

# Mission Area 4: Serving Communities— Safeguard Lives, Property and Assets, Advance Scientific Knowledge, and Improve the Quality of Life for Communities We Serve

- End Outcome 1 Protect Lives, Resources, and Property
- End Outcome 2 Advance Knowledge Through Scientific Leadership and Inform Decisions Through the Applications of Science
- End Outcome 3 Fulfill Indian Fiduciary Trust Responsibilities
- End Outcome 4 Advance Quality Communities for Tribes and Alaska Natives
- End Outcome 5 Increase Economic Self-Sufficiency of Insular Areas

Interior’s responsibility to serve communities continues to grow larger and more complex, extending well beyond the lands and resources we manage. The Department is responsible for protecting lives, resources, and property; providing scientific information for better decision-making; and fulfilling the Nation’s trust or other special responsibilities to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and residents of island communities.

We help protect communities from wildland fires; safeguard visitors on our lands from illegal activities; and, provide scientific information to reduce risks from earthquakes, landslides, and volcanic eruptions. We provide scientific assessments and information on the quality and quantity of our Nation’s water resources; collect, process, integrate, archive, and provide access to geospatial and natural resource data; and, conduct multi-purpose natural science research to promote understanding of earth processes, which are vital to resource use as well as resource protection.

## Partnering to Succeed: Improving Wildland Fire Management

Partnerships like the Wildland Fire Leadership Council leverage scarce resources and focus unique expertise and technology available through partner agencies to solve problems of mutual concern.



The Wildland Fire Leadership Council, comprising representatives from Interior, the Department of Agriculture, Tribal forestry, and State agencies, works closely with community-based fire-fighting units to improve wildland fire management and reduce hazardous fuels on forests and rangelands. In FY 2004, the Council worked with communities to develop common performance measures, common cost accounting protocols, and an effective hazardous fuels reduction program. Since 2001, Interior and the U.S. Forest Service have removed hazardous fuels from over 11 million acres.

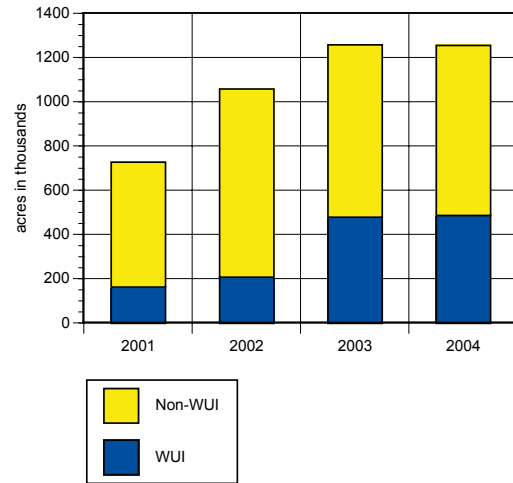
Federal agencies have provided assistance to 7,731 rural and volunteer fire departments through grants, training, supplies, equipment, and public education support. These agencies have also sponsored 14 national and 500 community Firewise workshops to increase awareness about wildland fire prevention and management.

## End Outcome Goal 1: Protect Lives, Resources, and Property

Interior has improved its ability to protect lives, resources, and property from the ravages of wildland fires. We had a 97% success rate in containing unwanted wildfires on initial attack during the 2003 fire season. During the 2004 fire season, our success rate was 97%, exceeding our target of 95%. *Figure 1-11* shows upward trending hazardous fuels treatment data on wildland urban interface (WUI) and non-WUI areas. Interior exceeded its FY 2004 fuels targets because of four interdependent factors: four years of capacity-building, advance planning that created a large number of on-the-shelf projects, a below normal fire season in the lower 48 States that enhanced personnel availability, and generally favorable weather conditions for fuels treatments.

