

Program Evaluations

Program evaluations are an important tool in analyzing the effectiveness and efficiency of Interior's programs, and in evaluating whether the programs are meeting their intended objectives. Interior's programs are evaluated through a variety of means, including performance audits, the Program Assessment Rating Tool, financial audits, internal control reviews, and external reviews from Congress, the Office of Management and Budget, the Office of Inspector General, and other organizations, such as the National Academy of Public Administration and the National Academy of Sciences. Interior uses self-assessments to verify that performance information and measurement systems are accurate and support the Department's strategic direction and goals. Data collection and reporting processes are further reviewed and improved through the use of customer and internal surveys.

Examples of some of the program evaluations conducted for each Interior bureau during FY 2007 follow in Figure 2-8. PART reviews are reported with Performance-Budget Integration in Figure 1-62 of Management's Discussion and Analysis.

Copies of specific program reviews can be obtained by writing the Department of the Interior, Office of Planning and Performance Management, Mail Stop 5258, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240. Please be specific regarding the program review of interest.

FIGURE 2-8

Bureau	Title of Program	Strategic Plan Mission Area	Purpose of Program Evaluation	Actions Taken/Planned in Response to Evaluation	For Copy Contact
BIA	Boarding School Review	Serving Communities - Advance Quality Communities for Tribes and Alaska Natives	To determine if BIE had adequate policies and procedures/internal controls to ensure safety/welfare of BIE boarding school students.	BIE has taken and/or planned corrective actions in response to 42 recommended actions.	Michael Oliva, Director, Office of Internal Evaluation and Assessment, michael.oliva@bia.gov, 703-390-6537
BIA	FY 2007 Internal Control Review (ICR) of the GPRA Performance Management function	Resource Protection, Serving Communities, Management Excellence	To identify high risk areas within this function and test for material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. No material weaknesses or significant deficiencies were found during the review.	No action necessary.	Fawn Freeman, Director, Office of Planning & Policy Analysis, 703-390-6526
BLM	Engineering	Resource Use	To assess compliance with adherence with National Bridge Inspection Standards when conducting bridge inspection.	States to develop and action plan to address areas identified for improvement.	D. Williams (202) 452-7727
BLM	Noxious Weeds	Resource Protection	Evaluate effectiveness and efficiency of the Invasive Species & Noxious Weed Program.	Identified 31 recommendation to implement the program. State to develop corrective action plan.	D. Brown (202) 452-7738
BLM	Arizona Law Enforcement	Resource Protection	Assess compliance with Law Enforcement program requirements.	Developed recommendation on 17 topic areas. The Arizona State Director to report quarterly on progress.	K. Aller (202) 208-4819
BLM	Colorado Fire & Aviation	Resource Protection	Assess & improve operational preparedness of the fire management program.	Assigned six recommendation to Colorado State Director for implementation in FY 2007 & 2008.	L. Boody (202) 452-7742
BOR	Water Management Program; Dam Safety Program	Resource Use	Dam Safety program evaluations are an assessment of the overall effectiveness of the basic components of the Dam Safety Program (monitoring and surveillance; periodic reviews; and actions to reduce risk) and technical and administrative practices that support those components.	Dam Safety Program assessments are conducted annually as required by Reclamation Directive & Standards. In accordance with Reclamation Manual, Policy FAC P02, "Decisions Related to Dam Safety Issues," a decision document is prepared to formally respond to Safety of Dams recommendations. In FY06, 85 decision documents were written, compared to 98 in FY05. This resulted in an 18 percent decrease in the number of incomplete Safety of Dam recommendations (from 414 to 341), even though 49 new recommendations were added. Action plans for improving performance were developed. These action plans addressed follow-up actions for enhancing project beneficiary involvement; integrating performance results into budget requests; tracking and accomplish performance targets; evaluating the National Research Council's Report as it relates to the Safety of Dam Program.	Keith Clark, Business Analysis Division, Management Services Office, Denver, BOR (303) 445-2756
BOR	Water Management Program: Value Engineering/Value Study	Resource Use	To ensure realistic budgets, identify and remove nonessential capital and operating costs, and improve and maintain optimum quality of program and acquisition functions per OMB Circular A-131; Departmental Manual Part 369 (369 DM 1); and P.L 104-106	In FY2006, the Value Engineering Program identified cost savings (\$8 M) and cost avoidance(\$35M) actions associated with 44 contracts. This resulted in return on investment of \$56.52 for every \$1 invested in Value Program.	Keith Clark, Business Analysis Division, Management Services Office, Denver, BOR (303) 445-2756
BOR	Hydropower	Resource Use	The purpose of the evaluation is to assess the effectiveness of Power O&M Program and practices to ensure Reclamation's Powerplants are operating effectively and efficiently per requirements of the Directive & Standards FAC 04-01.	In FY 2006 and FY 2007, Comprehensive Facility Reviews were conducted in 12 Hydropower facilities. The PRO&M identified opportunities to improve Power O&M and management practices.	Keith Clark, Business Analysis Division, Management Services Office, Denver, BOR (303) 445-2756

