



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

SEMIANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

For the period ending September 30, 2020



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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, the American public 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. We 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 support the DOI by detecting fraud and other wrongdoing, deterring unethical behavior and preventing negative outcomes, confirming that programs achieved intended results with fiscal responsibility, and highlighting effective practices.

A Message From Inspector General Mark Lee Greenblatt

It is my pleasure to submit this semiannual report detailing the work our office completed in review of the U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI's) programs and operations between April 1, 2020, and September 30, 2020. Like the country as a whole, the DOI Office of Inspector General (OIG) has faced unique challenges over the past 6 months. By maintaining our core values of objectivity and independence, integrity, and achieving results, we have found innovative ways to complete our mission, even in the face of these unprecedented circumstances, and we continue to lead in the Inspector General community.

For example, after the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) provided more than \$900 million to the DOI, we created a new report series to ensure agile, proactive oversight of these funds. Our CARES Act flash reports highlight the DOI's use of CARES Act funds each month and focus on lessons learned and risks identified from relevant prior work—such as strategies for oversight of emergency awards, purchase card use, and emergency response in Indian Country—to help safeguard these funds from fraud, waste, or abuse. In addition to conveying information directly to the public in an accessible way, these reports provide the DOI with crucial insight into its programs and operations and give Congress important and timely information that helps effectuate its own oversight role.

In another example, we completed the “Evil Twin” cybersecurity report during this reporting period.

Our IT audit team tested the Department's wireless networks by assembling portable test units for less than \$200, concealing them in backpacks, and using smartphones from visitor-accessible areas. The team used techniques such as “evil twins”—imitation wireless networks—eavesdropping, and password cracking to access sensitive information from the Department. As with our CARES Act flash reports, others in the oversight community have asked how they can conduct similar work.

Other highlights from our Office of Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations included a review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS') Friends Program, which found that the FWS did not ensure its friends organizations fully accounted for and spent donations and revenues in accordance with governing laws and its own friends program policy, and our audits of Wildlife Sport and Fish Restoration Program grants, which identified nearly \$18 million in questioned costs.

We also addressed significant investigative issues over the past 6 months, including claims pertaining to misuse of Government charge cards, ethics violations, and public safety concerns. In one particularly notable investigation, we learned that National Park Service (NPS) officials left inmates who were part of a prison work detail unsupervised in park campgrounds for up to 2 hours at a time. The inmates—whose criminal histories included firearms- and drug-related convictions—were later found with contraband. The investigation identified a significant gap in policy and oversight regarding how inmate work details were conducted across the NPS.

A Message From Inspector General Mark Lee Greenblatt

This report illustrates how we can benefit the American public by identifying serious public safety matters; after we published our management advisory, the Department immediately ceased the use of prison labor pending the development of new policies and procedures.

Other investigative highlights included a case that ultimately resulted in a prison sentence of 57 months for a contractor who created 18 shell companies to orchestrate a procurement fraud scheme; this individual was ordered to pay restitution of \$3.7 million and debarred from participating in Federal procurement and nonprocurement programs until 2031. We also addressed allegations of ethics violations by senior DOI officials as well as a matter in which a Native American Tribe misapplied more than \$12.4 million in Bureau of Reclamation funds.

Looking forward, we will continue to provide timely, proactive oversight of CARES Act funds and the Department's pandemic response. Once we are able to resume more ordinary operations, we anticipate increasing our focus on Indian Country matters, particularly fraud and mismanagement at Indian schools; effective oversight of the substantial oil, gas, and mineral royalties managed by the DOI; and issues and expenditures associated with the recently enacted Great American Outdoors Act. In addition, we expect to develop more innovative report formats and approaches to ensure that even our most complex messages are clear and accessible.

We have taken a first step in this direction by including within this report some of the new products we issued this year relating to the CARES Act and the Evil Twin report. (These new materials can be found in the CARES Act and Policy Compliance and General Misconduct sections.)

Our talented and committed staff deserve the credit for the accomplishments reflected in this semiannual report, especially during a period that required such adaptability and flexibility to new working conditions. I am privileged to lead such a team and am proud of our ongoing work to address critical issues facing the DOI.



Inspector General



Reporting Highlights

CARES Act and Pandemic Response Highlights

The DOI Has Made Progress Obligating and Expending CARES Act Funds

On March 27, 2020, the President signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). To date the CARES Act has provided the DOI with \$949.8¹ million, which includes direct appropriations of \$756 million to support the needs of DOI programs, bureaus, Indian Country, and the Insular Areas, \$160.4 million transferred from the U.S. Department of Education to the Bureau of Indian Education, and \$33.5 million transferred from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

As part of our oversight of these funds, we issued five *Where's the Money: DOI Use of CARES Act Funds* reports since April 2020. These reports provide updates on the DOI's progress in spending CARES Act appropriations (see Figure 1), highlight fund recipients, and update information regarding the DOI's accomplishment of CARES Act milestones.

Figure 1: The DOI's Expenditures and Obligations of CARES Act Funds By Month

Month	Obligations To Date (\$)	Expenditures To Date (\$)
April 2020	387,887,389	168,719,791
May 2020	448,680,794	337,105,190
June 2020	534,545,127	393,538,262
July 2020	599,016,669	502,312,984
August 2020	624,399,884	526,662,366
September 2020	658,490,397	546,908,092

For example, our May 2020 report highlighted the Navajo Nation as a recipient of DOI CARES Act funds. CARES Act funding is crucial to the health and welfare of the Navajo Nation, which, at the time of our report, was the fifth largest DOI recipient of CARES Act funds. When we issued the report, the Navajo Nation had reported 6,020 positive cases and 277 deaths, surpassing the State of New York's per capita infection rate. CARES Act funding will help the Navajo Nation by providing for improved healthcare, water, power, and telecommunications infrastructure; agriculture; small business and other enterprises; elder care needs; first responders; and educational needs and scholarships for students entering the healthcare and public safety fields. Other highlighted recipients of the DOI's CARES Act funds include Guam, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

These monthly reports also highlight CARES Act vs. COVID-19 expenditures. As of September 30, 2020, the DOI's CARES Act charge card expenditures totaled \$4.2 million, and COVID-19-related purchases, which are not charged to CARES Act funds, totaled \$11.4 million, for an overall total of \$15.6 million in charge card expenditures.

We will continue to issue these updated status reports each month.

¹ The discrepancy in the breakdown of funds is a result of rounding.

We developed and issued this report and the one that follows on pages 4 - 6 to quickly and clearly deliver key messages related to CARES Act oversight to our stakeholders. These reports represent a new format we will continue to use to ensure our most complex messages are accessible and clear.