The United States is also subject to a variety of natural hazards (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and landslides) that can result in considerable human suffering and billions of dollars in property and

**FIGURE 1-11**  
Hazardous Fuels Treatment: National Fire Plan



business losses. The occurrence of these hazardous events is inevitable and uncontrollable. However, the extent of damage and loss of life can be reduced through preventative planning; social, economic, and engineering adaptations; provision of real-time

### Scientists and Mount St. Helens: Monitoring a Restless Earth

In the fall of 2004, USGS scientists monitored the eruption of Mount St. Helens in Washington State. Seismic unrest at the volcano (whose American Indian name means "smoking mountain") began on September 23. Activity ramped up quickly, and the first steam and ash explosion occurred on October 1. USGS scientists quickly expanded monitoring networks and issued appropriate warnings of the potential dangers of an eruption to the U.S. Forest Service, State emergency management officials, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Washington Volcanic Ash Advisory Center, and nearby residents. They provided the continuous updates and information needed to protect people and aircraft from hazardous situations, as the volcano produced periodic steam and ash explosions that sent ash as high as 10,000 feet, accompanied by persistent seismic unrest. Mount St. Helens is one of several potentially active volcanic peaks in the Pacific Northwest Cascade Range. Its 1980 eruptions marked the reawakening of a relatively young (40,000 years) volcano that had been dormant since 1857. One major hazard posed by eruptions at Mount St. Helens is that ash clouds could affect air traffic and operations at nearby airports in Portland and Seattle.



warning capabilities; and more effective post-event emergency response. The more precisely we can define risks, the greater the likelihood that appropriate mitigation strategies will be adopted (e.g., building codes for new construction and retrofitting; land-use plans; local zoning regulations; and design and location/routing of critical infrastructure such as highways, bridges, subways, water and sewer lines, gas lines, electric lines, and petroleum-distribution networks). The sooner information reaches emergency response centers, the sooner teams can be dispatched to resolve time-sensitive medical, utility, or infrastructure problems. Our programs are designed to produce information and understanding that will reduce the impacts that natural hazards and disasters on human life and the economy. In FY 2004, 43.2% of communities in the United States used Interior science related to hazard mitigation,

preparedness, and avoidance to assist in preparing for and mitigating hazard events. These communities reported that 98% of the information provided met their needs and/or helped achieve the goal of reduced risk. Ninety-eight percent of those surveyed reported satisfaction with the adequacy of our science base for their decision-making regarding the hazards for which we gather data.

## End Outcome Goal 2: Advance Knowledge Through Scientific Leadership

Science is the cornerstone of Interior's land management decisions, supporting work to achieve resource protection, resource use, recreation, and serving community goals. We provide scientific assessments and information on the quality and quantity of our Nation's water resources. We collect, process, integrate, archive, and provide access to geospatial and

### Fire Break Protects Utah Community

It's a tragic story, one heard all too frequently during recent fire seasons: wildfire sweeps through a community. Homes are destroyed and with them the family treasures of those who fled. Sometimes lives are lost.

That could have been the story of the small southwestern Utah town of Central had it not been for the combined efforts of the community working with State and Federal agencies to prepare for the possibility of wildland fire. At about 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 12, lightning ignited the Cal Hollow Fire in pinyon and juniper woodland northwest of the town. On this hot, windy summer afternoon fire swept through the trees, hot embers blew in the wind, and the fire headed straight for the town. At 6:00 p.m. more than 100 households were evacuated.



This story could have ended in misfortune, but this town was surrounded by a fuel break—a fuel break that was built as a cooperative effort by the people of Central and several State and Federal agencies as part of President Bush's Healthy Forests Initiative using National Fire Plan dollars. The fuel break slowed down the raging fire, giving firefighters the time they needed to avert disaster. By 10:00 p.m., the fire had been contained and residents returned to their homes. No one was hurt. No structures were lost.

Creation of fuel breaks accelerated as part of the Healthy Forests Initiative. In 2002, several communities were identified for pilot testing the use of streamlined environmental analysis to meet urgent needs for fuel reduction. Because Central was one of the top 10 "communities at risk" for wildfire in Utah, it made an excellent choice for a demonstration project. Like many wildland-urban-interface (WUI) communities, Central has State, private, BLM, and Forest Service land surrounding it. In order to buffer the community from wildland fires, all of these groups worked as a team under a chartered organization called The Color Country Fuels and Wildland-Urban Interface Committee. This team worked with the local community to remove brush and lop trees around their homes, creating a "fuels-free" barrier around structures. Many homeowners had to be convinced to support the approach—many people prefer to see dense woodland right up against the property boundary of their homes.

