

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 is responsible for protecting lives, resources, and property; for providing scientific information for better decision-making; and for fulfilling the Nation's trust and other special responsibilities to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and residents of our affiliated island communities. We protect communities from catastrophic wildland fires; safeguard public land visitors from illegal activities; and provide scientific information to reduce risks from earthquakes, landslides, and volcanic eruptions. The Department's USGS also provides scientific assessments on the quality and quantity of the Nation's water resources and conducts multi-purpose natural science research.

In FY 2005, we met 58% of our performance targets for our Serving Communities Mission Area (*Table 1-7*). We did not meet 15% of our targets. This compares with 68% of our targets met and 20% of our targets where we fell short in FY 2004. One fourth of our measures remain preliminary or unreported.

The decline in FY 2005 performance for this mission area is due in part to a higher number of measures with preliminary or no data reported. It is anticipated that once data verification is completed, the percentage of met targets should approach the FY 2004 results level. There is concern for several areas that require further attention including such programs as Indian housing, education and appraisals, a limited aspect of wildland fire, and law enforcement. Contributing factors may include escalating cost of materials and other external factors or data collection efforts.

The need to shift resources to support recovery efforts for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita also created delays in capturing and reporting performance data for several measures.

TABLE 1-7

Mission Area 4: Serving Communities Performance and Resource Scorecard					
End Outcome Goal	Number of Measures Met (including estimates)	Number of Unmet Measures (including estimates)	Number of Measures Containing Preliminary Data	Number of Measures Containing No Reports	Costs (in thousands)
Goal #1: Protect Lives, Resources, and Property	13	6	3	4	\$2,326,237
Goal #2: Advance Knowledge Through Scientific Leadership and Inform Decisions Through the Applications of Science	6	0	0	0	\$965,561
Goal #3: Fulfill Indian Fiduciary Trust Responsibilities	21	3	1	7	\$727,870
Goal #4: Advance Quality Communities for Tribes and Alaska Natives	7	3	5	3	\$2,395,262
Goal #5: Increase Economic Self-Sufficiency of Insular Areas	2	1	0	0	\$444,899
Total	49	13	9	14	\$6,859,829
Percentage (Total of 85 Measures)	58%	15%	11%	16%	

Safeguarding Communities from Hazards

At Interior, we take seriously our responsibility to protect not only our employees, but also visitors to our lands and the communities we serve. In FY 2005, we reduced the number of serious injuries among our workers, reporting 16 against a target of 25 (Ref #115). We reduced injuries to our firefighters from severe, unplanned and unwanted wildland fires from 414 in FY 2004 to an estimated 110 in FY 2005 (Ref #105). In FY 2005, we reduced the number of serious injuries on lands and waters that we influence or manage from 9,006, to an estimated 7,600 (Ref #117). Our efforts have also reduced safety risks to 1,276,549 people (Ref #113) exposed to safety risks from abandoned mine lands, based on preliminary data.

Interior's law enforcement officers, firefighters, and scientists do their share to contribute to the safety and well-being of the communities we serve. Over the past 5 years, Interior has actively participated in and supported the National Fire Plan (*Table 1-8*).

TABLE 1-8

Wildland Fires and Their Impacts: An 11-Year Snapshot			
Year	Number of Fires	Acres Impacted	Total Suppression Costs for Federal Agencies **
2004	77,534	6,790,692*	\$890,233,000
2003	85,943	4,918,088	1,326,138,000
2002	88,458	6,937,584	1,661,314,000
2001	84,079	3,555,138	917,800,000
2000	122,827	8,422,237	1,362,367,000
1999	93,702	5,661,976	523,468,000
1998	81,403	2,329,709	328,526,000
1997	89,517	3,672,616	256,000,000
1996	115,025	6,701,390	679,167,600
1995	130,019	2,315,730	340,050,000
1994	114,049	4,724,014	\$845,262,000

* 2004 fires and acres do not include State lands for North Carolina

** Agencies involved include the Department of the Interior's BLM, BIA, FWS, and NPS, and the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service.

