

§ 1000.353

25 CFR Ch. VI (4-1-06 Edition)

property, assets, or claims, and any intangible right or interest in any of the foregoing;

(2) Any other property, asset, or interest therein, or treaty right for which the United States is charged with a trust responsibility. For example, water rights and off-reservation treaty rights.

(c) This definition defines trust resources for purposes of the trust evaluation process only.

§ 1000.353 What are “trust functions” for the purposes of the trust evaluation process?

Trust functions are those programs necessary to the management of assets held in trust by the United States for an Indian Tribe or individual Indian.

ANNUAL TRUST EVALUATIONS

§ 1000.354 What is a trust evaluation?

A trust evaluation is an annual review and evaluation of trust functions performed by a Tribe/Consortium to ensure that the functions are performed in accordance with trust standards as defined by Federal law. Trust evaluations address trust functions performed by the Tribe/Consortium on its own behalf as well as trust functions performed by the Tribe/Consortium for the benefit of individual Indians or Alaska Natives.

§ 1000.355 How are trust evaluations conducted?

(a) Each year the Secretary’s designated representative(s) will conduct trust evaluations for each self-governance AFA. The Secretary’s designated representative(s) will coordinate with the designated Tribe’s/Consortium’s representative(s) throughout the review process, including the written report required by § 1000.365.

(b) This section describes the general framework for trust reviews. However, each Tribe/Consortium may develop, with the appropriate bureau, an individualized trust evaluation process to allow for the Tribe’s/Consortium’s unique history and circumstances and the terms and conditions of its AFA. An individualized trust evaluation process must, at a minimum, contain

the measures in paragraph (d) of this section.

(c) To facilitate the review process so as to mitigate costs and maximize efficiency, each Tribe/Consortium must provide access to all records, plans, and other pertinent documents relevant to the program(s) under review not otherwise available to the Department.

(d) The Secretary’s designated representative(s) will:

- (1) Review trust transactions;
- (2) Conduct on-site inspections of trust resources, as appropriate;
- (3) Review compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements;
- (4) Review compliance with the trust provisions of the AFA;
- (5) Ensure that the same level of trust services is provided to individual Indians as would have been provided by the Secretary;
- (6) Document deficiencies in the performance of trust functions discovered during the review process; and
- (7) Ensure the fulfillment of the Secretary’s trust responsibility to Tribes and individual Indians by documenting the existence of:
 - (i) Systems of internal controls;
 - (ii) Trust standards; and
 - (iii) Safeguards against conflicts of interest in the performance of trust functions.

(e) At the request of a Tribe/Consortium, at the time the AFA is negotiated, the standards will be negotiated, except where standards are otherwise provided for by law.

§ 1000.356 May the trust evaluation process be used for additional reviews?

Yes, if the parties agree.

§ 1000.357 May the parties negotiate standards of review for purposes of the trust evaluation?

Yes, unless standards are otherwise provided by Federal treaties, statutes, case law or regulations not waived, the Secretary’s designated representative will negotiate standards of review at the request of the Tribe/Consortium.