



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

SEMIANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

For the Period Ending
March 31, 2026





SEMIANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS OCTOBER 1, 2025–MARCH 31, 2026

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Source: Adobe Stock

Abbreviations List

AIE	Office of Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations	MRI	Mapping Resources Initiative
AS-IA	Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs	NPS	National Park Service
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs	OCIO	Office of the Chief Information Officer
BIE	Bureau of Indian Education	OI	Office of Investigations
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	OIA	Office of Insular Affairs
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation	OIG	Office of Inspector General
C.F.R.	Code of Federal Regulations	OLES	Office of Law Enforcement and Security
DAS-M	Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management [AS-IA]	ONRR	Office of Natural Resources Revenue
DOI	U.S. Department of the Interior	OSMRE	Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
DOJ	U.S. Department of Justice	OWPO	Orphaned Wells Program Office
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	PFM	Office of Financial Management
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation	USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	U.S.C.	United States Code
FY	Fiscal year	WSFR	Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program
IJA	Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act		



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Source: Adobe Stock

Our Mission, Vision, and Values

The Inspector General Act of 1978 authorized and established the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Office of Inspector General (OIG) as an independent and objective unit to help promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness and to prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse. We conduct fair, objective, and neutral audits, inspections, evaluations, investigations, and reviews. We report our findings to DOI officials and Congress. In conducting our work, we act with professionalism and integrity.

When we find areas for improvement, we make recommendations for corrective actions. When we identify potential criminal violations, we refer cases to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and

actively support prosecutions and civil actions. We also review concerns regarding the integrity and performance of contractors and financial assistance recipients, and, when warranted, recommend that DOI take administrative action, including suspension and debarment.

Our Mission

Promote economy and efficiency, and prevent and detect waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in the programs and operations of DOI.

Our Vision

Drive improvements and promote accountability at DOI through fair, neutral, and objective oversight.

Our Values

INTEGRITY



We demonstrate our integrity by acting with honesty and professionalism.

OBJECTIVITY



We remain independent, neutral, and unbiased, gather all relevant facts, and base our findings on supportable evidence.

IMPACT



We enable decision makers to take actions that increase efficiency, save taxpayer dollars, and hold bad actors accountable.

EXCELLENCE



We are an effective, innovative, and dedicated organization that consistently produces high-quality work.



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Focus Areas of Oversight

DOI's responsibilities have a significant public impact, and we accordingly strive to conduct oversight that will have a positive effect on DOI's programs and operations. To arrive at focus areas for our oversight, we considered DOI's major management challenges as we defined them for fiscal year (FY) 2025 along with stakeholder priorities, prior work, and emerging threats or vulnerabilities. The work we completed this reporting period addressed several of these focus areas.



CONTRACT AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OVERSIGHT



CYBERSECURITY



DATA AVAILABILITY AND QUALITY



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



HEALTH AND SAFETY



LAND MANAGEMENT



PAYMENT INTEGRITY



REVENUE COLLECTION



TRIBAL NATIONS AND INSULAR COMMUNITIES



WORKPLACE CULTURE AND HUMAN CAPITAL



SEMIANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS OCTOBER 1, 2025–MARCH 31, 2026

A Message From the Deputy Inspector General Performing the Duties of the Inspector General

I am pleased to submit this semiannual report summarizing DOI OIG's oversight work between October 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026. DOI OIG promotes efficiency and effectiveness and prevents and detects fraud, waste, and abuse in DOI's programs and operations. As described throughout this report, our work addressed some of DOI's most persistent challenges in its highest risk programs and operations; it also protected taxpayer resources and helped hold accountable DOI's own employees as well as others who receive Federal resources. Moreover, we provided actionable recommendations to DOI that, if implemented, will lead to meaningful improvements.

This reporting period, both DOI and OIG continued to experience substantial change. Most notably, a lapse in appropriations from October 1, 2025, to November 12, 2025, affected the DOI's ability to provide data and responses to our work; the lapse more generally affected DOI's ability to engage with our office during this period and in the subsequent weeks. We nonetheless maintained our oversight focus on the areas that present the greatest risks to DOI and the greatest opportunities for impact.

For example, our Office of Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations (AIE) committed substantial resources to the oversight of health and safety issues, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) contract and financial assistance, and revenue collection. Our reports in this area identified:

- [The need to resolve deficiencies that could cause imminent and immediate danger](#) to students and staff at Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) and Indian schools;
- [Opportunities for the U.S. Geological Survey \(USGS\) to make improvements](#) in demonstrating



that IIJA cooperative agreements for geologic and geochemical mapping of potential critical mineral resources met program objectives and were properly overseen; and

- [Weaknesses in the Bureau of Land Management's \(BLM's\) Helium Royalty Collection Program](#) with a total monetary impact of almost a million dollars.

Our Office of Investigations (OI) addressed these same areas as well as allegations of ethics violations and employee misconduct, for example:

- A [USGS employee's fraudulent use of a Government credit card](#) to steal more than a million dollars from the Federal Government; and
- A National Park Service ([NPS](#)) [employee's theft](#) of NPS campsite and cave tour fees.

In its 17 reports, AIE issued a total of 137 recommendations to DOI that, if implemented, will help address weaknesses found during our oversight. These recommendations also identified close to \$2 million in combined questioned costs and funds to be put to better use. Moreover, we received information from DOI that enabled us to close 52 recommendations this reporting period, including 10 of our significant recommendations.

OI received 544 complaints, opened 27 new investigations, and closed 27 investigations during the reporting period. We referred 13 criminal matters for prosecution, and our investigative findings led to 5 criminal convictions. Our investigative referrals led to eight debarments during the reporting period, protecting taxpayer dollars against fraud, waste, abuse, and poor performance. Our work also led to the recovery of \$2.87 million in royalty payments.



SEMIANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS OCTOBER 1, 2025–MARCH 31, 2026

In addition to audits, inspections, evaluations, and investigations, during this reporting period, we also issued a new [Strategic Plan](#) as well as our [AIE oversight plan for FY 2026](#). These documents help guide our overall strategy for prioritizing our oversight and ensure that we continue to address the most significant issues facing DOI. We also issued our assessment of [DOI's Major Management and Performance Challenges for FY 2025](#). In this report, we identified what we determined to be the most significant challenges facing DOI, including the emerging challenge of “Managing Change.” Large-scale organizational changes such as staffing changes, consolidation initiatives, and the use of artificial intelligence present both risks and opportunities and will require careful planning, monitoring, and reevaluation at appropriate intervals. We anticipate that our ongoing and future work will more fully assess the implications of

various changes and the extent to which they are successfully implemented.

All of the work presented in this semiannual report results from our ongoing effort to provide actionable information to promote accountability and protect taxpayer funds. I am grateful for the commitment of OIG’s dedicated employees who conduct and deliver fair, neutral, and objective oversight.

Caryl N. Brzymialkiewicz, Ph.D.
Deputy Inspector General Performing
the Duties of the Inspector General



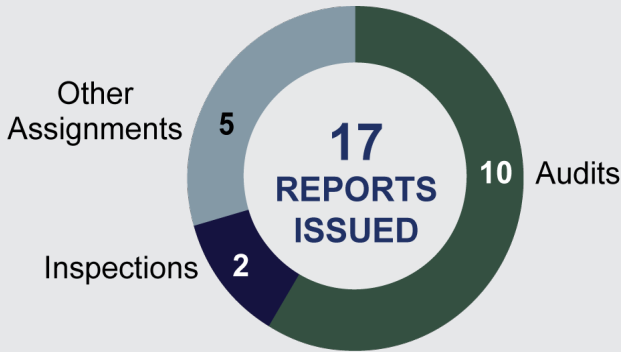
Source: Adobe Stock



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OFFICE OF AUDITS, INSPECTIONS, AND EVALUATIONS

Statistical Highlights | October 1, 2025–March 31, 2026

REPORTING ACTIVITIES



RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED

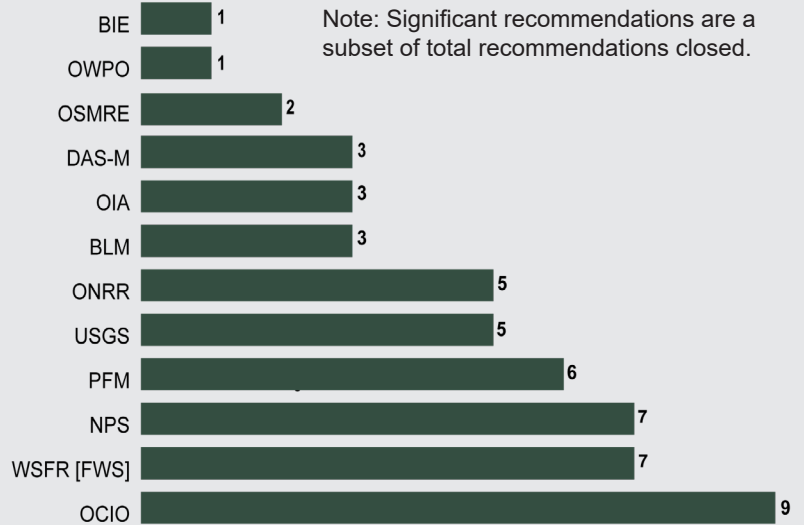
- 137** Recommendations
- \$228,174** Questioned Costs-Unallowable
- \$560,469** Questioned Costs-Unsupported
- \$995,385** Funds For Better Use

Significant & Unresolved Recommendations

Significant	Unresolved	Both
11	11	2

RECOMMENDATIONS CLOSED

- 52** Recommendations Disallowed-Unallowable
- 10** Significant Disallowed-Unsupported



Featured Reports

BIE and Indian Schools Need To Ensure Deficiencies That Could Cause Imminent and Immediate Danger Are Addressed and Resolved Timely (2024-ISP-040-A)



This management advisory was prompted by an inspection of Riverside Indian School.

Specifically, during our 2024 inspection of its safety and health practices, we found that a previously identified catastrophic deficiency¹ BIE reported in January 2024 for an inoperative fire detection alarm system had not been

addressed. Neither the school nor BIE corrected the deficiency, and the school did not implement mitigating measures until after our site visit in October 2024. As part of that report, we recommended that BIE develop a strategy to monitor future catastrophic deficiencies until corrected. Due to the serious nature of this finding and its potential for harm if the same issue is occurring at other schools, we reviewed additional data for all deficiencies identified as catastrophic across all BIE schools. We identified and reviewed 12 open catastrophic deficiencies reported at 10 schools as of March 2025² to determine (1) what steps schools were taking to correct the deficiencies, and (2) for those

¹ For our inspection at Riverside Indian School, we focused on the severity categories, such as catastrophic, that reflect the potential consequence of an identified deficiency. The most serious severity category is "catastrophic deficiency," which poses immediate danger of death or permanent disability to staff and students.

² These numbers are based on BIE's facility management system work order data as of March 4, 2025. One school had three catastrophic deficiencies identified. BIE safety and health inspectors identified these deficiencies between October 2014 and January 2025.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OFFICE OF AUDITS, INSPECTIONS, AND EVALUATIONS

deficiencies that were not corrected, what mitigating measures were implemented.