In March 2020, the President signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The Act provides supplemental funding to respond to the outbreak and attempts to manage and contain coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

CARES Act oversight helps ensure good government



MONITORING FOR EARLY DETECTION

Early detection is critical to ensure the DOI and recipients use resources as intended. We are therefore monitoring procurement and other CARES Act-funded obligations and expenditures; how expediently the DOI is awarding funds; and whether the DOI is meeting reporting requirements. We also know from our past work that emergency funding inherently poses a high risk for fraud and mismanagement, so we are mining key datasets to target potential fraud and high-risk activities.



REVIEWS TO UNCOVER AND REPORT ON WRONGDOING

A focus on quick reviews and reporting will allow the DOI to address misuse and opportunities for improvement in a high-risk and uncertain environment, and it will allow us to adapt our reviews to changing conditions and needs. We will also conduct more traditional investigations into fraud and misconduct so wrongdoers can be held accountable.



OUTREACH TO PREVENT WRONGDOING

As a core part of our mission, we conduct outreach sessions with DOI employees and recipients of DOI funds to remind them of their role in deterring, detecting, and disclosing wrongdoing and mismanagement. We tailored our existing outreach material to include risks, red flags, and fraud schemes associated with CARES Act spending. We will focus on contracting and grants officials and purchase cardholders.



COORDINATION TO LEVERAGE RESOURCES & INFORMATION

We are coordinating our efforts with the Government Accountability Office, the Office of Management and Budget, and other OIGs. We are also communicating with the U.S. Department of Justice, Native American Tribes, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center to share information.

This initiative seeks to determine whether the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and its bureaus are effectively managing and overseeing the expenditure of funds appropriated for response to COVID-19, and to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and mismanagement of these funds.

We describe our four-pronged approach in this document.

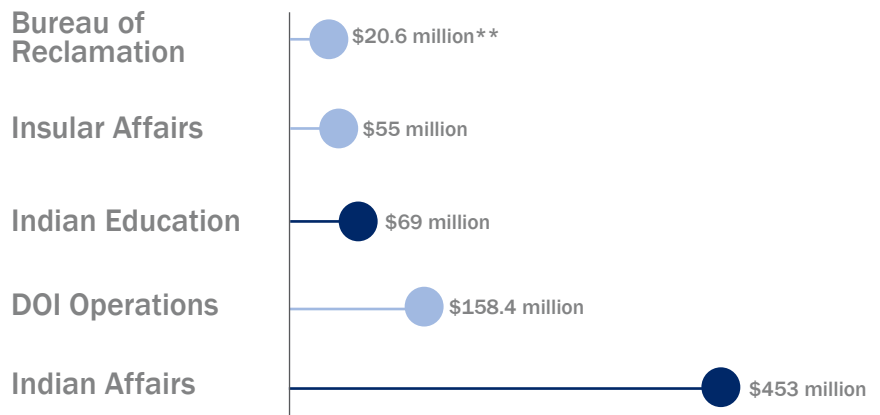
Oversight of the DOI's CARES Act spending is critical to safeguard health and safety, water, and Indian education.

Most of the DOI's funding is for Indian Affairs and Indian Education.*

Congress appropriated

\$756 million

for the Bureau of Reclamation, Insular Affairs, Indian Affairs, Indian Education, and Department operations.



* DOI appropriations also include \$1 million for the Office of Inspector General (OIG).

** Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) funding includes \$8.1 million for administration, \$12 million for water, and \$500,000 for the BOR - Central Utah Project Completion Act.



U.S. Department of the Interior Top Management Challenges – Pandemic Response

We identified three broad challenges for the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) as it handles pandemic-related responsibilities and emergency funds. We identified the challenges based on lessons learned from past audit and investigative work, as well as anecdotal and publicly available information.

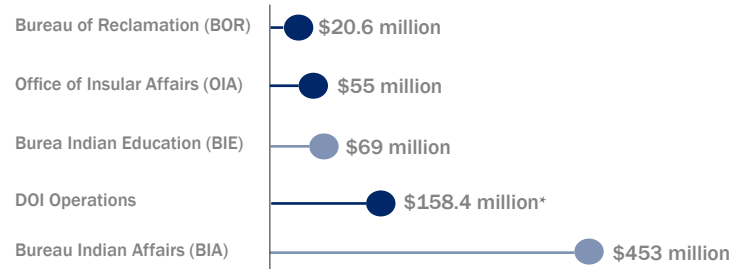
At the request of the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC), we provided information on the DOI's top management challenges in facing the pandemic. The PRAC is composed of inspectors general designated to serve on the committee under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

To provide additional detail to relevant decision-makers and the public, we are issuing this stand-alone report.

Congress appropriated

\$756 million
to the DOI under the CARES Act.

Most (69 percent) of the DOI's CARES Act funding is for Indian Affairs and Indian Education.



* This total includes \$1 million for the Office of Inspector General (OIG).

COVID-19 presents challenges to the DOI in implementing the CARES Act, as well as in financial, programmatic, and information technology matters.



Financial

Providing expedient assistance to vulnerable populations while ensuring the money reaches intended recipients for intended purposes

- Prevent COVID-19 spread in vulnerable populations
- Ensure continued education and food security for Indian school children
- Avoid waste and mismanagement, and promote public trust

76%

of CARES Act funding (\$577 million) is allocated to the BIA, BIE, and OIA.



Programmatic

Balancing public and employee safety with access to public lands

- Meet the agency mission and provide public access to DOI lands and resources such as recreation and energy production sites
- Avoid additional maintenance backlog in national parks, and protect natural resources and human safety
- Promote safe practices to avoid transmission of COVID-19

The DOI's existing deferred maintenance needs will cost about

\$16 billion
to address.



Information Technology

Guarding against increasing cybersecurity threats

- Protect DOI assets and information
- Prevent DOI employees from inadvertently sharing sensitive personal or government information

The DOI spends

\$1.4 billion
annually on IT.



Vulnerable Populations and Vulnerable Finances

With 2,304 cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 people as of mid-May 2020, the Navajo Nation surpassed New York and New Jersey as the highest per capita infection rate of the virus.

Vulnerable Populations

Indian schools and jails contain high-risk populations within a more general high-risk population—residents of Indian Country.



Specific challenges in Indian schools include ensuring student safety and health while providing educational services, providing low-income student meal services, meeting testing and time requirements (or obtaining waivers), and addressing the implications of closing schools through the end of the school year.



The BIA operates or funds numerous detention centers. Overcrowding can increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Mitigation measures, often paid for with regular rather than special appropriations to address COVID, can pose a financial strain. Such measures include moving inmates, cleaning facilities and other decontamination efforts, purchasing personal protective equipment, and overtime for staff. Other challenges include monitoring for COVID-19 outbreaks; reluctance of tribal courts to consider early release or home confinement for nonviolent offenders; and inconsistent implementation of CDC Guidelines at detention facilities.

Vulnerable Financial Management

On the financial side, we have found emergency supplemental funding can face heightened risk of misuse and vulnerability to fraud. This risk can be exacerbated by pass-through funding from other Federal agencies for BIA and BIE activities.