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FWS	USDA Conservation Programs: Stakeholder Views on Participation and Coordination to Benefit Threatened and Endangered Species and Their Habitats, GAO-07-35, November 15, 2006	Resource Protection	The report recommends that NRCS and FWS work with AFWA to enhance coordination at USDA's and FWS's local and State offices to benefit endangered, threatened, and at-risk species, and to include FSA as an additional partner in coordinating these activities.	Implement a national monitoring and reporting system for tracking coordination progress, annual meetings of agency contacts to review performance and provide recommendations, and regular progress reports of agency heads.	www.gao.gov
FWS	Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service: Migratory Bird Hunting; Regulations on Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 2006-07 Late Season, GAO-07-122R, October 16, 2006	Resource Protection	The GAO review indicates that the Service complied with the procedural steps required by section 801(a)(1)(B)(i) through (iv) of title 5 with respect to the major rule entitled "Migratory Bird Hunting; Regulations on Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 2006-07 Late Season."	No actions are planned or have been taken in response to this review.	www.gao.gov
FWS	Opportunities Remain to Improve Oversight and Management of Oil and Gas Activities on National Wildlife Refuges, GAO-07-829R June 29, 2007	Resource Protection Resource Use	This report (GAO-07-829R), referencing an earlier report (GAO-03-17), states that the GAO still considers most of the elements of the first report open except for Element A3 pertaining to training.	The Service has made efforts to complete all the recommendations (A1 through B2) of the GAO, such as evaluating ways to collect better data (A1); conducting a staffing assessment (A2); working on guidance for land acquisition (A4); and working with the Solicitor to determine existing authorities (B1). Relative to the last element (B2), FWS is considering proposing legislation that would give the Refuge System authority to collect fees to cover the costs of permitting oil and gas activities on refuges.	www.gao.gov
FWS	FY2007 Annual Assurance Statement on Internal Control	Resource Protection Resource Use - Endangered Species	Review was completed by July 19, 2007. No material weaknesses were found in the design or operation of the internal controls.	No action necessary.	Bryan Arroyo, Acting Assistant Director, Endangered Species, Bryan_Arroyo@fws.gov, 202-208-4646
FWS	FY 2007 Internal Control Review (ICR) Self-Assessment Certification (ECOS)	Resource Protection Resource Use - Endangered Species	No material weaknesses were identified from the IT system security assessments that were conducted of the Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS) and all associated applications.	No action necessary.	Bryan Arroyo, Acting Assistant Director, Endangered Species, Bryan_Arroyo@fws.gov, 202-208-4646
FWS	FY 2007 Risk Assessment for Improper Payments	Resource Protection Resource Use - Endangered Species	No significant weaknesses were found regarding payments through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF) or the use of Endangered Species – Resource Management funds.	No action necessary.	Bryan Arroyo, Acting Assistant Director, Endangered Species, Bryan_Arroyo@fws.gov, 202-208-4646