We found that BIE did not ensure that the 12 catastrophic deficiencies were addressed or resolved timely—7 of the 12 deficiencies remained uncorrected, with 4 exceeding their BIE-established abatement periods³ by more than a year. Six of the seven uncorrected deficiencies were related to fire systems. For example, in addition to the inoperative fire detection system at Riverside Indian School, there were inoperative fire systems at Ch’ooshgai Community School and Nazlini Community School. We also found that most schools in our review did not consistently implement mitigating measures when fire system-related deficiencies were identified. In addition, the five deficiencies that had been corrected also exceeded their abatement periods at the time of correction, and the schools did not close the work orders in the facility management system once they were corrected. Delays in correcting catastrophic deficiencies pose the threat of serious injury or death to staff and students. Moreover, in the absence of corrective measures, BIE’s inconsistent mitigating measures related to these deficiencies may leave BIE school sites vulnerable to property damage, injury, and

loss of life. Finally, failure to close out catastrophic work orders may present an inaccurate picture of school conditions to BIE decision makers and other stakeholders and could affect BIE’s ability to prioritize and efficiently address potentially life-threatening deficiencies.

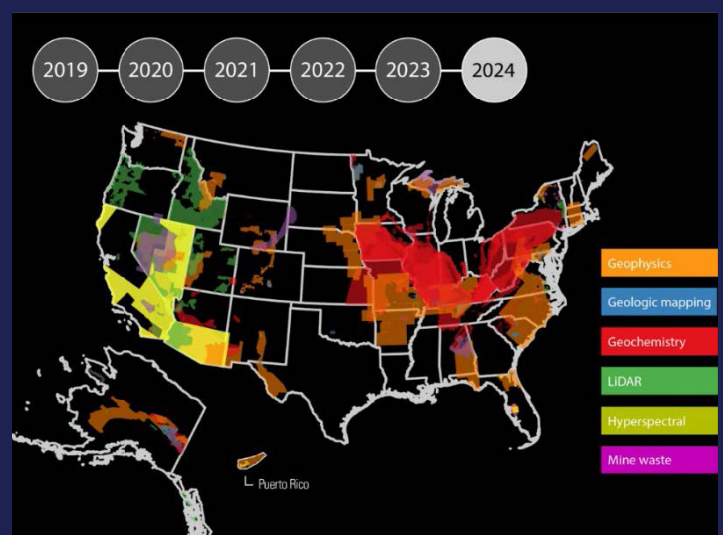
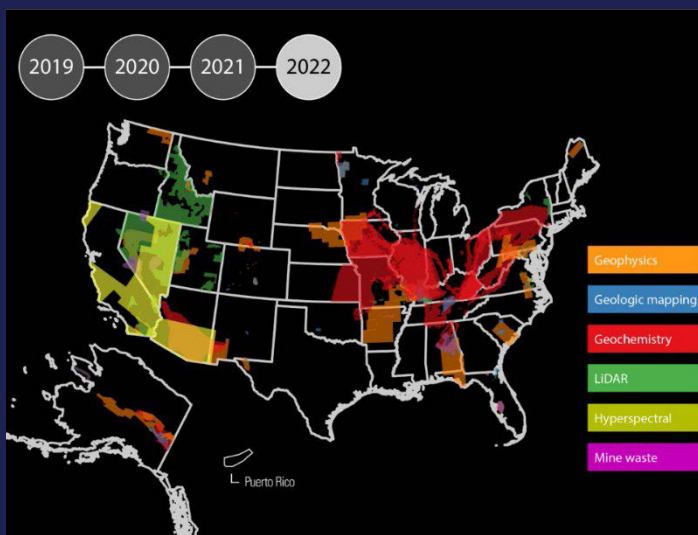
We made five recommendations to help Indian Affairs and BIE ensure the safety and health of students and staff. We consider one open recommendation significant. Before we issued our final report, we closed two recommendations that we determined DOI implemented.

USGS Can Improve Oversight and Substantial Involvement for IJA Earth Mapping Resources Initiative Agreements (2024-CR-021)



USGS Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (MRI) is a partnership between the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS); State geological surveys; and other Federal, State, Tribal, and private-sector organizations to modernize the Nation’s surface and subsurface mapping. USGS distributes funding for geologic and geochemical mapping to State geological surveys through cooperative agreements.

³ The abatement period is the designated number of days during which a deficiency should be corrected. A fire system-related catastrophic deficiency has a one-day abatement period.



Earth MRI progress from FY 2022 to 2024. Source: USGS Earth Mapping Resources Initiative, Earth MRI Progress, dated Oct. 14, 2024, <https://www.usgs.gov/special-topics/earth-mri/science/earth-mri-progress>.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OFFICE OF AUDITS, INSPECTIONS, AND EVALUATIONS

In November 2021, the IIJA increased USGS Earth MRI funding by a total of \$320 million, \$64 million each year from FY 2022 through FY 2026, to identify areas with potential critical mineral resources. Critical mineral resources play a vital role in U.S. manufacturing of key products—these minerals are vulnerable to supply chain disruption, and a shortage could harm the United States' economic stability and national security. Ensuring a steady and secure supply is a strategic priority. As of June 2024, USGS had awarded 51 IIJA-funded Earth MRI cooperative agreements totaling \$24,064,237 for FYs 2022 and 2023.

We found USGS distributed Earth MRI IIJA funds for mapping, survey, and mine waste projects to recipients through cooperative agreements in accordance with the Act. However, we sampled and reviewed eight FY 2022 and 2023 cooperative agreements totaling \$11,658,307 and found that USGS was unable to demonstrate that these agreements met program objectives because it did not establish performance measures or metrics.