With past disasters, we have found emergency supplemental funding can face heightened risk of misuse and vulnerability to fraud.



The DOI will award most of its CARES Act funding through contracts and financial assistance agreements (such as grants and cooperative agreements). We have reported the challenges the DOI faces in administering its contracts and ensuring that it receives full value for its investments. The availability of emergency supplemental funding can lead to unwarranted price elevation (gouging), unsupported cost claims, sole source contracting, split and duplicative purchases, contracts awarded to companies without prior Federal experience, time sheet forgery, low bids with the expectation to add funds, and the potential for breaches of ethical standards and safeguards. Even contractors with positive intent can find themselves struggling to meet obligations due to supply chains under stress. Current conditions impede not only contractor performance but also DOI monitoring.



Our audits and investigation have found weaknesses that leave federally funded programs and operations in Indian Country and the Insular Areas susceptible to fraud, waste, mismanagement, and abuse. Examples include: nepotism; improper payments to related parties; hiring deficiencies; internal control and general financial management deficiencies; lack of transparency, inadequate oversight, and flawed reporting systems; and, for Indian Country, inadequate employee background checks, unallowable commingling of Federal funds with tribal funds, and a poor history of BIA oversight for funding to tribes. Adding to these risks, the DOI received more than \$33 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and could receive more than \$150 million from the U.S. Department of Education as pass-through funding for BIA and BIE activities. In addition, the Coronavirus Relief Fund at the U.S. Department of the Treasury includes \$8 billion in assistance for Tribal governments. Our work suggests that when recipients face a tremendous crisis and then receive multiple funding sources, accountability mechanisms can quickly be overwhelmed.



The BOR received more than \$20 million under the CARES Act. In recent audits, we identified that the BOR wasted \$32.2 million by improperly entering into a cooperative agreement; converted \$50 million of Federal funds from reimbursable to nonreimbursable accounts without disclosing the conversion to stakeholders; and under one agreement spent 28 percent of audited funds on questionable expenses.



Balancing public and employee safety with public access

The DOI is the Federal Government's largest landholder. Access to this space for recreation, water, energy production (including offshore leases), research, or resource management is critical to meet the DOI's mission.

The DOI manages about **500 million** acres of public land.



The Department faces a tension between balancing access to public lands with protecting public safety and resources. Facilitating access to public lands could jeopardize the health and safety of the public and DOI employees due to active COVID-19 transmission. Conversely, reducing active DOI employee presence on public lands while still allowing public access could help protect employee safety, but runs the risk of jeopardizing the land and resources themselves.



With the DOI's deferred maintenance needs estimated at \$16 billion, periods of disuse or unsupervised use may lead to damage. Shortcomings in preventive maintenance can lead to higher costs; unused trails become overgrown, while trails open to an unsupervised public may be trampled and eroded; and damage to natural and cultural resources may be irreparable.



Allowing public use while restricting employee monitoring to maintain employee safety could lead to similar resource protection and maintenance challenges as we saw in the 2019 Government shutdown. Difficulty obtaining protective supplies (e.g., personal protective equipment and hand sanitizer) as a prerequisite to returning employees to monitoring and enforcement roles on public lands and resources would exacerbate this challenge. Additionally, outside entities rather than the Federal Government manage some of the facilities located on public lands, further increasing coordination and safety challenges.

The DOI is responsible for 700 million acres of subsurface minerals, and 1.7 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf.



IT security and cybersecurity remain a challenge

The DOI relies on complex, interconnected IT systems to carry out its daily operations. The DOI continues to struggle to implement an enterprise IT security program that balances compliance, cost, and risk while enabling bureaus to meet their diverse missions. An increased need for remote access to IT systems under COVID-19 restrictions could exacerbate these problems. Additionally, since the emergence of COVID-19, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has reported a significant rise in scams such as phishing and malware schemes, requiring extra vigilance. As of April 21, 2020, the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center reported about 3,600 claims related to online COVID-19 scams.

107,020

Number of phishing attempts detected by the DOI between June 1, 2019 and May 31, 2020.

Reimbursing Contractors' Paid Leave Under the CARES Act

We issued a management advisory to the DOI to help it prevent fraud, waste, and abuse related to costs reimbursed under CARES Act Section 3610. Section 3610 allows Federal agencies to reimburse contractors and subcontractors for any paid leave, including sick leave, that the contractors provide to keep their employees or subcontractors in what the section refers to as a "ready state." To do this, the act permits the DOI to modify, without consideration, the terms of existing contracts or other agreements to reimburse contractors for this paid leave using the minimum applicable contract billing rates (not to exceed an average of 40 hours per week).

Because these reimbursements present a number of risks and the DOI is already receiving Section 3610 claims from contractors, the DOI needs to put policies in place to ensure consistent oversight of reimbursed leave costs. Specifically, we recommended that the DOI require contractors to segregate leave costs claimed under Section 3610 in their invoices and accounting; establish internal controls and guidelines so that all reimbursements of costs related to Section 3610 are identified, segregated, recorded, invoiced, and paid accordingly; and require letters of certification, on company letterhead, from all contractors and their subcontractors that request reimbursement of these expenses.

Lessons Learned and Risks Identified for CARES Act Funds

As part of our ongoing oversight of CARES Act funds, we issued three reports focusing on lessons learned and risks identified in our prior work—both audits and investigations—that the DOI should consider as it makes awards and provides oversight under the CARES Act. To date, our reports have focused on CARES Act awards, purchase card use, and Indian Country.

Specifically, our report on CARES Act awards found that the DOI will spend most of its CARES Act funding through contracts and financial assistance agreements, such as grants and cooperative agreements. Our past work demonstrates that these awards are a vulnerable area for the DOI. Moreover, awards made as part of emergency response are riskier than normal because they are awarded quickly and often without competition and have a higher purchase threshold than other acquisitions. We found that the following factors are important for successful oversight:

- Ensuring sufficient workforce capacity
- Ensuring use of the appropriate award vehicle (contract, grant, or cooperative agreement)
- Maximizing competition in the source selection process
- Ensuring background research and risk assessments of potential recipients
- Monitoring documentation and recipients' use of funds
- Reviewing recipients' performance and financial reports

In our purchase card report, we highlighted that in May 2018, the Office of the Secretary increased the micropurchase threshold from \$3,500 to \$10,000. For response to an emergency or major disaster such as COVID-19, however, the micropurchase threshold is increased to \$20,000 for purchases made inside the United States and \$30,000 for purchases made outside the United States. These increased thresholds, combined with the fluid nature of any disaster or emergency situation, heighten the risk of fraud and abuse and necessitate even greater oversight. We found that the following factors are crucial for successful oversight of purchase cards transactions:

- Ensuring sufficient documentation for purchases
- Timely reviews and approvals of statements or transactions
- Using mandatory sources for purchases
- Training cardholders and approving officials

