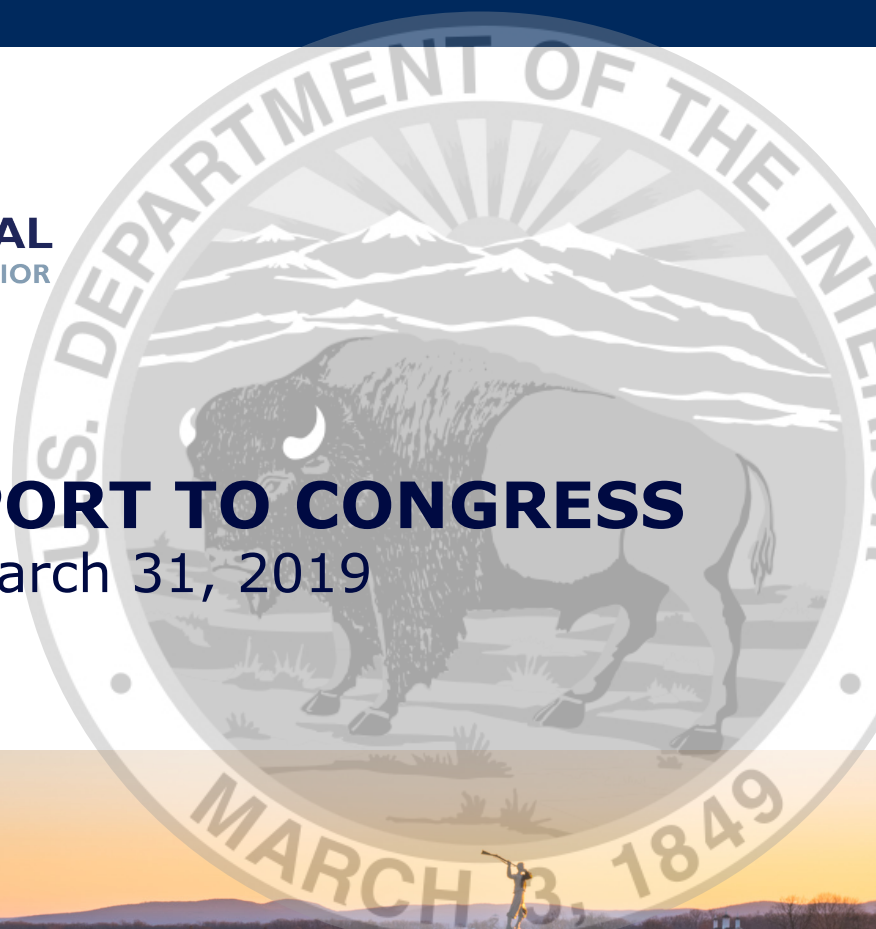




OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SEMIANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

For the period ending March 31, 2019



HIGHLIGHTS

OFFICE OF AUDITS, INSPECTIONS, AND EVALUATIONS



Reports Issued



12

Audits, Evaluations,
and Inspections

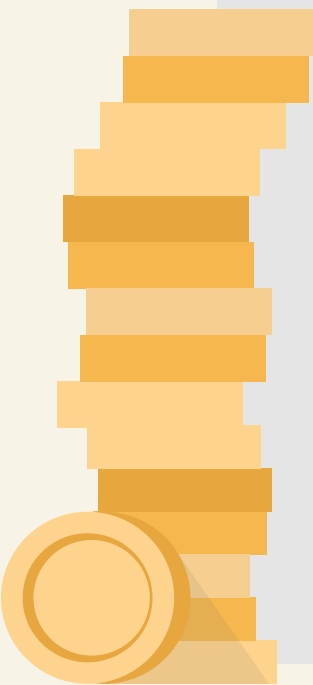
3

Other
Assignments

11

Contract and
Grant Audits

IMPACT



\$1,123,187
questioned costs

106
recommendations made

61
recommendations closed

467
open, unimplemented recommendations

HIGHLIGHTS

OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS



400
COMPLAINTS RECEIVED



13
CASES COMPLETED
INVOLVING GS-15+



41
INVESTIGATIONS OPENED



53
INVESTIGATIONS CLOSED

Civil and Administrative Investigative Activities

| | |
|---|----------|
| Personnel actions | 21 |
| Procurement remedies | 12 |
| Civil settlements or recoveries | \$50,000 |
| General policy actions | 4 |

Criminal Prosecution Activities

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Convictions | 7 |
| Sentencings | 4 |
| Indictments/informations | 9 |
| Restitution & fines | \$772,659.54 |

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----|
| Our Operating Principles | i |
| A Message From Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall..... | ii |
| 2018 Top Management Challenges | iii |
| 2018 Organizational Assessment | iv |
| Bureau of Land Management..... | 2 |
| <i>Audit</i> | 3 |
| <i>Investigative</i> | 4 |
| Bureau of Ocean Energy Management | 6 |
| <i>Investigative</i> | 7 |
| Bureau of Reclamation | 8 |
| <i>Audit</i> | 9 |
| Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement..... | 11 |
| <i>Audit</i> | 12 |
| <i>Investigative</i> | 12 |
| Indian Affairs | 15 |
| <i>Audit</i> | 16 |
| <i>Investigative</i> | 16 |
| National Park Service | 21 |
| <i>Audit</i> | 22 |
| <i>Investigative</i> | 24 |
| Office of Natural Resources Revenue | 28 |
| <i>Investigative</i> | 29 |
| Office of the Secretary and Multi-Office Assignments | 30 |
| <i>Audit</i> | 31 |
| <i>Investigative</i> | 33 |
| Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement | 38 |
| <i>Investigative</i> | 39 |
| U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | 40 |
| <i>Audit</i> | 41 |
| <i>Investigative</i> | 42 |
| Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Audits..... | 44 |
| U.S. Geological Survey | 48 |
| <i>Investigative</i> | 49 |
| Appendices | 51 |
| Cross References to the Inspector General Act..... | 87 |
| OIG Contact Information | 89 |

OUR OPERATING PRINCIPLES

As the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), we provide independent oversight and promote excellence, integrity, and accountability within the programs, operations, and management of the DOI by conducting audits, inspections, evaluations, and investigations.

We keep the Secretary and Congress informed of problems and deficiencies relating to the administration of DOI programs and operations. As a result of us fulfilling these responsibilities, Americans can expect greater accountability and integrity in Government program administration.

Our core values define a shared OIG way, guiding employee behavior and decisions at all levels. Adhering to these values—objectivity and independence, integrity, and getting results—we build a foundation to develop trustworthy information that improves the DOI.

- **Objectivity and independence** define us and are the bedrock of our credibility. These concepts are closely related. Independence impairments impact objectivity. The OIG and its employees must remain independent from undue outside influence and approach work with intellectual honesty.
- **Integrity** is a character trait as well as a way of doing business. By acting with integrity in all we do, we build trust and a reputation for producing actionable and accurate work.
- **Getting results** depends on individual and team efforts. We positively impact the DOI by detecting fraud and other wrongdoing, deterring unethical behavior and preventing deleterious outcomes, confirming that programs achieved intended results and were fiscally responsible, and highlighting effective practices.

A Message From Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall

I am pleased to submit our semiannual report detailing the work we completed between October 1, 2018, and March 31, 2019. After nearly two decades leading the Office of Inspector General (OIG), this will be my final submission of a Semiannual Report to Congress for the OIG as I retire from the Federal Government.

Our dedicated workforce, made up of auditors, investigators, attorneys, analysts, and various support staff, contributed to our successful efforts to promote excellence, integrity, and accountability within the programs, operations, and management of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The impact of our work can be seen through greater financial accountability and transparency at the Department.

Specifically, our audits of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program grant funds hold the States accountable for Federal funds received to support conservation-related projects. Our audits of the Department's Purchase Card Program, use of convenience checks, and management of its fleet size and operation identified opportunities for the Department to improve its internal controls and minimize the risk of financial mismanagement.

In addition, our evaluation of the National Park Service's (NPS') use of philanthropic partner donations questioned nearly \$300,000 because of insufficient documentation justifying the use of the funds. We found that the NPS misused the donations because it was not overseeing the use of donated funds or compiling and reporting total donated funds. It also did not have an accurate directory of philanthropic partners and amounts donated, nor did it have policy guiding proper use of the funds.

Because the NPS did not ensure donations were appropriate, its parks did not receive the full benefit of partner donations. By strengthening internal controls and oversight, the NPS can help keep the public's trust in its philanthropic partnerships and their critical role in preserving history and enhancing visitor experiences.

Our investigative work, which reviewed allegations of sexual harassment, misconduct, retaliation, conflicts of interest, ethical violations, arson, and embezzlement, resulted in 190 months of imprisonment or probation and more than \$900,000 in criminal fines, restitution, or special assessments and civil settlements. The Department took various actions to address the misconduct identified in our reports, to include removal, reassignment, counseling, and reprimand. Several other employees either retired or resigned rather than face potential adverse action against them.

We are committed to our mission to provide independent and objective oversight and to provide the Department, Congress, and the public with timely, accurate, and actionable reports to improve the Department's programs and operations.



Deputy Inspector General

2018 TOP MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

The 2018 Top Management Challenges report summarizes the most significant management and performance challenges facing the DOI. By statute—the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000—this list is required to be included in the DOI’s “Agency Financial Report” for fiscal year 2018.

Nine challenge areas are included in this year’s report, namely:

- Workplace culture and ethics
- Energy management
- Public safety and disaster response
- Information technology
- Water programs
- Responsibility to American Indians and Insular Areas
- Acquisition and financial assistance
- Climate effects
- Operational efficiencies

The identified challenge areas reflect continuing vulnerabilities and emerging issues faced by the DOI. We met with DOI officials to gain their perspective on these challenge areas and created this list based on specific OIG and U.S. Government Accountability Office reviews and other reports, as well as our general knowledge of the DOI’s programs and operations.



PROMOTING EXCELLENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

for *The American public*

The U.S. Congress

DOI and its stakeholders

OBJECTIVITY **AND INDEPENDENCE**

Objectivity and independence are the bedrock of our credibility. We gather facts, base our findings on evidence, and deliver conclusions with candor.

INTEGRITY

Integrity builds trust. We emphasize ethics; treat people with dignity and respect; and are honest, reliable, and transparent.

GETTING RESULTS

Our work provides decision makers with nonpartisan information so they can take corrective actions. When making recommendations to the DOI or looking inward, we strive for continuous improvement.

Contact us if you suspect waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in DOI programs or operations:

www.doioig.gov

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) provides objective and independent oversight over all the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) bureaus and programs.

“The goal of oversight is not merely to make our government less wasteful and corrupt, but to build trust and confidence in our very system of government.”

—*The Art of the Watchdog*
Daniel Feldman and David Eichenenthal

The OIG’s 5-year average return on investment was **\$20 : \$1**, according to a 2015 Brookings Institution report.

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 (BOR) • 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 and Enforcement (OSMRE)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) • U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

Our Reviews

Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations

Our **audits, inspections, and evaluations** are proactive reviews of DOI programs and operations. Inclusion of a bureau in our reports does not necessarily indicate a higher rate of problems. For example, at the FWS' request we audit grants it makes to States under the Sportfish and Wildlife Restoration Program. Twelve of the 17 reports that included the FWS were grant audits.

The following were bureaus most included in OIG audit reports issued in fiscal year 2018. Many of our reports included findings about multiple bureaus.

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| 17 | FWS |
| 13 | BIA |
| 12 | NPS |
| 10 | OS |
| 7 | BOR |

We gather facts, base our findings on evidence, and deliver conclusions with candor.

Investigations

One way we respond to allegations of wrongdoing by DOI employees or those doing business with the DOI is to open an investigation. **Investigations** may be criminal, civil, or administrative in nature. We post the results of our investigations, with few exceptions, to our website.

Investigations serve an important role not only in identifying wrongdoing, but also identifying when allegations are unfounded. **Twenty-seven percent** of completed investigations in fiscal year 2018 were of unfounded allegations.

The following bureaus were most included in OIG investigations completed in fiscal year 2018.

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| 30 | NPS |
| 21 | BIA |
| 17 | BLM |
| 11 | BOR |
| 10 | FWS |

Frequent concerns in investigations we completed.

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 41 | Ethics |
| 34 | Contract & Grant Fraud |
| 12 | Energy |
| 11 | Public Safety & Security |

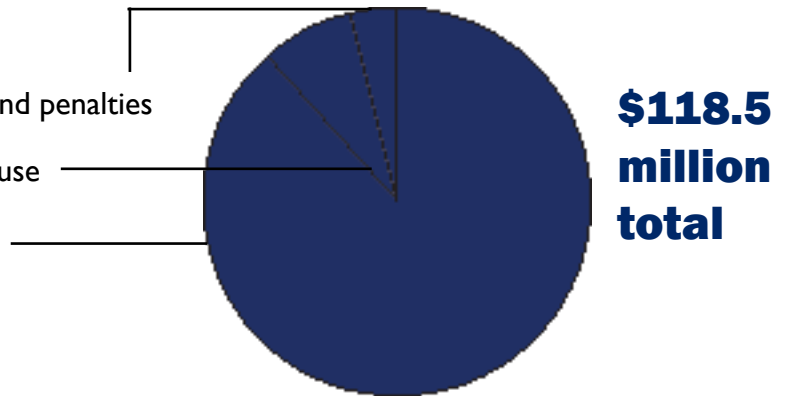
Results In Numbers

Monetary Impact

\$4.4 million in restitution, settlements and penalties

\$9.4 million in funds to be put to better use

\$104.7 million in questioned costs



Non-Monetary Impact

391

Months served as jail time and probation

60

Hours of community service

339

Recommendations made by the OIG to the DOI

227*

OIG recommendations implemented by the DOI

*This number includes recommendations made in prior years.

Our work provides decision makers with nonpartisan information so they can take corrective actions.

Transparency

317 Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act requests we responded to. We received 307 requests in fiscal year 2018. Requests responded to include requests received in 2017.

120 Investigative work reported on our website. These reports of investigations and investigative summaries cover 94 percent of investigations completed in fiscal year 2018 (this number includes 17 investigations completed in fiscal year 2018 but posted in a prior fiscal year).

63 Audit work reported on our website. These 63 reports and summaries include various products from our audits, inspections, and evaluations unit. They cover 100 percent of audit-related reviews completed in fiscal year 2018.

Prevention

24 Suspension and debarment actions the OIG recommended to the DOI. See spotlight on suspension and debarment on page 5.

41 Outreach briefings the OIG delivered to DOI employees and contractors to deter wrongdoing and mismanagement. These briefings reached an estimate of 1014 individuals.