We also identified oversight deficiencies related to these agreements. Specifically, USGS did not provide substantial involvement for seven of the eight cooperative agreements and did not ensure recipients submitted required progress reporting. Although the terms and conditions of each cooperative agreement required recipients to submit annual progress reports comparing accomplishments to agreement objectives and overall progress to the performance metrics, USGS did not always enforce requirements that recipients submit these reports. In addition, we found weaknesses with subrecipient monitoring for one of the agreements. During our audit, we also identified that the Alaska Department of Natural Resources charged \$32,549 to one IIJA-funded USGS Earth MRI cooperative agreement to pay for the State's unfunded pension liabilities, which represented approximately 16 percent of the payroll costs charged to the grant.

Effective oversight is important to provide reasonable assurance that IIJA funds are used as intended and in accordance with the Act itself as well as with other applicable laws



A mine waste project site in New Mexico. Source: OIG.

and regulations. USGS guidance requires it to implement performance measures and metrics in the cooperative agreements, and in those we reviewed, the terms and conditions require USGS to provide substantial involvement. Without these measures and metrics in place, it is difficult for USGS and outside parties to determine whether the cooperative agreements meet IIJA funding objectives and for USGS to provide adequate oversight of IIJA funds. In addition, required progress reports throughout the project period are an essential management tool for effective oversight, as these reports provide critical information on actual achievements compared to the agreement's objectives. They also identify and explain unmet goals; provide insight into cost overruns or high unit costs, if applicable; and describe planned activities and program adjustments for the next budget period. USGS' review of progress reports is especially crucial given the accelerated efforts to identify areas with potential critical mineral resources.

We made eight recommendations to help USGS improve its oversight of IIJA-funded Earth MRI cooperative agreements to ensure IIJA earth mapping objectives are achieved. We consider two of these recommendations significant. We closed five recommendations (including the two significant recommendations) that we determined DOI implemented before we issued our final report.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OFFICE OF AUDITS, INSPECTIONS, AND EVALUATIONS



Federal Helium Reserve in Amarillo, Texas. Source: BLM.

BLM Has Opportunities to Improve Its Helium Royalty Collection Program ([2025-ISP-013](#))



Our objective was to determine if BLM identified, collected, and accounted for Federal Helium

Program royalties. Although we determined that BLM generally accounted for helium royalties collected, we found that BLM did not always identify, track, collect, and properly oversee Federal Helium Program royalties. We identified \$96,385 in inefficient oversight costs and \$899,000 in lost revenue (classified as funds to be put to better use) for a total monetary impact of \$995,385 from FYs 2014 to 2024.

BLM is tasked with ensuring that the Federal Government receives proper royalty payment for helium extracted from Federal lands. Royalties derived from the sale of Federal helium totaled nearly \$166 million from FYs 2020 through 2024. Yet, after 30 years of operation, BLM has not created standard operating procedures to ensure that it is efficiently implementing and managing the program. Without identifying, tracking, collecting, and properly overseeing Federal Helium Program

royalties or implementing standard operating procedures, BLM cannot ensure that the Federal Government—and thus the American public—is receiving full compensation for the helium resources extracted from Federal lands.

We determined that BLM did not always identify, track, collect, and properly oversee Federal Helium Program royalties. Specifically, we determined that BLM did not:

- Identify and track all helium-producing wells subject to royalty collection.
- Consistently track and monitor helium royalty agreements.
- Collect royalties from potentially delinquent companies.
- Conduct efficient oversight of companies.

We made seven recommendations to help BLM more efficiently manage Federal helium resources and royalties derived from their sale. All recommendations remain open.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OFFICE OF AUDITS, INSPECTIONS, AND EVALUATIONS

Other Reports Issued

Independent Auditors' Reports on the Tribal and Other Trust Funds and Individual Indian Monies Trust Funds Financial Statements for Fiscal Years 2025 and 2024 ([2025-FIN-021](#))



Independent Auditors' Reports on the U.S. Department of the Interior's Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2025 ([2025-FIN-022](#))



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Grants Awarded to the State of New Mexico by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ([2024-CGD-037](#))



Source: Adobe Stock

ONRR Needs To Consistently Enforce Compliance and Timely Revenue Collection ([2024-CR-008](#))



Source: Adobe Stock

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Grants Awarded to the State of South Dakota by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ([2024-CGD-041](#))



Progress Made by the U.S. Department of the Interior in Implementing Government Charge Card Recommendations, Fiscal Year 2025 ([2026-FIN-005](#))



Closeout Memorandum: Interior Business Center Oversight of Indirect Rate Proposals ([2025-CR-019](#))



Summary: Independent Auditors' Performance Audit Report on the U.S. Department of the Interior's Compliance With the Federal Information Security Modernization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 ([2025-CTD-016](#))





HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OFFICE OF AUDITS, INSPECTIONS, AND EVALUATIONS

The Orphaned Wells Program Office Must Better Monitor the Osage Nation’s Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Orphaned Well Program Funding Progress (2025-ISP-003)



The Bureau of Reclamation’s Salton Sea Restoration Efforts Incurred Unsupported Costs and Were Not Sufficiently Monitored (2024-WR-026)



Closeout Memorandum: Audit of the Bureau of Reclamation’s Canal Improvement Projects (2025-INF-038)



Improvements Needed in OSMRE’s Oversight of Kentucky’s Reporting and Expenditure of IJA Abandoned Mine Land Funds (2024-CR-004)



On the left, a water quality cell at the Torres-Martinez Wetlands Project, part of BOR’s Salton Sea restoration efforts. On the right, 9,000 pounds of surplus steel cages for caissons Kentucky auctioned for just \$662. Source: OIG.