Providing Relief to Hurricane Victims

Interior has assisted in recovery and relief effort for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in a number of ways. The BIA has been working with six federally-recognized Tribes located in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, providing water, ice, gas, diesel fuel, and support for meals, along with continued communications and law enforcement assistance.

Interior wildland fire experts worked closely with other Federal, State, and local firefighters and fire managers in applying their Incident Command System (ICS) to provide much of the organization and backbone that supported the overall relief effort. Originally designed to facilitate management of wildfires, ICS is a mission-oriented decision-making structure that has also been applied to a variety of disasters ranging from hurricanes to the Columbia Shuttle recovery, the 9-11 terrorist attack, and more. Fourteen of the 17 most experienced national Incident Management Teams have served assignments in the Gulf Coast since the end of August. Thirty other national and local teams also contributed their expertise. In the month of September alone, more than 5,000 wildland fire-community personnel were mobilized through the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise, Idaho. Many more were deployed through the Southern Area Coordination Center, a regional version of the national center. Just a few examples, among hundreds, illustrate what the fire community is accomplishing:

- One team managed one of the largest air operations staging areas in the storm-affected region. Crews unloaded, refueled, and stored 10 to 12 747 plane-loads of commodities everyday.
- Personnel from one team provided round-the-clock distribution and processing of nearly 4,000 semi-truckloads of Meals-Ready-to-Eat (MRE's), baby food, and other material for the incident.
- Over 600,000 people have received commodities through these teams.
- In New Orleans, 911 calls are routed through a radio repeater at the airport that was set-up by one team – the first assigned to the airport location.
- Fire teams and crews also are operating 17 base camps and three evacuation centers to support relief workers, military personnel, and evacuees. These camps and centers are serving the needs of thousands, with one camp alone serving tens of thousands of meals per day at one point.

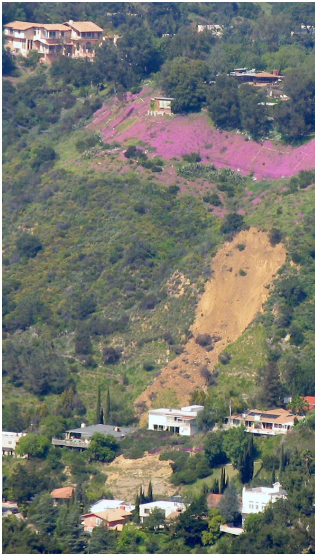
The MMS, which oversees mineral exploration and development on 1.76 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf, worked with the Coast Guard to assure safe operation of off-shore emergency production facilities. Its prescribed evacuation efforts proved successful in assuring that pipelines and tanks were sealed to prevent any major leakage when platforms were evacuated. MMS employees have worked tirelessly to assemble and assess data on the status of oil and gas operations in the Gulf. MMS engineers traveled to facilities to assess structural soundness, production equipment, and damage to pipelines. MMS continues to provide oversight to assure that off-shore facilities can safely operate as production is resumed.

NPS and FWS have provided humanitarian response. For example, FWS employees participated in rescuing more than 2,500 people, including two occupants from a helicopter crash on a rooftop, working cooperatively with other agencies. More than 200 FWS employees were mobilized to a full-service base of operations established at Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge in Lacombe, Louisiana. The FWS provided more than 23,000 meals, including 200 meals each day sent to support staff and patients at the Louisiana Heart Hospital, and processed 100-150 loads of laundry each day. FWS crews cleared more than 300 driveways; 14½ miles of road; four major parking lots, including the Louisiana Heart Hospital, Lake Castle school, and the local Post Office; and 10 miles of fire breaks. They conducted reconnaissance on 65 miles of roadways, including more than 100 streets.