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FWS	Review of management and operations	Resource Protection, Sustain Biological Communities - Office of Law Enforcement	OIG report was issued in February 2007. 12 recommendations issued.	Nine of the 12 recommendations have been implemented; the remaining three will be completed during FY 2008.	Benito A. Perez, Acting Chief, Office of Law Enforcement Benito_Perez@fws.gov 202-208-3809
FWS	PART Re-assessment 2007	Resource Protection, Recreation, Serving Communities, Management Excellence - National Wildlife Refuge System	Re-assessment was completed in June 2007. NWRS score improved from "Results Not Demonstrated" to "Adequate."	New performance measures and improvement plan were developed for next PART re-assessment.	Geoff Haskett, Assistant Director, National Wildlife Refuge System, geoff_haskett@fws.gov, 202-208-5333
FWS	Independent Evaluation by Management Systems International	Resource Protection, Recreation, Serving Communities, Management Excellence - National Wildlife Refuge System	Evaluation was completed by September 2007.	A variety of recommendations will be implemented by NWRS divisions over the coming year.	Geoff Haskett, Assistant Director, National Wildlife Refuge System, geoff_haskett@fws.gov, 202-208-5333
MMS	Internal Administrative Management Assistance Review (AMAR) of the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Region and the Southern Administrative Service Center (SASC) in New Orleans, Louisiana	Management Excellence	The AMAR (1) assessed the effectiveness of administrative functions, including those delegated to the programs, while measuring policy implementation, and compliance; (2) ensured that the most cost-effective management controls were in place for all of our administrative functions and processes; and (3) determined the overall customer satisfaction of the offices that were being serviced by the SASC. The functional areas included facility management, finance, information technology, human resources, physical and personal security, procurement, property, and safety.	This review identified nine control weaknesses and nine corrective actions. No material weaknesses were identified. The MMS plans to take corrective actions during FY 2008 to resolve the identified control weaknesses.	Charles Norfleet 202-208-3973 charles.norfleet2@mms.gov
MMS	Acquisition Management Control Assessment	Management Excellence	An internal acquisition compliance review of the Southern Administrative Service Center in Louisiana was conducted using current acquisition regulations to ensure that the requirements of OMB Circular A-123 were met. Surveys and interviews with the acquisition office's customers, acquisition personnel, charge cardholders, and their related supervisors were conducted as part of the review. The final assessment included any requirements issued in the Office of Acquisition and Property Management's FY 2007 guidance.	This review identified five control weaknesses and five corrective actions. No material weaknesses were identified. The MMS plans to take corrective actions during FY 2008 to resolve the identified control weaknesses.	Charles Norfleet 202-208-3973 charles.norfleet2@mms.gov
MMS	Operation and Support (O&S) Resource Management	Resource Use	The evaluation team analyzed how O&S resources were utilized by Minerals Revenue Management (MRM) to provide reasonable assurance that the process was functioning effectively and efficiently, and as designed. The analysis included: a high level review of the O&S contract; an assessment of MRM strategic direction and the use of O&S resources; a review of the policies and procedures used by each of the four organizations utilizing O&S resources on a regular basis: Financial Management, Compliance and Asset Management, Royalty In Kind, and Project Management Office (This included the System Integration Report process and other methods.); and validation of A-123 assurance statements for this component.	This review identified four control weaknesses and four corrective actions. No material weaknesses were identified. The MMS plans to take corrective actions during FY 2008 to resolve the identified control weaknesses.	Charles Norfleet 202-208-3973 charles.norfleet2@mms.gov