Summary: Audit of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation’s Information System Security and Privacy Controls (2024-CTD-043)



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Grants Awarded to the State of Illinois by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2023-CGD-033)





HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

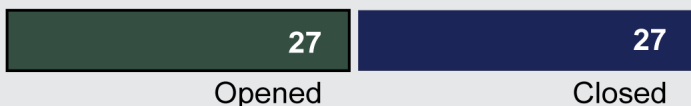
Statistical Highlights | October 1, 2025–March 31, 2026

INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITIES

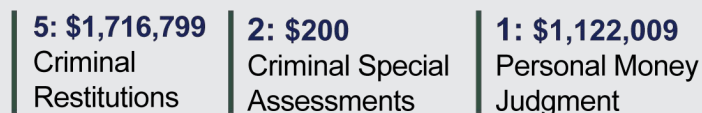
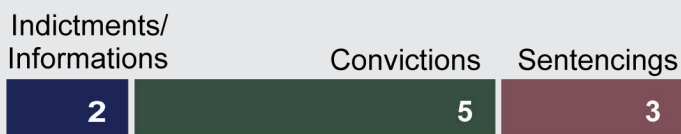
Complaints



Investigations

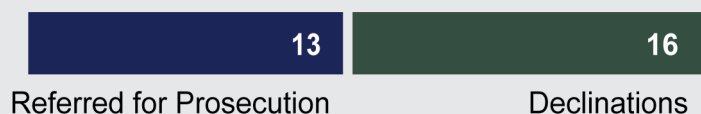


CRIMINAL PROSECUTION ACTIVITIES



*These formulas represent the number of judgments and the resulting penalties. For example, 3 judgments resulted in a total of 16 years, 9 months of probation.

Criminal Matters



Note: Complaints, investigations, and civil and investigative referral statistics were captured at the "time of the action," and not necessarily the date received. Therefore, closed and referred actions may be complaints, investigations, and civil and investigative referrals from a previous report period.

CIVIL INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITIES



ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITIES

5 Personnel Actions

- 2 Removals | 1 Reprimand
- 1 Resignation | 1 Other

49 Administrative Remedy Activities

- 40 Referrals | 1 Suspension | 8 Debarments

5 Financial Recoveries

- 1: \$1,169
Salary/Benefits Recovered
- 1: \$11,346
Bill for Collection Issued
- 2: \$2,870,840
Additional or Unpaid Royalties Recovered
- 1: \$30,887
ONRR Issued Order to Report and Pay

2 General Policy Actions

REPORTING ACTIVITIES

32 Reports Issued

1 Past Due Response (BIE)



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS



Source: Adobe Stock

Featured Reports and Press Releases

U.S. Park Police Officers' Use of Force in Attempted Arrest and Fatal Shooting in Washington, DC (SIR-24-0010)



We investigated whether two U.S. Park Police (USPP) officers (USPP Sergeant and USPP Officer) acted in accordance with DOI and USPP policies in place at the time when they assisted DC Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officers in their attempt to arrest Dalaneo Martin in Washington, DC, on March 18, 2023. We further investigated whether USPP Officer acted in accordance with DOI and USPP policies in place at the time when he subsequently fatally shot Martin. We concluded that neither USPP Sergeant nor USPP Officer violated DOI or USPP policies by assisting MPD in the attempted arrest of Martin. We also concluded that neither USPP Sergeant nor USPP Officer violated DOI or USPP policies in their uses of force against Martin, including USPP Officer's use of deadly force. Specifically, we found that neither USPP Sergeant nor USPP Officer violated

USPP policy by assisting MPD in the attempted arrest of Martin. We found that both officers were acting within the jurisdiction of USPP and responding to a potential crime for which they had arrest authority. We also determined that neither USPP Sergeant's nor USPP Officer's actions violated DOI or USPP use of force policy when they attempted to arrest and extract Martin from the vehicle. We reached this conclusion because we determined that the force they used was objectively reasonable in light of the facts and circumstances confronting the officers at the time and that it constituted the minimum level of reasonable force necessary to control the situation while preserving the safety of the officers and others. Finally, we found that USPP Officer's use of deadly force did not violate DOI or USPP policy because a preponderance of the evidence established that USPP Officer reasonably believed that Martin posed an imminent danger of death or serious bodily harm to him and others given the facts and circumstances confronting USPP Officer at the time.

We provided this report to the Secretary of the Interior for any action deemed appropriate.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

Former Federal Employee Sentenced to 41 Months in Prison After Pleading Guilty to Defrauding U.S. Government for More Than \$1 Million (DOJ Press Release)



Our investigation revealed that James Montoya, an Information Technology Specialist with USGS, in Lakewood, Colorado, used his Government-issued charge cards to obtain a total of \$1,122,009.47 for his personal benefit. From 2008 through 2023, Montoya made hundreds of payments using his Government charge cards to three fictitious PayPal personal business accounts that he controlled. Montoya also used his Government-issued charge cards to purchase from various merchants numerous personal items, such as vintage toys and automotive parts.

Montoya concealed his improper transactions for years by submitting altered receipts and fictitious invoices and other documentation to USGS claiming that these payments and purchases were for IT-related items or services.

On March 7, 2025, Montoya pleaded guilty in the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado to wire fraud, and on May 20, 2025, USGS removed Montoya from Federal service.