The USGS deployed 22 boats and numerous personnel for search and rescue operations, evacuation, and the delivery of food and water. USGS geographers provided thousands of pinpoint maps used in responding to 911 calls, guiding search and rescue crews to stranded victims of the flood. Employees in Lafayette, Louisiana, replaced or repaired damaged stream gauges throughout the region to restore flood warning capacity; they continue to coordinate with other Federal agencies to provide geospatial information, maps, and satellite images to conduct scientific assessments to help response and recovery operations. USGS crews are sampling and testing water in Jackson, Mississippi, as well as water pumped out of New Orleans and into Lake Pontchartrain. The USGS National Wetlands Research Center continues to make daily aerial photo maps to determine the status of the cities now in the recovery phase. Aerial video, still photography, and laser altimetry surveys will be used for current and future applications to provide critical information for comparisons between pre-storm and post-storm beach conditions. These data will show the nature, magnitude, and spatial variability of coastal changes, such as beach erosion, over-wash deposition, and island breaching, and will serve as a tool to further refine predictive models of coastal impacts from severe storms. Local, State, and Federal agencies will have access to these data for disaster recovery and erosion mitigation.



Reducing Landslide Hazards through a Partnership with the American Planning Association



Remember the frightening and devastating damage that landslides did to homes in the Hollywood Hills area of California during the 2004-2005 winter storms? To avoid such catastrophes in the future, the USGS has partnered with the American Planning Association (APA) to develop a practical guidebook on how to incorporate landslide hazards into the land-use planning process. As landslides impact more communities throughout the United States, the need to understand landslides and plan for them becomes more important. Local land-use planners have a pivotal role in reducing landslide hazards because they influence how land is used and developed, how buildings and other structures are sited, and where communities build their roads, parks, schools, and other public amenities.

The guidebook, titled "Landslide Hazards Planning," discusses the physical characteristics of landslides, highlights planning and zoning tools that can be utilized to reduce potential damage, and offers numerous case studies of communities that have experienced and recovered from landslides. The APA/USGS partnership has also sponsored training sessions for planners and panel discussions at the APA National Conference. The guidebook serves as a basis for professional training and is being included in undergraduate and graduate courses in planning and emergency management.

Information about how to obtain the guidebook is available at <http://landslides.usgs.gov>. This accomplishment relates to the End Outcome Measure percent of communities using DOI science for hazard mitigation (Ref #111).

The Plan, combined with tools under the President's Healthy Forests Initiative and Healthy Forests Restoration Act, has provided strategies and tactics needed to battle or prevent wildland fires. In FY 2005, thanks to the hard work of our wildland fire program managers and firefighters, Interior limited the number of acres burned by unplanned and unwanted wildland fires to an estimated 5,632,000 acres against a target of 5,135,013, controlling an estimated 95% of unplanned and unwanted wildland fires during initial attack (Ref #119 and 118). While the former is short of our target, our firefighters encountered unforeseen environmental conditions that contributed to some challenges related to acreage burned by wildland fire. Early heavy precipitation contributed to the growth of fine fuels. Fires starting in areas containing fine fuels usually expand quickly to become large grass fires and burn large acreages.

Interior's law enforcement officers work to protect against illegal activities on our lands. In addition to providing for the safety and security of residents and employees, volunteers, and Indian Country citizens and visitors, our law enforcement programs protect natural and cultural resources and facilities in every

State. Interior is in its third 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. We continue to make strategic investments in our law enforcement and security programs, improve oversight of related budgets, and assure accountability through effective performance goals and measures.

Using Science for Decision-Making

At the Department of the Interior, science informs our land management decisions, helps us protect employees and visitors to our lands, and helps safeguard the lives of those in the communities that we serve. The USGS is Interior's principal science agency. Founded in 1879, the USGS serves the Nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life.

In FY 2005, USGS continued its long history of serving communities with accurate and reliable scientific data. It provided temporal and spatial monitoring, research, and assessment/data coverage to meet land use planning and monitoring requirements for 59% of the Nation's surface area (Ref #133).