We emphasize ethics; treat people with dignity and respect; and are honest, reliable, and transparent.

Results In the News

Citation Companies Agree To Pay \$2.25 Million To Settle Civil False Claims Act Allegations

Department of Justice Press Release, December 19, 2017

\$2.25 million

Value of civil settlement. "The obligation to properly pay Federal mineral royalties is essential to the responsible development of oil and gas from public lands."

-Ron Gonzales, DOI OIG

Interior Report: Federal Program To Address Idle Oil and Gas Wells Needs Fixing

Casper Star Tribune, January 29, 2018

4,546

Number of idle wells reported by the BLM in fiscal year 2013.

4,618

Number of idle wells reported by the BLM as of August 2016.

NPS Official Requested Thousands in Upgrades for Park Housing Unit He Planned to Rent Out

The Hill, February 7, 2018

\$32,000

Value of the upgrades the NPS official requested. At the time of our report, the senior official had decided not to move into the unit and the NPS had delayed the renovations.

U.S. Natural Gas Royalty Case Results in \$600,000 settlement

U.S. News and World Report, June 8, 2018

\$600,000

Amount the Great Western Drilling Company (GWD) underpaid its royalty obligations to the ONRR. For more than 6 years, they inappropriately deducted certain costs incurred from its royalty obligations to the ONRR.

Crow Tribe Can't Account for \$14.5 Million in Grant Dollars, According to Audit

Billings Gazette, June 25, 2018

\$14.5 million

Amount of costs claimed by the Crow tribe that we questioned. Neither the contractor the tribe hired nor the BIA could provide documentation supporting expenses claimed under the agreement between BIA and the tribe.

NPS Punts Decision on Zinke's Free Wolf Trap Tickets

E&E News, September 27, 2018

\$43,000

Value of the free tickets that the Wolf Trap Foundation for the performing arts provides annually to the Secretary, which raises ethical concerns. The DOI continues to review the matter.

Spotlight on: Administrative Remedies

WHAT ARE ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES?

Administrative remedies are actions the Federal Government can take to protect taxpayer dollars from wrongdoers and seriously poor performers. Suspended or debarred businesses and individuals are prohibited from obtaining new Federal Government contracts and certain subcontracts and non-procurement transactions, such as cooperative agreements, grants, and leases. The Federal Government uses suspension and debarment to protect taxpayer dollars, not to punish wrongdoing. The Government can also enter into an administrative agreement in lieu of suspension or debarment, which permits a contractor with enhanced ethical and compliance programs and procedures to obtain awards, allowing American jobs to be preserved.

Administrative remedies are used when parties have engaged in criminal or serious improper conduct that leads to questions about the parties' integrity, ethics, or competence. Such conduct may include fraud, bribery, making false statements or claims, failure to pay subcontractors, and other offenses indicating lack of business integrity or honesty.

BENEFITS

Protect taxpayer dollars.

Administrative remedies prevent certain entities from doing new business with the Government.

Help all Federal agencies.

An entity that is ineligible to do business with the DOI is also ineligible to do business with other Federal Government agencies.

Ensure Government integrity.

Administrative remedies protect the integrity of Government programs by helping to ensure only honest, ethical, and responsible persons and companies receive Federal funds.

Deter Wrongdoing.

Suspension and debarment can have devastating consequences for those whose businesses depend on Federal awards. Consequences include ruined businesses, damage to reputations, and loss of revenue. Desire to avoid these consequences deters wrongdoing.

OIG

recommends suspension and debarment actions to DOI's Suspending and Debarring official.

ALL

Administrative remedy recommendations made by the OIG in fiscal year 2018 resulted in action taken by the DOI.

433

Actions recommended by the OIG to the DOI since 2008.

\$1.2 million

in payments to tribal officials were concealed by a scheme to skim public funds from the Chippewa Cree Tribe. The OIG referred 3 debarments to the DOI in April 2018. All 3 were debarred.

Unauthorized use of charge card

The OIG recommended a former FWS biologist be debarred for making unauthorized personal purchases on his Government charge card. The DOI debarred him in April 2018.

San Bruno explosion

Pacific Gas and Electric Company signed an interim administrative agreement in 2016 for the DOI to review its compliance and ethics program after a gas pipeline burst, resulting in deaths and home damage. Monitoring continues.

POSSIBLE PATH TO SUSPENSION OR DEBARMENT

Entity is indicted for **wrongdoing**, or sufficient evidence is gathered to indicate wrongdoing or seriously poor performance.

The OIG recommends an entity be suspended from doing Government business, pending the outcome of an investigation.

If excluded, the entity is listed on www.sam.gov.

The DOI **debars the** entity, generally, for a 3-year period. Alternatively, the Government may require the entity to take remedial actions to prevent recurrence, and monitor entity under an administrative agreement.

Budget

OIG relative to DOI

| | Employees | Budget |
|------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| DOI | 70,000 | \$14.6 billion |
| OIG | 250 | \$0.05 billion |

1 : 280 Employee Ratio

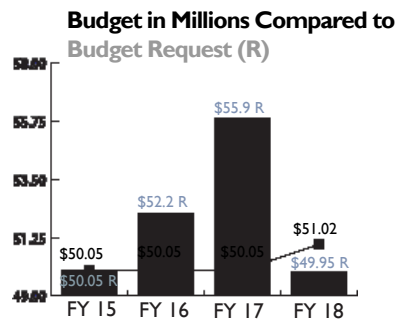
The OIG has about 1 employee to oversee every 280 DOI employees.

For comparison (using FY 2016 numbers, the latest available data):

- 1:162 Department of Agriculture's ratio
- 1: 67 Environmental Protection Agency's ratio
- 1: 20 National Science Foundation's ratio

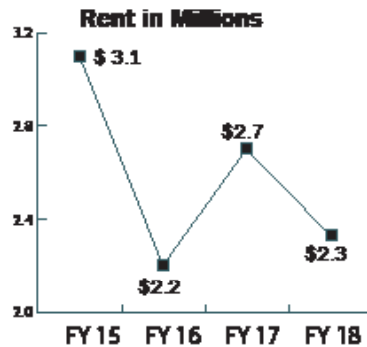
Only Treasury, Veteran's Affairs, and the U.S. Department of Justice have higher ratios than the DOI.

OIG Appropriations and Staffing



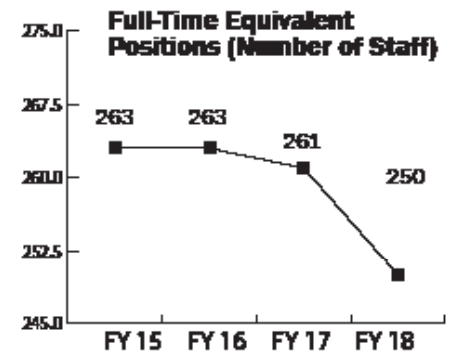
THE OIG ANNUAL APPROPRIATION

has trended flat or increased slightly.



COST REDUCTIONS

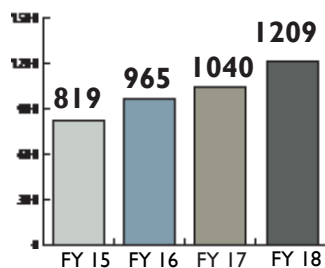
include office closures and consolidations.



STAFF NUMBERS

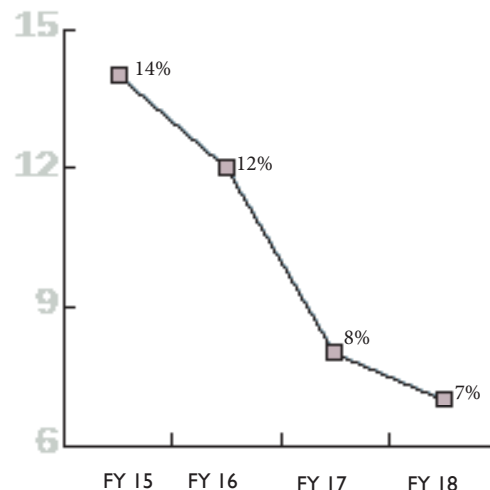
dropped in FY 2018. Per staff costs rise with mandated raises.

Complaints



COMPLAINTS TO THE OIG

have been increasing, with little accompanying budget to hire more investigative and audit staff.



% OF COMPLAINTS THE OIG INVESTIGATED

50 %

Decrease in percent of complaints we opened as an investigation since FY 2016 due to increased complaints and reduced staff numbers.

Looking Ahead

Select Fiscal Year 2019 Priorities and Projects

Outreach

We contracted with a production company to develop a video that captures our outreach messages to the DOI and recipients of DOI funds. With limited human resources, we cannot always deliver in person our three-part message: there is a lot at stake when wrongdoing and mismanagement occur in the DOI; DOI employees are the first line of defense and their actions matter; DOI employees have a right and responsibility to report wrongdoing to OIG and to cooperate with us on our reviews. The video will enable us to deliver this message consistently to a broader audience in the DOI.

Standardization

In fiscal year 2018, we updated the policies in our Inspector General Manual. In fiscal year 2019, we will continue this process, incorporating updates to the U.S. Government Accountability Office's *Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards* (also known as the "yellow book") and documenting changes to our Office of Investigations standardized processes, changes in expectations, and timelines. Standard and clearly documented policies help to ensure consistency, quality, and clarity in expectations.

Training

The OIG believes that living up to our core value of integrity requires treating others with dignity and respect. In fiscal year 2018, the DOI released the results of a workplace conduct survey that it administered Departmentwide. Just 14 percent of OIG respondents said they experienced harassment in the past year, compared to the DOI's 35 percent of reported harassment. We would like to improve. To clarify expectations about workplace conduct, and to educate employees about how to handle harassment, the OIG developed a 2-day training about the OIG's new workplace conduct policy. All OIG employees will receive this training in fiscal year 2019.

Budget and Planning

Over 90 percent of our budget in recent years has gone to staffing, rent, and other largely uncontrollable costs. The allocation of our budget, combined with uncertain appropriations, makes it difficult to plan for such necessary operations as hiring, contract purchases, and how many program areas to focus on. Because the work we do results in returning money to the U.S. Treasury for every dollar we spend, we seek to maintain a workforce that can fulfill our mission with available resources and eliminate the possibility of a reduction in force. We will continue to develop work planning processes so our employees can focus on high value work.

When making recommendations to the DOI or looking inward, we strive for continuous improvement.

2018 Organizational Measures

| Measure | Offices | Fully Successful Target | Fully Successful Met |
|--|-------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Percentage of products for which referencing was completed within 7 business days deadline as approved by Chief of Staff (COS). | AIE | 85 – 89% | ✓ |
| Number of [unit / OIG] AARs completed according to the AAR policy and posted to the AAR website with the next step section | AIE OI OM COS | 10-13 each unit 32-35 COS | ✓ (all units) |
| Percentage completion of AIE products for which a report was issued according to the OIG guidelines within 85 days from the submission of a draft report to HQ for approval. | AIE | 71 – 75% | ✓ |
| [Unit / OIG] Leadership Approval Rating selected questions measured by the 2018 Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (percentage positive) | AIE OGC OI OM COS | 65 – 69% 77 – 82% 41 – 49% 68 – 74% 55 – 59% | ✓ (all units) |
| Fairness Index score for [unit / OIG] as measured by the 2018 Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (percentage positive) | AIE OGC OI OM COS | 56 – 59% 72 – 77% 56 – 59% 54 – 57% 51 – 54% | ✓ (all units) |
| Percentage of cases that were approved by the Deputy IG and posted, in summary or redacted form, on the OIG website within 35 days or less of closure (non-administrative cases) or administrative completion (administrative). | OGC OI COS | 70 – 79% (OGC, OI) 50 – 64% (COS) | ✓ |
| Percentage of FOIA requests fully responded to within 40 working days or less of starting the case, following DOJ guidelines of first-in, first-out, during the fiscal year, excluding voluminous requests. | OGC | 78 – 84% | ✓ |
| Percentage of complaints that were reviewed and acted upon within 30 calendar days of receipt according to OI policy. | OI | 79 – 84% | ✓ |
| Project plan to standardize the planning and execution of OM products developed and approved by COS by target date. | OM | Approved between 6/20 – 7/15, 2018 | ✓ |
| Percentage of Special Agents and Investigators trained in Report Development who displayed improved understanding of the report development concepts after completed the training as demonstrated by obtaining a score of 90% or more in the post training test. | OI | 80 – 84% | ✓ |

The seal of the Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior, is a circular emblem. It features an eagle with its wings spread, perched on a shield. The shield contains a circular pattern of stars, similar to the European Union flag. The text "OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR" is inscribed around the perimeter of the seal.

Reporting Highlights

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



**Bureau of Land
Management**

Bureau of Land Management

The BLM Ensures Legitimacy of Small Miner Claims

We completed an inspection of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) small miner (those with 10 or fewer claims) mining claims. We focused on whether the BLM monitors these claims to ensure that they are legitimate, that maintenance fees are paid, and, if these fees are waived, that the required assessment work is conducted and complies with all applicable laws and regulations.

We found that the BLM does ensure that small miner claims are legitimate and that maintenance fees are paid. The BLM does not physically validate the assessment work reported by small miner claimants seeking waivers to the maintenance fee, however. In Colorado and California, the two BLM State offices we inspected, we found that the BLM verifies that small miners requesting a waiver qualify for that waiver. We also found that the BLM verifies that documentation of work performed on mining claims, which is required of those who receive the waiver, is received annually by September 1. Identifying that work has been performed for waived claims, however, is essentially an honor system. We found that many affidavits included a description of assessment work apparently not in compliance with what was listed in regulations as qualifying work. The remoteness of claim locations also make BLM in-person validation of an owner's onsite maintenance work unlikely.

We made two recommendations: one to the BLM that proposed a cost-benefit analysis of the administrative cost and the burden of managing the maintenance fee waiver for small miners, and the second to the Secretary of the Interior that suggested using the BLM's cost-benefit analysis to determine the future of the program.

The CHS Should Improve Its Financial Management System To Receive Federal Funds

We audited costs claimed by the Chicago Horticultural Society (CHS) on Grant No. L15AC00032 with the BLM to determine whether they were allowable and allocable and whether the CHS complied with Federal regulations, BLM policies and procedures, and contract terms and conditions.

