



OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Promoting Integrity and Accountability
for the DOI, the American public, the U.S.
Congress, and other stakeholders



Organizational Assessment | 2022

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) provides independent oversight for the programs and operations of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI).

WHAT WE DO

Promote positive change in the DOI through prioritized and timely oversight

PRIORITIZE oversight in high-risk and high-impact areas

DELIVER high-quality, timely work products

DRIVE CHANGE by making recommendations for improvement and monitoring their implementation

ENGAGE with stakeholders to facilitate improvements and accountability

OUR CORE VALUES



INTEGRITY

We demonstrate our integrity by acting with honesty and professionalism. We treat people with dignity and respect.



OBJECTIVITY

Objectivity is the foundation of our work. We maintain independence, gather all relevant facts, and base our findings on supportable evidence.



IMPACT

Our work provides decision makers with information so they can take corrective actions. We strive for continuous improvement in our own organization and the DOI.

JANUARY 2023



Message from the Inspector General

I am pleased to present the fiscal year (FY) 2022 organizational assessment for the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Office of Inspector General (OIG). Our annual organizational assessment highlights some of our most significant accomplishments in overseeing the DOI's programs and operations. We also contextualize our work with operational information to demonstrate the effect that we have relative to our budget.



We achieve our oversight mission by preventing and reporting on fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement in the DOI. One of our most consequential challenges is prioritizing our potential work given the DOI's broad mission and portfolio. To take just a few examples, the DOI manages 20 percent of the nation's lands, annually receives hundreds of millions of visitors to National Parks and the DOI's other public lands, spends billions of dollars in acquisitions, collects and disperses billions in revenue from energy production on public lands, and fulfills obligations to American Indians and Alaska Natives. Over the past 3 years, the DOI also received large funding increases to address other matters of national significance, such as infrastructure and energy security.

We focus our oversight work where it will have a significant impact, such as meeting the needs of vulnerable populations, protecting public safety, and promoting sound fiscal stewardship. We also consider the likelihood of harmful outcomes if a high-risk area is not addressed. For example, in May 2021, we received allegations of critical health and safety violations at a helium

enrichment unit operated by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and immediately notified BLM leadership, which led the BLM to suspend operations of the unit for an extended period. More generally, we issued recommendations that, if implemented, will lead to improvement in programs and operations throughout the DOI. In addition, we developed objective, fact-based findings of criminal, civil, and administrative misconduct to hold wrongdoers accountable and educated DOI employees, leadership, contractors, and grantees on their responsibilities to prevent, identify, and report fraud and other misconduct.

We achieved these accomplishments operating with less than one-half of one percent of the DOI's budget. We also successfully transitioned from an almost fully remote workforce to a hybrid workforce. Our commitment to our workforce helps promote dedication to our mission and, as a result, our organizational success.

We are committed to providing independent, objective, and high-quality oversight of the DOI's programs and operations, and I look forward to continuing this mission through the exceptional work of our skilled employees.

Mark Lee Greenblatt
Inspector General

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DOI Bureaus and Select DOI Offices

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) • Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) • Bureau of Land Management (BLM) • Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) • Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) • Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) • National Park Service (NPS) • Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) • Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) • Office of the Secretary (OS) • Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, & Enforcement (OSMRE) • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) • U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

Select OIG Offices

Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations (AIE) • Office of Investigations (OI)

Special Appropriations Received for Specific DOI Programs and Priorities

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act • Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) • Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) • Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)



	DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS	FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES
DOI	\$16,134,591,000	61,846
OIG	\$62,132,000	271

The OIG has a broad mandate to oversee the DOI's own expansive programs and operations.



LAND MANAGEMENT OF

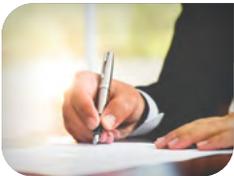
MORE THAN 480 MILLION ACRES OF PUBLIC LANDS