In our review of Indian Country, we noted that the DOI will spend most of its CARES Act funding to Indian Country through grants from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE). These emergency response awards from the DOI—together with more than \$8 billion in funds to Indian Country from other Federal departments—present a higher risk because they must be spent in a short period of time. In addition, we have identified Indian Country as a high-risk area in our Top Management Challenges reports because in the past, the BIA, the BIE, and tribes have faced many challenges with handling grant funds. This further increases the risk that Federal tax dollars will be misused, abused, and vulnerable to fraud. In addition, emergency situations could grow rapidly in size, scope, or complexity, thereby elevating the risk even higher. We found that the following areas are important for improved safety and successful oversight:

- Ensuring Indian school safety and health while providing educational services
- Providing oversight to help prevent mismanagement of financial awards
- Minimizing the spread of the virus while maintaining safety within tribal detention centers

The BIA, the BIE, tribes, and tribal organizations will have specific challenges in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. We know there are risks and complexities surrounding emergency funds that can be difficult to manage. Accordingly, we plan to help provide oversight and ensure the CARES Act moneys are spent appropriately.

Bureau of Indian Affairs Funding Snapshot

At the time of our report, the BIA had received \$453 million of the \$909.7 million appropriated and transferred to the DOI to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic. In addition, the CARES Act allotted funds to American Indian tribes and Alaska Native organizations from the U.S. Departments of the Treasury, Agriculture (USDA), and Health and Human Services (HHS). The BIA will have varying roles and responsibilities for the funding from Treasury, the USDA, and the HHS.

The BIA and tribal governments can use these funds for numerous purposes, including public safety and justice programs, deep cleaning of facilities, personal protective equipment (PPE), information technology to improve teleworking capabilities, and welfare assistance and social services for tribal governments. In this flash report, we summarized the BIA's spend plans and timeframes for its use of CARES Act funds and provided information about potential fraud indicators and controls for effective oversight to help the BIA manage these funds.

As the largest recipient of DOI funds and a recipient of sizeable amounts from other Government agencies, awareness of fraud risks and related internal controls are critical for effective oversight. As CARES Act funding is distributed and spent, knowing about potential fraud indicators and controls will help the BIA and the tribes protect against misuse or mismanagement that could result in the loss of funds. While fraud is not easily discovered, behavioral red flags that are commonly displayed include living beyond one's means, unusually close relationships with vendors or customers, and an unwillingness to share duties. In addition, red flags within transactions that can point to potential fraud include altered documents, missing supporting documentation, missing approvals, backdated agreements, and questionable costs. To detect red flags, the BIA will need to effectively monitor and oversee procurements, work performed, invoices, and daily transactions. Being aware of the red flags will help managers identify possible issues.

Bureau of Indian Education Snapshot

As part of the CARES Act, at the time of our report, the BIE had received \$69 million from the DOI to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic. The BIE can use this funding for K – 12 schools, tribal colleges and universities, salaries, transportation, and IT. In addition to the CARES Act funding appropriated directly to the DOI, the CARES Act's Education Stabilization Fund required the U.S. Department of Education to set aside \$153.75 million for programs operated or funded by the BIE, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior. The CARES Act money will provide much-needed assistance for Indian schools. Our flash report provided a snapshot of the BIE's funding and planned expenditures.

According to the BIE's spend plan, the BIE will distribute:

- The \$69 million in Operation of Indian Education Programs funding between K – 12 schools and dormitories (67 percent) and tribal colleges and universities (33 percent)
- The \$153.75 million from the Education Stabilization Fund between funded K – 12 schools and dormitories (70 percent), tribal colleges and universities (20 percent), and administrative withholdings (10 percent)

The BIE's goals for its CARES Act funding are distinct from yet complement those of the Department of Education's Education Stabilization Fund. The BIE plans to assign financial analysts to each school and office to evaluate school-level spend plans and monitor the use of funds and is required to submit reports to the DOI's budget office. In addition, the recipients will need to submit financial reports (SF-425s) for the funds. The BIE will also provide copies of all reports on the use of Education Stabilization Funds to the Department of Education.

CARES Act Funds for DOI's Wildland Fire Management Program

Under the CARES Act, the Office of the Secretary received \$157.4 million to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus across DOI operations, which includes wildland fire management. The DOI approved \$11.3 million in funding for the DOI's Wildland Fire Management (WFM) program through September 30, 2020.

The DOI's WFM program is composed of the four bureaus with wildland fire management responsibilities—the BIA, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Park Service (NPS), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)—and the Office of Wildland Fire (OWF), which is responsible for program coordination, accountability, and oversight of the WFM program budget. The OWF coordinated a fire management request for CARES Act funding on behalf of the WFM program. The OWF request provided estimates of items needed upfront, as well as items needed on an ongoing basis through the end of the fiscal year. As of June 19, 2020, the DOI had approved \$11.3 million, and the WFM program had obligated \$547,596 (or 5 percent) and spent \$381,431 (or 3 percent) of those approved funds. The CARES Act requires agencies to obligate all appropriations by September 30, 2021.

The Office of Insular Affairs Took Appropriate Action With CARES Act Funds

The U.S. Congress appropriated \$55 million for the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) to distribute among the seven Insular Area governments to assist them in their preparation for, response to, and prevention measures for the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have reviewed the OIA's oversight of the CARES Act funds to the Insular Area governments to date. We found that the OIA has taken prompt and immediate action in its allocation of CARES Act funds to Insular Area governments. Less than 2 weeks after the passage of the CARES Act, the OIA supplemented its official website with information on the CARES Act funding, developed a fair allocation method and made funds available to Insular Area governments for immediate action, and provided clear guidance to the Insular Area governments.

The National Park Service's Coronavirus Response Operating Plans

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the NPS closed most park buildings, facilities, and restrooms, and in some cases, entire parks. With States now easing stay-at-home restrictions, and in response to the White House's emphasis to open the national parks, some parks have already increased access by implementing a phased reopening. To facilitate a safe reopening, the NPS issued the National Park Service COVID-19 Adaptive Operations Recovery Plan to the parks on May 28, 2020. We contacted each of the 62 national park superintendents to report on each national park's current operating status, anticipated reopening date, and whether the park had begun developing a COVID-19 response operating plan.

During our review, we learned that as of May 12, 2020, most of the national parks were entirely closed or still partially closed. Of the 62 national parks, we noted that 32 did not yet have an anticipated date to increase recreational access, visitor services, or use of some facilities, while 30 parks, including Everglades National Park, Yellowstone National Park, and Bryce Canyon National Park, had either already begun a phased reopening or anticipated an opening date between May 2020 and July 2020. Twenty of those 30 parks had developed or had begun developing a phased reopening plan with COVID-19 considerations, while 10 parks had not started developing such a plan.