Addressing the State and Federal agency representatives who were present at an interview after the fire, Gerald Schiefer, assistant fire warden of Pine Valley, expressed appreciation, "Thank you for doing the fire break. It probably saved Central and it significantly slowed the fire. This allowed for defensive action for the homes . . . even though there was a good wind, until the air drops could be made. You guys are our heroes."

natural resource data. We conduct multi-purpose natural science research to promote understanding of earth processes—processes vital to resource use, as well as resource protection. We provide these data to decision-makers within Federal, State, and local government agencies, as well as local communities, so that leaders and managers can make informed decisions on land and resource management.

In FY 2004, Interior’s principal science bureau, the USGS, expanded its information base by providing temporal and spatial monitoring, research, and assessment/data coverage to meet land use planning and monitoring requirements for 54.66% of the surface area of the United States, against a target of 45.91%. It improved access to this information, providing 90% of decision-makers with science data needed to make informed decisions, meeting our target. Ninety-three percent reported that these data helped them achieve their management goals. USGS validated 100% of these studies through appropriate peer or independent review to ensure accuracy and reliability of the research, against a target of 100%.

### End Outcome Goals 3 and 4: Fulfill Indian Fiduciary Trust Responsibilities and Advance Quality Communities for Tribes and Alaska Natives

Interior works with 562 federally recognized Tribes and a service population of approximately 1.5 million American Indians and Alaska Natives to help them protect their land and natural resources, to fulfill our trust obligations and to help create the infrastructure and educational opportunities that build strong communities. At the outset of FY 2004, we provided services to elementary and secondary school populations of about 48,000 Indian students while protecting millions of cultural and historic resources on Federal and Indian Lands.

In FY 2004, we discharged these responsibilities by:

- Creating 1,719 jobs for American Indians and Alaska Natives using capital provided by Interior loans, against a target of 1,300 jobs, and at a cost of \$1,799 per job, against a target of \$4,400.
- Reporting an attendance rate of children in grades 1-12 as 87.18%, against a target of 92%.

- Ensuring that 48% of BIA school children were able to read independently by the 3rd grade, against a target of 52%.
- Achieving parity between the Tribal community and U.S. rural area national average on high school graduation at 80%, exceeding our target of 78%.

Interior manages approximately 56 million acres of Indian trust land. An estimated 10 million acres belong to individual Indians, while nearly 46 million acres are held in trust for Indian Tribes. On these lands, Interior manages over 100,000 leases for individual Indians and Tribes. Leasing revenues, use permit fees, land sale revenues, and interest income totaling approximately \$205 million in FY 2004 were collected for approximately 266,000 open Individual Indian Money accounts. In FY 2004, about \$378 million was collected in 1,400 Tribal accounts for 300 Tribes. In addition, the trust manages approximately \$3 billion in Tribal funds and \$414 million in individual Indian funds.

#### BIA “Green” School Recognized

In April 2004, the U.S. Green Building Council awarded the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Baca/Dlo’ay azhi Community School Project of Prewitt, New Mexico, with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) designation. The LEED designation raises consumer awareness in the benefits of green buildings and recognizes leaders of the environmentally-sensitive building design industry. The Baca/Dlo’ay azhi Community School is the first LEED certified building in the State of New Mexico. Several sustainable design features, in addition to Navajo cultural elements, were incorporated into the innovative, energy-efficient school.





We recognize the challenges of our Indian fiduciary trust responsibilities. We have made a number of changes to improve how we manage trust assets. In FY 2003, we reorganized the BIA and the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians so that our organizational structure could better focus on its critical fiduciary trust duties. We are also improving the management of approximately 266,000 open Individual Indian Money account assets.

In FY 2004, we improved our timeliness in providing financial account information, providing timely information 97% of the time against a target of 100%. Additional efforts are underway to ensure we meet our 100% accuracy target in FY 2005.

