

Mission Area Four

Serving Communities

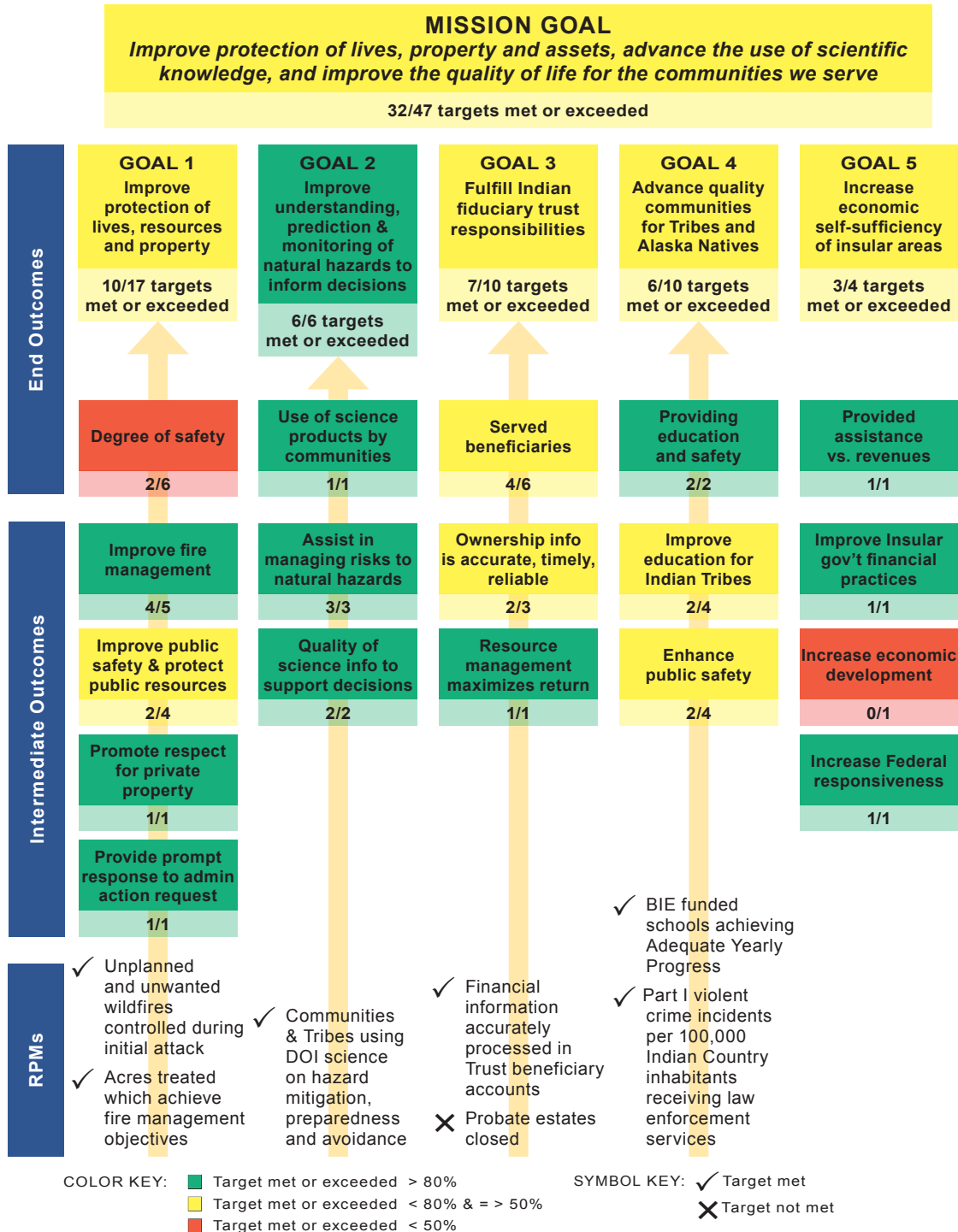
The American public is the direct beneficiary of the Department of the Interior's (DOI's) focus in serving communities.

- ◆ Wildland fire measures deal with the effect of fire and fuel treatments on communities that are located near or adjacent to DOI lands. The Office of Wildland Fire Coordination monitors initial attack effectiveness and how many acres of land can be treated through fuel reduction so catastrophic fires are less likely to occur. These efforts directly increase the safety of residents who live in those areas.
- ◆ The Department's science bureau, USGS, offers technical assistance and advice to State and local communities that could be affected by natural hazards. The information they provide helps these localities at risk to develop emergency evacuation procedures, update city emergency plans, and look for ways disasters can be mitigated through advance planning.
- ◆ Indian tribes are benefited by Interior's funding for Indian schools that serve 42,000 American Indian children.
- ◆ Law enforcement on tribal and public lands is important to better ensure the safety of Indian communities and those visiting Interior lands.
- ◆ The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians has undertaken an update of century-old trust recordkeeping so that Indian beneficiaries have confidence in the accounting and are promptly and accurately paid.