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MMS	Contracting Officers Representative (COR) Roles, Responsibilities, Policies, and Procedures	Resource Use	The evaluation team analyzed the roles, responsibilities, policies, and procedures of each COR to provide reasonable assurance that the processes were functioning effectively and efficiently, and as designed. The analysis included: a detailed review of a significant Minerals Revenue Management (MRM) contract; a review of the roles and responsibilities of each COR; a review of the policies and procedures used by each COR; and a review of the current MRM governance of the Operations and Support contract including whether there were sufficient internal controls, separation of duties, and communication taking place in the management of the contract.	This review identified six control weaknesses and eight corrective actions. No material weaknesses were identified. The MMS plans to take corrective actions during FY 2008 to resolve the identified control weaknesses.	Charles Norfleet 202-208-3973 charles.norfleet2@mms.gov
MMS	Compliance Review Process	Resource Use	The evaluation team analyzed the policies and procedures of the Compliance Review (CR) process to provide reasonable assurance that the process was properly functioning effectively and efficiently, and as designed. The analysis included: a review of the electronic tool used to complete CRs; a review of the policies and procedures used by each Compliance and Asset Management (CAM) division and selected state and tribal contractors used to complete CRs; validation of A-123 Assurance Statement documentation for this component; and a review of a sample of CRs from each CAM division.	This review identified five control weaknesses and seven corrective actions. No material weaknesses were identified. The MMS plans to take corrective actions during FY 2008 to resolve the identified control weaknesses.	Charles Norfleet 202-208-3973 charles.norfleet2@mms.gov
MMS	Bid Adequacy	Resource Use	Assessed the MMS Fair Market Value (FMV) process to determine how adequately it implements Sections 18(a)(4) and 102(2)(c) of the OCS Lands Act, as amended. In addition, assessed the bid adequacy procedures, last updated in July 1999 (Federal Register, Volume 64, Number 132, pp.37560-37562) to determine if they continued to adequately provide for the receipt of FMV in the various MMS Regions.	This review identified two control weaknesses and two corrective actions. No material weaknesses were identified. The MMS plans to take corrective actions during FY 2008 to resolve the identified control weaknesses.	Charles Norfleet 202-208-3973 charles.norfleet2@mms.gov
MMS	Bonding Program	Resource Use	Assessed the MMS bonding program for oil, gas and sulphur to determine if it provided sufficient financial guarantee to ensure companies complied with all terms and conditions of their leases, rights-of-use and easement. In addition, assessed the MMS bonding regulations and Notice to Lessees (NTL's) (30 CFR 256.52-59, 30 CFR 250.160 (c), 30 CFR 250.166, 30 CFR 250.1011, and NTL 2003-N(06) to determine what actions, if any, were necessary to improve program effectiveness.	This review identified six control weaknesses and seven corrective actions. No material weaknesses were identified. The MMS has completed both corrective actions.	Charles Norfleet 202-208-3973 charles.norfleet2@mms.gov
MMS	Minerals Management Service's Compliance Review Process (OIG Report #C-IN-MMS-0006-2006)	Resource Use	The OIG audit was conducted to determine whether compliance reviews are an effective part of the Compliance and Asset Management operations and whether the compliance review process is effectively managed.	Final report issued December 6, 2006. There were three recommendations for MMS requiring improving program operation data assurance, strengthening the review process, and revising performance measures. In response to this report, the MMS created an action plan on December 28, 2006. The plan established milestones to address each of the three recommendations and MMS is on track to implement all recommendations by mid-FY 2008.	Jim Witkop 202-208-3236 james.witkop@mms.gov

