

RESTORE Act
Direct Component Grants

Performance Measures

Office of Gulf Coast Restoration
U.S. Department of the Treasury
December 2017



Outline

1. Why measure project performance?
2. Best practices for designing performance measures
3. Performance measures vs. project milestones
4. List of recommended performance measures
5. Tips and suggestions

Why measure project performance?

It's Required:

- Performance measures and reporting are required by the *OMB Uniform Guidance* at 2 C.F.R. 200.301

The recipient's performance should be measured in a way that will help the Federal awarding agency and other non-Federal entities to improve project outcomes, share lessons learned, and spread the adoption of promising practices. (2 C.F.R. 200.301 in relevant part)

- Performance reporting with associated performance measures are required by 2 C.F.R. 200.328
- Direct Component and Centers of Excellence Research grant recipients must report on progress every six months

Why measure project performance?

4 benefits of measuring project performance:

1. Determining whether the project achieved its objectives
2. Allowing adaptive management of the project
3. Reporting on the aggregate benefit of multiple *Deepwater Horizon*-funded projects
4. Informing future projects in the Gulf Coast region and beyond

Reporting on project performance

Grantees must submit the following reports at the time of application and every six months:

- Performance Progress Report (SF-PPR)
- RESTORE Act Status of Performance Report
- RESTORE Act Milestones Report

Status of Performance Report

RESTORE Act Status of Performance Report — Department of the Treasury

OMB Approval No. 1505-0250

Applicant/Grantee:								
Title:								
Reporting Period Ending (Options: initial report, Mar 31, Sept 30)								
Goal(s):								
Eligible Activity/ Discipline #	Measure #	Measure	Baseline	Target	Target Date (month/ year)	Progress toward target (reporting period)	Progress toward target (cumulative)	Status/Next Steps
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According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1505-0250. Comments concerning the time required to complete this information collection, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information, should be directed to the Department of the Treasury, Office of Gulf Coast Restoration, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20220.

Designing performance measures

SMART Performance Measures:

- **Specific** – indicate exactly what result is expected
- **Measurable** – intended result is something that can be measured
- **Attainable** – target is reasonably achievable
- **Results-Oriented** – measures an end or intermediate outcome
- **Time-Bound** – sets a specific time frame for the results to be produced

What makes a good performance measure for a Direct Component grant project?

Based on the project's objective, which relates to the eligible activity

Represented numerically

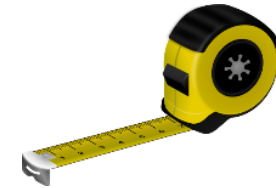
Can be applied to many projects, if possible

Is **not** a milestone

Performance measures ≠ milestones

Performance measures demonstrate progress towards reaching the project's objectives

- Based on the objective of the project, which relates back to the eligible activity
- Measureable
- Reported on in the Status of Performance Report



Milestones demonstrate progress in completing the activities or tasks described in the project's scope of work

- Based on the project's scope of work
- Discrete tasks that can be completed
- Reported on in the Milestones Report



Example: planning & infrastructure project

Project activity: planning and constructing a dock

Eligible activities: infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure; planning assistance

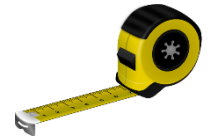
Objective: to increase dock capacity



Milestones

- Complete engineering, design, and permitting
- Advertise for and select a contractor
- Begin construction
- Complete construction

Performance Measures



- Number of planning deliverables completed
- Number of vessels that can be docked

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Applicant/Grantee:								
Title:		Dock Improvement Project						
Reporting Period Ending (Options: initial report, Mar 31, Sept 30)		Sept 30						
Goal(s):		To increase dock capacity for recreational boaters						
Eligible Activity/ Discipline #	Measure #	Measure	Baseline	Target	Target Date (month/ year)	Progress toward target (reporting period)	Progress toward target (cumulative)	Status/Next Steps
- 8	1	# planning deliverables completed	0	2	9/2018	1	1	One design plan has been completed. One permit application will be submitted summer 2018.
- 6	2	# vessels that can be docked	10	20	5/2020	0	0	May be delayed by recent hurricanes
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SMART Criteria: S pecific, M easurable, A ttainable, R esults-Oriented, T ime-Bound								
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Example: habitat restoration project

Project activity: creating marsh habitat with dredged material

Eligible activity: restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region

Objective: to restore 10 acres of marsh habitat



Milestones

- Construct a berm
- Place fill material
- Plant native vegetation
- Complete monitoring of pre- and post-construction activities

Performance Measures



- Number of acres restored
 - Stem density of marsh plants
 - Percent cover of vegetation
 - Marsh elevation
- Monitored 1 year and 2 years after project completion

Example: workforce development project

Project activity: training individuals to work in the trucking industry

Eligible activity: workforce development and job creation

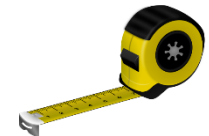
Objective: to increase the number of individuals qualified to work in and employed by the trucking industry



Milestones

- Complete curriculum development
- Advertise and recruit participants
- Conduct training classes
- Conduct post-project monitoring activities

Performance Measures



- Number of individuals trained for workforce
- Number of industry certifications received
- Percent of graduates employed in industry 6 months after training completed

Recommended performance measures

OGCR has developed a list of ~70 performance measures that may be applicable to Direct Component grant projects.

- Based, in part, on performance measures used by the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Recipients are **encouraged**, but **not required**, to select measures from the list

Examples:

- Total number of acres restored
- Number of jobs created
- Number of recreational fishers
- Number of monitoring events
- Number of miles of road constructed
- Number of visitors

Tips and suggestions

- ▶ Quality over quantity: fewer, meaningful measures are better than more, less-meaningful measures
- ▶ Base performance measures on the project objective
- ▶ Differentiate between performance measures and project milestones, and report each on the appropriate form
- ▶ Use performance measures from the recommended list, when applicable
- ▶ Make sure performance measures can be represented numerically and check that the target and baseline values are in the same units

Status of Performance Report

Should relate to the true purpose of the project.

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Should relate to the project goal and should be different from the milestones.

Should both be numbers and have the same units

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Tips and suggestions

- ▶ Think about the project objectives and performance measures early in the planning process, preferably at the MYP stage
- ▶ Not all information needs be known at the time of application
 - Target value may be determined by planning activities included in the project
 - Baseline value may be determined by monitoring activities included in the project
- ▶ Project monitoring:
 - Consider monitoring needs during the early stages of project development
 - Monitoring costs can be included in the project budget

Project monitoring

Pre- and **post-** project monitoring both may be necessary, depending on the nature of the project and its objectives.

Pre-project monitoring may be necessary to determine the baseline

Post-project monitoring may be necessary to determine the project's success in achieving its objectives

Project Monitoring Resources:

Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Trustees. *Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement*. Chapter 5 "Restoring Natural Resources," Appendix E, "Monitoring and Adaptive Management Framework," Pg. 5-366 – 5-405. February 2016. http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/Chapter-5_Restoring-Natural-Resources_508.pdf.

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2017. *Effective Monitoring to Evaluate Ecological Restoration in the Gulf of Mexico*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/23476>.

The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council. DRAFT Interim Guidance Observational Data Plan. <https://www.restorethegulf.gov/gcerc-grants-office/gcerc-grants-resources>.

Questions?

restoreact@treasury.gov