FIGURE 1-29

SERVING COMMUNITIES

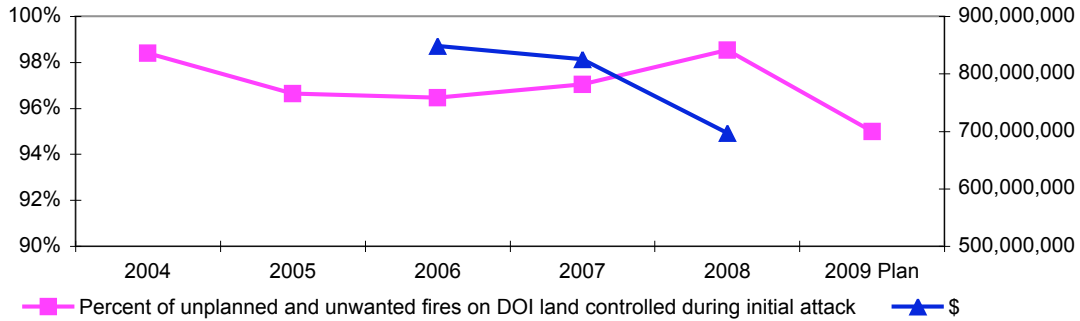
DOI works to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve. The Department conducts different types of activities under this Mission Area, from unplanned wildland fires to Interior’s Indian fiduciary trust responsibilities to reducing the impact of natural hazards on people and property through scientific research. A whole range of performance measures track how the Department is advancing the quality of life for American Indians and Alaska Natives—measures that assess our work in the arenas of education, public safety through crime control, and financial accountability.



Percent of unplanned and unwanted wildfires on DOI land controlled during initial attack

FIGURE 1-30

Performance vs. Funding



ID #788	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 Plan
Target	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%
Performance	98%	97%	96%	97%	99%	
Fires controlled during initial attack	5,852	2,325	9,790	7,968	5,693	9,021
Total fire ignitions	5,947	2,406	10,149	8,212	5,778	9,496
\$	Not Available		847,893,380	825,011,119	696,721,227	TBD

Snapshot: The program achieved its highest level of performance in 2008, and also recorded a lower level of expense.

Bottom Line: The program achieved its highest level of initial attack performance in 2008, and also recorded a lower level of expense. At the same time, the Department achieved 37,706 acres of wildland fire use.

Status: Positive Performance.

Public Benefit: Increased safety for residents who live in communities located near or adjacent to DOI lands, and protection of public forest resources.

Firefighting in the United States is a cooperative and interagency effort. Under the National Fire Plan (NFP), Department of Agriculture Forest Service and DOI work collaboratively to provide seamless wildland fire protection. DOI fire management activities are performed by four bureaus: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Park Service (NPS) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Interior’s Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC) oversees their efforts.

In 2008, the Department realigned resources to enhance the efficiency of initial attacks. While the performance target was exceeded in 2008, in 2009 the goal is to maintain the necessary resources to balance initial attack success against other goals. OWFC will focus on increasing efficiency, oversight and support. Some adjacent units may share initial response resources, thereby freeing resources to be relocated or eliminated. In addition, management, oversight, and support positions will be shared on a zone basis in some parts of the Country. The lesser severity of the fire season in FY 2008 contributed to lower costs.

Programs Supporting This Measure

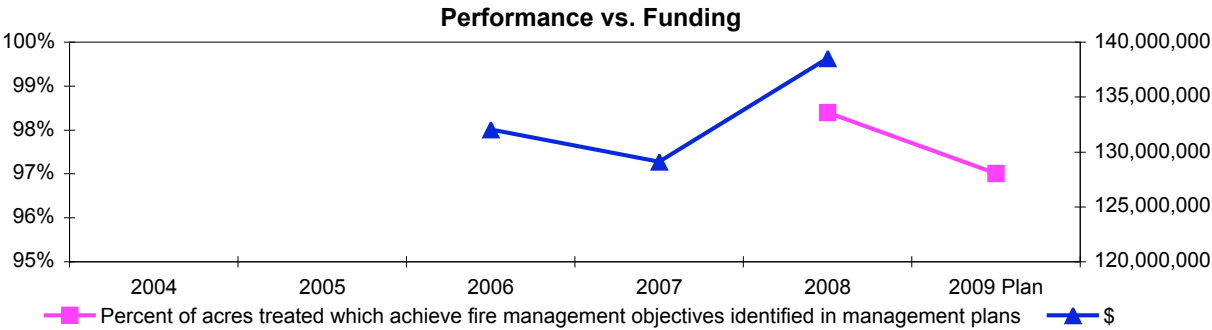
DOI Wildland Fire Management



Mission Area Four: Serving Communities

Percent of acres which achieve fire management objectives as identified in applicable management plans