56 MILLION ACRES OF INDIAN TRUST LANDS



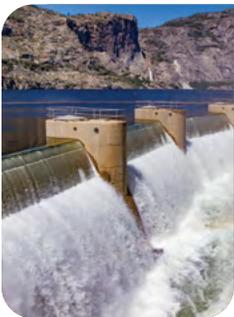
TRIBAL TRUST FOR

1.9 MILLION AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES



CONTRACTS AND GRANTS

WORTH APPROXIMATELY \$14.6 BILLION IN FY 2022



WATER

SUPPLIED TO 17 STATES IN THE AMERICAN WEST

GENERATED 15 PERCENT OF THE NATION'S HYDROPOWER



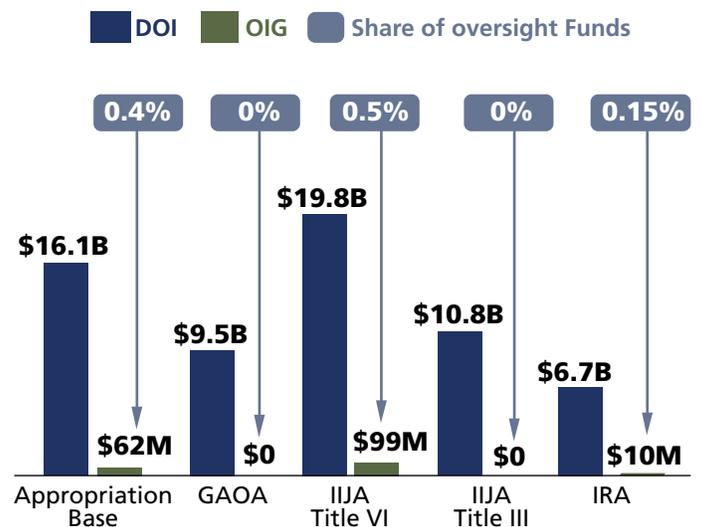
ENERGY PRODUCTION

EQUAL TO 17 PERCENT OF U.S. ENERGY PRODUCTION

EARNED NEARLY \$22 BILLION IN REVENUE IN FY 2022 FOR DISBURSEMENT TO TRIBES, STATES, SPECIFIC GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND AGENCIES, AND THE U.S. TREASURY

With a small fraction of the DOI's resources, we must carefully prioritize our work.

Resources for OIG oversight have not kept pace with expanding DOI programs and funding.



When prioritizing work, we consider a variety of factors, including:

Examples

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND SECURITY



Cybersecurity, DOI management of wildfires, DOI programs addressing climate change impacts

SIGNIFICANT SPENDING AND REVENUE



Special appropriations, grants and contracts, royalty collection

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS



Oversight of conditions in schools and detention centers in Indian Country

EMPLOYEE AND PUBLIC TRUST



Misconduct by high-level officials and law enforcement



Building Public Trust Through Prevention and Objective Information

We take actions to prevent wrongdoing and mismanagement. We develop fact-based, objective reports on the DOI's programs and operations and also address allegations of individual misconduct.

Our work protected U.S. taxpayer dollars.

11 **SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT ACTIONS** were taken by the DOI based on OIG referrals in FY 2022.

These actions protect taxpayer dollars by preventing entities that engage in improper conduct or perform poorly from doing business with the Government. Also, we continued to monitor the compliance by two corporations that entered into administrative agreements in lieu of debarments. Such agreements permit contractors to obtain awards only if they adopt enhanced ethical and compliance programs.

We provided training to prevent wrongdoing.

1,589 **INDIVIDUALS WERE TRAINED** during outreach presentations in FY 2022.

The presentations were given to DOI employees, contractors, and grantees and aimed to prevent, detect, and deter wrongdoing and mismanagement.

We produced reports that provided actionable information to decision makers.



We responded timely to Freedom of Information Act requests.



Sources: iStock

We shared information about whistleblower protections with the public on our YouTube channel.

We launched an OIG YouTube channel this year and published content on our strategic priorities, the findings of high-impact work, and whistleblower protections to promote accountability and effective Government oversight.





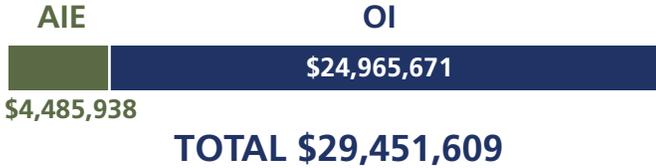
Promoting Positive Change and Accountability

We provide information to decision makers to recover taxpayer dollars, improve DOI operations and programs, and hold wrongdoers accountable.

In FY 2022:



We identified \$29.5 million in questioned, wasted, defrauded, and uncollected funds.



We identified areas for improvement that led to change when the DOI implemented our recommendations and addressed information in our investigative referrals.