On November 25, 2025, Montoya was sentenced to 41 months in Federal prison, three years of supervised release, and ordered to pay monetary penalties totaling \$2,244,018.94. Specifically, Montoya was ordered to pay restitution of \$1,122,009.47 and ordered forfeiture of a personal money judgment of \$1,122,009.47. Montoya was subsequently ordered to forfeit “substitute assets,” including proceeds from the sale of his personal residence, a land parcel, 12 vehicles, funds in his bank account and TSP retirement account, and vintage toys.

On December 3, 2025, DOI issued a Notice of Proposed Debarment, and on February 27, 2026, DOI issued its final debarment decision precluding Montoya from receiving Federal procurement and financial assistance awards until December 2, 2028.



Source: Adobe Stock



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

Former National Park Service Employee Sentenced, Ordered to Repay \$249,000 Stolen from Camping, Cave Fees ([DOJ Press Release](#))



We investigated allegations that Lisa Figge, a former Supervisory Visitor Use Assistant at Ozark National Scenic Riverways (OZAR) in Van Buren, Missouri, stole money intended for the park and falsified or destroyed park records to conceal her activities.

Figge's job duties included collecting fees for guided tours of Round Spring Cave and collecting cash in envelopes placed in metal drop boxes at campsites known as "Iron Rangers." In August 2023, we captured Figge on video counting and stealing \$1,200 in cash from the park. She created fictitious accounting reports to hide her crime and deposited the stolen funds into her personal bank account the same day.

We subsequently interviewed Figge, who admitted to stealing cash from the park for several years, including that morning, using the same manner of theft and concealment. During the interview, she provided the original documents for the \$1,200 transaction and discussed how she had intended to destroy the records. She also explained how she falsified the accounting reports on numerous occasions throughout the years. She told us that she did not keep a record of the total amount of cash she stole from the park but acknowledged that she deposited the stolen cash into her bank account.

On September 1, 2023, Figge resigned from Federal service. On December 15, 2025, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri sentenced Figge to five years of probation after she repaid \$100,000 of the stolen park funds. Figge was ordered to pay the remaining balance of \$149,000 in restitution to NPS.

Welch Spring and Hospital, on the Current River, part of Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Source: [NPS/Patty Wheatley-Bishop](#).





HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS



Source: Adobe Stock

Other Reports and Press Releases Issued

Summary: FWS Contractor Stole Government Funds for Personal Use ([24-0012](#))



Summary: Pollution Event During Safety System Bypass ([24-0090](#))



Summary: Former Contractor Defrauded USGS via Forged and Falsified Timecards, USGS, CA ([24-0269](#))



Summary: Company Reported False Invoices and Information to ONRR to Reduce Royalty Obligations ([24-0073](#))



Summary: Former DOI Official Violated Conflict of Interest Rules ([24-0734](#))



Summary: Former NPS Employee Violated Ethics Rules ([24-0083](#))



Source: Adobe Stock





HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

Summary: Former OSMRE Official Gave the Appearance of Providing Preferential Treatment to Company (24-0123)



Summary: Lessee Inaccurately Reported its Oil Production to the BIA Osage Agency (24-0054)



Summary: Former BIE Principal Sentenced for Possession of Child Pornography (24-0101)



Summary: Former NPS Superintendent Violated Ethics Rules on Gifts and Use of Government Property (24-0115)



Summary: Company Failed to Pay Federal Royalties on Production (24-0063)



Summary: Former NPS Official Failed to Comply With Ethics Standard (24-0023)



Source: Adobe Stock



APPENDIX 1

Summary of Recommendation Activity

As of March 31, 2026, we were tracking a total of 490 open recommendations, including 91 that are significant and 47 that are unresolved. These open recommendations are related to questioned costs of \$38,616,610, and we identified \$6,215,457 in funds to be put to better use.

In this reporting period, we issued 137 recommendations in 17 audit, inspection, and other reports. Of those recommendations, 13 were determined to be significant, and 13 are unresolved. We identified \$788,643 in questioned costs and \$995,385 in funds to be put to better use.

We closed 52 recommendations this period, of which 7 recommendations were from reports issued in this reporting period and 45 recommendations were from reports issued in prior reporting periods (older than six months). In those closed recommendations, \$47,584 in costs were disallowed and recovered by DOI and 10 significant recommendations were closed.

We continue to coordinate with the DOI and its bureaus to address 47 unresolved recommendations.