We found the CHS did not comply with many of the applicable Federal regulations, BLM policies and procedures, and contract terms and conditions. Specifically, we identified the following deficiencies:

- Inadequate oversight of subaward recipients
- Failure to follow Federal regulations when hiring interns
- Ineligible payroll and training costs
- Unapproved changes to the budget
- Unsupported intern recruitment costs
- Inaccuracies in the CHS accounting system

These deficiencies occurred because the CHS had a loss of institutional knowledge, misunderstood which BLM employees could authorize changes to the agreement, and disregarded a requirement. We also questioned a total of \$530,537 of the costs claimed.

We made 10 recommendations to help the BLM recover costs and develop policies and procedures to ensure the CHS complies with Federal regulations, BLM policies and procedures, and grant agreement terms and conditions.

BLM Manager Engaged in Sexual Misconduct

The OIG investigated allegations that a BLM manager sent pornographic images and sexually suggestive instant messages from his Government computer and personal cellphone to a subordinate employee. The complainant further alleged that the BLM manager installed cameras in the district office to monitor employees and had misused Federal money to purchase a 72-inch flat-screen television and furniture for his office.

We found that the BLM manager sent sexually explicit messages to a subordinate employee from his Government computer during work hours and to two other BLM subordinate employees from his personal cellphone. All involved said the exchange of content was consensual, but the manager acknowledged that the conduct was inappropriate.

We did not find that the BLM manager installed cameras to monitor employees, but he did admit that he had inappropriately used the building's surveillance system and his Government-issued iPad to capture images of BLM employees without their knowledge. We found no evidence that the BLM manager misused Federal money to buy a television or furniture for his office.

We issued our report to the BLM Deputy Director.

BLM Official Used a Government Vehicle Without Authorization

The OIG investigated allegations that a BLM official was not authorized to use a Government-owned vehicle (GOV) for home-to-work commuting, traveled to his home state for personal reasons under the guise of work trips, inappropriately interfered in a hiring action to select a lesser-qualified applicant, and planned to relocate a BLM office to another state to personally benefit from the move.

We found that, from July 2017 to June 2018, the BLM official used a GOV for home-to-work commuting without authorization. We did not substantiate any of the other allegations. We did not investigate the allegation that the official planned to relocate a BLM office to another state to personally benefit from a Government-funded move because this proposed move was part of a larger reorganization by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

We issued our report to the BLM Deputy Director.

Organization Double-Billed the BLM and Submitted Invalid Reimbursement Requests

The OIG investigated audit findings that Utah Correctional Industries (UCI) double-billed the BLM, submitted unallowable reimbursement requests, and did not reimburse the BLM for fees pursuant to cooperative agreements in which the UCI agreed to provide care and gentling services for wild horses in the BLM's custody.

We confirmed the UCI double-billed the BLM, including a charge of \$836,955 for hay previously supplied and paid for by the BLM. We also confirmed the UCI requested reimbursement from the BLM for unsupported expenses or costs that were not allowed by the agreement. Finally, we confirmed that the UCI withheld funds owed to the BLM for the successful adoptions of wild horses. We did not find that the UCI or its employees personally benefitted from these actions.

We presented our findings to the U.S. Attorney's office for the District of Utah, which declined prosecution. The cooperative agreements are no longer in place and negotiations for a civil settlement are ongoing.

We issued our report to the BLM Deputy Director.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

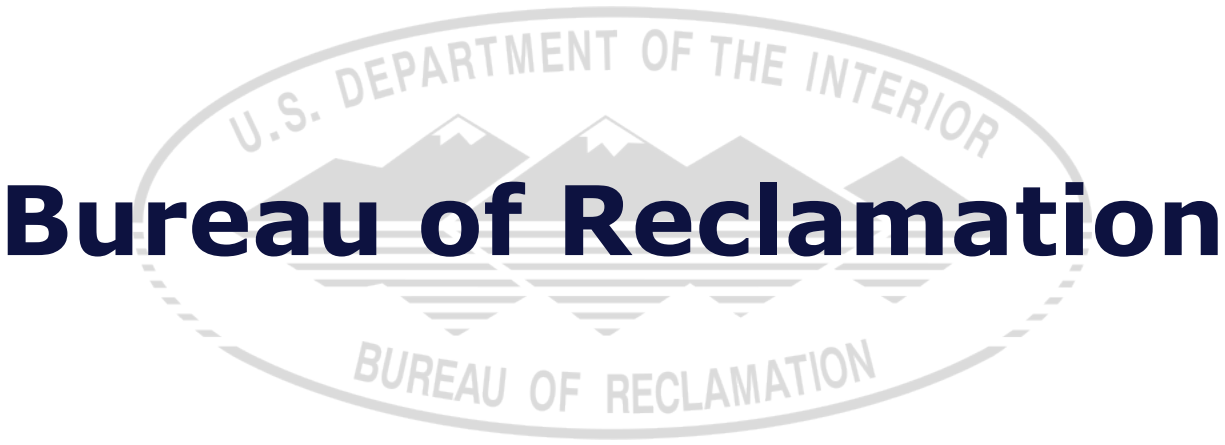
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Former BOEM Supervisor Reprised Against Employee

The OIG investigated allegations that senior management within the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Gulf of Mexico Region reprised against an employee for disclosures she made to BOEM officials. The employee also filed similar complaints under Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) provisions.

During our investigation, the DOI Office of Civil Rights issued a finding that the employee was discriminated against and subjected to reprisal and a hostile work environment by a former BOEM supervisor. The former BOEM supervisor resigned from Federal service before the Office of Civil Rights issued its finding.

The employee subsequently settled with the DOI to resolve all claims, some of which pertained to matters under our investigation. Because of the resolution provided under the settlement agreement, we concluded our investigation.



Bureau of Reclamation

Bureau of Reclamation

The SCSD Claimed Higher Labor Rates Than Allowed and Ignored Training Requirements

We audited 3 months of interim costs claimed on Contract No. R17PC00051, as well as contract compliance on Contract Nos. R12PC20015 and R17PC00051 between the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department (SCSD) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). These contracts were awarded to provide year-round armed and uniformed security services at Folsom Dam in Folsom, CA.

We identified questioned costs totaling \$314,565 on Contract No. R17PC00051 and found deficiencies in the SCSD's management of Contract No. R12PC20015.



Folsom Dam, located on the American River in Sacramento, CA.

Specific to contract management, we found that the SCSD:

- Incorrectly charged indirect labor hours to the contract, resulting in questioned costs of \$214,296 on Contract No. R17PC00051
- Charged hourly rates different from those that were ratified, resulting in questioned costs of \$100,269 on Contract No. R17PC00051
- Did not correctly account for labor hours worked on the billed invoices for 5 of the 50 timesheets reviewed for Contract No. R17PC00051
- Did not conduct the required annual IT training for Contract No. R12PC20015
- Did not conduct the required ethics training for Contract No. R12PC20015
- Did not maintain internal controls for ethics procedures for Contract No. R12PC20015

We made seven recommendations to improve the SCSD's compliance with applicable Federal regulations, BOR policies and procedures, and contract terms and conditions.

The logo for the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) is centered on the page. It features a large, light gray oval background. Inside the oval, there is a stylized illustration of an offshore oil rig on the left and a crane on the right. The text "BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the oval. Below this, the words "Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement" are written in a smaller, lighter font, and "Environmental Enforcement" is written in an even smaller font at the bottom of the oval.

**Bureau of Safety and
Environmental
Enforcement**

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

BSEE Has Opportunities To Help Industry Improve Oil Spill Preparedness

We completed an evaluation to determine if the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) has fulfilled its responsibility to assist the oil industry's preparation for oil spill response. Our evaluation focused on the Oil Spill Preparedness Division (OSPD).

We found that while BSEE has made significant progress in its oversight role and has procedures in place to fulfill this responsibility, opportunities to improve exist. We identified issues that impact the effectiveness of the OSPD's oil spill preparedness efforts. These issues include weaknesses in oil spill exercises, as well as outdated regulations and agreements that hamper response management.

We made eight recommendations to help BSEE achieve its oil spill response mission through the OSPD. We also identified four practices that could improve certain functions of the OSPD and possibly other BSEE program areas. BSEE fully concurred with six recommendations and only partially concurred with two recommendations. We considered one recommendation resolved and implemented, and seven recommendations resolved but not implemented.

BSEE Senior Official Violated Federal Hiring Regulations

The OIG investigated multiple allegations of improper hiring, noncompetitive promotions, nepotism, favoritism, and other improper personnel practices by three BSEE senior officials.

We found that one of the senior officials violated Federal regulations when he pursued a procurement action to hire an employee with whom he had a prior relationship. We also found that he directed a change to the minimum qualification language in a job solicitation to aid the same employee's selection for Federal employment. We found no evidence to support the allegations against the other two senior officials involving hiring, noncompetitive supervisory reassignments, nepotism, or favoritism.

We issued our report to the BSEE Director.

BSEE Managers Inappropriately Influenced Procurement Process

The OIG investigated allegations that a BSEE manager violated Federal procurement laws and regulations by improperly influencing recommendations made by procurement source selection committees and by inflating Independent Government Cost Estimates (IGCEs). We also investigated allegations that the manager's supervisor also improperly influenced the committee's recommendations and obtained protected source selection information.

We found that the BSEE manager and her supervisor mishandled source selection information by altering source selection reports, which are used to prioritize vendor ratings, and by influencing source selection committee members to change their vendor recommendations. In addition, the manager released protected source selection information to BSEE employees not authorized to receive it. We also found that the manager's supervisor requested and received protected source selection information that he was not authorized to receive. Finally, we found that the manager also directed staff to increase the IGCEs to meet predetermined budgets, which contradicts the objective and independent nature of an IGCE.

We issued our report to the BSEE Director.

BSEE Manager Allegedly Reprised Against Employee

The OIG investigated allegations that a BSEE manager reprised against a BSEE employee for engaging in protected activities.

We found that the employee engaged in the protected activities and that the manager knew of the complaints made to our office and to the Equal Employment Opportunity Office when the personnel actions were taken. We found, however, that the employee routinely made negative comments about BSEE managers and employees and had engaged in conduct that others perceived as harassing and hostile, and that the manager would have taken personnel action against the employee because of the employee's misconduct, regardless of whether the employee had engaged in the protected activities.

Offshore Platform Operator Did Not Inspect Platforms As Required

The OIG investigated allegations that Prime 8, LLC, a company that conducted oil and gas operations and inspections in the Gulf of Mexico, violated departmental regulations and created records to support fictitious inspections of offshore platforms regulated by BSEE.

We found the company did not perform platform visits and inspections as required, and documents prepared by the company's owner concealed that the mandatory platform visits had not occurred. Because of the inaccuracies in the company's documents, BSEE inspectors could not have known that the company did not complete the required inspections.

During our investigation, we learned that one BSEE office developed an internal checklist that facilitated the collection of accurate and complete information about an operator's platform visits. We issued a management advisory to alert BSEE leadership to this practice and suggested that BSEE consider incorporating this checklist throughout its inspection program to ensure that essential information is consistently captured during annual inspections.

We referred our investigation to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas, which declined prosecution.

We issued our investigative report to the BSEE Director.



Indian Affairs

Indian Affairs

Audit of the Crow Tribe's Methamphetamine Initiative Program Agreement Identified \$150,000 in Questioned Costs

At the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), we audited costs claimed on the Crow Tribe's Methamphetamine Initiative Program, under Agreement No. A12AV01171. We could not perform the audit because the Tribe did not provide the necessary documentation for its claim, such as contractor invoices, vendor invoices, payroll documentation, or internal journal entries. We therefore could not determine whether the Tribe's claimed costs of \$150,000 for fiscal years 2015 and 2016 were allowable under Federal laws and regulations, allocable to the agreement and incurred in accordance with its terms and conditions, and reasonable and supported by the Tribe's records. We questioned the entire claim of \$150,000 for fiscal years 2015 and 2016.

BIA Firefighters Convicted for Intentionally Setting Wildland Fires on the Cherokee Reservation

The OIG investigated an allegation that BIA Administratively Determined firefighters intentionally set wildland fires for profit on the Cherokee Reservation in Cherokee, NC.

We found that firefighters Raymond Swayney, Grady Davis, Zachary Winchester, and three others caused or participated in several wildland arsons for profit between fiscal years 2010 and 2014, impacting hundreds of acres in Cherokee and costing the Federal Government thousands of dollars.

Swayney, Davis, and Winchester pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina. Swayney was sentenced to 21 months in prison and ordered to pay restitution of \$4,989 for violating 18 U.S.C. § 1855 (Timber Set Afire) and 18 U.S.C. § 371 (Conspiracy). Davis was sentenced to 12 months of probation and ordered to pay restitution of \$926.16 for violating 18 U.S.C. § 4 (Misprision of a Felony). Winchester was sentenced to 30 days in prison, followed by 24 months of probation for violating 18 U.S.C. § 371 (Conspiracy).

At the request of the U.S. Attorney's Office, we referred the three other firefighters to Cherokee Tribal Court for their participation in starting the fires.

Haskell Employees Did Not Consistently Follow Guidelines for Handling Misconduct Complaints

The OIG investigated allegations of mismanagement from students, faculty, and administrators at Haskell Indian Nations University (Haskell) against the Haskell President. The complaints included allegations that the Haskell President and other university officials mishandled misconduct complaints, and that the Haskell President bullied employees, committed nepotism for the benefit of a family member, and showed favoritism toward a subordinate employee. We also investigated allegations of a computer improperly purchased using Title III funds.

We found that university officials did not consistently follow Haskell's guidelines for handling complaints of misconduct and that Haskell's administration inaccurately reported crime statistics in 2014 and 2015. We also found that Haskell employees felt bullied and intimidated by the Haskell President, and that the President's presence in a meeting influenced a family member's appointment to a high-level position. We did not find evidence that the President showed favoritism or that computers were purchased improperly as alleged.

During our investigation, we learned of allegations that a Haskell instructor sexually assaulted a student. We referred that matter to the Lawrence Police Department. We issued our report to the Directors of the BIA and the Bureau of Indian Education.

In addition to the allegations of misconduct, during our investigation, we found that employees of the Haskell Foundation (Foundation), a nonprofit corporation, used office space on the Haskell campus and managed the proceeds of grants to Haskell. We also found that Haskell and the Foundation had no written agreement governing their relationship. We believe that the absence of clear boundaries between the operations of Haskell and the Foundation creates the potential for legal violations concerning Government space and Federal grant management activities.

We made two recommendations to help Haskell effectively manage its office space and Federal grant awards.