### **End Outcome Goal 5: Increase Economic Self-Sufficiency of Insular Areas**

Along with serving communities of American Indians and Alaska Natives, the Department of the Interior coordinates Federal policy with respect to the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. We also oversee Federal programs and funding in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. We provide financial and technical assistance and promote appropriate Federal policies to help the islands develop more efficient and effective government. We helped increase the economic self-sufficiency of insular areas in FY 2004 by taking actions to realize a ratio of Federal revenue to total revenues in insular areas of 0.26, against a target of 0.25. We also realized a ratio of 0.76 private sector jobs to total employment, against a target of 0.70, to help increase economic development in the insular areas.

## Achieving Law Enforcement Excellence

Interior's law enforcement, security, and emergency management activities are critical to successfully managing and protecting public lands, resources, visitors, and employees, as well as surrounding communities. Interior is in its second year of reforming its law enforcement activities, responding to 25 specific areas of improvement identified by a 2002 Inspector General report and mandated for reform by the Secretary of the Interior. Interior is making strategic investments in its law enforcement and security programs, improving its oversight of related budgets, and assuring accountability through effective performance goals and measures.



The law enforcement, security, and emergency management functions of the Department are integrated through an extensive information sharing and analysis program. Electronic connectivity has been established between the Department's 24-hour Watch Office and the intelligence, law enforcement, and homeland security communities. A secure collaborative internet-based workspace has been created to enhance information sharing throughout the Department. Regularly scheduled intelligence briefings are being provided to key leadership to improve their situational awareness and support decision-making.

A noteworthy improvement is IMARS—Interior's Incident Management, Analysis and Reporting System. IMARS will be developed as a single, Web-based system to be used by all Interior offices and bureaus with law enforcement responsibilities to record and manage information relating to incidents on Interior lands. Not only is the system concept the first of its kind within the Department, it is also the first system to integrate incident information collection and performance reporting for all law enforcement programs within one Federal Department.

Interior is playing a significant role in carrying out the National Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Program. We must provide for the safety and security of the employees, visitors, facilities, and key resources we manage in accordance with procedures developed collaboratively with the Department of Homeland Security. Recent efforts have focused on improving security at priority dam locations. Additionally, as part of our responsibilities under the CIP Program, we are working to protect our Nation's national monuments and icons, in cooperation with Federal, State, local, and private partners.

With more than 1,200 linear miles of borderland under Interior's jurisdiction, we face challenges in safeguarding our Nations's natural, cultural, recreational, and heritage resources from risks associated with continuing illegal activities along the border. Interior is working closely with the Department of Homeland Security to protect employees, visitors, cultural and natural resources, and facilities through increased law enforcement security staffing at the most at-risk locations.

We are also working to improve Interior's response, through the President's National Response Plan (NRP), to any type of emergency—man-made or natural. The Department will provide support to nine "Emergency Support Functions" under the Department of Homeland Security's new NRP; we also have primary responsibility under this plan for developing interagency guidance related to the protection of natural and cultural resources during emergencies, as well as emergency response on tribal lands and the Insular Areas. Another major emergency management initiative is the testing and evaluation of Continuity of Operations (COO) and Continuity of Government (COG) plans, which will lead to a revision of Departmental guidance and plans to enhance our capability to carry out essential functions during emergencies and other situations that disrupt normal operations.

TABLE 1-7

Mission Area 4: Serving Communities Performance and Resource Scorecard				
End Outcome Goal	Number of Measures Met	Number of Unmet Measures	Number of Measures Containing Estimated or No Reports	Costs (in millions)
Goal #1: Protect Lives, Resources, and Property	18	2	5	\$2,305
Goal #2: Advance Knowledge Through Scientific Leadership and Inform Decisions Through the Applications of Science	5	1	0	\$959
Goal #3: Fulfill Indian Fiduciary Trust Responsibilities	21	9	2	\$773
Goal #4: Advance Quality Communities for Tribes and Alaska Natives	12	5	3	\$2,402
Goal #5: Increase Economic Self-Sufficiency of Insular Areas	3	0	0	\$342
Total	59	17	10	\$6,781
Percentage (Total of 86 Measures)	68%	20%	12%	