245
Recommendations Made

226
Recommendations Closed



11
Referrals for Action

4
Actions Taken to Address Misconduct

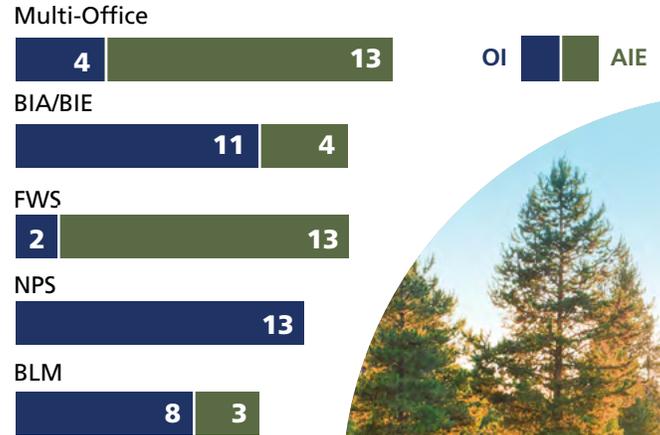


Our findings promoted accountability.

Months sentenced as:



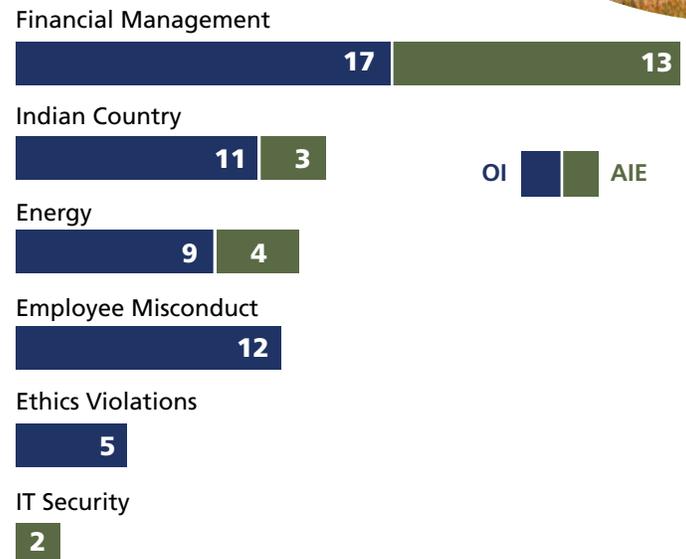
Our most reviewed bureaus included the BIA and BIE, FWS, NPS, and BLM. Additionally, 17 reviews included multiple offices or bureaus.



Source: iStock



Most of our reports involved financial management, Indian Country, energy, or employee misconduct.





Positive Impact From Effective Government Oversight

Our findings on several critical matters in FY 2022 demonstrate the importance of effective Federal Government oversight and our positive impact on the DOI.

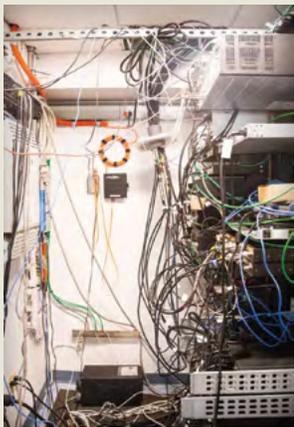
PUBLIC AND EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Allegations of Safety and Employee Health Hazards and Excessive Flaring at the Cliffside Helium Enrichment Unit

We investigated safety- and health-related allegations from employees and contractors at the BLM's Cliffside Helium Enrichment Unit (CHEU) in Amarillo, TX. The alleged violations and mismanagement posed serious risk of harm to personnel, infrastructure, and the environment. After we alerted BLM leadership to the concerns, the BLM closed the facility to resolve what it termed "critical safety issues." Our work also led the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to inspect the facility. OSHA issued a report with 21 notices of unsafe working conditions, which was OSHA's first use of its "egregious policy violation" at a Federal facility.



Source: OSHA



Source: DOI

Safety Concerns and Other Deficiencies at the U.S. Park Police's Dispatch Operations Center in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area

During a review of the U.S. Park Police's (USPP's) radio recording system in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area, we identified significant safety concerns and other deficiencies at the USPP's dispatch operations center, including bird droppings in employees' workspaces, outdated and deficient equipment, and failure to establish the minimum standards and critical guidance required by DOI policy. These issues jeopardize the safety of officers and the public and create liability risks for the USPP. We made four recommendations to help the USPP address these issues.