Misconduct and Mismanagement at Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute

The OIG investigated allegations of misconduct and mismanagement at Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI), a community college in Albuquerque, NM, operated and overseen by the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE). The complainant alleged that a SIPI manager engaged in sexual misconduct and harassment, and violated Federal travel regulations and DOI policy. The complainant also alleged that other SIPI managers and employees retaliated against her for filing complaints about the SIPI manager, failed to address employee complaints, failed to complete performance appraisals, engaged in improper hiring practices, circumvented the acquisition process, and misused a Government purchase card.

We found that the SIPI manager had a sexual relationship with a SIPI student, but neither the college nor the BIE have a policy prohibiting sexual relationships between faculty and students. In addition, several of the manager's colleagues and direct reports described the manager's behavior in the workplace as confrontational, abrasive, and argumentative. We did not substantiate the allegations that the SIPI manager violated Federal travel regulations or DOI policy.

We also found that SIPI managers did not complete performance appraisals for all employees and that the appraisal process at SIPI allowed managers to determine ratings-based cash awards for themselves. We did not substantiate the remaining allegations, including retaliation against the complainant.

We issued our report to the BIA and BIE Directors.

BIA Manager Created the Appearance of Using His Public Office for Private Gain

The OIG investigated allegations that a BIA manager had used his position for the private gain of a friend, overruled decisions made by an employee's supervisor regarding the employee's leave and telework requests, and improperly influenced the award of a contract because of a personal relationship.

We found that the BIA manager created the appearance of using public office for the private gain of a friend when he participated on the interview panel that recommended the friend, who was also his former fiancé, for a position within the BIA.

We found no evidence that the manager influenced any decisions related to an employee's leave or telework requests, or that the manager improperly influenced a contract award.

We issued our report to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs.

Tribal School Employees Failed To Repay Payroll Advances

The OIG investigated allegations that two former employees of a tribally controlled school funded by the BIE did not repay payroll advances.

We found that one employee failed to repay the school for more than \$77,000 in payroll advances and the other failed to repay the school for more than \$16,000 in payroll advances. Both employees admitted to owing the funds and that they made no attempt to repay the money when they were no longer employed by the school.

We referred this matter to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Mexico, which declined prosecution.

We issued our report to the BIE Director.

Substantiated Violations of the Buy Indian Act

The OIG investigated allegations that two propane delivery contractors, one of which was American Indian-owned, conspired to improperly obtain U.S. Government contracts that are restricted to Indian economic enterprises under the provisions of the Buy Indian Act. Specifically, we investigated to determine if the Indian-owned company subcontracted 100 percent of contract performance to the non-Indian-owned company.

We found that the Indian-owned company was awarded approximately 17 contracts, with a combined value of about \$350,000, under the Buy Indian Act. We also found that though the Indian-owned company received approximately 51 percent of the net profit, it had little or no involvement with the actual performance of the propane supply contract: the non-Indian contractor provided all the fuel and made all the physical deliveries, thus violating the Buy Indian Act.

We issued our report to the BIA Director.

A Tribe Acted Within Its Authority by Removing BIE Funds From Account of Tribally Controlled School

The OIG investigated allegations that a tribe had improperly removed funds from the bank account of a tribally controlled school funded by the BIE. We investigated whether the tribe exceeded its authority in removing the funds and whether any of the funds had been stolen.

We found that the tribe did not exceed its authority by removing the funds and that no funds had been stolen. We found that the tribe removed the funds as part of an effort to spend down a \$3 million surplus that had accumulated in the school's account over several years.

We issued our report to the BIE Director.

Alleged Favoritism and Misconduct by BIA Supervisor

The OIG investigated anonymous complaints that a BIA supervisor showed favoritism toward employees with whom she had personal relationships and allegedly made unwelcome and offensive comments of a sexual nature in the workplace. The complainant also alleged that the supervisor falsified time and attendance records.

We found insufficient evidence to conclude that the BIA supervisor showed favoritism toward any employee or made unwelcome and offensive comments to subordinates. We also did not find any evidence that the supervisor falsified time and attendance records.

We issued our report to the BIA Director.



National Park Service

The NPS Misused Philanthropic Partner Donations

We evaluated the National Park Service's (NPS') use of philanthropic partner donations and found the NPS did not comply with policies, regulations, and laws. Philanthropic partners are organizations that assist parks by providing services and financial support.

The NPS is authorized to work with philanthropic partners to help further the NPS' mission. Partners provide financial support to parks in two ways: the partner either donates the funds directly to the park, for the park to manage, or maintains the funds in an account and spends them at the park's request. One of the ways that partners donate funds to parks is in the form of "superintendent's funds."

We visited 30 parks and found that 26 of them made, or requested their partners to make, purchases for food and beverages totaling \$282,472, and for personal gifts totaling \$12,553. We questioned all food, beverage, and gift expenses as the form and level of detail of supporting documentation was insufficient: it varied by park and partner, and did not consistently have written justifications for how the expenses were necessary to accomplish the mission of the NPS. Food and beverage purchases from superintendent's funds, in particular, did not meet requirements that donated funds be treated like appropriated funds and that purchases made with donated funds be for official agency purposes.

The NPS misused donations because it (1) did not oversee the use of donated funds, (2) did not compile and report total donated funds, (3) did not have an accurate directory of philanthropic partners and amounts donated, and (4) did not have policy for the use of superintendent's funds.

Because the NPS did not ensure donations were appropriate, its parks did not receive the full benefit of partner donations. In addition, by not ensuring proper use of donations through oversight, tracking, and policy, the NPS increased its risk of fraud, waste, and abuse. By strengthening controls and oversight, the NPS can help keep the public's trust in its philanthropic partnerships and their critical role in preserving history and enhancing visitor experiences.

We made eight recommendations that, if implemented, will help prevent future misuse of donations and improve oversight, reporting, and policies. Based on the NPS' response, we considered three recommendations resolved and implemented, three recommendations resolved but not implemented, and two recommendations unresolved.

Passenger Ferry Service to Fort Sumter National Monument Met Federal Safety Requirements

We performed an unannounced inspection of passenger ferry safety at Fort Sumter National Monument in Charleston, SC, to determine whether Fort Sumter Tours, Inc., an NPS concessionaire, operated its ferry service to Fort Sumter in compliance with Federal safety requirements.

Fort Sumter Tours met all the safety requirements that we tested on three of its four vessels (the fourth was out of service). Each had a U.S. Coast Guard Certificate of Inspection on board, and none of the ferries carried more passengers than allowed. Furthermore, the ferries carried enough life vests for all passengers, had fire extinguishers available that had been inspected regularly, and carried first aid kits on board. In addition, sufficient crew members possessed current operating licenses and CPR certifications and passed random drug tests.



Two 15-inch Rodman cannons, the largest guns used in the Civil War, on display at Fort Sumter in Charleston, SC.

The NPS Complied With the Terms of Three Contracts for the Grand Canyon River Logistics Program

We audited three NPS contracts (P17PC00513, P17PC00515, and P17PC00516) issued in support of the Grand Canyon River Logistics Program, which funds logistical services for NPS river missions along the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon National Park. Our objectives were to determine whether the NPS complied with the Federal Acquisition Regulation's (FAR's) preaward requirements, properly awarded the contracts' task orders, and oversaw the contracts during their period of performance, including the contractors' compliance with requirements for drug screening and criminal background checks.

We determined that the NPS complied with the FAR's preaward requirements, awarded task orders in accordance with FAR subpart 16.5, monitored and oversaw the contracts during their period of performance, and implemented an administrative measure to comply with the drug screening and background check requirements.

Gettysburg National Military Park Superintendent Violated Ethics Rules

We investigated an anonymous complaint alleging that Superintendent Ed Clark of Gettysburg National Military Park (GETT) violated ethics rules by soliciting funds on behalf of the Gettysburg Foundation, a non-Government organization; accepting Foundation-funded travel to events sponsored by the Foundation and those sponsored by other non-Government entities; and hosting a Foundation-funded dinner for his employees.

We found that from February 2014 to October 2016, Clark traveled 27 times to attend events organized by the Foundation. We found that Clark committed criminal violations by submitting false travel vouchers and by accepting more than \$23,000 in meals, lodging, and other in-kind gifts from non-Government organizations as compensation for his official services. In addition, he violated laws and regulations by failing to obtain required supervisory and ethics approval prior to taking these trips and by failing to report expenses accurately following his trips.

We also found that his subordinate staff approved his travel authorizations, that he sometimes traveled without first submitting a travel authorization request, and that he requested full per diem reimbursement even though the Foundation paid for some of his meals during those trips.

We found that Clark functioned as GETT's liaison to the Foundation without prior supervisory approval or consulting with ethics officials. We did not find evidence that Clark solicited funds on GETT's behalf, but we did find that Clark twice gave statements of support to the Foundation and the Civil War Trust that were included in solicitation letters addressed to members and potential donors.

We also found that in September 2015 Clark asked the Foundation to pay for a dinner costing more than \$6,000 that Clark and other National Park Service employees and Foundation guests attended, violating the ethics regulation that prohibits soliciting gifts from prohibited sources.

We coordinated this investigation with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, which declined prosecution.

We issued our report to the NPS Deputy Director.



The 1st Massachusetts Battery monument in Gettysburg National Military Park in Gettysburg, PA.

NPS Contractor Offered Illegal Gratuity to Park Employee

The OIG investigated an allegation that an NPS contractor in the U.S. Virgin Islands attempted to provide a cash bribe to an NPS employee. We also investigated allegations that a park supervisor influenced Government personnel to hire a family member as a contractor, that another supervisor prepared fraudulent Government documents to support an improper payment to a contractor, and that two supervisors received free personal work or discounts from a contractor in return for work or promises of work.

We found that in June 2018, an NPS contractor gave an NPS employee \$500 cash as an illegal gratuity for hiring him to do contract work at the park. The employee immediately reported the incident and turned the money over to the park's acting superintendent, who provided it to our office.

In addition, we found that a park supervisor gave the appearance of a conflict of interest when she told park staff about her family member's qualifications, but we found no evidence the supervisor was directly involved in hiring the family member as a contractor.

We further found that another supervisor failed to follow park guidance by preparing a micropurchase approval form after the contractor had been paid instead of completing the approval form before the work was completed. We did not, however, find that the payment was improper because the contractor performed the work.

We found no evidence that two supervisors received free or discounted personal work from a contractor in exchange for work or promises of work.

We presented our illegal gratuity finding to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of the U.S. Virgin Islands, which declined prosecution.

We issued our report to the NPS Deputy Director.

Former NPS Contract Specialist Violated Ethics Regulations

The OIG investigated allegations that a former NPS contract specialist steered three contracts to a vendor because of a personal relationship. We found that the contract specialist had a personal relationship with the vendor's employees and attempted to influence contract awards by inappropriately advocating for the vendor, which violated Federal ethics regulations.

We found, however, that the contract specialist ultimately had no influence over awarding contracts to the vendor and that the contracts were awarded properly. We also found that while the contract specialist managed the vendor's contracts, he sought employment with the vendor for a family member, but the family member was never hired.

The contract specialist left the Department after learning of our investigation. We referred our findings to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado, which declined prosecution.

We issued our report to the NPS Deputy Director.

Unfounded Allegations of Improper Leadership Decisions and Hostile Work Environment at Grand Canyon National Park

The OIG investigated complaints that Grand Canyon National Park (GRCA) Superintendent Christine Lehnertz, proposed a disciplinary action against a GRCA senior official for an improper purpose; created a hostile work environment; and engaged in bullying and retaliatory behavior against senior leaders, particularly male leaders, at the GRCA. The complainant also alleged that Lehnertz authorized unnecessary renovations to a park housing unit resulting in a waste of almost \$180,000.

We found that Lehnertz' proposal of disciplinary action for the senior official was supported by the evidence. The senior official failed to complete several required tasks relating to a high-priority park initiative and, despite Lehnertz' multiple requests to the official over several days to provide specific performance management information to her, the official elected not to do so and misrepresented the status of the information to Lehnertz.

We found no evidence that Lehnertz created a hostile work environment at the GRCA or that she authorized unnecessary renovations to a park residence.

We issued our report to the NPS Deputy Director.



Office of Natural Resources Revenue

Oil and Gas Production Company Underpaid Royalties Owed to the Government

The OIG investigated allegations that Smith & Marris, Inc., an oil and gas production company, failed to report mineral production and sales from Federal leases located in New Mexico, which resulted in a loss of royalties owed to the DOI. We conducted the investigation jointly with the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Special Investigations Group.

We found that Smith & Marris, Inc., failed to properly report oil and gas production and sales from Federal leases, which resulted in an underpayment of royalties and late payment interest. We then coordinated with Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) officials to determine the total loss of royalties and interest, and ONRR sent Smith & Marris payment requests for royalties due and late payment interest, which amounted to approximately \$158,000. ONRR subsequently confirmed they had received full payment from Smith & Marris.

We referred our investigative findings to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado, which declined prosecution.

We issued our report to the ONRR and BLM Directors.

The seal of the U.S. Department of the Interior is centered in the background. It features a bison in the foreground, mountains in the middle ground, and a sunburst in the background. The text "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR" is written around the top inner edge, and "MARCH 3, 1849" is written around the bottom inner edge.

Office of the Secretary and Multi-Office Assignments

Office of the Secretary and Multi-Office Assignments

Internal Controls for the DOI's Purchase Card Program Need Improvement

We analyzed DOI transaction data for the first 6 months of fiscal year 2017 to determine whether (1) the DOI or its bureaus made transactions that were illegal, improper, or erroneous and (2) the existing internal controls detected and prevented illegal, improper, or erroneous transactions. We conducted this audit as part of a Governmentwide initiative by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency to examine risks associated with U.S. Government purchase card transactions.

During the timeframe audited, 20,293 DOI employees had a purchase card, and they made 488,504 transactions that totaled approximately \$166 million. We reviewed a sample of 100 high-risk transactions (for example, those with third-party vendors, sales tax, or split purchases), totaling \$41,557 and identified the following weaknesses in internal controls:

- Required documentation and reviews/approvals were missing.
- Separation of duties was not ensured.
- There is no DOI policy for purchases made through third-party vendors.
- Cardholder accounts had missing or incorrect purchase limits.
- State and local tax exemptions were not enforced.

While our assessment involved a small sample of the total universe of DOI purchase card transactions, our findings highlight issues that may be applicable across the DOI's purchase card policies and practices.

We made five recommendations to help the DOI and its bureaus improve the oversight of its purchase card program. Based on the Office of Acquisition and Property Management's response to our report, we considered four recommendations unresolved and one recommendation resolved but not implemented.