FIGURE 1-31



ID #1540	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 Plan
Target				90%	75%	97%
Performance				Baselined	98%	
Treated acres achieving fire management objectives	Baselined in 2007				1,239,740	1,015,000
Total acres treated	Baselined in 2007				1,260,035	1,050,000
\$	Not Available		132,009,662	129,068,455	138,521,208	TBD

Snapshot: Performance planned to be in the upper 90th percent range based on 2007 and 2008 experience.

Bottom Line: Progress continues on treating the highest priority WUI acres, the areas of greatest risk which are closest to populated areas. These acres tend to be more expensive on a cost-per-acre basis, as they require more manual treatment.

Status: Challenged Performance, dues to increasing costs and level performance.

Public Benefit: Treatment of acres in the WUI areas reduce the risks of catastrophic wildland fire to people, communities, and natural resources.

Long-term drought and the expansion of the WUI are heightening danger to populated communities from catastrophic wildland fires, so these acres are being given priority for fuel reduction treatments. The goal of treatments is to change fuel conditions by removing or modifying buildup of flammable underbrush in forests and woodlands and reducing threats from flammable invasive species on rangelands.

In FY 2008 and 2009, a portion of funds are being allocated based on the Ecosystem Management Decision Support (EMDS) system developed by the U.S. Forest Service. EMDS ensures that the acres at greatest risk are identified and the projects selected provide the highest level of risk mitigation and environmental benefits. The success of this program will be based on the effectiveness of pinpointing the right areas to treat to reduce the fire risk.



Programs Supporting This Measure
 DOI Wildland Fire Management

Rx: Prescribed Burn

National Fire Plan—Fuels Reduction 2008

Giant sequoias are fire adapted and thrive in a natural fire cycle. They have a thick, fire resistant bark. Fire opens the cones and releases the tiny seeds to the nutrient rich ash and mineral soil below, ideal conditions for this tree's germination. Fire thins competing vegetation and trees and opens the canopy for this sun-loving species.

As a restoration burn, fire was reintroduced in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks after more than 100 years of fire exclusion. Scientists measured 100 tons of dead fuel per acre prior to the burn. Postburn measurements showed fuel reduced by 90 percent. This dramatically limits the size and severity of potential wildfires and returns the area to a more natural state.

The dramatic reduction in dead fuels is typical of park-managed fires in this vegetation community over the past 45 years. Carefully managed ignition patterns and rates combined with carefully defined burning conditions result in acceptable smoke transport, significant fuel reduction, and beneficial ecological effects.



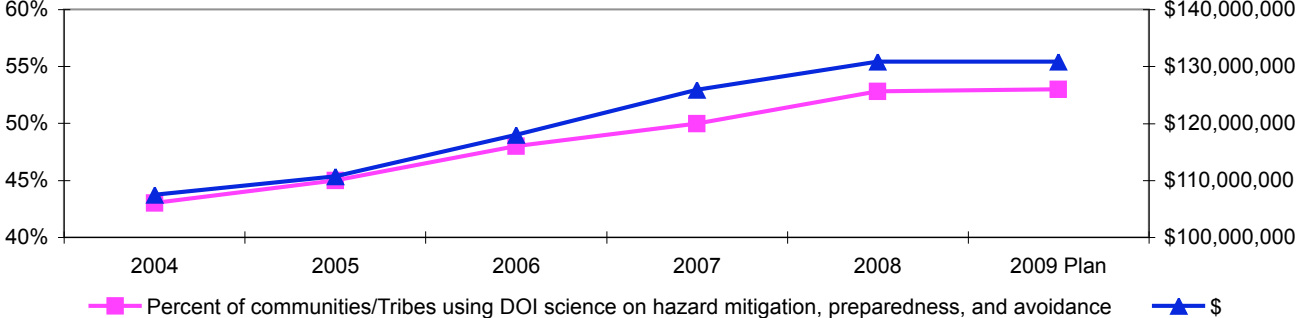
*Sequoia & Kings Canyon
National Parks, California*

Mission Area Four: Serving Communities

Percent of communities/tribes using DOI science on hazard mitigation, preparedness and avoidance for each hazard management activity

FIGURE 1-32

Performance vs. Funding



ID #446	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 Plan
Target	37%	46%	48%	51%	53%	53%
Performance	43%	45%	48%	50%	53%	
\$	107,436,102	110,733,990	118,005,777	125,913,313	130,869,528	130,869,528

Snapshot: Performance is rising along with funding spent. Performance is up 3 percent from last year and projected to remain at 53 percent in FY 2009.

