

## USGS Code of Scientific Conduct

**I will maintain scientific integrity and will not engage in fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing or reviewing scientific activities and their products.**

**I will act in the interest of the advancement of science and contribute the best, highest quality scientific information for the U.S. Geological Survey and the Department of the Interior.**

**I will conduct, process data from, and communicate the results of scientific activities honestly, objectively, thoroughly, and expeditiously.**

**I will be responsible for the resources entrusted to me, including equipment, funds, my time, and my employees' time. I will promptly and accurately collect, use, and report all financial resources under my control; and promptly, thoroughly, and accurately report all scientific work.**

**I will fully disclose all research methods used, available data, final reports, and publications consistent with applicable laws and policy.**

**I will respect, to the fullest extent permitted by law, confidential and proprietary information provided by communities, Indian tribes, and individuals whose interests and resources are studied or affected by scientific activities or the resulting information.**

**I will not hinder the scientific activities of others or engage in dishonesty, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or coercive manipulation.**

**I will not engage in scientific or research misconduct.**

**I will welcome constructive criticism of my scientific activities, will welcome and participate in appropriate peer reviews, and will critique others' work respectfully and objectively. I will substantiate comments that I make with the same care with which I report my own work.**

**I will be diligent in creating, using, preserving, documenting, and maintaining collections and data. I will adhere to established quality assurance and quality control programs. I will follow the Department's records retention policies and comply with Federal law and agreements related to use, security, and release of confidential and proprietary data.**

**I will adhere to appropriate standards for reporting the results of scientific activities and will respect the intellectual property rights of others.**

**I will, to the extent possible and practical, differentiate among facts, opinions, hypotheses, and professional judgment in reporting the results of scientific activities to others, including scientists, decision makers, and the public.**

**I will be responsible for the quality of any data I collect or any interpretations I make, and for the integrity of conclusions I draw in the course of my scientific activities.**

**I will place quality and objectivity of scientific activities and reporting of their results ahead of personal gain or allegiance to individuals or organizations.**