In FY 2005, 95% percent of partners surveyed, against a target of 90%, reported that the data provided by USGS helped them to achieve their goals (Ref #132). One hundred percent reported satisfaction with the accuracy, reliability, and soundness of the methodology used to generate USGS science information (Ref #130), while 92% of those using USGS data reported improved access to needed scientific information during the year (Ref #131).

One example of the way the USGS works with communities to provide scientific data critical to them is an effort related to mercury in fish. Many Federal, State, and other agencies monitor mercury levels in fish samples to identify streams and lakes susceptible to contamination. These agencies face formidable challenges in interpreting data on mercury concentrations in fish tissue because important spatial and temporal trends in the data are often obscured by variations in fish sample characteristics—different fish species, fish of different sizes, and different parts of fish (whole fish or fish fillet tissue). To help resource managers with this problem, USGS scientists developed a national model of mercury concentrations in fish tissue. The statistical model can be used to analyze monitoring data and to predict mercury concentrations in single fish species, in a specified size of fish, or in a type of fish tissue based on monitoring data. By accounting for differences in sample characteristics, the statistical model can reveal variations in fish-mercury concentrations between sites and over time that otherwise might go unnoticed. Additionally, the model can estimate mercury concentrations in many fish with very different characteristics, thus providing the potential to dramatically lower the number

Science and the Tsunami

The tsunami that occurred on December 26, 2004, in the Indian Ocean was one of the worst ever recorded in history in terms of lives lost. Scientists at the USGS are trying to understand the mechanics and impact of this tsunami in the hope that disasters such as this one can



be avoided in the future. Their research ranges from the geologic aspects of the event, including the earthquake that generated the tsunami, to hydrologic characteristics, including the transport of sediments during the tsunami run-up. USGS, for example, recently participated in an international team that studied the effects of the tsunami on Sumatra. The team documented wave heights of 20 to 30 m (65 to 100 ft) at the island's northwest end and found evidence suggesting that wave heights may have ranged from 15 to 30 m (50 to 100 ft) along at least a 100-km (60 mi) stretch of the northwest coast. These wave heights are higher than those predicted by computer models made soon after the earthquake that triggered the tsunami. Such wave height measurements will contribute to improved tsunami assessment and forecast products that will help communities mitigate risk.

USGS is working closely with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program to reduce the impact of tsunamis through warning guidance, hazard assessment, and mitigation techniques. The Program is part of the U.S. plan for improving tsunami detection and warning. Under the new plan, announced by President Bush in January 2005, NOAA will deploy 32 new advanced technology Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunami (DART) buoys by 2007. The USGS will enhance its seismic monitoring and information delivery from the Global Seismic Network, a partnership with the National Science Foundation.

of fish samples needed for analysis (and therefore lowering sampling costs) without decreasing accuracy. The model is available on-line and was developed in cooperation with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the National Map Program, and the Water Resources Program.

Fulfilling Our Trust Responsibilities

In 2002, Interior began a meticulous process to re-engineer trust business processes that in 2004 became known as the Fiduciary Trust Model. The Fiduciary Trust Model outlined specific steps the Department would take to improve trust policies, procedures, systems, and internal controls, and to achieve the goals of our Comprehensive Trust Management Plan. While we continue to address challenges, Interior has made progress toward improving trust operations and management. Some noteworthy accomplishments include:

- For the first time, Interior has placed Fiduciary Trust Officers at the local level. These Officers' sole purpose is to address beneficiaries' trust issues.
- A new American Indian Records Repository has been established at the National Archives and Records Administration in Lenexa, Kansas, to house consolidated inactive records of BIA and OST. The repository can store 250,000 boxes of records in a world-class, archival-quality facility.
- Interior is establishing a new National Indian Programs Training Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The training center will become a hub for trust training of all Interior Indian fiduciary and trust services, Tribal employees involved in trust reform and self-governance and self-determination programs.
- Between 2002 and 2005, Interior reconciled and distributed more than \$49.3 million of special deposit account monies to their rightful owners.
- Interior has improved information technology systems, spending more than \$100 million, to protect trust data Department-wide.
- Interior has implemented financial lockboxes nationwide to receive trust generated receipts.