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MMS	Oil and Gas Royalties: Royalty Relief Will Cost the Government Billions of Dollars but Uncertainty Over Future Energy Prices and Production Levels Make Precise Estimates Impossible at this Time (Report #GAO-07-590R)	Resource Use	The GAO audit was conducted to examine perceived problems with Interior's efforts to ensure a fair return for taxpayers on oil and gas development.	Final report issued April 12, 2007. There were three recommendations for MMS requiring periodic reporting of royalties collected, foregone, and at-risk pending resolution of royalty relief negotiations and litigation. The MMS complied with the first two recommendations by reporting to Congress in June 2007 and expects to address the third recommendation with a report to Congress in December 2007. The reporting will continue on an annual basis until the negotiations and litigation are resolved.	Jim Witkop 202-208-3236 james.witkop@mms.gov
NPS	Wildland Fire	Resource Protection and Serving Communities	Evaluate internal controls in the wildland fire program	All weaknesses are being addressed	Jack Blickley
NPS	Facility Maintenance	Recreation	Evaluate internal controls in the facility maintenance program	All weaknesses are being addressed	Jack Blickley
NPS	Natural Resource Stewardship	Resource Protection	Evaluate internal controls in the natural resource stewardship program	All weaknesses are being addressed	Jack Blickley
NPS	Health and Safety	Recreation	Evaluate health and safety at Yosemite National Park	The Park has implemented some interim safety measures and developed an emergency response plan	Jack Blickley
OS	Wildland Fire	Serving Communities	To determine what steps the four agencies within the Department of Interior (Interior) and the Forest Service (FS) within the Department of Agriculture have taken to (1) address key operational areas that could help contain the costs of preparing for and responding to wildland fires and (2) improve their management of their cost-containment efforts.	Report was published by the General Accountability Office (GAO) in June 2007. Although the Interior and FS generally disagreed with the report's findings, stating that GAO did not accurately portray some of the agencies' actions to contain fire costs; we are working to develop a better cost-containment performance measure, and have taken steps to improve oversight and increased accountability of containing costs.	Report is available at: http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07922t.pdf
OS	Wildland Fire Management	Serving Communities	To report on the Department of Interior (Interior) and the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) processes for allocating funds and selecting projects, and on how, if at all, these processes could be improved to better ensure that they contribute to the agencies' overall goal of reducing risk.	Report was published by the General Accountability Office (GAO) in September 2007. Interior and the FS agreed with the GAO recommendation and have taken steps to enhance the funding allocation and project selection processes.	Report is available at: http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d071168.pdf
OSM	Grants Program	Resource Protection and Resource Use	The AICR focus on OSM's interactions with the new FBMS eGrantsPlus system to include changes in OSM's internal grant processes, documents and files being kept outside and inside the electronic system, and the ability to track grant processes from beginning to end. In addition, new procedures that have been developed were reviewed for innovative practices, which might be useful to other offices.	No material weaknesses identified. Improvements were recommended and are being implemented.	Danny Lytton, Chief, Division of Reclamation Support; dlytton@osmre.gov; 202-208-5365
OSM	Personnel Security Management	Management Excellence	This ACIR was conducted to determine if OSM employees' OPFs contain the documents required by OPM to complete requests for background investigations and to confirm whether these documents have been completed properly, and are being submitted to OPM in a timely manner.	No material weaknesses identified.	Debbie S. Brown, Chief, Human Resources; brown@osmre.gov; 202-208-2979