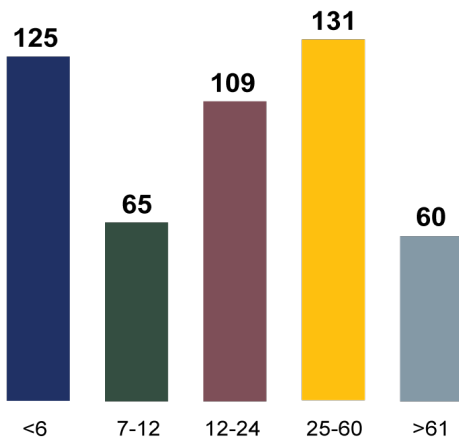
SUMMARY

490 Open Recommendations	\$6,215,457 Funds for Better Use	\$11,206,986 Questioned Costs Unallowable	\$27,409,624 Questioned Costs Unsupported
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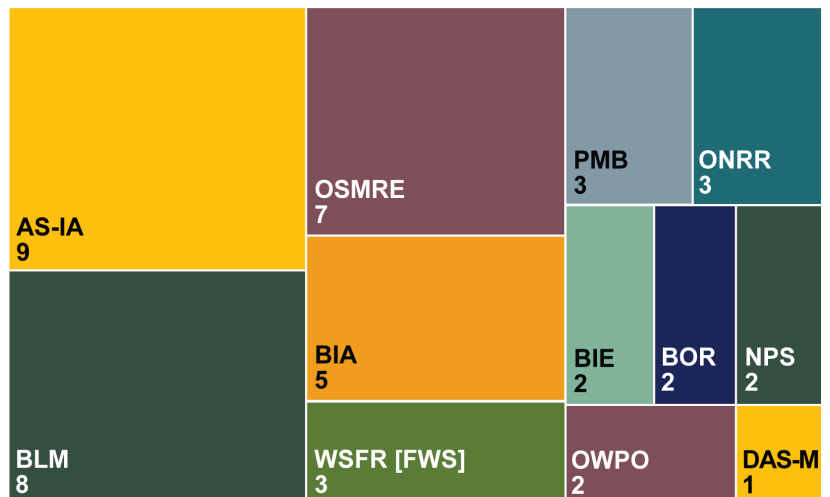
Significant & Unresolved Recommendations

Significant	Unresolved	Both
79	35	12

Age of Recommendations (in Months)



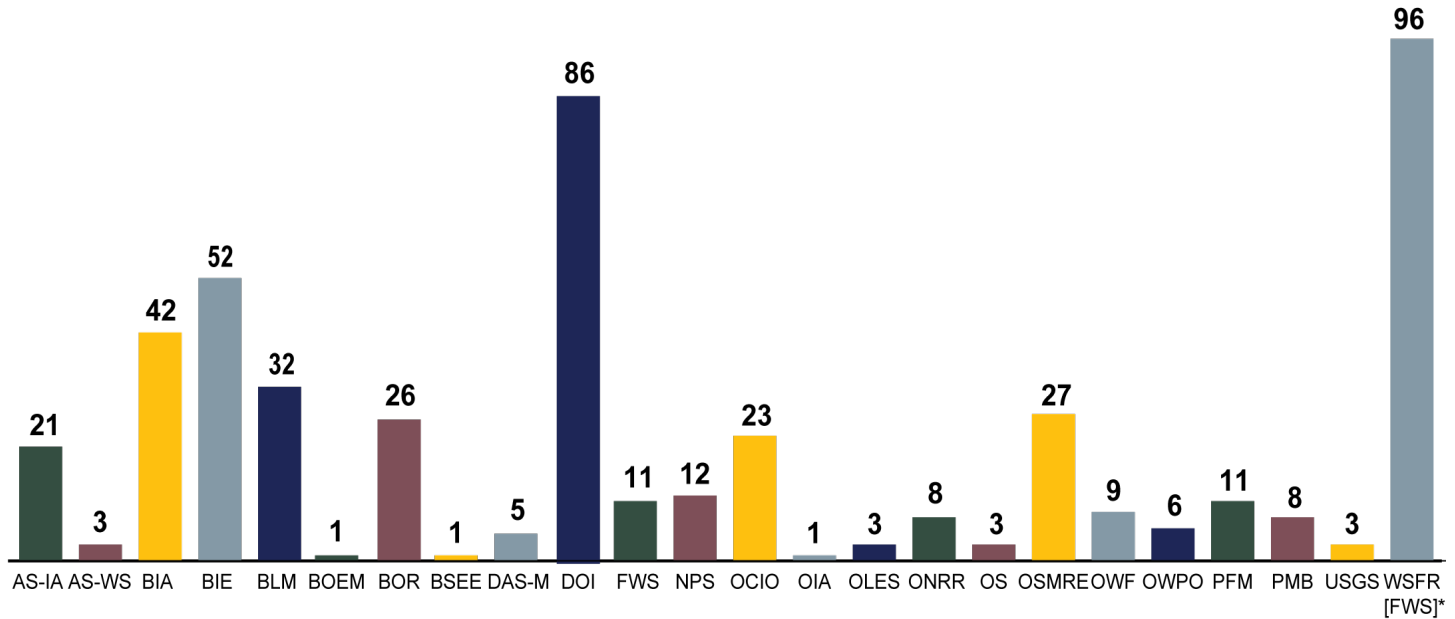
Number of Unresolved Recommendations by Bureau





APPENDIX 1

Number of Open Recommendations by Bureau



* The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) is one of the largest grant programs managed by DOI. It provides funding for States and Territories to support projects that promote the conservation and restoration of wild birds and mammals and their habitats and programs that provide hunter education and safety training and opportunities. OIG has an agreement with FWS to conduct audits for all States and Territories receiving funds through the program on a five-year cycle. FWS coordinates implementation with the States and Territories, reviews and endorses the closure packages, and forwards them to OIG for final approval.

Bureau and Office Abbreviations

AS-IA	Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs	NPS	National Park Service
AS-WS	Assistant Secretary for Water and Science	OCIO	Office of the Chief Information Officer
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs	OIA	Office of Insular Affairs
BIE	Bureau of Indian Education	OLES	Office of Law Enforcement and Security
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	ONRR	Office of Natural Resources Revenue
BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	OS	Office of the Secretary
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation	OSMRE	Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
BSEE	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	OWF	Office of Wildland Fire
DAS-M	Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management [AS-IA]	OWPO	Orphaned Wells Program Office
DOI	Department of the Interior [Sensitive Recommendations]	PFM	Office of Financial Management
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	PMB	Office of Policy, Management and Budget
		USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
		WSFR	Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program



APPENDIX 2

Open Recommendations

This appendix is provided as a regularly updated online resource on the OIG website. OIG's online Recommendations Tracker includes data related to reports with open recommendations and also identifies all significant and unresolved recommendations that have not been implemented. This webpage provides a searchable list of AIE open recommendations.