The DOI Needs To Improve Internal Controls for the Use of Convenience Checks

We audited DOI convenience check transaction data to determine whether (1) the DOI or its bureaus made transactions that were illegal, improper, or erroneous and (2) the existing internal controls detected and prevented illegal, improper, or erroneous transactions. Our audit timeframe was the first 6 months of fiscal year 2017.

Under the DOI's charge card program, use of convenience checks may be authorized when a vendor does not accept the charge card. During the audit timeframe, 658 employees had authority to write convenience checks, and 5,255 checks were written, totaling approximately \$3 million plus an additional \$56,447 in transaction fees.

We focused our audit on convenience checks written for more than \$2,500 during that timeframe—a quantity of 90 transactions totaling \$286,318—and found weak internal controls that created an environment vulnerable to financial mismanagement.

Through our data analysis we found the following internal control problems:

- Missing documentation and reviews/approvals
- Limit exceeded for service-related purchases
- Declined convenience checks
- Split purchase

While our review involved a small sample of the total universe of purchase transactions at the DOI, our findings highlight issues that may be applicable across the DOI charge card program.

We made five recommendations to help the DOI and its bureaus improve the management and oversight of convenience checks. Based on the Office of Acquisition and Property Management's response to our report, we considered all five recommendations resolved but not implemented.

Inaccurate Data and Little Guidance Hinder the DOI's Ability to Optimize Fleet Size and Composition

We reviewed the DOI's management of its fleet of roughly 34,000 vehicles to determine whether the DOI is maintaining accurate data to optimize it—by ensuring that vehicles' size and composition meet the agency's mission—and managing it according to established guidance.

We found inaccurate data Departmentwide and an absence of specific guidance from the DOI Office of Acquisition and Property Management (PAM) to bureaus, which are two issues that undermine the DOI's ability to accomplish its fleet management goals. We also found that neither PAM nor Office of Financial Management officials could provide records of home-to-work income information being collected and reported to the Internal Revenue Service.

We made four recommendations to monitor and improve the management of the DOI's fleet. Based on the DOI's response to our report, we considered one recommendation unresolved and three recommendations resolved but not implemented.

The DOI Continues To Implement Recommendations From New Horizon Report

We completed a verification review—a report to determine whether the DOI's bureaus and offices have implemented our recommendations as reported to the DOI's Office of Financial Management (PFM), Office of Policy, Management and Budget—of 4 the 65 recommendations issued in our 2010 report *A New Horizon: Looking to the Future of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement* (Report No. CR-EV-MMS-0015-2010).

We sought to determine whether the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement implemented recommendations 48, 49, 50, and 53 as reported to the PFM; based on our review, we consider all four recommendations resolved, implemented, and closed.

The DOI has implemented and closed all 65 recommendations in this report.

Violation of Ethics Regulations by Office of the Secretary Official

The OIG investigated an allegation that Jamie K. Reaser, Executive Director, National Invasive Species Council (NISC) Secretariat, may have violated Federal ethics and conflict of interest regulations by directing the award of a sole-source contract to an individual with whom she resided and may have had a personal or financial relationship.

We found that in May 2017, Reaser violated Federal regulations by directing the award of a \$20,000 sole-source contract to a friend with whom she routinely lived with during the week without paying rent, and by providing the friend with the Government's budget for the contract.

We also found that all contracts awarded during Reaser's tenure in her position were done so through sole-source procedures at her direction, even though some contracts could have been openly competed. We found that in some of these cases, Reaser provided procurement sensitive information to contractors prior to the award.

We issued our report to the Assistant Secretary for Budget, Finance, Performance, and Acquisition.

OAS Employee Conducted Private Pilot Exams on Government Time

The OIG investigated allegations that an Office of Aviation Services (OAS) employee conducted private pilot examinations while on U.S. Government time, leased his personal aircraft to the Government, and improperly obtained clients because of his wife's position at another Federal agency.

We confirmed the employee conducted private pilot exams during time he also claimed for official duty on as many as 33 occasions. The employee said he mistakenly failed to take leave on 11 of those occasions but disputed the other 22. We found no indication he leased his private aircraft to any Government agency or that he obtained clients through his wife.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Idaho declined prosecution.

We issued our report to the OAS Director.

Wrongful Suspension of an IBC Employee's Security Clearance

The OIG investigated allegations that an Interior Business Center (IBC) official reprimed against a subordinate employee by suspending the employee's security clearance after the employee filed an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) complaint against the official.

We determined that the employee made a protected disclosure, that the official knew about the disclosure before suspending the clearance, and that the official did not provide clear and convincing evidence that the clearance would have been suspended regardless of the disclosure.

We also determined that the IBC official consulted with the DOI Office of the Solicitor, IBC Human Resources, and the official's supervisor before suspending the employee's clearance. The clearance suspension was reviewed by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) personnel, per a Memorandum of Agreement with the IBC, and the BOR recommended reinstatement. The IBC subsequently reinstated the employee's clearance.

We issued our report to the Secretary of the Interior.

Alleged Abuse of Position by Former Secretary Zinke

We initiated this investigation based on information we received while investigating former DOI Secretary Ryan Zinke's use of noncommercial aircraft for U.S. Government travel. This investigation focused on whether Secretary Zinke abused his position by having his family members travel with him in Government vehicles, whether he asked that his wife, Lolita Zinke, be appointed as a DOI volunteer to legitimize her travel, and whether he requested a Government cell phone for her. We also examined Secretary Zinke's use of his protective service detail, including during a vacation the Zinkes took to Turkey and Greece in August 2017. In addition, we reviewed his office's purchase of secretarial challenge coins (small coins bearing an organization's emblem or logo, given as tokens of recognition or appreciation), and an allegation that a DOI employee resigned because he made her walk his dog while at work.

We determined that the DOI Office of the Solicitor's Division of General Law approved Lolita Zinke and other individuals to ride in Government vehicles with Secretary Zinke. Although this violated a DOI policy prohibiting non-Government employees from riding in Government vehicles, officials we spoke to noted that the former Secretary was in a unique position because he was required to use security vehicles and could not use a personal vehicle if he wanted his wife to travel with him. The Zinkes reimbursed costs associated with Lolita Zinke's travel in DOI vehicles when required.

In addition, Lolita Zinke ultimately did not become a volunteer. While Secretary Zinke confirmed that his staff had researched the implications of making her a volunteer, he denied that it was an effort to circumvent the requirement to reimburse the DOI for her travel. We also did not find that he had requested a Government cell phone for her.

While we found no prohibition against a security detail protecting Secretary Zinke on his vacation, we learned that the U.S. Park Police had no finalized policy governing the detail's activities. The detail, which was unarmed, cost the DOI over \$25,000. In addition, Secretary Zinke told his detail on one occasion to drive a non-Government employee to the airport, but he was later told that this was not appropriate and it has not happened since. The remaining allegations were unfounded.

We issued our report to the Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

Alleged Preferential Treatment in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Boundary Decision

We investigated whether the boundaries of Utah’s Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) were modified, at least in part, for the personal financial benefit of former Utah State Representative Michael Noel, who owned property along the GSENM border and who is currently the executive director of the Kane County (UT) Water Conservancy District. Our investigation focused on:

- Whether the DOI followed an established process for assessing proposed boundaries for national monuments, including the proposed GSENM boundary modifications
- Whether Noel influenced the boundary-modification proposal Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke submitted to the President, including whether Zinke was aware of Noel’s property ownership and financial interest in revising the GSENM boundaries and whether he gave Noel preferential treatment in the proposed boundaries

We found that although the DOI had no formal processes in place for modifying national monument boundaries, DOI staff developed and followed a consistent process when reviewing the GSENM and other DOI-controlled national monuments that were being considered for boundary modifications.



A view of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Garfield County, UT.

We also found no evidence that Noel influenced the DOI's proposed revisions to the GSENM boundaries, that Zinke or other DOI staff involved in the project were aware of Noel's financial interest in the revised boundaries, or that they gave Noel any preferential treatment in the boundaries proposed to the President.

We provided this report to the Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

OST Employee Attempted To Conceal Purchase of Tribal Land

The OIG investigated allegations that an Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) employee and a tribal member agreed to disguise the purchase of tribal land as a gift conveyance from the tribal member. We also investigated allegations that the OST employee attempted to add allotments to the transaction without the tribal member's knowledge and that a BIA employee forged the tribal member's name on BIA documents filed in connection with the gift conveyance.

We confirmed the OST employee and the tribal member agreed to disguise the sale of ownership interests in multiple allotments as a gift conveyance to the OST employee's minor son. The OST employee paid the tribal member \$2,700, but the tribal member canceled the transaction before it was executed. We did not find evidence that the OST employee altered the agreements to add allotments or that the BIA employee forged any documents.

We issued our report to the OST and BIA Directors.



**Office of Surface Mining
Reclamation and
Enforcement**

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Investigation Identified Issue With Access to Grant Records

The OIG completed an investigation to determine if Peabody Energy Corporation (Peabody) submitted false statements to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) to obtain self-bonds for coal mines on Federal leases in Wyoming and to determine if the WDEQ acted appropriately in the review of those applications.

We did not find any false statements submitted by Peabody. Further, we found the WDEQ acted appropriately in the review of Peabody's self-bonding applications. We issued our report to the Director for the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE).

During our investigation, however, we identified an issue with access to the WDEQ's records related to its grant from the OSMRE. We found that the WDEQ may be restricting OSMRE personnel's ability to remove records from WDEQ offices for OSMRE review and audit, which could impede the OSMRE's ability to review information submitted to the WDEQ by companies that mine on Federal lands.

We made one recommendation to help enable the OSMRE to adequately review and audit grant records and clarify the requirement for Federal grantees and program administrators to cooperate with OIG investigations.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Passenger Ferry Service at Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge Met Federal Safety Requirements

We completed an unannounced inspection of passenger ferry safety aboard ferry service to Bulls Island in the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge in Awendaw, SC, to determine whether Coastal Expeditions, Inc., a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) concessionaire, operated its ferry service to Bulls Island in compliance with Federal safety requirements.

We found that each of the Refuge's two vessels had a U.S. Coast Guard Certificate of Inspection on board, carried enough life vests for all passengers, had fire extinguishers available that had been inspected regularly, and carried first aid kits. In addition, crew members possessed current operating licenses and CPR certifications, and passed random drug tests. While we inspected both ferries, the concessionaire's largest ferry was the only one in use during the period of our inspection and we found that it did not carry more passengers than allowed.



Boneyard Beach, which is strewn with ancient and sun-bleached oaks, cedars, and pines, is especially important for the wildlife at Cape Romain.

Former Executive Director of Calhoun Conservation District Convicted for Embezzling Federal Funds

The OIG investigated an allegation that Tracy Bronson, the former Executive Director of Calhoun Conservation District (CCD) in Marshall, MI, stole FWS and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant funds from the CCD. We conducted this investigation jointly with the EPA OIG and the Michigan State Police.

We determined that between 2014 and 2017, Bronson embezzled more than \$550,000 from the CCD's credit union account, which included grant funds awarded to the CCD by the FWS and the EPA. We found that between 2014 and 2017, the FWS awarded the CCD approximately \$331,651 in grant funds.

Bronson resigned from her position with the CCD and pleaded guilty to one count of theft concerning programs receiving Federal funds in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan. She was sentenced to 37 months in prison and ordered to pay \$573,159.20 in restitution.

FWS Manager Violated Federal Regulations and FWS Policies

The OIG investigated allegations that an FWS refuge manager did not report an alleged indecent exposure, violated various Federal regulations and FWS policies related to the refuge's Friends organization and concessionaire, and authorized the improper use of Government facilities and equipment.

We determined that the refuge manager violated FWS policy when he did not report an indecent exposure incident that had occurred at the refuge in 2016, and that he violated Federal ethics regulations by participating in the refuge's Friends organization's fundraising events while in uniform. We also found that the manager violated Federal regulations and FWS policy when he allowed a for-profit corporation to operate on the refuge without an agreement or permit, and by allowing a concessionaire to operate a fish cleaning station on the refuge, which could make it difficult for refuge officials to enforce fish size limits. Finally, we found that the manager violated Federal regulations by improperly using and disposing of Government property.

We issued our report to the FWS Deputy Director.

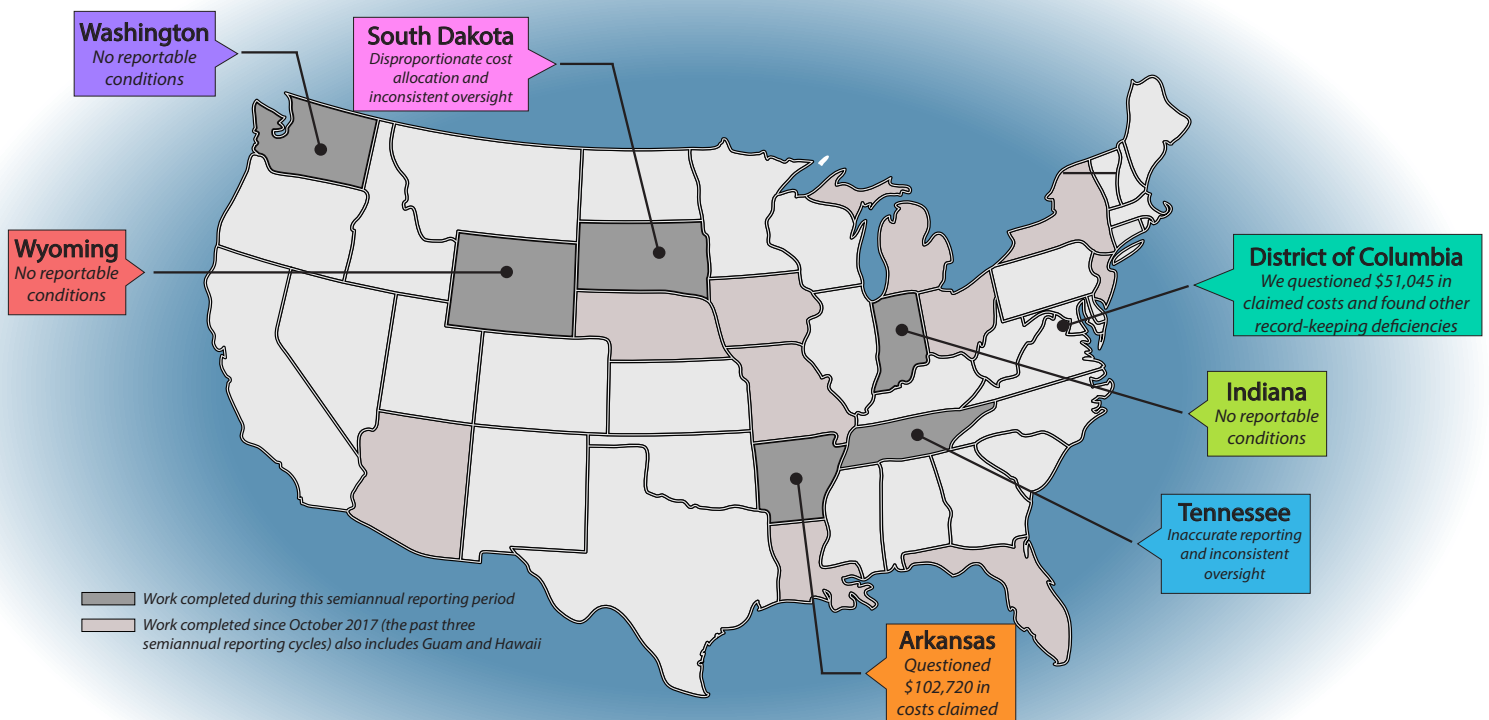


Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Audits

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Audits

Audits of Wildlife and Sport Fish Grants Covered Nearly \$400 Million in Claimed Costs and Identified Potential Program Improvements

Through its Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFRP), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) awards grants to States and Territories to support conservation-related projects, such as the acquisition and management of natural habitats for game species or site development for boating access. Under a reimbursable agreement with the FWS, we audit all States over the course of a 5-year cycle authorized by Federal law. In this semiannual period, we audited seven agencies.