Bottom Line: The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) continues to provide quality products for the benefit of communities that are vulnerable to natural hazards. Dollars have gone up commensurate with the work USGS undertakes during the year, not only through delivery of studies, but also through expansion of the size and accuracy of modern hazard networks through placement of additional sensors and real-time communications.

Status: Sustained Performance.

Public Benefit: Scientific research and monitoring provides the understanding that local communities need to reduce the impact of potential natural hazards. USGS helps communities develop emergency evacuation plans, update city emergency plans, and look for ways the effects of natural disasters can be mitigated through advance planning.

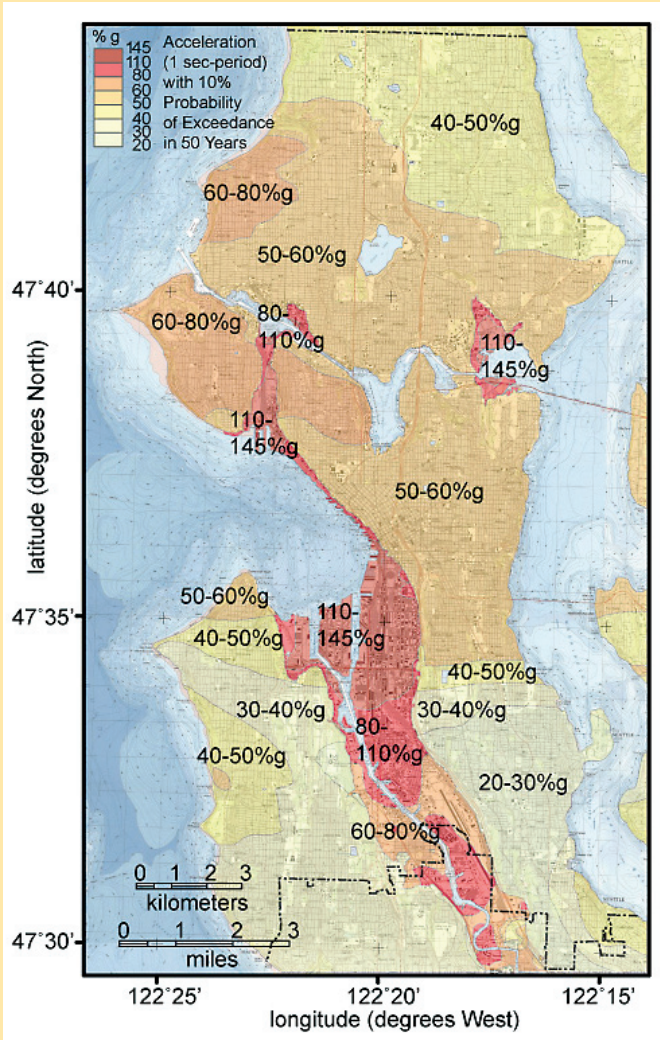
USGS protects communities by providing information that can significantly reduce the vulnerability of millions of people most at risk from natural hazards. Performance is tracked by the average percent of at-risk communities which use USGS science products to mitigate, prepare for, or avoid volcano eruptions, earthquakes, landslide, or geomagnetic storm activity. Communities adopt mitigation strategies—building codes for new construction and retrofitting; land-use plans; design and location of critical infrastructure, such as highways, bridges, subways, water, sewer, gas, electric, and petroleum-distribution networks—based on information supplied by USGS.