We acknowledge the challenge the NPS has had in this ever-changing and unprecedented situation. We also recognize that the NPS cannot take a one-size-fits all approach to reopening its locations, as each national park must consider guidance from Federal, State, and local officials. Considering the risks associated with COVID-19 and the phased reopening of the national parks, it is imperative that all NPS locations have a park-specific plan to operate in a way that provides public access while protecting visitors and staff from further transmission of the virus.

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement’s Safety Inspection Program COVID-19 Response

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) continued to fulfill its mission by performing safety and environmental inspections for offshore oil and gas operations. We reviewed the actions BSEE’s three regions—the Gulf of Mexico Region, Pacific Region, and Alaska Region—have taken to protect inspectors and offshore employees from COVID-19 and evaluated any impacts the virus had on inspections BSEE conducted since March 2020.

We found that BSEE:

- Developed, communicated, and updated COVID-19 guidance for all personnel involved with offshore inspections
- Continued to complete its required inspections
- Adapted its practices and remotely witnessed operators’ blowout preventer (BOP) tests by accessing the operators’ software systems

We learned that BSEE did not provide the inspectors with guidance on how to witness the BOP remotely. As of July 15, 2020, BSEE officials informed us that they were developing this guidance.

Considering the COVID-19 exposure risks for personnel conducting offshore inspections and the potential impact on safety, it is imperative that BSEE continue to update its COVID-19 guidance, work with operators to limit the risks to its inspectors, and finalize its guidance on conducting remote witnessing of operators’ BOP tests.

Financial Risk and Impact Highlights

The DOI Followed U.S. Office of Management and Budget Guidance for Shutdown Plans During 2018 – 2019 Lapse in Appropriations

We reviewed actions the DOI and three of its bureaus took during the longest partial Government shutdown in U.S. history (from December 22, 2018, through January 25, 2019) to determine whether the three bureaus—the National Park Service (NPS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)—deviated from their published shutdown contingency plans during the shutdown and, if so, whether they changed the plans in accordance with guidance from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

We confirmed that the bureaus did change their initial shutdown plans, primarily to clarify how they would pay employees who worked during the shutdown and to recall employees to complete certain necessary tasks. We found, however, that the bureaus changed the plans in accordance with OMB guidance and by following a thorough process of review and approval by senior DOI and bureau officials. In addition, the DOI's senior budget, human resources, and policy officials gave the bureaus real-time updates on the shutdown's effects on the DOI and provided technical support and guidance for amending the plans. Once the bureaus had updated their plans, the senior DOI officials, including the then Deputy Solicitor of General Law, reviewed the plans for compliance in each of their professional areas (budget, human resources, policy, and legal) before sending the plans to the OMB. Given this conclusion, we discontinued further evaluation of the matter.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Needs To Improve Oversight of Its Friends Program

We audited the FWS to determine whether it ensured that donations and revenues collected by friends organizations were accounted for and spent in accordance with governing laws.

We found that the FWS did not ensure its friends organizations fully accounted for and spent donations and revenues in accordance with governing laws and its own friends program policy. Specifically, we found that the FWS did not maintain the information necessary to manage the friends program. We determined that the FWS was not aware of the number of friends organizations operating across the Nation and did not monitor the amount of donations collected and spent. In addition, the FWS was unable to ensure friends organizations had the necessary documents required to participate in the friends program, such as evidence of nonprofit status. The program is at risk for misuse and mishandling of funds, and undetected violations of partnership agreements and program regulations.

We made six recommendations that, if implemented, will help strengthen the FWS' friends program. The FWS concurred with all six recommendations in its response to our draft report. We considered one recommendation resolved and implemented and five recommendations resolved but not implemented. We referred the recommendations to the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget to track implementation. The FWS' response also included six financial and program management control initiatives that should further enhance its oversight of friends organizations. We commend the FWS for taking extra measures to improve this important program.

Recommendation for Reconsideration of Scope of Bureau of Indian Affairs Fee Retention Authority

We initiated this inspection based on a review conducted by the DOI's Office of the Solicitor (SOL) regarding the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA's) possible violation of the Antideficiency Act for failure to remit collected fees to the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

We found, among other things, that the BIA collected around \$12 million in fees between 2013 and 2018 and that most of this was retained. As to the retained amounts, although the SOL previously opined that full remittance to the Treasury was mandatory, we determined that the BIA may have other statutory retention authority not previously considered under 25 U.S.C. § 14b. We determined that the DOI was in the best position to make a final decision on this issue, in part because it involves a matter of statutory interpretation that may require consideration of effects on Indian tribes.

We made two recommendations for the SOL to revisit its previous opinion on the collection, tracking, and remittance of fees, and to provide any additional guidance to all BIA regions as needed. The SOL did not provide a response within the designated timeframe stating how it would address our recommendations, so we consider both unresolved.

The U.S. Geological Survey and Quantum Spatial, Incorporated, Did Not Always Comply With Federal Regulations, Policies, and Award Terms for Task Order No. 140G0218F0251 and Contract No. G16PC00016

We audited Task Order No. 140G0218F0251 and Contract No. G16PC00016 between Quantum Spatial, Incorporated (QSI) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to determine whether (1) QSI complied with all applicable Federal regulations and terms and conditions of the task order and the governing contract, (2) the USGS complied with all applicable Federal regulations, USGS policies and procedures, and award terms and conditions when awarding and monitoring the contract and the task order, and (3) the USGS negotiated a fair and reasonable price for services rendered under the task order. We reviewed supporting documentation and compliance from the beginning of the solicitation phase in October 2014 through December 2018.

We found that QSI and the USGS did not always comply with applicable regulations, policies, and contract terms and conditions. Specifically:

- QSI submitted invoices that were mathematically incorrect.
- QSI submitted invoices that did not include contract line item numbers as required.
- The USGS did not include a required clause in the contract.
- The USGS did not document the contract negotiations properly.

In addition, we found that the USGS negotiated a fair and reasonable price for the task order. We made two recommendations regarding invoice review and three recommendations regarding contract administration to help the USGS improve its contract oversight and maintain complete and comprehensive documentation. Based on the USGS' response to our draft report, we considered all five recommendations to be resolved but not implemented.

Issues Identified With Wildlife Restoration Subawards to the University of Tennessee, National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative

The National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI) at the University of Tennessee provides data and tools to various States and external partners (such as nongovernmental organizations) to restore wild populations of bobwhite quail. State fish and wildlife agencies fund the NBCI through WSFR Program subawards and State hunting and fishing license revenues. The NBCI also receives subawards from external partners and direct grants from other non-FWS Federal agencies.

We issued a management advisory that (1) summarized our findings about NBCI cost allocation during audit periods before the NBCI's 2017 implementation of a recharge center accounting methodology, (2) presented our determination why the currently used recharge center is not compliant with Federal regulations and Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program guidelines, and (3) presented a potential opportunity for the NBCI to continue its work in a way that complies with Federal regulations.

