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