Indiana Department of Natural Resources

In our audit of Indiana's Department of Natural Resources, we did not question any costs and found that the State provided reasonable assurance of compliance with applicable grant accounting and regulatory requirements.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

In our audit of Wyoming's Game and Fish Department, we did not question any costs and found that the State provided reasonable assurance of compliance with applicable grant accounting and regulatory requirements.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

In our audit of Washington's Department of Fish and Wildlife, we did not question any costs and found that the State provided reasonable assurance of compliance with applicable grant accounting and regulatory requirements.

We found, however, that the Department did not have a policy or process to formally conduct and document risk assessments and monitoring plans for subrecipients. Based on our audits of other States, we have found that additional Program guidance is needed concerning the requirements for conducting and documenting risk assessments and monitoring plans as a part of the oversight process for subawards. As such, we did not issue a formal recommendation to the State of Washington. We plan to address the issue directly to the FWS in a separate report.

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

In our audit of Tennessee's Wildlife Resources Agency, we found that the Agency did not report the accurate amount of program income on its final financial report. In addition, the Agency did not track program income through the grant period and spend that income before requesting drawdowns of additional funds. We also found that the Agency incorrectly made advance payments, did not disclose subaward final performance reports, and did not report subaward activity as required on the Federal website. Finally, we found that the Agency submitted several reports late and did not request extensions as required.

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks

In our audit of South Dakota's Department of Game, Fish and Parks, we found that South Dakota potentially diverted license revenue by requiring an annual transfer of the Department's license revenues to the State's general fund for radio communication operations.

The amount required to be transferred through the State's annual general appropriation act, however, was not in proportion to the Department's usage of the radio communication operations and was calculated based on budgeted amounts rather than actual amounts.

In addition, we found that the Department had insufficient oversight of subawards funded by Program grants, and observed that the Department had not completed the prior audit recommendation for its land inventory reconciliation.

District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment

In our audit of the District of Columbia's Department of Energy and Environment, we questioned \$51,045 in costs related to improper drawdowns. We also found that the Department:

- Did not ensure that each license holder had a valid name or unique identifier traceable to the license holder and did not eliminate multiple counts of the same individual
- Provided an inaccurate inventory that was overstated by 16 items valued at \$229,918; did not include 5 items purchased with grant funds, valued at \$130,197; and did not have property tags on 3 of the 10 items tested, which had a combined value for the three of \$56,836

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

In our audit of Arkansas' Game and Fish Commission, we questioned \$102,720 (\$77,040 Federal share) in other direct costs because the Commission overcharged the grants for costs incurred and was missing or had inadequate documentation to support the costs incurred. We also found that the Commission:

- Did not report all subawards for inclusion on USASpending.gov
- Did not accurately account for hunting and fishing licenses, which led to inaccurate license certifications in State fiscal years 2015 and 2016

Overall, we made 25 recommendations for program improvements or cost recovery across 4 of the 7 audits published this semiannual period. The FWS is working with the recipient agencies to resolve the issues and to implement corrective actions.



U.S. Geological Survey

Former USGS Employee Convicted of Embezzling Federal Funds

The OIG investigated an allegation that a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) contract specialist misused his assigned Government charge card.

We determined that Matthew Wathen embezzled over \$26,000 through unauthorized personal use of his Government charge card, including weekly lodging, monthly rental cars, dining, gasoline, vacations, and other expenses.

Wathen resigned from his USGS position and pleaded guilty to one count of theft of Government funds in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi. He was sentenced to 5 years of probation, ordered to pay restitution of \$26,350, and debarred for 5 years.

Investigation Identified Vulnerabilities in USGS' IT Security Posture

The OIG investigated suspicious internet traffic discovered during an IT security audit of the computer network at the USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center satellite imaging facility in Sioux Falls, SD. The audit found indications that a USGS employee's computer was compromised and infected with malware. We sought to confirm how a compromise occurred.

We found that the employee knowingly used U.S. Government computer systems to access unauthorized internet web pages. We also found that those unauthorized pages hosted malware that downloaded to the employee's Government laptop. The malware then exploited USGS' system; it introduced additional malicious code, reduced the Department's ability to monitor exploits, introduced a covert channel program, and automatically connected to malicious websites in Russia. We did not find evidence that the employee intentionally introduced the malware, nor was there evidence of data exfiltration.

The employee retired a day before his employment was to be terminated. We provided this report to the Director of the USGS.

During our investigation, we identified two vulnerabilities in the USGS' IT security posture: website access and open USB ports. Common methods to prevent malware incidents involve a combination of employee training (Rules of Behavior) and access controls (hardware and software technologies).

We made two recommendations to help the USGS improve its IT security posture.

USGS Manager Admitted to Inappropriate Comments to Subordinate

The OIG investigated allegations that a USGS manager made unwelcome and inappropriate comments of a sexual nature to a female subordinate.

We found that the USGS manager provided inconsistent statements and demonstrated a lack of candor during interviews, but ultimately admitted to making inappropriate sexual comments to the female subordinate. We also found that the manager had been counseled by a former supervisor in 2013 for allegedly making similar comments to other employees and, consequently, had been required to take Equal Employment Opportunity training; the manager had also been counseled by a current supervisor in 2016 for the same reason.

We issued our report to the USGS Director.



Appendices

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations Activities

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Reports Issued | 26 |
| Performance Audits, Evaluations, and Inspections | 12 |
| Contract and Grant Audits..... | 11 |
| Other Report Types ¹ | 3 |
| Total Monetary Impacts | \$1,123,187 |
| Questioned Costs (includes unsupported costs)..... | \$1,123,187 |
| Funds To Be Put to Better Use | \$0 |
| Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations Recommendations Made..... | 106 |
| Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations Recommendations Closed | 61 |

Investigative Activities²

| | |
|--|-----|
| Complaints Received | 400 |
| Complaints Referred to the Department..... | 245 |
| Investigations Opened..... | 41 |
| Investigations Closed | 53 |

Criminal Prosecution Activities

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Indictments/Informations | 9 |
| Convictions..... | 7 |
| Sentencings..... | 4 |
| Jail | 2: 58 months |
| Probation..... | 4: 132 months |
| Community Service..... | 0: 0 hours |
| Criminal Restitution | 2: \$263,780.54 |
| Criminal Fines | 2: \$508,879 ³ |
| Criminal Special Assessments..... | 4: \$1,725 |
| Criminal Asset Forfeiture | \$0 |
| Criminal Matters Referred for Prosecution | 10 |
| Criminal Matters Declined This Period | 4 |

¹ Other report types include management advisories, special projects, and other types of reports that are not classified as audits, inspections, or evaluations. These types of reports generally do not contain recommendations.

² The OIG has previously reported investigative statistics as complaints received from all sources, cases opened, and cases closed. We have seen a significant increase in complaints received, and the new statistical categories better reflect how we handle these matters and report our findings. Cases previously referred to both complaints and investigations; investigations, however, are more formal and the basis for the reports we issue to the Department and summarize on our website and in our Semiannual Report. In addition, the number of complaints we refer to the Department identifies matters we did not fully investigate, but believe the Department should be aware of or act upon.

³ The criminal fines total has been updated and corrected. This is a republished report.

Civil Investigative Activities

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Civil Referrals..... | 1 |
| Civil Declinations | 3 |
| Civil Settlements or Recoveries..... | 1: \$50,000 |

Administrative Investigative Activities

| | |
|---|-----|
| Personnel Actions | 21 |
| Removals | 2 |
| Resignations | 4 |
| Reassignment/Transfer | 1 |
| Retirements | 4 |
| Restitution | \$0 |
| Suspensions..... | 0 |
| Counseling..... | 3 |
| Reprimands (Written/Oral)..... | 7 |
| Procurement and Nonprocurement Remedies | 12 |
| Suspensions..... | 0 |
| Debarments..... | 12 |
| Administrative Compliance Agreement..... | 0 |
| General Policy Actions | 4 |

REPORTS ISSUED

This listing includes all reports issued by the Office of Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations during the 6-month reporting period that ended March 31, 2019. It provides the report number, title, issue date, and monetary amounts identified in each report.

* *Funds To Be Put to Better Use*

** *Questioned Costs*

*** *Unsupported Costs*

Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations

Bureau of Land Management

2018-CR-010

Bureau of Land Management Maintenance Fee Waivers for Small Miners (12/17/2018)

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

2017-EAU-043

BSEE Has Opportunities To Help Industry Improve Oil Spill Preparedness (10/22/2018)

Multi-Office Assignments

2017-ER-014

Inaccurate Data and an Absence of Specific Guidance Hinders the U.S. Department of the Interior's Ability to Optimize Fleet Size and Composition (03/29/2019)

2017-ER-015

Internal Controls for the U.S. Department of the Interior's Purchase Card Program Need Improvement (03/29/2019)

2017-ER-015-A

Improvement Needed in Internal Controls for the Use of Convenience Checks at the U.S. Department of the Interior (03/26/2019)

2018-FIN-037

Independent Auditors' Report on the U.S. Department of the Interior Financial Statements for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2017 (11/15/2018)

2018-FIN-037-A

Independent Auditors' Report on the U.S. Department of the Interior Closing Package Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2018 (11/15/2018)

2018-ITA-043

Independent Auditors' Performance Audit Report on the U.S. Department of the Interior Federal Information Security Modernization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (03/13/2019)

National Park Service**2017-WR-037**

The National Park Service Misused Philanthropic Partner Donations (03/13/2019)

2018-FIN-056

Passenger Ferry Service to Fort Sumter National Monument Met Federal Safety Requirements (11/06/2018)

Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians**2018-FIN-036**

Independent Auditors' Reports on the Tribal and Other Trust Funds and Individual Indian Monies Trust Funds Statements for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2017 (11/09/2018)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**2018-FIN-058**

Passenger Ferry Service at Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge Met Federal Requirements (11/06/2018)

Contract and Grant Audits***Bureau of Land Management*****2017-FIN-053**

The Chicago Horticultural Society Should Improve Its Financial Management System to Receive Federal Funds (03/13/2019)

**\$313,341

***\$217,196

Bureau of Reclamation**2017-FIN-066**

The Sacramento County Sheriff's Department Claimed Higher Labor Rates Than Allowed on Contract No. R17PC00051 and Ignored Training Requirements for Contract No. R12PC20015 With the Bureau of Reclamation (03/26/2019)

**\$314,565

Indian Affairs**2017-FIN-039**

Audit of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Agreement No. A12AV01171 with the Crow Tribe on the Methamphetamine Initiative Program (12/11/2018)

**\$150,000

National Park Service**2018-FIN-032**

The National Park Service Complied With the Terms of Three Contracts for the Grand Canyon River Logistics Program (10/30/2018)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**2018-CR-001**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of South Dakota, Department of Game, Fish and Parks, From July 1, 2015, Through June 30, 2017 (03/29/2019)

2018-CR-013

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Indiana, Department of Natural Resources, From July 1, 2015, Through June 30, 2017 (03/08/2019)

2018-CR-015

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Wyoming, Game and Fish Department From July 1, 2015, Through June 30, 2017 (02/05/2019)

2018-ER-002

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Tennessee, Wildlife Resources Agency, From July 1, 2015, Through June 30, 2017 (12/11/2018)

2018-ER-017

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the District of Columbia, Department of Energy and Environment, From October 1, 2015, Through September 30, 2017 (03/29/2019)

**\$51,045

2018-ER-018

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Arkansas, Game and Fish Commission, From July 1, 2015, Through June 30, 2017 (02/05/2019)

**\$2,040

***\$75,000

2018-WR-026

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Washington, Department of Fish and Wildlife, From July 1, 2015, Through June 30, 2017 (12/11/2018)

Other Assignment Types

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

2018-EAU-022

Verification Review – Recommendations 48, 49, 50, and 53 for the Report Titled A New Horizon: Looking to the Future of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (CR-EV-MMS-0015-2010) (10/04/2018)

Multi-Office Assignments

2018-ER-041

Inspector General's Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges Facing the U.S. Department of the Interior (11/07/2018)

2019-FIN-017

Progress Made by the U.S. Department of the Interior in Implementing Government Charge Card Recommendations, Fiscal Year 2018 (03/08/2019)

MONETARY RESOLUTION ACTIVITIES

Table 1: Inspector General Reports With Questioned Costs*

| | Number of Reports | Questioned Costs* | Unsupported Costs |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| A. For which no management decision has been made by the commencement of the reporting period | 1 | \$60,191,414 | \$60,128,259 |
| B. Which were issued during the reporting period | 5 | \$1,123,187 | \$292,196 |
| Total (A+B) | 6 | \$61,314,601 | \$60,420,455 |
| C. For which a management decision was made during the reporting period | 2 | \$60,268,454 | \$60,203,259 |
| (i) Dollar value of costs disallowed | | \$60,268,454 | \$60,203,259 |
| (ii) Dollar value of costs allowed | | | |
| D. For which no management decision had been made by the end of the reporting period | 4 | \$1,046,147 | \$217,196 |

* Does not include non-Federal funds. Unsupported costs are included in questioned costs.

