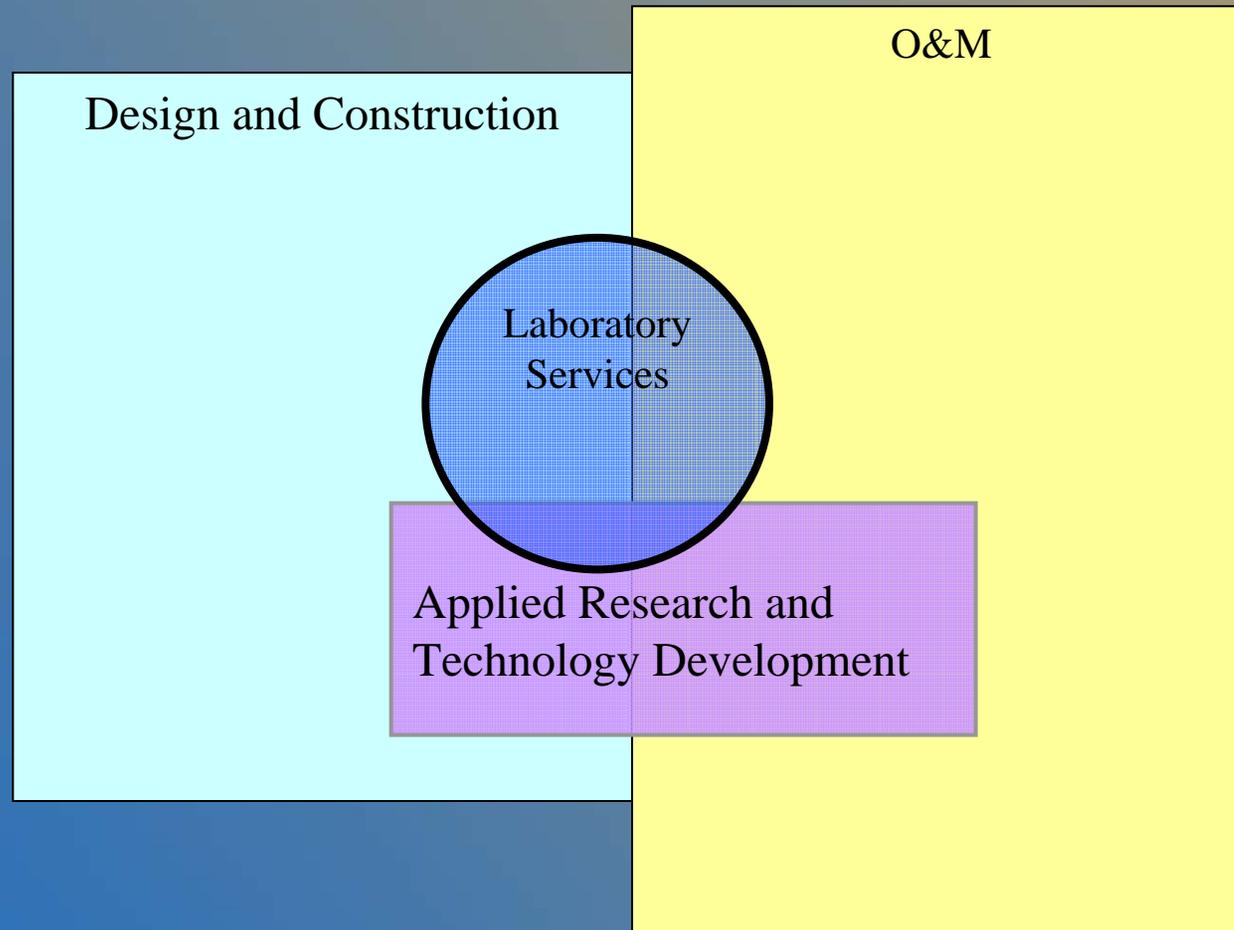
- UC Region
 - Durango, CO
 - Farmington, NM
- GP Region
 - Loveland, CO
- MP Region
 - Willows, CA

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Assessing Technical Workload

- Data Collection - We are collecting data on lab work being conducted by Reclamation laboratories and by contract labs.
- Role of Laboratory Services - Laboratory services are only a portion of the work performed by the groups that operate specialized laboratories.
- Engineering and Design Services - including environmental assessments, training, field services, technical consultation, etc. are actually the majority of the work performed in these groups.
- Purpose of Lab Services - The laboratories provide services for various purposes throughout Reclamation- as shown on the following slide.

