

Program Evaluations

Program evaluations are an important tool in analyzing the effectiveness and efficiency of our programs, and evaluating whether they are meeting their intended objectives. Our programs are evaluated through a variety of means, including performance audits, Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART), financial audits, management control reviews, and external reviews from Congress, OMB, Office of the Inspector General (OIG), and other organizations, such as the National Academy of Public Administration and the National Academy of Sciences. We use self-assessments to verify that performance information and measurement systems are accurate and supportive of our strategic direction and goals. Data collection and reporting systems processes are reviewed and improved through the use of customer and internal surveys.

Table 49 lists some examples of program evaluations that occurred during FY 2003.

TABLE 49

FY 2003 Sample Program Evaluations		
Bureau	Program/Goal	Methodology/Purpose
Goal 1: Protect the Environment and Preserve Our Nation's Natural and Cultural Resources		
BIA	Environmental Program	Five environmental audits are conducted annually.
BIA	Restoration/Enhancement	Program evaluations are completed each year with continual onsite monitoring.
BLM	Cultural and Heritage Resources: Manage heritage and cultural spec. areas	Internal evaluation of organizational management, compliance with the adoption process, and budgeting and workload accomplishments.
BLM	Biological Communities: Create habitat conditions	Continue evaluation of the Invasive and Noxious Weeds Management Program to identify efficiencies and success of treatments. Conduct internal review to identify and benchmark success in the Integrated Weed Management Program.
BLM	Reduce Sources of Pollution	Conduct a national workload and gap analysis to determine the impacts of a changing workforce on the Hazardous Materials Program.
NPS	National Historic Landmarks (NHL)	NHL staff surveys NHL owners and State Historic Preservation Officers' staff regarding condition of their NHL's. Washington program staff analyze and report findings for improvements.
NPS	National Historic Preservation	PART
NPS	Land Water Conservation Fund	PART
OSM	Regulation of Surface Coal Mining	PART
Goal 2: Provide Recreation for America		
BLM	Recreation and Management	PART
BLM	Effectively manage commercial service and user fees	Evaluate conformance with National Policy, review accounting procedures, determine expenditures within the program, and costs of collecting fees through an internal review.
FWS	National Wildlife Refuge Operations and Maintenance	PART
NPS	Recreation Fee Program: Fee Receipts	Fee comparability studies to ensure that fees are comparable within the local community. Evaluate fee structures and work with the Interagency Fee Council to institute a consistent fee package within the NPS.
NPS	Visitor Satisfaction	Visitor Services Card customer satisfaction survey is continuously used at each park.
NPS	Visitor Understanding	Asset mapping and evaluation of the complete spectrum of interpretive services service-wide (four years).
NPS	Donations and Gifts	The Service-wide Cooperating Association Coordinator conducts an ongoing evaluation at 8-15 associations.

TABLE 49 CONTINUED

FY 2003 Sample Program Evaluations		
Bureau	Program/Goal	Methodology/Purpose
Goal 3: Manage Natural Resources for a Healthy Environment and a Strong Economy		
BLM	Responsible Energy Use	Conduct internal review to assess the effectiveness in managing existing oil and gas program workloads.
BLM	Energy and Minerals Management	PART
BOR	Dam Safety Program	Alternative Management Control Review (AMCR) used to continually evaluate, enhance and improve program performance.
BOR	Power	Power production benchmarking for cost and ability of turbine-generators to deliver power and maintain a low forced outage rate and achieve top 25th percent of efficient hydropower facilities.
BOR	Dam Safety	Alternative Management Control Review (AMCR). The AMCR is required by the Reclamation Manual Directives and Standards FAC 01-06. It is performed annually to continually evaluate, enhance, and improve the Dam Safety Program.
BOR	Power	PART
BOR	Science and Technology	PART
MMS	Minerals Revenue Management	PART
Goal 4: Provide Science for a Changing World		
USGS	Review of the USGS concept of "The National Map"	The National Research Council (NRC) report describes how The National Map would gain from improved definition so that the unprecedented number of partners needed for success will become energized to participate. Challenges are more organizational than technical. Need to continue to learn from pilot studies as well as from other Federal-led programs that have partnered with multiple sectors.
USGS	Hazards	PART
USGS	Mineral Resources	PART
USGS	Energy Resources	PART
Goal 5: Meet Our Trust Responsibilities to Indian Tribes and Our Commitments to Island Communities		
BIA	Law Enforcement	Annual performance reviews to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and PART.
BIA	P.L. 102-477 Job Training Program	10-15 grantee reviews are conducted annually. Program and onsite reviews for each of the 48 grantees are conducted on a 3 year cycle.
BIA	Road Maintenance Program	Each one of the 12 Regional Road Maintenance Programs is evaluated bi-annually as part of the Indian Reservation Roads Process Review Program.
BIA	Tribal Courts	PART
BIA	Resource Management: Forestry	PART
BIA	Cadastral Survey Program	Conduct internal review to assess the effectiveness in managing Indian Trust risks and increase percent of real property ownership data that are current, standardized, and integrated.
BIA	Indian Royalty Assistance	Internal alternative management control review
MMS	Internal Accident Review of Accident Panel Investigations, Cash Management, and Indian Royalty Assistance	Internal alternative control reviews.