In FY 2005, another major step toward trust management improvement was taken when the Department launched the Trust Beneficiary Call Center (TBCC) within the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST). A nationwide toll-free number (888-678-6836, ext. 0) allows Indian trust beneficiaries to conveniently call for information on their trust accounts.



Interior Secretary Norton and Navajo President Joe Shirley meet with children at the Baca Day School.

During the first 8 months of operation, the TBCC received 37,935 calls and provided a First Line Resolution for 92.13% (34,950) of these calls. First Line Resolution means the call was resolved without referral or escalation. This saves money for the Department since it costs more to escalate an inquiry to another level. It also improves customer service since callers do not have to wait for an answer to their inquiry. So far, the Call Center has saved Interior field staff more than 1,893 hours, enabling them to focus on other trust-related issues.

Advance Quality Communities for Tribes and Alaska Natives

Interior also promotes Tribal community economic development opportunities, contributing to improvements in the quality of life of 1.5 million Native Americans and Alaska Natives across the Nation that live on or near federally-recognized reservations. Efforts range from supporting education programs to promoting self-governance and self-determination.

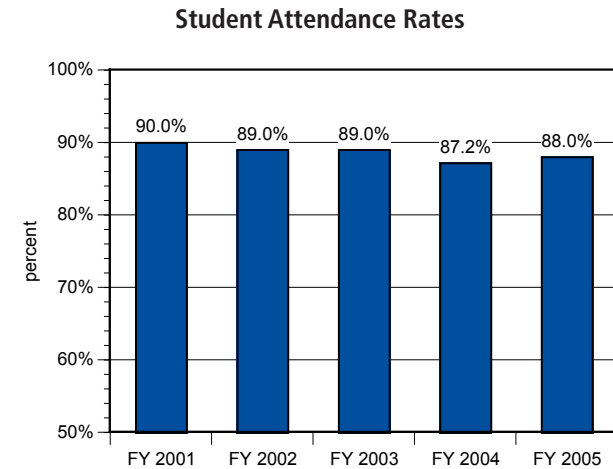
Dramatic economic developmental advances have come to Indian Country over the past 4 years in areas such as energy, minerals, forestry, water, agriculture, range and grazing, and wildlife and recreation. Achieving thriving Tribal economies will create a dynamic synergy of jobs, financial resources, and personal fulfillment. More than ever before, tribes and Tribal members have the opportunity to engage in America's free enterprise system. And stronger Tribal economies would not only strengthen Tribal government, but also contribute to a stronger America.

In FY 2005, Interior continued to help advance the quality of life for Tribal communities. Noteworthy accomplishments include the following:

- Interior made progress toward its goal of achieving parity between the Tribal community and the U.S. rural area national average on high school graduation. Based on preliminary data, we estimate that 82% of eligible BIA students graduated from high school in 2005, meeting our performance target for the year (Ref #168, 178).
- Preliminary data point to a significant rise in teacher proficiencies in select subject areas, including math and language arts. We estimate that 94% of BIA school teachers are proficient in these areas against a target of 76%. This is a projected increase over the 2004 target of 73.5% (Ref #174).
- The Department helped create 1,922 jobs for Native Americans and Alaska Natives, exceeding our target of 1,700, through capital provided by Interior loans (Ref #179).
- Interior is continuing to ensure that facilities are in fair to good condition as measured by the FCI. Our index for BIA schools in FY 2005 was reported at 0.107, which meets our performance target and improves upon the FY 2004 FCI of 0.124 (Ref #173).
- During the last 4 years, Interior has heightened its commitment to the education of American Indian children and adults. Priority attention is being given to repairing and replacing BIA elementary and secondary schools. Between 2001 and 2005, BIA made progress toward replacing 34 schools on the Education Facilities Construction Priority Ranking List. Nine of these schools are now completed and operating. BIA completed three more schools in 2005.