We made three recommendations to the FWS that address the NBCI's compliance with Federal regulations and an additional recommendation that the FWS identify any other programs that have similar issues.

Issues Identified with State Land Reconciliation for WSFR Program Grants

The FWS provides grant funds to eligible States to conserve, restore, and manage wildlife and sport fish resources through the WSFR Program. Under the Program, States are required to maintain control of all assets and report the status of real property to the FWS at least every 5 years.

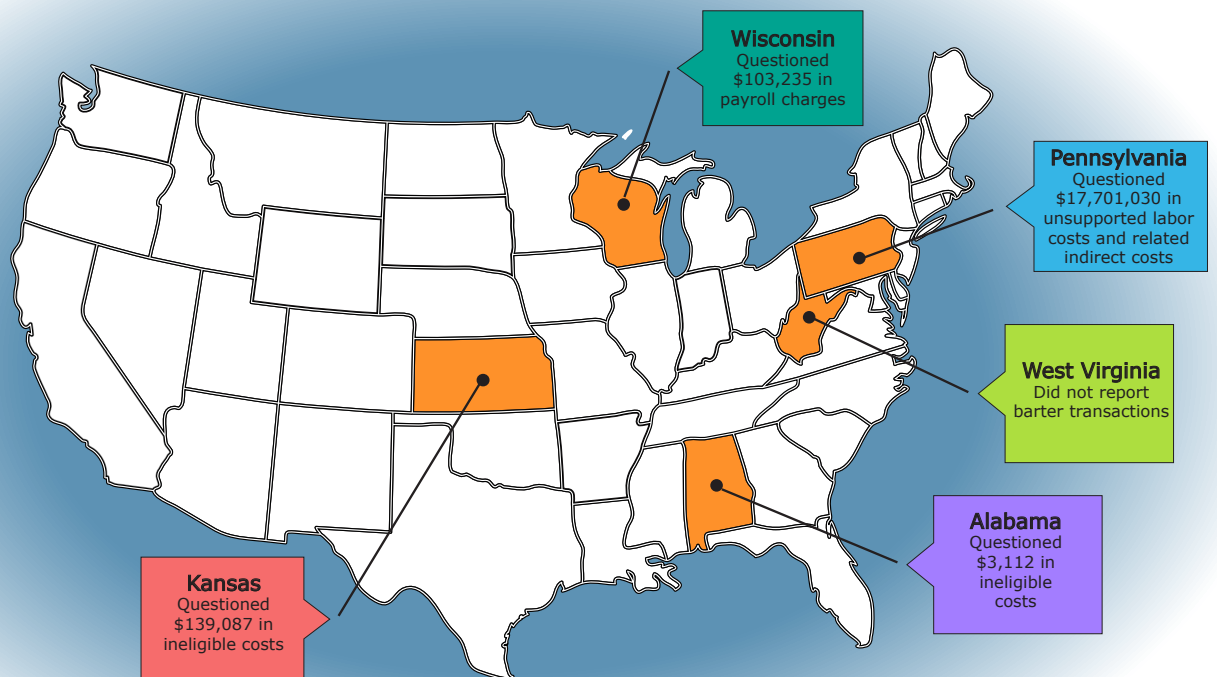
According to FWS guidance, the States should reconcile their land records with the FWS to ensure that the States' databases of real property purchased with Program funds are accurate and complete.

During our audits of the grants awarded under the Program, we identified 15 States that did not complete the required land reconciliation as of October 2019. These States cannot ensure that lands acquired under the Program are being used for their intended purposes until they reconcile their records with the FWS' land records.

We made two recommendations to help the FWS ensure States reconcile their land records as required.

Audits of Wildlife and Sport Fish Grants Covered Nearly \$240 Million in Claimed Costs and Identified Potential Program Improvements

Through its WSFR Program, the 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 addition to auditing costs claimed, these audits also cover compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and FWS guidelines, including those related to the collection and use of hunting and fishing license revenues and the reporting of program income. In this semiannual period, we audited agencies in five States covering nearly \$240 million in claimed costs.



Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Marine Resources Division

We audited claims totaling \$5.1 million on 23 grants that were open during the State fiscal years that ended September 30, 2017, and September 30, 2018. We found that the Department generally ensured that grant funds and State fishing license revenue were used for allowable fish activities and complied with applicable laws and regulations, FWS guidelines, and grant agreements. We noted, however, the Marine Resources Division purchased items with grants funds that were unallowable, and we questioned \$3,112 (\$2,334 Federal share) in ineligible costs associated with these purchases. We also found that the Department overdraw \$5,164 (\$3,873 Federal share) from a grant because the Department failed to appropriately report program income. We further determined the Department did not comply with Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 requirements by not reporting subawards greater than \$25,000 on USASpending.gov.

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

We audited claims totaling \$49.3 million on 69 grants that were open during the State fiscal years that ended June 30, 2017, and June 30, 2018. We found that the Department generally ensured that grant funds and hunting and fishing license revenue were used for allowable fish and wildlife activities and complied with applicable laws and regulations, FWS guidelines, and grant agreements. We noted, however, issues with indirect costs, subawards, and equipment management. We questioned \$139,087 (\$103,191 Federal share) as ineligible. We recorded a potential diversion of \$30,728 in license revenue. We also found control deficiencies with the Department's subaward reporting policies, and we repeated a finding on real property.

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

We audited claims totaling \$36 million on 17 grants that were open during the State fiscal years that ended June 30, 2017, and June 30, 2018. We found that the Commission was unable to demonstrate that it had adequate support for labor costs charged to Program grants because of its inability to reconcile these costs with the Commonwealth's accounting system and its use of estimated values for labor costs. We therefore question the Federal share of unsupported labor costs and related indirect costs, totaling \$17,701,030.

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources

We audited claims totaling \$46.2 million on 29 grants that were open during the State fiscal years that ended June 30, 2017, and June 30, 2018. We found that the Division complied, in general, with applicable grant accounting and regulatory requirements. The Division, however, did not report barter transactions on the financial reports to the FWS as required. In addition, the Division and the FWS did not complete a required reconciliation of their respective real property inventories.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

We audited claims totaling \$103 million on 27 grants that were open during the State fiscal years that ended June 30, 2017, and June 30, 2018. We found that the Department generally ensured that grant funds and hunting and fishing license revenue were used for allowable fish and wildlife activities and complied with applicable laws and regulations, FWS guidelines, and grant agreements. We noted, however, issues with real property reconciliations, equipment inventory and program income estimations. We questioned \$103,235 (\$77,426 Federal share) in payroll charges and a potential diversion of \$112,639 in license revenue.

Overall, we made 25 recommendations for program improvements or cost recovery across the 5 audits published this semiannual period. The FWS concurred with all recommendations and is working with the recipient agencies to resolve the issues and to implement corrective actions.