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OSM	Applicant/Violator System Program	Resource Protection and Resource Use	The AICR focus on the Interstate Organization Family Tree (OFT) updates performed by the AVS Office and determined whether control existed, if they were effective and if the controls were followed.	No material weaknesses identified. Improvements were recommended and are being implemented.	Debbie Feheley, Chief, Applicant/Violator System Office; dfeheley@osmre.gov; 859-260-8424 x477
OSM	Technical Training	Resource Protection and Resource Use	The AICR focuses on determining if adequate controls exist to assure that the training program is meeting the mission goal of providing effective and comprehensive SMCRA related training for OSM, State, and Tribal staff.	No material weaknesses identified.	Sarah Donnelly, Chief, Division of Technical Training; sdonnelly@osmre.gov; 202-208-2826
OST	Records Management Assessments	Serving Indian Communities	Conduct site assessments and evaluate record management programs to ensure that OST offices have effective records management programs which comply with federal laws and regulations.	Respond to recommendations in the reports by reviewing, updating, and taking follow-up action on corrective action plans.	Elizabeth Wells, Office of Trust Review and Audit, (505) 816-1286
OST	FISMA	Serving Indian Communities	In order to ensure that the information technology systems are Certified and Accredited using the NIST guidance set forth by the Department, systems should be C&A'd on a three year cycle as long as no major changes have taken place.	The OST Net was recertified in FY 2007 and the Trust Funds Accounting System is scheduled to be recertified in FY 2008.	Mr. J Lente, BITSMS (505) 816-1153
OST	DTFA Processing of Forestry Transactions	Serving Communities	Streamline processing by establishing a tribal account for each forestry contract; this removed the requirement to manually distribute interest earnings among many contracts that were formerly housed in one account	Accounts were established for each contract and conversions were completed during FY07	Martha Zuniga, Division of Trust Funds Accounting, (505) 816-1123
OST	DTFA processing of IPACs and EFTs	Serving Communities	Streamline processing of IPACs and EFTs by inputting them into the Trust Funds Receivables System for distribution per TAAMS ownership by matching the funds to an invoice	During June of FY07 IPACs began being input to the TFR for matching with invoices, and in September of FY07 EFTs began being input to the TFR. Completion of formal procedures for this process are planned for FY08	Daniel Cox, Division of Trust Funds Accounting, (505) 816--1127
OST	DTFA processing of Liabilities for BIA and Tribal Credit Organizations	Serving Communities	During FY07 procedures were implemented to coordinate the processing of liabilities against beneficiary accounts on behalf of tribal credit organizations. A 2nd version of the liabilities procedures was in draft and out for review comments as of the end of FY07	An interim liabilities procedure was published during FY07 and a 2nd version was in draft as of the end of FY07 to further refine the liabilities process. Completion is planned during FY08	Martha Zuniga, Division of Trust Funds Accounting, (505) 816-1123
OST	Annual review of control processes per A123	Serving Communities	During FY07 RM-Plus evaluations and assessments were performed by OTFM and OTRR managers as required by A123. Outside of Trust Services transaction testing and financial reporting testing were performed by Trust Accountability and the CIO	RM-Plus evaluations were completed by OTFM and OTRR managers during FY07 and Trust Accountability and the CIO completed testing protocols; corrective actions identified will be completed during FY08	Bill Stenseth, OTFM, (505) 816-1201 or Rob Winter, OTRR, (505) 816-1142
OST	TAAMS/TFAS Interface Discrepancies	Serving Communities	Interim procedures were developed during FY07 regarding the processing of account discrepancies identified during the daily TAAMS/TFAS interface; procedures were established to setup accounts where ownership existed in TAAMS but accounts were not present or were closed in TFAS. At the end of FY07 draft updates to interim procedures to further refine the process were out for review	During FY07 interim procedures for processing TAAMS/TFAS account discrepancies were published, and draft updates to the process were out for review as of the end of FY07. Completion is planned during FY08	Daniel Cox, Division of Trust Funds Accounting, (505) 816--1127
OST	Updates to the OST Investment Policy	Serving Communities	During FY07 amendments were drafted and submitted for management review with the objective of clarifying the investment need of significant accounts as liquidity, income or growth	Draft procedure was developed and distributed for management review during FY07; completion is planned during FY08	Chuck Evans, OTFM, (505) 816-1100