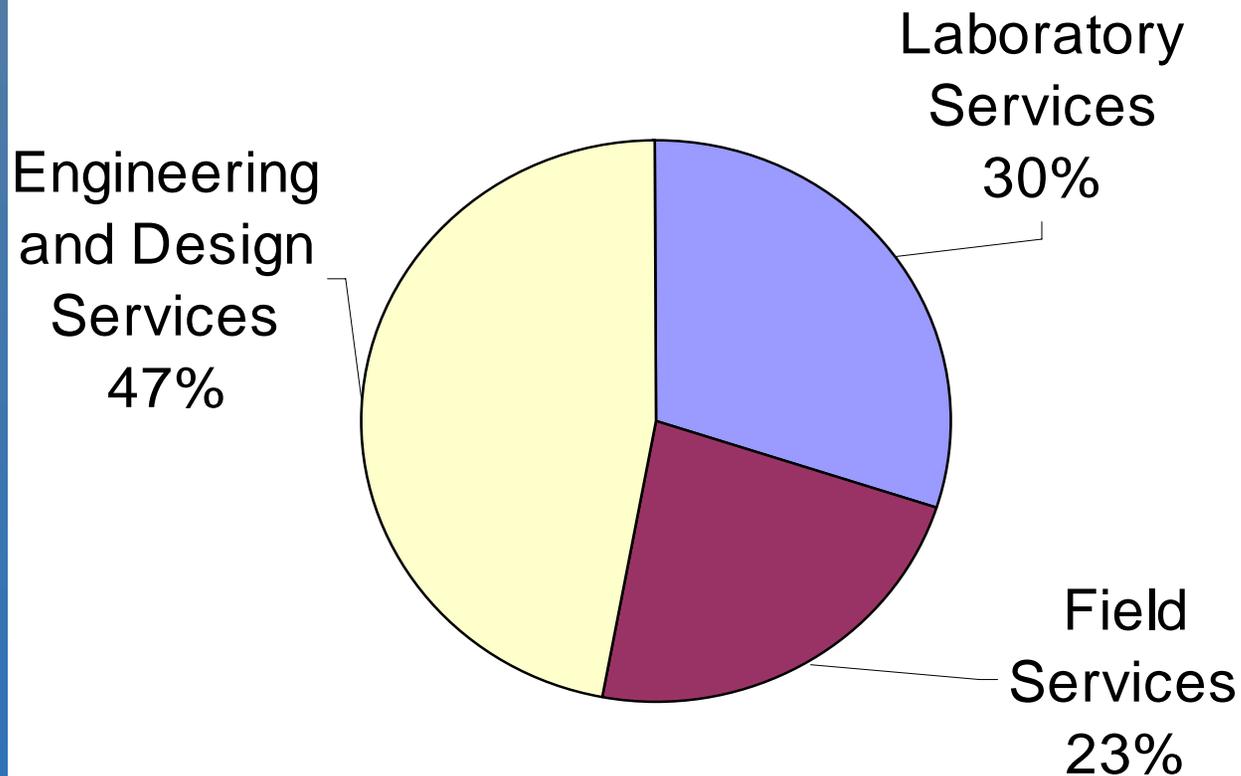
The Role of Laboratory Services in Reclamation



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Types of Services Provided by Laboratory Groups

(Preliminary Data - FY 2005)



Customers Served by Specialized Laboratory Groups

Other Govt. (FY 2005)

Agencies

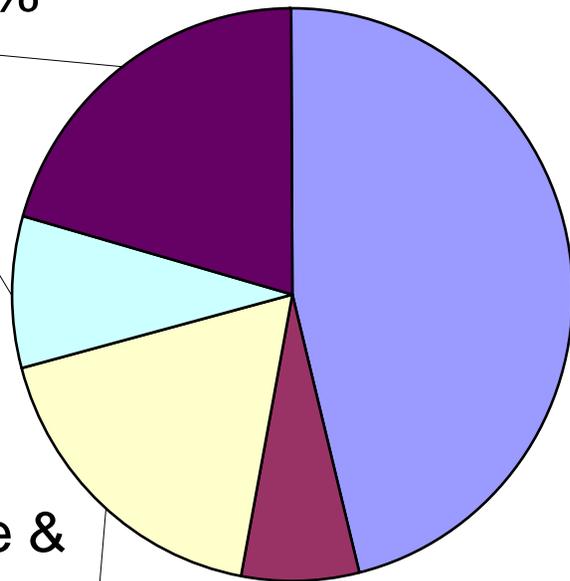
21%

Other USBR
9%

Science &
Technology
18%

Dam Safety
6%

USBR Regions
46%



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Action Items 32-33: Laboratory Services

Milestones:

- **July 2006:** Interface with stakeholders to offer the opportunity to provide input to the process.
- **Aug 2006:** Complete inventory of potential non-Reclamation laboratory service providers.
- **Sept. 2006:** Interface with stakeholders prior to firming up recommendations.
- **Nov 2006:** Develop implementation plan
- **Dec 2006:** Release implementation plan

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Technical Workload

Progress to Date:

- We are developing a database with all of the relevant laboratory service providers and functions. The framework for this database is about 80% complete, however the data are still being assembled.
- We are evaluating lab services considering the following necessary factors:

- Capability
- Continuity
- Effectiveness



Value

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The database is being developed to include:

- Costs and Technical capabilities in:
 - TSC Labs
 - Regional Labs
 - Other Federal Labs
 - Private Labs
- One of the challenges is development of fair and reasonable evaluation methods.

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Questions or Comments from the Audience

- Feedback and questions on performance metrics
- Possible private labs to include for comparison

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