

Validation of Performance Measures

Data accuracy, collection, and monitoring is an important aspect of implementing the Government Performance and Results Act. Evaluations of performance fall into three categories.

The first involves routine evaluation and validation of the data and information from the performance measures used to support the performance plans. Performance data is developed and analyzed using standard, statistically valid methods to ensure that accurate and verifiable information is produced. Based on the experiences of organizations that have successfully implemented performance measurement systems, the Department anticipates that some of our measures and goals will need to be modified, changed, or replaced over time.

The second category of evaluation involves reviews of the plans themselves. Plans are reviewed yearly to determine whether changes are necessary. Minor changes are handled through the annual performance plan. Major changes will require revisions to the strategic plan.

The third category of evaluation is the use of traditional methods. Interior's programs continue to rely on reviews and audits by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and the General Accounting Office (GAO). Internal program evaluations and management reviews are conducted across the Department as the need arises and as resources allow.

The table below (*Figure 33*) provides examples of selected current or planned program evaluations and performance audits and how they relate to Departmental goals.

Figure 33

Validation of Performance Measures			
Program Evaluations	Scope	Methodology	Dept Goal Number
Wildlife and Fisheries Management on Public Lands, Bureau of Land Management	Assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the BLM Wildlife and Fisheries Management Program	Performance Audit	1
USGS Strategic Directions	Help USGS identify: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Societal and political environments (and interpret these). 2. Major societal needs that should be addressed by USGS. 3. Emerging scientific and technical issues relevant to the USGS mission. 4. Opportunities for partnerships. 	External Review by the National Research Council	4
Cultural Resources Management, Bureau of Land Management	Assess whether the BLM is effectively and efficiently managing its cultural properties and museum collections in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies.	Performance Audit	1
Recreation Fee Demonstration Project	Ongoing Evaluation	Program Evaluation	2
Oil Royalty in Kind Program, Minerals Management Service	Assess the effectiveness of the administration of the MMS Oil Royalty in Kind Program.	Performance Audit	3
Overhead Costs of Cost-Reimbursable Projects, U.S. Geological Survey	Determine whether USGS accurately computed and distributed its overhead costs to cost-reimbursable projects through assessment rates.	Financial Audit	4
Land Record Management System, Bureau of Indian Affairs	Assess whether the BIA land records management system ensures that land ownership records are accurate.	Performance Audit	5
Fire Management Activities, Bureau of Indian Affairs	Determine whether the BIA is (1) managing its wildland fire activities in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies and (2) is properly using and accounting for emergency and non-emergency fire program funding.	Performance Audit	5