Despite these successes, challenges remain. For example, our education systems continue to require vigilance and care. Our teacher retention rate slipped slightly from 91% in 2004 to 89% (based on preliminary data) in FY 2005 (Ref #175). Likewise, student attendance rates are still slightly below our targets, at 88% for the year, based on preliminary data, against our goal of 89% (*Figure 1-24*) (Ref #176).

FIGURE 1-24



In FY 2005, Interior also progressed toward its goals of increasing economic self-sufficiency of insular areas. Our ratio of Federal revenue to total revenue in insular areas was 0.25, meeting our performance target for the year (Ref #186). Our ratio of private sector jobs to total employment was .77 against a target of .71 (Ref #188). This ratio improved primarily due to a decline in government budgets and employment in freely associated states. We fell short of a goal to improve financial management practices by reducing the total average months late for all insular general fund financial statements, reporting 8 months against a target of 7 (Ref #187).

FIGURE 1-25

How We Measure Up: Performance on Key Serving Communities Goals







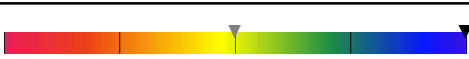




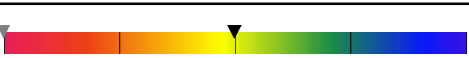
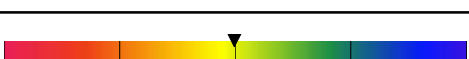
Performance Goal (Total Number of Reported Results)	Average Performance Rating and Number of Reported Results				
	Target Not Met	Below Target	On Target	Above Target	Target Exceeded
End Outcome Goal – Protect Lives, Resources and Property					
Firefighter injuries from severe, unplanned and unwanted wildland fire are reduced 1 Result					
Reduced number of serious injuries on DOI managed or influenced lands and waters 1 Result					
Percent of unplanned and unwanted wildland fires controlled during initial attack 1 Result					
Number of acres burned by unplanned and unwanted wildland fires 1 Result					
End Outcome Goal – Advance Knowledge Through Scientific Leadership and Inform Decisions Through the Applications of Science					
Soundness of methodology, accuracy, and reliability of Science (program evaluation, peer review) 1 Result					
Improve stakeholder access to needed Science information 1 Result					
Stakeholders reporting that information helped achieve goal 1 Result					
Percent of surface area with temporal and spatial monitoring, research, and assessment/data coverage to meet land use planning and monitoring requirements 1 Result					
End Outcome Goal – Fulfill Indian Fiduciary Trust Responsibilities					
Indian natural resource trust assets management – volume of timber offered for sale 1 Result					
Indian natural resource trust assets management – percent of collections in DOI inventory in good condition 1 Result					
End Outcome Goal – Advance Quality Communities for Tribes and Alaska Natives					
Achieve parity between the Tribal community and U.S. rural area national average on high school graduation 1 Result					
Achieve parity between the Tribal community and U.S. national average on rural unemployment rates and per capita income 1 Result					
Facilities are in fair to good condition as measured by the Facilities Condition Index 1 Result					

FIGURE 1-25

How We Measure Up: Performance on Key Serving Communities Goals

Performance Goal (Total Number of Reported Results)	Average Performance Rating and Number of Reported Results				
	Target Not Met	Below Target	On Target	Above Target	Target Exceeded
Number of jobs created through capital provided by DOI loans <i>1 Result</i>					
End Outcome Goal – Increase Economic Self-Sufficiency of Insular Areas					
Ratio of Federal revenue to total revenues in insular areas <i>1 Result</i>					
Total average months late for all insular general fund financial statements <i>1 Result</i>					
Ratio of private sector jobs to total employment <i>1 Result</i>					

KEY

Range	95% - 105% of Target
▼	DOI FY05 Aggregate Actual compared to FY05 Target
▽	DOI FY04 Aggregate Actual compared to FY04 Target (Relative position of Bureau results identified by number)

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