Government Contractor Sentenced to 57 Months in Prison for \$3.7 Million Procurement Fraud Scheme

We investigated a procurement fraud scheme by Federal contractor Chester L. Neal, Jr., who created numerous companies to win Government contracts, subcontracted the work out to local vendors, and then failed to pay his subcontractors. Neal allegedly misrepresented himself as a Government official to subcontractors and mailed documents to further his scheme.

We substantiated that from July 2008 to December 2017, Neal used aliases to create several companies to bid on and win over 105 Government contracts from the U.S. Department of the Interior and other Federal agencies. We found that Neal defrauded 48 subcontractors across the United States of over \$3.7 million and made several misrepresentations in order to induce the victim vendors to perform the contractually required work.

We also substantiated that Neal sent fictitious trade references and credit applications to lull them into performing work or providing lines of credit to perform on the various Government contracts. Neal confessed to perpetrating the scheme to defraud subcontractors and mailing documents to his subcontractors to further the scheme.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California prosecuted this case. On August 19, 2019, Neal pleaded guilty to one count of mail fraud. He was sentenced to 57 months in prison and 36 months of supervised probation upon release and ordered to pay \$3,734, 927.50 in restitution. In addition, over the past 3 years, Neal and 11 companies affiliated with him were debarred from participating in Federal procurement and nonprocurement programs for lengthy periods of time.

We provided our report to the Office of Acquisition and Property Management.

Interior Business Center Mistakenly Paid More Than \$300,000 to the Wrong Entity

We investigated an allegation that an information technology services contractor intentionally diverted a payment made by the Interior Business Center (IBC) away from the contractor's assignee—an entity to which the contractor owed money—into its own bank account. As a result, the IBC paid the contractor instead of the assignee, and the DOI lost more than \$300,000.

We found that the contractor changed its default bank account information in the system of award management to its own bank account, which caused the payment diversion, but we could not show the contractor changed the account information with the intent of diverting the payment. Furthermore, we found the IBC paid the wrong entity because it did not properly enter the assignee as the payment recipient in its contract management system.

We presented this matter to the U.S. Attorney's Office, which declined prosecution. The contractor filed for bankruptcy protection and could not return the money to the DOI or the assignee. As a result, the DOI paid an additional \$324,544 to the assignee to fulfill the money owed under the contract.

We provided our report to the IBC Director.

Former President of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe Stole Funds by Forging False Travel Receipts

We investigated allegations that Lawrence Killsback, while serving as the Northern Cheyenne Tribe (NCT) health director and then as its President, submitted fraudulent travel claims. The funds used to pay the fraudulent claims came from federally funded NCT programs as well as tribal and state agencies. Our investigation focused on Killsback's regional travel. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) OIG conducted a parallel investigation that focused on Killsback's remaining domestic trips. Together, the parallel investigations found that Killsback stole over \$20,000 from NCT programs by submitting multiple fraudulent travel vouchers between 2014 and 2017.

This investigation was prosecuted jointly with the HHS OIG investigation. Killsback pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court for the District of Montana to one count of wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343 and one count of false claims conspiracy in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 286. On December 12, 2019, Killsback was sentenced to 6 months in prison and 3 years of supervised release. Killsback was also ordered to pay a \$200 special assessment and \$25,092 in restitution.

We provided our report to the BIA Director.

Tribe Misapplied More than \$12.4 Million and Still Owes More than \$4.4 Million

We investigated allegations that a Native American Tribe falsified quarterly financial reports for Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) funded projects to conceal that it had misapplied contract funds.

We confirmed the Tribe misapplied \$7,634,868.54 in BOR funds in 2016 and \$4,770,917 in 2017. The Tribe repaid some of the funds but still owes \$4,405,785.54. Tribal officials admitted to misapplying the funds intended for the BOR-funded projects to meet the Tribe's other financial obligations. We did not find evidence that anyone personally benefited from the misapplication of funds.

We found inaccuracies in the financial status reports but did not find criminal intent. BOR personnel worked with the Tribe to complete the reports and knew the reports did not accurately reflect the cash on hand for the two projects. BOR employees said they helped complete the forms as accurately as possible based upon the information made available, and they specifically included remarks on the relevant forms identifying unjustified expenses and cash that could not be accounted for.

We referred this matter to the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Montana, which declined prosecution.

Federal Indian Minerals Office Employee Disclosed Confidential Mineral Valuation Information Without Authorization

We investigated an allegation that a Federal Indian Minerals Office (FIMO) employee improperly disclosed confidential and proprietary mineral appraisal information associated with allotted Indian mineral interests.

We found evidence that the FIMO employee disclosed confidential and proprietary information to a private energy company employee without authorization. The information released included the fair market valuation associated with Navajo Indian allotted mineral interests; the BIA regional director canceled the mineral lease negotiations for these interests, in part, because of the disclosure, and the mineral interests remained unleased when we issued our report. The unauthorized disclosure violated the U.S. Department of the Interior's standards for the proper handling of agency information.

We referred our investigation to the U.S. Attorney's Office, which declined prosecution. We provided our report to the executive management group that oversees FIMO, composed of senior executives from the BIA, the Bureau of Land Management, the Office of Natural Resources Revenue, and the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians.

NPS Contractor Violated the Federal Acquisition Regulation

We investigated allegations that an NPS prime contractor failed to pay its subcontractors on two NPS construction contracts.

We found that the NPS prime contractor violated the Federal Acquisition Regulation's prompt payment requirements when it failed to pay two subcontractors for work within 7 days of receiving a payment from the NPS. The prime contractor wrongfully withheld the full payment to a subcontractor for over 18 months for work completed in November 2017 at Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site. In the second case, the company withheld partial payment to another subcontractor for work completed at Voyageur National Park in September 2017.

We provided our report to the NPS Deputy Director.

NPS Managers Circumvented Contracting Regulations to Pay Over \$1 Million to a Vendor Without Competition

We investigated allegations that two NPS managers violated contracting regulations and procedures by using the Standard Form 182 (SF-182), which is meant to fund standardized training, to pay a company for extended work on an internal NPS training website. We also investigated allegations that NPS employees improperly hired NPS retirees and then reissued or re-activated their Personal Identity Verification (PIV) cards.

We found that the two NPS managers, who oversaw aspects of NPS training programs, improperly used the SF-182 to pay a company \$1,041,117 to develop and maintain an internal training website, circumventing contracting regulations. The two NPS managers have since left the agency.

We also found that one of the managers retained his PIV card after retiring and had another employee re-enable the card after he left Federal service, in violation of departmental policy. We also discovered a separate instance in which an NPS retiree performed fiscal and budget-related services for an NPS training center without a contract. The NPS retiree received a new PIV card under the guise of an unrelated contract.

We provided our report to the NPS Deputy Director for Operations.