<https://www.doioig.gov/recommendations>



APPENDIX 3

Monetary Resolution Activities

For the Period Ending March 31, 2026

TABLE 1: INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORTS WITH QUESTIONED COSTS*

	Number of Reports	Unallowable Costs	Unsupported Costs	Total Questioned Costs
A. For which no management decision has been made by the commencement of the reporting period. (As of September 30, 2025)	17	\$38,327,078	\$11,300,810	\$27,026,268
B. Which were issued during the reporting period.	3	\$788,643	\$228,174	\$560,469
Subtotal (A+B)	20	\$39,115,721	\$11,528,984	\$27,586,737
C. For which a management decision was made during the reporting period. ((i)+(ii))	4	\$499,111	\$321,998	\$177,113
(i) Dollar value of costs disallowed.	–	\$47,584	\$19,573	\$28,011
(ii) Dollar value of costs allowed.	–	\$451,527	\$302,425	\$149,102
D. For which no management decision had been made by the end of the reporting period. (Subtotal – C)	19[†]	\$38,616,610	\$11,206,986	\$27,409,624

* Does not include non-Federal funds.

† Three projects contained both open and closed questioned cost recommendations.



APPENDIX 3

Monetary Resolution Activities

For the Period Ending March 31, 2026

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. (As of September 30, 2025)	2	\$5,220,072
B. Which were issued during the reporting period.	1	\$995,385
Subtotal (A+B)	3	\$6,215,457
C. For which a management decision was made during the reporting. ((i)+(ii))	0	–
<i>(i) Dollar value of recommendations that were agreed to by management.</i>	0	–
<i>(ii) Dollar value of recommendations that were not agreed to by management.</i>	0	–
D. For which no management decision had been made by the end of the reporting period. (Subtotal – C)	3	\$6,215,457



APPENDIX 4

Federal Financial Management Improvement Act

KPMG's independent auditor's report on DOI's financial statements for FY 2025 disclosed no instances in which DOI's financial management systems did not substantially comply with the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act.



APPENDIX 5

Administrative False Claims Act

During this reporting period, OIG investigating officials submitted no investigative reports involving potential Administrative False Claims Act claims to reviewing officials. Thus, there were no instances in which a reviewing official declined to proceed on a reported case.



APPENDIX 6

Peer Reviews of OIG Operations

Government audit, inspection and evaluation, and investigative standards require each statutory OIG to receive an independent, comprehensive peer review of its audit and investigative operations once every three 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 OIGs to provide in their semiannual reports to Congress information about peer reviews of their respective organizations and their peer reviews of other OIGs.

Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations

We conducted no peer reviews of other OIGs during this reporting period.

The Tennessee Valley Authority Office of Inspector General (TVA OIG) completed a peer review on DOI OIG's audit organization's compliance with its system of quality control that was in effect for the period ending September 30, 2025. TVA OIG issued its final report dated March 5, 2026, and we received a rating of "pass" with no recommendations.

The most recent inspection and evaluation peer review of our office was performed by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) OIG and covered compliance with our system of quality control in effect for the period ended March 31, 2025. EPA OIG issued its final report on September 22, 2025, and we received a rating of "pass." There are no open recommendations.

Investigations

We conducted no peer reviews and we were not the subject of a peer review during this reporting period. The Federal Housing Finance Agency OIG conducted the most recent investigative peer review of DOI OIG covering the period of February 2022 to February 2025. The Federal Housing Finance Agency OIG issued its final report on March 20, 2025, and found DOI OIG in compliance with relevant standards and applicable Attorney General Guidelines. There are no open recommendations.



APPENDIX 7

Instances of Agency Interference

During this reporting period, the establishment has not attempted to interfere with the independence of OIG through budget constraints specifically designed to limit the capabilities of OIG. The establishment has not attempted to interfere with the independence of OIG through incidents where the establishment has resisted or objected to oversight activities of OIG or restricted or significantly delayed access to information.



APPENDIX 8

Investigations Involving Senior Government Officials

Investigations Involving Senior Government Officials Where Misconduct Was Substantiated

We substantiated allegations that Casey Hammond, former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management at DOI, violated Federal conflict of interest requirements on post-employment representation.

On October 19, 2022, we presented our findings to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia as a potential violation of 18 U.S.C. § 207 and the case was accepted for civil prosecution. A settlement agreement was executed on October 15, 2025, which required Hammond to pay \$31,500 to the U.S. Department of the Treasury. The settlement agreement acknowledged that it was made in compromise of disputed claims and not an admission of facts, liability, or wrongdoing.

We issued this report to DOI and have published a [summary](#) on our website,

We also substantiated allegations that Lauren Imgrund, former Associate Director for Partnerships and Civic Engagement at NPS, failed to comply with the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch, 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502 (Section 502), when she participated in particular matters involving her former employer, the National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers, from June 2023 through October 2023 without considering whether a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts would question her impartiality in the matter.

We issued this report to DOI during this reporting period and have published a [summary](#) on our website.

Investigations Involving Senior Government Officials That Were Closed but Not Disclosed to the Public

We investigated allegations of misconduct by three senior officials that were closed but not disclosed to the public.

We investigated whether a senior official for a DOI bureau potentially destroyed Federal records by deleting them from two SharePoint sites and whether the senior official and another senior official of the bureau attempted to cover up the deletion. We did not substantiate the allegations.

We also investigated whether a senior official for a DOI bureau steered work to specific Government contractors in exchange for personal favors. We did not substantiate the allegations.



APPENDIX 9

Alleged Whistleblower Retaliation

OIG did not substantiate any allegations of whistleblower retaliation this reporting period.

OIG CONTACT INFORMATION



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