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OST	Streamline the TFAS interest posting process	Serving Communities	During FY07 a review of the process for posting interest earnings to accounts on a monthly basis was conducted; the review recommended that daily posting occur to streamline the process and remove manual work.	As of the end of FY07 the recommendations for streamlining the interest posting process were out for management review; completion of management's review and implementation of any changes approved is planned for FY08	Lucille Esplain, Division of Trust Funds Accounting, (505) 816-1123
OST	Metrics on batch processing errors by Field Operations	Serving Communities	During FY07 management metrics were implemented to report Field Operations workticket errors. The objective was to provide feedback to reduce error rates and improve quality. The metrics are provided monthly. Further refinements to the metrics are planned for FY08	Management metrics were implemented during FY07 for Field Operations worktickets, and refinements are planned for FY08	John Naranjo at OTFM, (505) 816-1055
OST	Improved Control Log Software for DTFA	Serving Communities	During FY07 a program was initiated to develop specifications for improved Control Log software for DTFA for improved management information and metrics on flow rates, error rates and batch status for Field Ops and DTFA. Improved error tracking was seen as critical to provide timely feedback to reduce errors going forward	During FY07 system specifications were developed for improved software to control the flow of batch processing at OST; a contract was also let during FY07 and programming of the new software was underway as of the end of FY07. During FY08 the new software will be completed and implemented	Donna Sams at DTFA, (505) 816-1181
OST	Risk Management	Serving Communities	A-123 Appendix testing	Tested internal controls and drafted Departmental Indian Trust A-123 Appendix Guidance	Margaret Williams, (505) 816-1052
OST	Risk Management	Serving Communities	Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act	Corrective action plans were developed as necessary	Charlene Toledo, (505) 816-1234
OST	Deputy Special Trustee	Serving Communities	Assessment of office staffing patterns	Streamlined budget to reflect staffing pattern changes in light of trust reforms	Margaret Williams, (505) 816-1052
OST	Reengineering	Serving Communities	Review Trust Reform process and assess remaining tasks	Developed a package detailing the remaining tasks necessary to accomplish trust reform	Joel Smith, (505) 816-1368
OST	Deputy Special Trustee	Serving Communities	Assess the number of policies and procedures to be developed	Documented the number of policy/procedures that require development or amendment to accommodate trust reform	Margaret Williams, (505) 816-1052
USGS	Earth Science and Applications from Space: National Imperatives for the Next Decade and Beyond	Resource Protection	To generate consensus recommendations regarding a systems approach to space-based and ancillary observations that encompass the research and operational programs of USGS, NASA and NOAA (e.g. Landsat).	Report was published by NAS in August 2007. The USGS is working with NASA and NOAA on evaluating the recommendations and discussing next steps.	Bruce Quirk (703-648-5057) Sally Cook (703-648-6136) Report is available at: http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11820
USGS	River Science at the USGS	Resource Protection	To advise USGS on how to best address river science and the highest priority river science issues. The report calls for expanding existing monitoring and research, especially Water Resources activities in collaboration with Geology and Biology disciplines.	Report was published by NAS August 2007. USGS is reviewing the recommendations to determine what actions should be taken during the next few years.	Matt Larsen (703-648-5044) Report is available at: http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11773
USGS	A Research Agenda for Geographic Information Science at the United States Geological Survey	Resource Protection	To recommend research goals and priorities for the newly formed Center of Excellence for Geospatial Information Science (CEGIS) at USGS	Report was published by NAS September 2007. USGS is reviewing the recommendations to determine what actions should be taken during the next few years.	Anne Frondorf (703-648-4205) Report is available at: http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12004

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USGS	Research Priorities in Earth Science and Public Health	Resource Protection Resource Use and Serving Communities	To explore avenues for interdisciplinary research at the interface between the earth science and public health disciplines. The National Science Foundation, U.S. Geological Survey, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration charged the study committee to advise on the high-priority research activities that should be undertaken for optimum societal benefit, and to describe the most profitable areas for communication and collaboration between the earth science and public health communities.	Report was issued by NAS January 2007. In February, the USGS hosted a meeting of earth scientists and researchers in the public health sector as well as policy makers and congressional staffers to foster communication and to showcase USGS research in earth science related to public health issues. All NAS recommendations have been incorporated into the new USGS Science Strategy as well as being utilized by Mineral, Energy, Coastal and Marine Geology, and Geologic Mapping Programs.	Cheryl Smith (703-648-6105) or Linda Gundersen (703-648-6601) Report is available at: http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11809