Target: 53%
Actual: 53%
GOAL MET

In 2008, the USGS released the next-generation national seismic hazard maps and engineering design maps

for use in construction engineering standards for existing buildings developed by the American Society of Civil Engineers. In 2009, USGS will use these hazard maps to produce a uniform hazard spectra for a broad range of structures and maps that portray the degree of certainty and resolution of seismic hazard estimates nationwide. In May 2008, the USGS Multi-Hazards Demonstration Project released a scenario describing the expected impacts that a magnitude-7.8 earthquake on the Southern San Andreas Fault would have on southern California and the Nation. Information in the scenario is used to reduce lifeline vulnerability, retrofit critical structures, improve monitoring systems, plan emergency response, and educate our citizens. Also, USGS and its partners delivered

Programs Supporting This Measure
 USGS Geologic Hazards Assessment



Earthquake Hazard Maps for Seattle

Seattle sits atop a sedimentary basin that strongly affects the patterns of earthquake ground shaking. The City has completed a study of the unreinforced masonry buildings which failed during the 1949, 1965, and 2001 earthquakes in Puget Sound. The study identified nearly 1,000 unreinforced masonry buildings, including a public high school, that are at very high risk in the next earthquake.

The Seattle Urban Seismic Hazard maps, developed by USGS, are being used to provide the basis for a major local policy decision. Because only about 15 percent of masonry buildings have been seismically retrofitted, the City is using the new study to prioritize the work that needs to be done to ensure public safety.

The maps are *probabilistic*—that is, they portray the ground shaking with a certain probability of occurring—and provide a much higher-resolution view of the potential for strong earthquake shaking than previously available. The maps supply critical information for our cities with high earthquake hazards and risks.

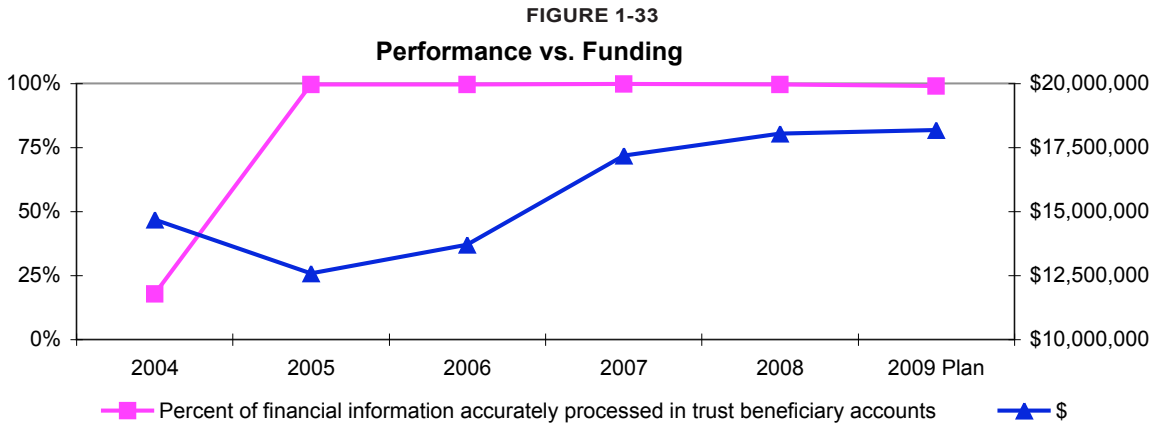
the first Statewide earthquake rupture forecast model for California and installed a cumulative total of 805 Advanced National Seismic System earthquake monitoring stations. In FY 2009, the plan is to install an additional 17 sensors and to operate and maintain the installed system.

The long-term goal for the Volcano Hazards Program (VHP) is to provide hazard assessments for all dangerous volcanoes and to establish community response plans. In 2008, a geologic map of Crater Lake National Park and a hazard assessment of Gareloi Volcano in Alaska was completed. Assessment of Mount Lassen and geologic maps for Mount Hood in Oregon and Glacier Peak in Washington will be completed in

2009. The VHP aims at a total of 75 systematic analyses, including reports, maps, and hazard assessments, delivered to the public in 2009.

The Landslide Hazard Program (LHP) assesses, monitors and disseminates information on the causes and mechanisms of ground failure, deploying near real time monitoring systems at sites in California near Yosemite National Park and in Oregon. With 1,800 at-risk communities, the program prioritizes work in areas where the hazard is the greatest and where the most help can be leveraged from partnerships. In 2008 and continuing through 2009, LHP will provide landslide assessments for areas burned by the extensive rash of California wildfires.

Percent of financial information accurately processed in trust beneficiary accounts



ID #322	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 Plan
Target	26.67%	97.00%	98.00%	98.00%	98.00%	99.00%
Performance	17.76%	99.69%	99.70%	99.76%	99.54%	
Number of financial transactions accurately processed (manually)	43,438	1,248,600	1,656,841	2,005,251	1,190,517	1,188,000
Total financial transactions processed (manually)	244,559	1,252,488	1,661,781	2,010,103	1,196,003	1,200,000
\$	14,679,497	12,574,349	13,695,762	17,178,852	18,035,325	18,187,529

Snapshot: Performance is at the top of the scale, around 99 percent. Funding levels have been rising, but some reengineering of processes should help to control costs.