The U.S. Department of the Interior and Its Bureaus Have Not Finalized and Implemented Their Body Camera Policies

We found that the DOI has never issued a finalized body camera policy, even though its bureaus have been using body cameras since at least 2016. We also found that several bureaus operate under policies that are not consistent with minimum standards in the DOI's interim policy. Given the importance of body cameras for ensuring public safety, supporting investigative proceedings, and maintaining public trust in law enforcement, it is crucial that the DOI and bureau law enforcement officers understand how to use them and that supervisors provide oversight of their use. Following the issuance of our report, the DOI: (1) issued an updated policy on body worn cameras in October 2022 and (2) stated that it will ensure bureau policies are implemented by December 31, 2022.



Source: iStock

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Positive Impact From Effective Government Oversight

Our findings on several critical matters in FY 2022 demonstrate the importance of effective Federal Government oversight and our positive impact on the DOI.

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FEDERAL REVENUE

The Bureau of Land Management Did Not Review the Federal Exclusions List Before Issuing Federal Mineral Leases

We found that the BLM’s leasing staff did not review the Federal exclusions list, which identifies non-responsible entities that are precluded from doing business with the U.S. Government, before issuing Federal mineral leases. The BLM issues leases for energy and mineral exploration and production on millions of acres of Federal lands. These leases and related income sources led to \$5.2 billion in revenue in FY 2020. Doing business with excluded parties would increase the risk of losing significant income to fraud, waste, and abuse. In July, the House Natural Resources Committee held a hearing highlighting our report and the work of our Administrative Remedies Division. Since we issued our report, the BLM adopted, on an accelerated timeframe, new procedures and guidance to address the deficiencies we identified. Moreover, our report led the DOI to examine this issue more generally across all of its bureaus and offices.



