Lessons Learned from NASA's ARRA Project on California Water Resources

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As a Matter of Fact, it IS Rocket Science

NASA

- Basic science mission
- Mission/proposal driven, no continuity of programs or data sets
- Most of its data sets difficult to obtain, require specialized expertise to use

Water Practitioners

- Water sector is highly fragmented, difficult for outsiders to understand agency roles
- Size (of study area and of water agency) matters
- Historically limited usage of remote sensing products, no background in subject area

The ARRA Project

- Limited-term
- Range of topic areas (e.g. snowpack, crop ET, groundwater)
- Range of readiness for transition to operations
- Big question, how to follow up?
- Long-term partnerships needed to see the topics through to implementation

Lessons Learned

- Most of the topic areas suitable for follow-up at some level

- Available resolution is a limiting factor for some applications

- Main issues aren't technical ones, but programmatic and educational

- Intermediaries/partners (typically academic institutions) needed

Lessons Learned, con't

- Definite potential for targeted applications, worth following up
- State or federal agencies are more likely users of remote sensing information, due to scale issues
- Should explore climate capabilities, wasn't a focus of ARRA project
- Should also explore disaster response applications (flooding)

Outcomes

- Want to maintain partnership with NASA, looking for ways to do so