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GAO's Managing for Results Hierarchy of Indicators

Table 1: Hierarchy of Indicators

Level	Description of indicator	Type of performance goal and measure generally associated with the indicator	Example of performance goal	Example of performance measure
6	Environmental risks or impacts to the ecology or human health and/or welfare	End outcome	Restore watersheds to their designated uses.	Number of river miles, lake acres, and estuary square miles that will be restored to their designated uses.
5	Pollutants absorbed by the human body	End outcome	Reduce pesticide poisonings by 5 percent.	Pesticide poisonings will be reduced by 5-percent.
4	Concentrations of pollutants in the environment	End outcome	Maintain healthy air quality for levels of carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and lead.	All areas currently meeting national ambient air quality standards will continue to maintain healthful standards for carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and lead.
3	Discharges and emissions of pollutants	End outcome	Reduce discharges of toxic air pollutants by 4 million pounds per year.	Discharges of toxic air pollutants will be reduced by 4 million pounds per year.
2	Actions or responses by regulated parties	Intermediate outcome	At least 100 drinking water systems eligible for Drinking Water State Revolving Funds will have initiated operations that protect human health and welfare.	At least 100 eligible drinking water systems will initiate operations to protect human health and welfare.
1	Actions by EPA, states, tribes, or other governmental bodies	Output	Prepare final rules for disposal of lead-based paint debris and establish standards regarding hazardous levels of lead in paint, dust, and soil.	The lead debris disposal rule and lead hazards standards rule will be completed by September 30, 2000.
R	Research and development	Output	Develop a conceptual model for developing watershed assessment techniques that would assist local, regional, and national environmental decisionmakers in maintaining the ecological integrity of a watershed.	A model to assess the exposure of wildlife to multimedia environmental contaminants (i.e., in the soil, water, food, and air) will be released.

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