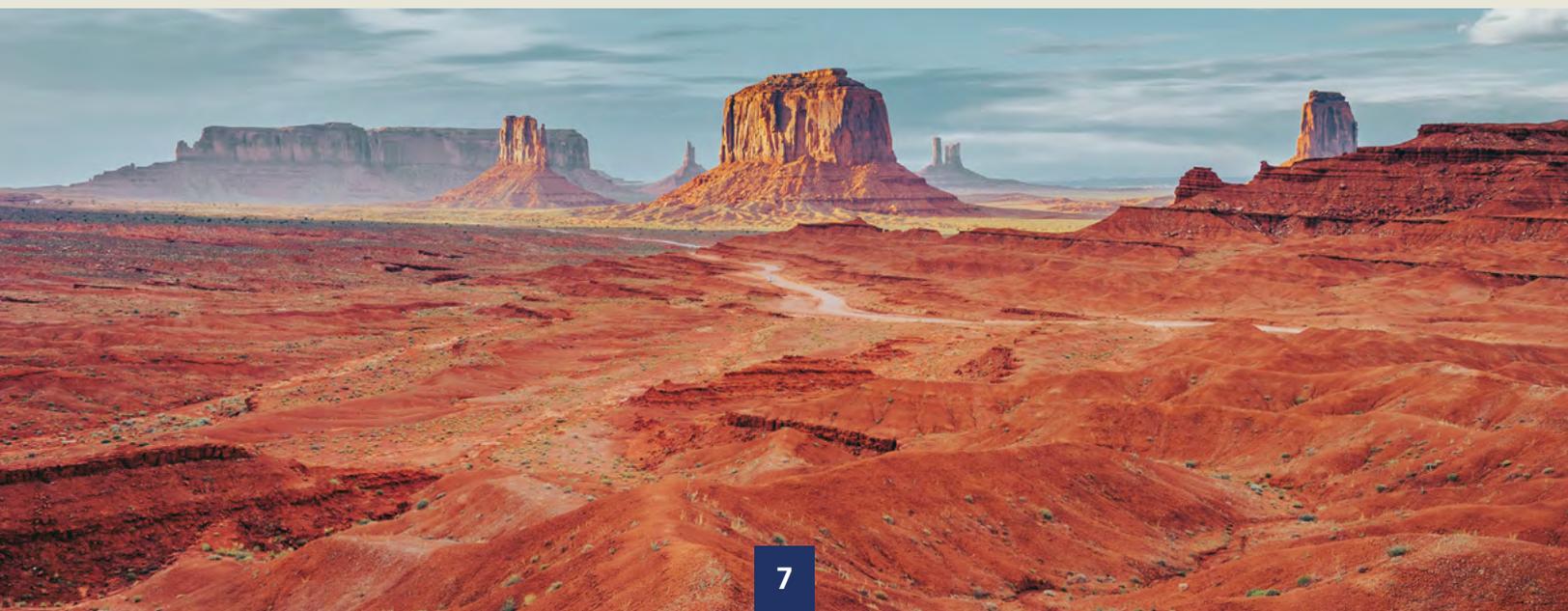
AWARD-WINNING WORK

The Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) honored three teams and one individual from our OIG at the 25th Annual CIGIE Awards Ceremony. These prestigious awards highlight the independent and objective oversight that DOI OIG employees conduct on behalf of the American public. The work recognized by CIGIE will help to reduce the risk of lost Federal revenue from energy royalties; enhance Congressional oversight of the relocation of Navajo people and Hopi people living within each other’s boundaries; improve the USPP’s ability to safeguard our Nation’s resources and protect the public; and increase the quality, accuracy, and visibility of Government spending data.



COUNCIL OF THE INSPECTORS GENERAL ON INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY

Source: iStock





Spotlight On: Energy Investigations Unit

The Energy Investigations Unit (EIU) identifies risks and potential fraud in the DOI's energy, mineral, and revenue collection programs. It was created 14 years ago and has a proven track record of successfully investigating complex energy matters.

EIU staff are experienced professionals with specialized expertise and training to prevent, detect, and target fraud and abuse in the DOI's \$12 billion-a-year energy royalties portfolio. When appropriate, we work with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to prosecute criminal conduct and return lost revenues to victims.

WHAT'S AT RISK?



Collection of Revenues:

An average of more than \$12 billion a year since FY 2018 in energy-related revenues collected annually for

States, Indian mineral interest owners, and the public; the revenues are generated from more than 31,000 leases that cover production of on- and off-shore oil and gas, geothermal, coal, hard rock, and other mineral resources.



Public Health and Safety:

The health and safety of industry workers, Federal regulators, waterways and water sources, wildlife, and public lands affected by energy-related operations under Federal jurisdiction.



Oversight and Trust Responsibility:

Management and regulation of the development of natural resources from lands and waters that directly contribute to our Nation's economic health and security.

WHAT WE DO



Investigate criminal, civil, and administrative violations.



Identify programmatic vulnerabilities affecting the DOI's energy, mineral, and revenue collection programs.



Partner with the DOJ and other law enforcement partners to proactively identify violations and criminal conduct.



Educate other organizations, Government employees, and contractors through outreach and partnerships to prevent and detect energy-related fraud.

Source: iStock





Spotlight On: Energy Investigations Unit

OVERALL IMPACT SINCE INCEPTION



\$209 MILLION
MONETARY RESULTS

Including recoveries for fraud victims such as private companies and individuals, States, Tribes, and the Federal Government



**HOLDING
60
VIOLATORS
ACCOUNTABLE**

Criminal convictions and civil settlements



**230
INVESTIGATIONS IN
MORE THAN 20 STATES**

Reducing the risk of harm to the environment and the American public through improved internal controls, coordination, and compliance



540% Return on investment over the last 6 years, which benefited public and private mineral interest owners, victims of fraud, and U.S. taxpayers.

INVESTIGATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Convictions From OIG Investigation Into Deadly Explosion and Oil Spill

We found three individuals and three companies were negligent and failed to safely conduct welding operations aboard an offshore production platform that resulted in an explosion, three fatalities, and oil discharged into the ocean. The six parties pleaded guilty and sentences resulted in a combined total of 168 months of probation and \$6.5 million in fines. [2017]

\$29 Million

Recovered For Mineral Owners

We uncovered a criminal conspiracy and recovered approximately \$29 million for private companies, States, Indian mineral interest owners, and the public. We found the co-owners of a gas marketing company and another individual defrauded approximately 30 oil and gas companies over a 10-year period. The DOJ's criminal prosecution of the case resulted in three guilty pleas for conspiracy to commit wire fraud. [2019]

Source: iStock





Select Fiscal Year 2023 Priorities

Financial Management



Our work has shown that new funding is vulnerable to fraud, waste, and mismanagement. With approximately \$48 billion dollars in new funding flowing into the DOI over the past 3 years to address priority areas—much of it to be spent through grants and contracts—-independent oversight can help mitigate risk and ensure dollars spent achieve the intended goals.