Bottom Line: In 2009, more accounts are expected to be transferred to the automated system, leaving the more complicated transactions—probates and more involved special deposit account cleanup—to be handled manually. Contributing to the rise in cost is the impact of actions, such as trust reforms that affect processes, which take additional resources to integrate and stabilize. However, even given these factors, the high sustained performance is expected to continue with a fairly low funding level increase for FY 2009 over FY 2008. An A-76 study is planned for 2009 to determine the feasibility of reducing contracting costs.

Status: Challenged Performance, due to increased funding while performance remains steady.

Public Benefit: Trust income is promptly and accurately paid to Indian beneficiaries, generating local income that supports Indian communities.

Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) manages approximately \$3.4 billion held in trust for federally recognized Indian tribes, and individual Indian and Alaska Native beneficiaries. Trust income is generated from the sale or rental of Indian-owned land and/or natural resources for timber harvests, grazing, and royalties received from oil and natural gas exploration and production, to name a few revenue sources. Income is also derived from

interest earned on invested funds, as well as awards or settlements of tribal claims.

OST has overseen efforts to overhaul the trust’s accounting system, collect and safeguard its records, and consolidate trust software systems. This performance measure has tracked the success of initial financial data processing. Follow-up procedures address any remaining errors.





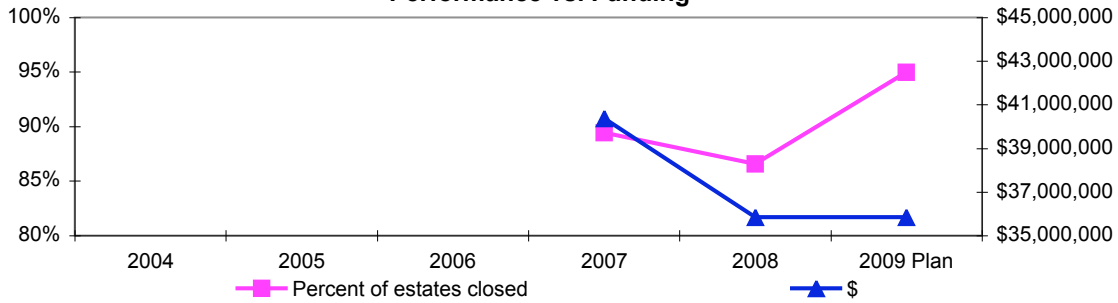
\$136,000 to Beneficiary

The BIA Agency had a person on the Top 100 Whereabouts Unknown (WAO) list for years. A non-Indian mother moved abroad with the beneficiary, then four years old, following the death of the enrolled father. For over 26 years, there was no contact between the beneficiary and the father's family—then the beneficiary contacted her uncle. Through this contact, she learned that OST had been searching for her. She called OST's Trust Beneficiary Call Center and, after her identity was confirmed, was able to claim the \$136,000 owed to her! Needless to say, the beneficiary was very excited and plans to come to the reservation to reconnect with her family and meet all of the Agency employees.

Probate: Percent of estates closed

FIGURE 1-34

Performance vs. Funding



ID #1553	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 Plan
Target				100%	95%	95%
Performance				89%	87%	
Number of eligible estates closed	New for 2007			9,312	8,938	4,275
Total number of estates				10,414	10,324	4,500
\$	Not Available			40,386,000	35,852,000	35,852,000

Snapshot: Performance declined to 87 percent this year, but is expected to increase in FY 2009.

Bottom Line: There are demonstrated inroads being made in eliminating the probate backlog. The program expects to distribute and close all remaining eligible backlog estates by the end of FY 2009.

Status: Challenged Performance, due to declining productivity and closure rate.

Public Benefit: Timely and accurate payments to beneficiaries are essential to economic development of Indian lands, a cornerstone of self-governance and self-sufficiency.