MONETARY RESOLUTION ACTIVITIES

**Table 2: Inspector General Reports With Recommendations
That Funds Be Put to Better Use***

| | Number of Reports | Dollar Value |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| A. For which no management decision has been made by the commencement of the reporting period | 1 | \$50,366 |
| B. Which were issued during the reporting period | 0 | |
| Total (A+B) | 1 | \$50,366 |
| C. For which a management decision was made during the reporting period (i) Dollar value of recommendations that were agreed to by management (ii) Dollar value of recommendations that were not agreed to by management | 0 | \$0 |
| D. For which no management decision had been made by the end of the reporting period | 1 | \$50,366 |

* Does not include non-Federal funds.

REPORTS PENDING DECISION

This listing includes a summary of audit, inspection, and evaluation reports that were more than 6 months old on March 31, 2019, and still pending a management decision. It includes recommendations with which the OIG and management have disagreed, and the disagreement has been referred to the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget for resolution. Also included are recommendations with which management did not provide sufficient information to determine if proposed actions will resolve the recommendation. It provides the report number, title, issue date, number of recommendations referred for resolution, and number of recommendations awaiting additional information.

Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations

Indian Affairs

2017-ER-018

Indian Affairs Offices' Poor Recordkeeping and Coordination Threaten Impact of Tiwahe Initiative (09/28/2018)
Referred for Resolution: 2

Office of the Secretary

2018-ITA-019

The Department of the Interior Generally Complied with Email and Web Security Mandates (07/26/2018)
Referred for Resolution: 1

Contract and Grant Audits

Indian Affairs

2017-FIN-065

The Blackfeet Tribe Generally Complied with Bureau of Indian Affairs Agreements (09/28/2018)
Referred for Resolution: 1
Better Use: \$50,366

Other Assignment Types

National Park Service

2017-WR-037-A

Financial, Ethical, and Exclusive Use Concerns About the NPS'
Agreement With the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts
(09/04/2018)

Referred for Resolution: 2

REPORTS WITH UNIMPLEMENTED RECOMMENDATIONS

This listing provides a summary of reports issued by the Office of Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations before October 1, 2018, that still had open (unimplemented) recommendations as of March 31, 2019. Unimplemented recommendations are divided into three categories: resolved, management disagreed, and awaiting management decision. Recommendations with which management has disagreed have been referred to the DOI for resolution. Recommendations are classified as awaiting management decision if either management did not respond or management's response was not sufficiently detailed to consider the recommendation resolved. Because a single report may have both implemented and unimplemented recommendations, the number of recommendations listed as resolved may be fewer than the total number of recommendations in the report.

Unimplemented Recommendations

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Open | 467 |
| Resolved | 460 |
| Disagreed | 6 |
| Awaiting Decision | 1 |
| Questioned Costs | \$152,332,453 |
| Funds That Could Have Been Better Used | \$863,797 |

Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations

Bureau of Land Management

2015-EAU-057

Bureau of Land Management's Management of Private Acquired Leases
(12/11/2015)
Resolved: 1

2015-ITA-072

Independent Auditors' Performance Audit Report on the U.S.
Department of the Interior Federal Information Security Management
Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (02/24/2016)
Resolved: 1

2016-EAU-061

Bureau of Land Management's Idle Well Program (01/17/2018)

Resolved: 11

2016-WR-027

The Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse and Burro Program is Not Maximizing Efficiencies or Complying With Federal Regulations (10/17/2016)

Resolved: 1

2017-ITA-052

Independent Auditors' Performance Audit Report on the U.S. Department of the Interior Federal Information Security Modernization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (03/08/2018)

Resolved: 5

C-IN-BLM-0002-2012

Bureau of Land Management's Mineral Materials Program (03/31/2014)

Resolved: 1

C-IN-MOA-0013-2010

Management of Rights-of-Way in the U.S. Department of the Interior (09/27/2012)

Resolved: 4

CR-EV-BLM-0004-2012

Bureau of Land Management's Geothermal Resources Management (03/07/2013)

Resolved: 1

CR-EV-MOA-0006-2012

U.S. Department of the Interior's Underground Injection Control Activities (03/31/2014)

Resolved: 2

CR-IS-BLM-0004-2014

BLM Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Trespass and Drilling Without Approval (09/29/2014)

Resolved: 2

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management**CR-EV-BOEM-0001-2013**

U.S. Department of the Interior's Offshore Renewable Energy Program
(09/25/2013)
Resolved: 1

Bureau of Reclamation**2015-ITA-072**

Independent Auditors' Performance Audit Report on the U.S.
Department of the Interior Federal Information Security Management
Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (02/24/2016)
Resolved: 1

2015-WR-080

Audit of the Bureau of Reclamation's Klamath Basin Water User
Mitigation Program (10/11/2016)
Resolved: 1

2016-WR-026

Improvements Needed in the Bureau of Reclamation's Oversight of
Tribal Rural Water Projects (07/31/2017)
Resolved: 1

2017-WR-029

Management Advisory – Potential Opportunity for Revenue in the
Conveyance of Non-Project Water (01/17/2018)
Resolved: 1

ISD-IS-BOR-0004-2013

IT Security of the Glen Canyon Dam Supervisory Control and Data
Acquisition System (03/26/2014)
Resolved: 1

WR-EV-MOA-0015-2011

Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and Office of
Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's Safety of Dams:
Emergency Preparedness (12/27/2012)
Resolved: 1

Indian Affairs**2016-CR-036**

Stronger Internal Controls Needed Over Indian Affairs Loan Guarantee Program (11/09/2017)

Resolved: 5

2016-ITA-021

Information Technology Security Weaknesses at a Core Data Center Could Expose Sensitive Data (02/15/2017)

Resolved: 4

2017-ER-018

Indian Affairs Offices' Poor Recordkeeping and Coordination Threaten Impact of Tiwahe Initiative (09/28/2018)

Resolved: 7

Disagreed: 2

2017-WR-024

The Bureau of Indian Education Is Not Ensuring That Background Checks at Indian Education Facilities Are Complete (02/08/2018)

Resolved: 11

C-EV-BIE-0023-2014

Condition of Indian School Facilities (09/30/2016)

Resolved: 4

C-IS-BIE-0023-2014-A

Condition of Bureau of Indian Affairs Facilities at the Pine Hill Boarding School (01/11/2016)

Resolved: 3

CR-EV-BIA-0002-2013

BIA Needs Sweeping Changes to Manage the Osage Nation's Energy Resources (10/20/2014)

Resolved: 7

Better Use: \$97,000

NM-EV-BIE-0003-2008

School Violence Prevention (02/03/2010)

Resolved: 1

National Park Service**2015-ITA-072**

Independent Auditors' Performance Audit Report on the U.S. Department of the Interior Federal Information Security Management Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (02/24/2016)
Resolved: 2

2015-WR-019

Operation and Management of the Brinkerhoff Lodge at Grand Teton National Park (09/30/2015)
Resolved: 1

2017-ITA-052

Independent Auditors' Performance Audit Report on the U.S. Department of the Interior Federal Information Security Modernization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (03/08/2018)
Resolved: 2

CR-EV-MOA-0006-2012

U.S. Department of the Interior's Underground Injection Control Activities (03/31/2014)
Resolved: 1

Office of the Secretary**2015-CR-001**

Inspection of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Occupational Safety and Health and Workers' Compensation Programs (02/09/2016)
Resolved: 1

2015-ITA-032

U.S. Department of the Interior's Management of its Smartphones, Tablets, and Other Mobile Devices (06/22/2016)
Resolved: 1

2016-ER-016

Evaluation of DOI's Tracking of Data for Land Purchases Made With Grant Funds (09/25/2017)
Resolved: 2

2016-ER-070

Insufficient Documentation of Use of Extended Administrative Leave at the U.S. Department of the Interior (03/30/2017)
Resolved: 3

2016-ITA-020

Interior Incident Response Program Calls for Improvement
(03/12/2018)
Resolved: 20

2016-ITA-062

Independent Auditors' Performance Audit Report on the U.S.
Department of the Interior Federal Information Security Management
Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (03/10/2017)
Resolved: 6

2017-FIN-038

U.S. Department of the Interior DATA Act Submission for Second
Quarter FY 2017 (11/02/2017)
Resolved: 3

2017-WR-012

U.S. Department of the Interior Law Enforcement's Body Camera Policy
and Practices Are Not Consistent With Industry Standards
(01/30/2018)
Resolved: 12

2017-WR-056

The American Samoa Government's Executive Branch Did Not Have
Effective Internal Controls for Government-Owned and -Leased
Vehicles (09/28/2018)
Resolved: 1

2018-ITA-019

The Department of the Interior Generally Complied with Email and
Web Security Mandates (07/26/2018)
Resolved: 5
Disagreed: 1

C-IN-MOA-0010-2008

Audit Report – Department of the Interior Museum Collections:
Accountability and Preservation (12/16/2009)
Resolved: 2

C-IN-MOA-0049-2004

Department of the Interior Concessions Management (06/13/2005)
Resolved: 1

ER-IN-VIS-0015-2014

Significant Flaws Revealed in the Financial Management and Procurement Practices of the U.S. Virgin Islands' Public Finance Authority (09/29/2017)

Resolved: 1

ISD-EV-OCIO-0002-2014

DOI's Adoption of Cloud-Computing Technologies (05/21/2015)

Resolved: 1

ISD-IN-MOA-0004-2014

Security of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Publicly Accessible Information Technology Systems (07/15/2015)

Resolved: 3

ISD-IN-MOA-0004-2014-I

U.S. Department of the Interior's Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation Program Not Yet Capable of Providing Complete Information for Enterprise Risk Determinations (10/19/2016)

Resolved: 4

W-IN-MOA-0086-2004

Proper Use of Cooperative Agreements Could Improve Interior's Initiatives for Collaborative Partnerships (01/31/2007)

Resolved: 1

WR-EV-OSS-0005-2009

Aviation Maintenance Tracking and Pilot Inspector Practices - Further Advances Needed (04/14/2009)

Resolved: 1

Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians**2016-ITA-062**

Independent Auditors' Performance Audit Report on the U.S. Department of the Interior Federal Information Security Management Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (03/10/2017)

Resolved: 1

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement**2016-EAU-007**

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's Oversight of the Abandoned Mine Lands Program (03/30/2017)

Resolved: 11

C-IN-OSM-0044-2014A

Oversight of Annual Fund Transfer for Miner Benefits Needs Improvement (03/29/2017)

Resolved: 13

Questioned Costs: \$38,878,548

WR-EV-MOA-0015-2011

Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's Safety of Dams: Emergency Preparedness (12/27/2012)

Resolved: 3

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**2015-FIN-021**

Performance Audit of Expenditures and Obligations Used by the Secretary of the Interior in Administering the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000, Public Law 106-408 for Fiscal Years 2013 and 2014 (08/27/2015)

Resolved: 1

2015-ITA-072

Independent Auditors' Performance Audit Report on the U.S. Department of the Interior Federal Information Security Management Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (02/24/2016)

Resolved: 1

2016-FIN-074

Independent Auditors' Biennial Report on the Audit of Expenditures and Obligations Used by the Secretary of the Interior in the Administration of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000 for Fiscal Years 2015 Through 2016 (08/07/2017)

Resolved: 1

2016-ITA-062

Independent Auditors' Performance Audit Report on the U.S. Department of the Interior Federal Information Security Management Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (03/10/2017)

Resolved: 1

2017-ITA-052

Independent Auditors' Performance Audit Report on the U.S. Department of the Interior Federal Information Security Modernization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (03/08/2018)

Resolved: 1

2018-FIN-007

Issues Found With the Award and Monitoring of Financial Assistance Agreements Made by the FWS International Affairs Program (07/26/2018)

Resolved: 4

CR-EV-MOA-0006-2012

U.S. Department of the Interior's Underground Injection Control Activities (03/31/2014)

Resolved: 2

U.S. Geological Survey**2016-ER-057**

Evaluation of USGS Scientific Collection Management Policy (09/28/2017)

Resolved: 1

2016-ITA-062

Independent Auditors' Performance Audit Report on the U.S. Department of the Interior Federal Information Security Management Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (03/10/2017)

Resolved: 3

2017-ITA-052

Independent Auditors' Performance Audit Report on the U.S. Department of the Interior Federal Information Security Modernization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (03/08/2018)

Resolved: 1

Contract and Grant Audits

Bureau of Land Management

2015-WR-062

Bureau of Land Management Cooperative Agreement No. L12AC20673
With Utah Correctional Industries (11/27/2015)

Resolved: 2

Questioned Costs: \$1,931,699

2016-CG-006

Audit of Bureau of Land Management Cooperative Agreement
No. L10AC20002 With The Piney Woods School (02/14/2017)

Resolved: 3

Questioned Costs: \$524,478

WR-CA-BLM-0013-2013

Cooperative Agreement No. JSA071001/L08AC13913 between the
Utah Correctional Industries and the Bureau of Land Management
(09/27/2013)

Resolved: 2

Questioned Costs: \$2,004,553

Bureau of Reclamation

2017-FIN-040

Audit of Contract Nos. R11AV60120 and R12AV60002 Between the
Bureau of Reclamation and the Crow Tribe (09/28/2018)

Resolved: 10

Questioned Costs: \$12,808,434

2017-WR-048

The Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Agreement No. R16AC00087
With the Panoche Drainage District (07/12/2018)

Resolved: 22

Questioned Costs: \$213,891

ER-CX-BOR-0010-2014

Crow Tribe Accounting System and Interim Costs Claimed Under
Agreement Nos. R11AV60120 and R12AV60002 With the Bureau of
Reclamation (06/24/2015)

Resolved: 12

Questioned Costs: \$476,399

Indian Affairs**2016-CG-030**

Audit of Incurred Costs of Contract Associated with Public Voucher No. PV08C55091 Between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Chippewa Cree Tribe (08/28/2017)

Resolved: 3

Questioned Costs: \$2,000,000

2016-FIN-075

Audit of Agreement No. A13AP00009 Between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Chippewa Cree Tribe (08/21/2017)

Resolved: 5

Questioned Costs: \$1,503,191

2017-FIN-041

Audit of Agreement No. A13AP00043 Between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Crow Tribe (06/21/2018)

Resolved: 2

Awaiting Decision: 1

Questioned Costs: \$14,492,813

2017-FIN-042

The Wind River Tribes Misapplied Federal Funds for the Tribal Transportation Program (07/12/2018)