Inflation Reduction Act of 2022

\$6.65 BILLION

Years available to spend: FY 2022–2032

Select priorities: \$4 billion for water management and conservation efforts in high drought areas

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

\$30 BILLION

Years available to spend: FY 2022–2026

Select priorities: water and drought resilience, wildfire resilience, ecosystem restoration, tribal climate resilience and infrastructure, legacy pollution clean-up, and Indian water rights settlements

Great American Outdoors Act

\$9.5 BILLION

Years available to spend: FY 2021–2025

Select priorities: deferred maintenance for parks, other public lands, and Indian schools

Plus

\$900 MILLION in spending per year for the Land and Water Conservation Fund

CARES Act

\$950 MILLION

Purpose: COVID-19 response

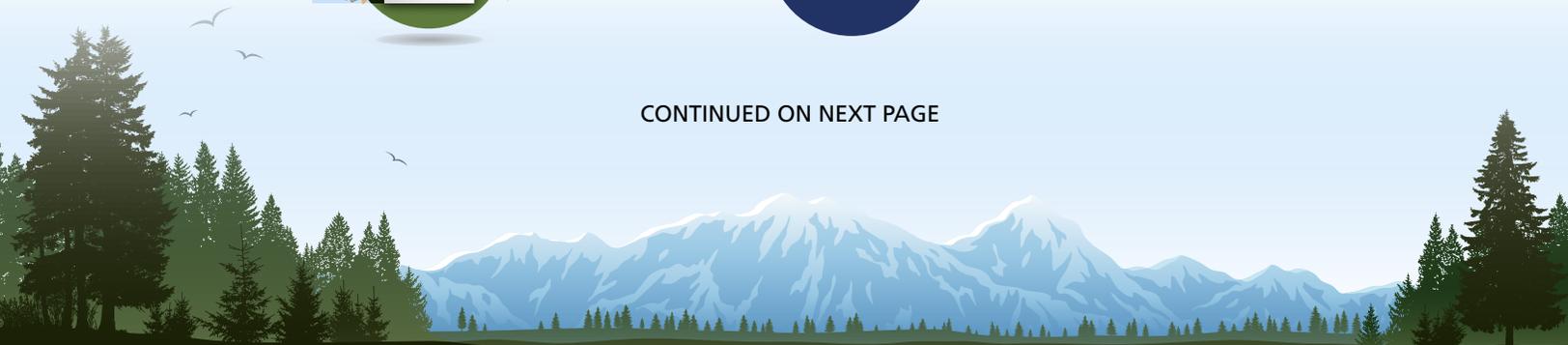


GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

\$12 BILLION

Average annually over the past 5 years

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Select Fiscal Year 2023 Priorities

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An average of

**\$12
BILLION**

annually has been collected by ONRR over the past 5 years in energy-related revenue for States, Indian mineral interest owners, and the public.

Energy



The management and regulation of the development of natural resources from lands and waters under DOI jurisdiction directly contribute to our Nation's economic health and security. Energy-related operations under Federal jurisdiction also affect the health and safety of industry workers, Federal regulators, waterways and water resources, wildlife, and public lands.

Responsibility to Native Americans

Our work has found that weaknesses in oversight leave Federally funded programs intended to benefit Native Americans susceptible to fraud, waste, mismanagement, and abuse.



Fraud and mismanagement divert funds from the intended beneficiaries.

Cybersecurity

The DOI continues to face challenges in implementing an enterprise IT security program that balances compliance, cost, and risk while enabling bureaus to meet their diverse missions.



Western Water Infrastructure

With billions in new funding for water management and conservation efforts in high drought areas and the important role that the DOI has in providing water to drought-stricken communities in Western States, we will place increased focus on Bureau of Reclamation programs and western water infrastructure in FY 2023.



Effective water management, allocation, and delivery to communities impact their economic and environmental health.



OIG Strategy Map: Goals and Objectives



Promote positive change in the DOI through prioritized and timely oversight

PRODUCTS

- 1** Prioritize oversight in high-risk and high-impact areas
- 2** Deliver high-quality, timely work products
- 3** Drive change by making recommendations for improvement and monitoring their implementation
- 4** Engage with stakeholders to facilitate improvements and accountability



Foster a top-performing workplace that inspires employees to take pride in their work and the work of our organization

PEOPLE

- 5** Cultivate an inclusive organizational culture that prioritizes collaboration, diversity, professionalism, and fairness
- 6** Develop the workforce and align the organization to achieve our mission
- 7** Keep employees informed and respect their voices



Strengthen the impact of our oversight mission through effective and efficient OIG operations

OPERATIONS

- 8** Build streamlined business operations for resilience, adaptability, integrity, and organizational excellence
- 9** Provide and manage human, financial, and information resources that enable us to achieve our mission
- 10** Enhance our use of data and technology to improve organizational efficiency and success