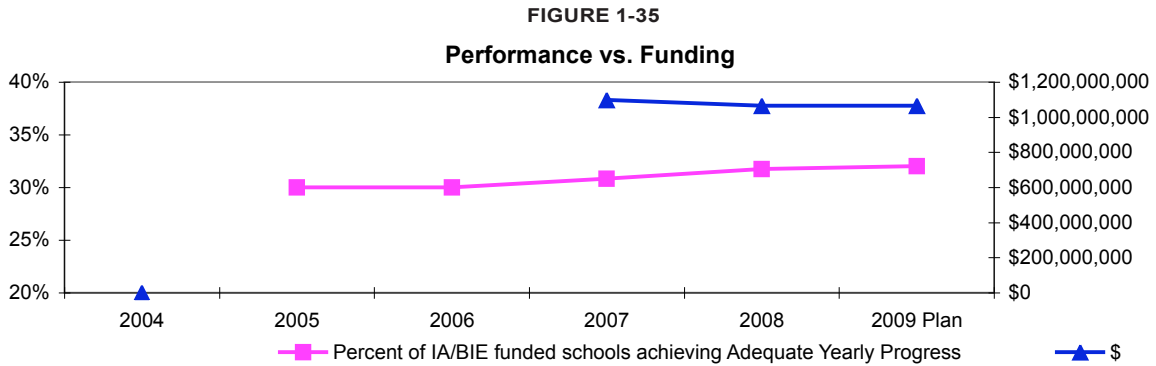
By the end of FY 2005, there were approximately 33,700 Indian estates in probate, 18,100 of which were over 5 years old. Concerted efforts to eliminate the excess caseload, combined with contractor assistance and new caseload management technologies, reduced the number of outstanding probates by half as of June 30, 2008.

Typically an estate is not considered closed until the assets have been disbursed to heirs or it is determined that no trust assets exist. It can take several years to close an estate, as more heirs inherit a continually smaller fractional share that is held with all other heirs as tenants in common.



Programs Supporting This Measure
BIA Realty and Trust

Percent of BIE funded schools achieving Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)



ID #1556	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 Plan
Target				34%	32%	32%
Performance		30%	30%	31%	32%	
Number of schools making AYP	New for 2005	51	51	53	54	55
Total number of schools		170	170	172	170	174
\$		Not Available		1,099,007,000	1,065,424,000	1,065,424,000

Snapshot: Performance shows an improvement of about 1 percent per year or an annual increase of about two more schools reaching AYP annually.

Bottom Line: Indian education continues to be an area of concern for the Department. Performance data for this measure lags by one year, as school years straddle two fiscal years and final performance results for the 2007/2008 school year are not available until December of 2008. FY 2008 performance data, therefore, represents results of the 2006-2007 school year.

Status: Challenged Performance, due to the length of time to realize changes in performance and the low level of achievement to date.

Public Benefit: Improved educational achievement in Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools benefits the children, the Indian community and creates a legacy for the future.

The No Child Left Behind Act established math and reading among the determining performance factors for success in schools nationwide, including those in the BIE school system. The overall measure of success, AYP is applied to BIE school facilities with academic programs.

While a sizeable improvement in AYP will take years to realize, there are signs of improvement in the 116 schools not yet reaching AYP. Thirty-six BIE schools improved in both math and reading, and another 26 schools improved in either math or reading.

A new plan was implemented in 2008 to address the challenge of meeting short-term AYP goals. BIE designated 14 “Focus Schools” to improve reading, which has the most significant impact on improving overall AYP scores. Three of those schools achieved AYP. Out of the 14 focus schools, 9 schools lost principals during the school year. This turnover impacts subsequent year course development and approval, hiring qualified staff, mission execution, and funding. An ongoing goal for FY 2009 will be to implement an effective management structure capable of improving academic outcomes.

Indian education continues to be a concern of the Department, as evidenced



Programs Supporting This Measure

BIA K-12 School Operations



Secretary Kempthorne kicks off BIE Reads

On the Way to AYP

Chief Leschi School, Puyallup, Washington

Chief Leschi School is one of the largest Native American schools in the country, with more than 700 Indian students representing nearly 60 different tribes, clans, and independent nations.

In 1997, Washington State implemented the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). Chief Leschi's scores were among the lowest in the State with 4th grade reading proficiency scores at 12.1 percent. Between 1997 and 2003, some changes were made to the instructional program that resulted in small gains in academic achievement, but the biggest change came when Chief Leschi School became a *Reading First* school.

With a clear focus on effective reading instruction grounded in scientific research and ongoing student progress monitoring, the school began to see dramatic changes. In 2004, Chief Leschi School's results on the WASL indicated 37 percent of 4th grade students proficient in reading. Now, after 4 years of the *Reading First* program, 68 percent of 4th graders are proficient.