Resolved: 11

Questioned Costs: \$6,194,167

2017-FIN-065

The Blackfeet Tribe Generally Complied with Bureau of Indian Affairs Agreements (09/28/2018)

Resolved: 3

Disagreed: 1

Better Use: \$50,366

National Park Service**2015-ER-061**

Audit of Task Agreement Nos. P13AC00279, P13AC01094, and P14AC00445 Between the National Park Service and the Student Conservation Association Under Cooperative Agreement No. P09AC00402 (02/03/2017)

Resolved: 7

Questioned Costs: \$740,681

X-CX-NPS-0001-2014

Final Costs Claimed by NY Asphalt, Inc., Under Contract Nos. INPSANDY12003, INP13PX28237, and INP13PX22222 With the National Park Service (10/21/2014)

Resolved: 2

Questioned Costs: \$988,203

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**2015-EXT-005**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Fish and Game, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, From July 1, 2012, Through June 30, 2014 (01/07/2016)

Resolved: 2

2015-EXT-008

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Texas, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, From September 1, 2012, Through August 21, 2014 (08/24/2017)

Resolved: 19

Questioned Costs: \$921,373

Better Use: \$131,435

2015-EXT-009

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Utah, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife Resources, From July 1, 2012, Through June 30, 2014 (09/19/2016)

Resolved: 12

Questioned Costs: \$208,752

2015-EXT-043

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Grants Awarded to the State of Alabama, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, From October 1, 2012, to September 30, 2014 (09/07/2016)

Resolved: 2

2016-EXT-001

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Arizona, Arizona Game and Fish Department, From July 1, 2013, Through June 30, 2015 (08/27/2018)

Resolved: 16

Questioned Costs: \$3,970,237

2016-EXT-003

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Maryland, Department of Natural Resources From July 1, 2013, Through June 30, 2015 (09/14/2017)

Resolved: 3

Questioned Costs: \$49,962

Better Use: \$548,903

2016-EXT-005

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the Government of the Virgin Islands, Department of Planning and Natural Resources, From October 1, 2012, Through September 30, 2014 (02/21/2017)

Resolved: 6

2016-EXT-042

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources, From July 1, 2013, Through June 30, 2015 (11/27/2017)

Resolved: 1

Better Use: \$5,593

2016-EXT-043

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Delaware, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Fish and Wildlife, From July 1, 2013, Through June 30, 2015 (02/15/2017)

Resolved: 2

2016-EXT-046

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of North Dakota, Game and Fish Department, From July 1, 2013, Through June 30, 2015 (09/25/2017)

Resolved: 2

Questioned Costs: \$380,142

2016-EXT-047

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources from October 1, 2013, through September 30, 2015 (09/18/2018)

Resolved: 16

Questioned Costs: \$60,191,414

2016-EXT-048

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Missouri, Department of Conservation, From July 1, 2013, Through June 30, 2015 (09/18/2018)

Resolved: 15

Questioned Costs: \$2,813,979

Better Use: \$30,500

2017-EXT-006

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the Government of Guam, Department of Agriculture, From October 1, 2014, through September 30, 2016 (03/26/2018)

Resolved: 7

2017-EXT-020

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Ohio, Department of Natural Resources, From July 1, 2014, Through June 30, 2016 (06/21/2018)

Resolved: 7

Questioned Costs: \$144,419

2017-EXT-049

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, from July 1, 2014, Through June 30, 2016 (08/27/2018)

Resolved: 8

Questioned Costs: \$111,000

2017-EXT-051

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Fish and Wildlife, From April 1, 2014, Through March 31, 2016 (02/28/2018)
Resolved: 8

2017-EXT-058

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the New Jersey State Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife, From July 1, 2014, Through June 30, 2016 (07/18/2018)
Resolved: 6

R-GR-FWS-0002-2014

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources, From July 1, 2011, Through June 30, 2013 (12/19/2014)
Resolved: 1

R-GR-FWS-0003-2013

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of South Dakota, Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, From July 1, 2010, Through June 30, 2012 (06/04/2013)
Resolved: 1

R-GR-FWS-0004-2009

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources, From July 1, 2005, Through June 30, 2007 (09/21/2009)
Resolved: 1

R-GR-FWS-0006-2007

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Assistance Program Grants Awarded to the Virgin Islands, Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, From October 1, 2003, Through September 30, 2005 (10/18/2007)
Resolved: 1

R-GR-FWS-0006-2011

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the Government of the Virgin Islands, Department of Planning and Natural Resources, From October 1, 2008, Through September 30, 2010 (11/03/2011)

Resolved: 3

R-GR-FWS-0006-2014

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources, From July 1, 2011, Through June 30, 2013 (09/15/2014)

Resolved: 1

R-GR-FWS-0007-2011

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Maryland, Department of Natural Resources, From July 1, 2008, Through June 30, 2010 (11/30/2011)

Resolved: 2

R-GR-FWS-0008-2014

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Kansas, Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism, From July 1, 2011, Through June 30, 2013 (03/27/2015)

Resolved: 6

Questioned Costs: \$328,860

R-GR-FWS-0009-2004

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Assistance Grants Administered by the State of New Hampshire, Fish and Game Department, From July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2003 (03/31/2005)

Resolved: 1

R-GR-FWS-0010-2012

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Nebraska, Game and Parks Commission, From July 1, 2009, Through June 30, 2011 (11/30/2012)

Resolved: 2

R-GR-FWS-0010-2013

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Wyoming, Game and Fish Department, From July 1, 2010, Through June 30, 2012 (10/29/2013)
Resolved: 1

R-GR-FWS-0011-2009

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Utah, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife Resources, From July 1, 2006, Through June 30, 2008 (01/29/2010)
Resolved: 1

R-GR-FWS-0011-2010

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources, From July 1, 2007, Through June 30, 2009 (11/22/2010)
Resolved: 1

R-GR-FWS-0011-2013

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, From July 1, 2010, Through June 30, 2012 (02/24/2014)
Resolved: 2

R-GR-FWS-0011-2014

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Game Commission, From July 1, 2011, Through June 30, 2013 (05/05/2016)
Resolved: 2

R-GR-FWS-0012-2010

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, From July 1, 2007, Through June 30, 2009 (11/29/2010)
Resolved: 1

R-GR-FWS-0013-2014

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of West Virginia, Division of Natural Resources, From July 1, 2011, Through June 30, 2013 (12/17/2015)
Resolved: 1

R-GR-FWS-0014-2014

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Colorado, Division of Parks and Wildlife, From July 1, 2011, Through June 30, 2013 (07/21/2015)
Resolved: 5
Questioned Costs: \$455,258

Other Assignment Types

Bureau of Reclamation

2015-WR-080-B

Management Advisory – Operations and Maintenance Cost Allocation for the Klamath Project Reserved Works (09/27/2016)
Resolved: 1

2015-WR-080-C

Management Advisory – Reimbursement of A-Canal Head Gates and Fish Screens on the Klamath Project (09/27/2016)
Resolved: 2

2017-WR-048-A

Management Advisory – Proposed Modifications to USBR's Cooperative Agreement No. R16AC00087 With the Panoche Drainage District (11/27/2017)
Resolved: 3

National Park Service

2017-FIN-032-A

Management Advisory – Issues Identified During Our Audit of Grant No. P13AF00113 Between the National Park Service and the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (01/08/2018)
Resolved: 1

2017-WR-037-A

Financial, Ethical, and Exclusive Use Concerns About the NPS' Agreement With the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts (09/04/2018)

Resolved: 4

Disagreed: 2

Office of the Secretary

2016-ER-016-A

Management Advisory – PAM's Misinterpretation of Federal Regulations Resulted in PAM Disagreeing With Recommendations To Track Data for Land Purchases Made With Grant Funds (09/25/2017)

Resolved: 3

ER-IN-VIS-0015-2014-A

Management Advisory – Major Procurement and Management Issues Concerning Bond Proceed Use in the U.S. Virgin Islands (09/29/2017)

Resolved: 1

PEER REVIEWS OF OIG OPERATIONS

Government auditing and investigative standards require each statutory OIG to receive an independent, comprehensive peer review of its audit and investigative operations once every 3 years, consistent with applicable standards and guidelines. In general, these peer reviews determine whether the OIG's internal quality control system is adequate as designed and provides reasonable assurance that the OIG follows applicable standards, policies, and procedures. The Inspector General Act of 1978 requires that OIGs provide in their semiannual reports to Congress information about peer reviews of their respective organizations and their peer reviews of other OIGs.

Audit Peer Review

Peer reviews are conducted in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's "Guide for Conducting External Peer Reviews of the Audit Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General," based on requirements in the "Government Auditing Standards." Federal audit organizations can receive a rating of pass, pass with deficiencies, or fail.

We reviewed the U.S. Department of Education's OIG system of quality control for the period ending March 31, 2018. In our September 28, 2018 report we issued a pass rating. Our report did not contain any recommendations, nor did we identify outstanding unimplemented recommendations from previous peer reviews.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) issued its report on our audit organization's system of quality control for the year ending September 30, 2016, on May 26, 2017. The SBA determined that our system of quality control provided reasonable assurance that our office of Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations conforms to applicable professional standards in all material respects, and we received a pass rating. The SBA did not make any written recommendations, and we did not have any outstanding recommendations from previous peer reviews.

Investigative Peer Reviews

During the October 1, 2016, through March 31, 2017 reporting period, our Office of Investigations underwent a peer review by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency OIG, and peer reviewed the Amtrak OIG. Each review was conducted without incident or negative findings.

INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

18-0565

BLM Manager Engaged in Sexual Misconduct
(page 4)

18-0700

BLM Official Used a Government Vehicle Without Authorization
(page 5)

17-0148

Former BOEM Supervisor Reprimed Against Employee
(page 7)

17-0013

BSEE Senior Official Violated Federal Hiring Regulations
(page 12)

17-0030

BSEE Managers Inappropriately Influenced Procurement Process
(page 13)

18-0696

BIA Manager Created the Appearance of Using His Public Office for Private Gain
(page 19)

17-0221

A Tribe Acted Within Its Authority by Removing BIE Funds From Account of Tribally Controlled School
(page 20)

18-1169

Alleged Favoritism and Misconduct by BIA Supervisor
(page 20)

16-0879

Gettysburg National Military Park Superintendent Violated Ethics Rules
(page 24)

18-1188

Unfounded Allegations of Improper Leadership Decisions and Hostile Work Environment at Grand Canyon National Park
(page 27)

18-0649

Violation of Ethics Regulations by Office of the Secretary Official
(page 33)

18-0192

Alleged Abuse of Position by Former Secretary Zinke
(page 35)

18-0608

Alleged Preferential Treatment in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Boundary Decision
(page 36)

INSTANCES OF AGENCY INTERFERENCE

There have been no instances during this reporting period in which the DOI or its bureaus or offices interfered with an audit, inspection, evaluation, investigation, or other OIG project.

INSTANCES OF NONREMEDIATION

There have been no major Federal Financial Management Improvement Act weaknesses reported during this period.

ALLEGED WHISTLEBLOWER RETALIATION

We submitted two reports containing allegations of whistleblower retaliation to the DOI to determine whether retaliation occurred based on the facts of the investigation.

- *BSEE Manager Allegedly Reprised Against Employee (page 13)*
- *Wrongful Suspension of an IBC Employee's Security Clearance (page 34)*

CROSS REFERENCES TO THE INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT

| | | Page |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Section 4(a)(2) | Review of Legislation and Regulations | N/A* |
| Section 5(a)(1) | Significant Problems, Abuses, and Deficiencies | 1–50 |
| Section 5(a)(2) | Recommendations for Corrective Action With Respect to Significant Problems, Abuses, and Deficiencies | 1–50 |
| Section 5(a)(3) | Significant Recommendations From Agency’s Previous Reports on Which Corrective Action Has Not Been Completed | 60–61 |
| Section 5(a)(4) | Matters Referred to Prosecutive Authorities and Resulting Convictions | 52–53 |
| Section 5(a)(5) | Matters Reported to the Head of the Agency | 34 |
| Section 5(a)(6) | Audit Reports Issued During the Reporting Period | 54–57 |
| Section 5(a)(7) | Summary of Significant Reports | 1–50 |
| Section 5(a)(8) | Statistical Table: Questioned Costs | 58 |
| Section 5(a)(9) | Statistical Table: Recommendations That Funds Be Put to Better Use | 59 |
| Section 5(a)(10) | Summary of Audit, Inspection, and Evaluation Reports Issued Before the Commencement of the Reporting Period— | |
| Section 5(a)(10)(A) | For Which No Management Decision Has Been Made | 60–61 |
| Section 5(a)(10)(B) | For Which No Establishment Comment Was Returned Within 60 Days of Providing the Report to the Establishment | N/A |
| Section 5(a)(10)(C) | For Which There Are Any Outstanding Unimplemented Recommendations | 62–80 |

*N/A: Not applicable to this reporting period.

| | | Page |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Section 5(a)(11) | Significant Revised Management Decisions Made During the Reporting Period | N/A* |
| Section 5(a)(12) | Significant Management Decisions With Which the Inspector General is in Disagreement | N/A |
| Section 5(a)(13) | Information Described Under Section 804(b) of the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996 | 85 |
| Section 5(a)(14)(A) | Results of Peer Reviews Conducted by Another Office of Inspector General During the Reporting Period | 81 |
| Section 5(a)(14)(B) | Most Recent Peer Review Conducted by Another Office of Inspector General | 81 |
| Section 5(a)(15) | Outstanding Recommendations From Any Peer Review Conducted by Another Office of Inspector General | N/A |
| Section 5(a)(16) | Peer Reviews Completed of Another Office of Inspector General During the Reporting Period or Previous Recommendations That Have Not Been Fully Implemented | 81 |
| Section 5(a)(17) | Statistical Table: Investigations | 52–53 |
| Section 5(a)(18) | Description of Statistics Used for Investigations | 52–53 |
| Section 5(a)(19) | Investigations Involving Senior Government Officials | 82–83 |
| Section 5(a)(20) | Instances of Whistleblower Retaliation | 86 |
| Section 5(a)(21) | Instances of Interference With the Independence of the OIG | 84 |
| Section 5(a)(22) | Closed but Unpublished Reports Involving Senior Government Officials | N/A |

*N/A: Not applicable to this reporting period.

OIG CONTACT INFORMATION



U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Inspector General
1849 C St., NW
Mail Stop 4428
Washington, DC 20240

www.doioig.gov

Phone: 202-208-4618

Fax: 202-208-6062