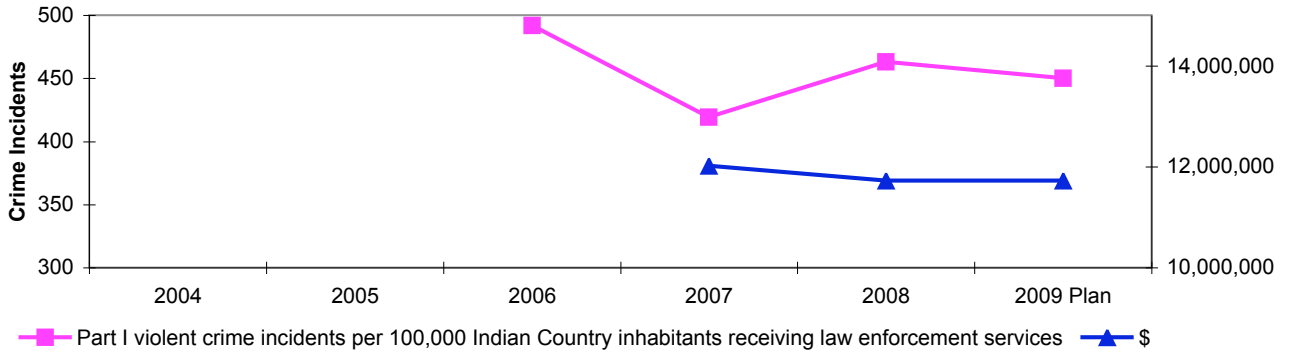
As a result of this success, the school administration decided to implement the *Reading First* model throughout the school in all grades (K–12). Chief Leschi School went from one of the lowest performing schools in the State of Washington to one of the highest performing, through its dedication to sound instructional and leadership principles. They have been recognized as a model school by the BIE and the State of Washington because of their success in increasing the number of students who can read at proficient levels.

by the Secretary's Improving Indian Education initiative. This initiative provided funding for training, mentoring, student transportation, management

and IT improvements to help increase student achievement.

Part I violent crime incidents per 100,000 Indian Country inhabitants receiving law enforcement services

FIGURE 1-36
Performance vs. Funding



ID #457	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 Plan
Target				492	492	450
Performance			492	419	463	
Number of violent crimes	New for 2006		6,050	5,157	5,698	5,535
Total number of inhabitants (100,000)	New for 2006		12.3	12.3	12.3	12.3
\$	Not Available			12,018,000	11,725,000	11,725,000

Snapshot: Increased performance would be illustrated by a downward trend in the number of crimes per capita over time. There was a marked drop in the FY 2007 crime rate that appears to rebound somewhat in 2008. A slight decline in the crime rate is projected for FY 2009 compared to 2008.

Bottom Line: As added attention is applied to law enforcement in Indian Country, two main factors will affect the change in performance levels: the time it takes to train and deploy the added workforce, and a possible initial spike in increased reporting of incidents. Initially, it appears that increases involve less serious crimes.

Status: Positive Performance.

Public Benefit: Safe communities bring stability and increase the quality of life for their citizens. Focus can be directed toward the future and opportunities for growth.

In 2008, Interior proposed the Safe Indian Communities initiative to help Indian Country deal with organized crime and foreign drug cartels. Cartels have taken advantage of the widely dispersed law enforcement presence on tribal lands to produce and distribute drugs, with the result that violent crime in some communities is 10 to 20 times the national average. The initiative will assist tribes, especially in suppressing production and trafficking of methamphetamine, the number one public safety

problem, according to many tribal leaders. Law enforcement staffing levels are being adjusted so they will be more on par with the national average for communities of like size (a ratio of 2.6 officers per 1,000 inhabitants).

IA expects it will be difficult to realize major reduction in violent crime in FY 2009, due to deteriorating economic conditions nationwide.

Programs Supporting This Measure

- BIA Law Enforcement
- BIA Tribal Courts



Dakota Peacekeeper

Straddling the common border of North and South Dakota is the 2 million acre Standing Rock Indian Reservation. The scenic tranquility of this reservation has been overshadowed by a rising crime rate that has escalated to alarming proportions. The area has been experiencing a crime rate about 6 times the national average, and 15 law enforcement officers could not manage a situation that was becoming increasingly lawless.

To combat the situation, the BIA initiated a tactical response known as *Dakota Peacekeeper*. For the past three months, Standing Rock has been saturated with patrol officers brought in from other jurisdictions on 1-month rotations. Three waves of additional officers have not only hit the streets but have also hit the schools to talk to children about the consequences of crime and gang involvement on their lives and on their community. *Dakota Peacekeeper* has focused on violent crime, domestic crimes, and crimes against children.

The result: Arrests have escalated from an average of 100 per month before the initiative to 700 the first month and 300 the next month. Further declines are expected in the third month of the operation. The effort has been extended and is likely to continue through the end of the year. The question is whether the surge of policing will result in a permanent reduction in crime.