Investigations Into Misuse of Government Charge Cards Result in Restitution, Separation From Federal Service

In this reporting period, we completed five investigations related to misuse of Government charge cards. In one investigation, we found a building management employee with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs (AS-IA) violated DOI policy and Federal regulations by misusing a Government charge card.

The employee either exceeded the micropurchase threshold or split purchases to avoid exceeding the threshold on multiple occasions to pay certain entities, such as moving service providers and office supply and furniture vendors. The joint investigation with the U.S. General Services Administration OIG also found the employee participated in bid rigging, took a Government laptop for personal use, and failed to properly follow the DOI parking pass process policy. The employee left Federal service. Another investigation found that a different AS-IA employee violated DOI policy and Federal regulations by paying entities with a Government charge card rather than establishing a contract. This employee also left Federal service.

Our third investigation into misuse of Government charge cards found that staff working in the Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse and Burro Program used their Government charge cards to make purchases for their privately owned horses, which were being used for official duties, and that staff exceeded charge card thresholds by impermissibly splitting purchases. The investigation found that staff purchased, and supervisors approved, four custom saddles for their privately owned horses.

The fourth investigation found that during a 2-year period an FWS employee made 27 personal purchases, totaling \$7,454.88, using a Government-issued purchase card. The employee pleaded guilty to felony theft under a deferred judgment and received 2 years of supervised release and agreed to pay restitution in the full amount. The employee left Federal service.

The final investigation found that three Bureau of Indian Education facilities employees and two San Felipe School employees made personal purchases on their assigned Government charge cards; two of the BIE employees admitted to purchasing sheds, tankless water heaters, computers, and tools. One BIE employee pleaded guilty to theft, conspiracy, and false statements; two BIE employees pleaded guilty to conspiracy and theft; and the two San Felipe School employees pleaded guilty to unlawful conversion of Government property. The defendants collectively paid nearly \$11,600 in restitution and nearly \$21,000 in fines and special assessments. All five employees left Federal service, and two BIE employees were debarred from participating in Federal procurement and nonprocurement programs.

The FWS Implemented a Recommendation To Resolve Unsupported Costs

We completed a verification review of the recommendation in our 2016 report titled, *Interim Costs Claimed by Coastal Environmental Group, Under Contract Nos. INF13PC00214 and INF13PC00195 With the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*. We issued the recommendation to resolve unsupported costs of \$2,009,036. Our verification review found that the FWS implemented the recommendation by working with the Coastal Environment Group to reduce the unsupported costs to \$187,961 and developing a payment to collect the balance. Accordingly, we consider the recommendation closed.

The BIA Implemented Recommendations To Improve the Division of Capital Investment's Internal Controls

We completed a verification review of the 13 recommendations in our 2017 report titled, *Stronger Internal Controls Needed Over Indian Affairs Loan Guarantee Program*. In the 2017 report we made 13 recommendations designed to help the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development improve the Division of Capital Investment's (DCI's) internal controls and clarify the responsibilities of the DCI and its staff. Our verification review found that the BIA had implemented all 13 recommendations; we consider the 13 recommendations closed.

Ethics Highlights

Alleged Ethics Misconduct by the Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs

We investigated allegations that Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Douglas Domenech advocated for a close family member's employment at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Domenech allegedly used his DOI email account and title when he contacted a now-former EPA senior official regarding the family member's EPA application and another close family member's business.

Following our investigation, we determined that Domenech communicated with the EPA senior official on several occasions from his DOI email account regarding the family member's EPA application, which constituted a misuse of office in violation of 5 C.F.R. § 2635.702 and 5 C.F.R. § 2635.702(a), "Use of Public Office for Private Gain." In addition, we found that Domenech provided the other family member's business name and website to the EPA senior official in an email sent from his DOI email account, which contravened 5 C.F.R. § 2635.101(b)(14), the Federal regulation requiring employees to avoid any actions creating the appearance of violating the law or Federal ethical standards.

We provided our report to the DOI Chief of Staff.

Alleged Ethics Violations by a Senior DOI Political Employee

We investigated allegations that a senior political employee of the DOI violated their Federal ethics pledge by communicating with a former employer during the required 2-year recusal period following the employee's Federal appointment in the spring of 2017.

We found that the employee notified the DOI's Departmental Ethics Office (DEO) three times between the summer of 2017 and the summer of 2018 about planned interactions with individuals or entities connected to their previous employer. In one instance, the employee declined to meet with an individual because DEO guidance was not received; in the other two instances, the DEO advised the employee that it was permissible to interact with the entities because they were not directly related to the former employer. We determined that the employee's actions in these instances were proper and accorded with DEO guidance.

We did find, however, that the employee did not seek ethics guidance before contacting a scientist who worked for the former employer in late 2017 and later meeting with that scientist. We determined that these contacts violated the employee's ethics pledge, but the evidence indicates that the employee interacted with the scientist under the mistaken belief that these communications were permissible because they involved sharing scientific data.

We found no evidence that these contacts were used for the benefit of the employee or for the benefit of the former employer or the scientist.

We provided our report to the DOI Chief of Staff.

Alleged Violations of Ethics Pledge by a Senior DOI Political Employee

We investigated allegations that a then senior DOI political employee did not comply with his Federal ethics pledge under Executive Order No. 13770 when he communicated with a former employer during the required 2-year recusal period following the political employee's Federal appointment in the fall of 2017.

We identified a number of interactions between the senior political employee and representatives of the former employer—namely, several email exchanges, three phone calls, one in-person meeting, and one presentation at an event hosted by the former employer. While some of these interactions with the former employer may have been relatively minor in nature, we found that the senior political employee nonetheless did not comply with the ethics pledge because those interactions occurred during the 2-year recusal period. In contrast, we found that, under the circumstances, a presentation made by the senior political employee at an event hosted by the former employer was permissible under the ethics pledge because the senior employee attended in his official capacity.

In making these findings, we note that the senior political employee told us he initially did not understand that his unpaid, volunteer position with an entity related to an organization (the former employer described above) was itself considered former employment under the ethics pledge. In fact, the organization itself as well as the related entity are considered a "former employer" under the pledge. After it was alleged that the senior political employee violated ethics rules in his interactions with the former employer, the Departmental Ethics Office (DEO) provided the senior political employee with written guidance about communications with former employers and specifically found that the organization in question qualified as a former employer under the ethics pledge. In its written guidance, the DEO acknowledged that the senior political employee had not received specific written or verbal guidance from the DEO identifying the organization as a "former employer" for purposes of the ethics pledge. We found no further communications between the senior political employee and representatives of the organization after the senior political employee received this guidance.

We provided our report to the DOI Chief of Staff.

Office of Surface Mining Restoration and Enforcement Forester Violated Ethics Regulations by Endorsing Private Entity

We investigated allegations that an Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) forester misused his position and violated ethics regulations.

We found that the OSMRE forester violated ethics regulations when he promoted the use of a private company to State and Federal officials, which gave the appearance that the Government endorsed this company.

We provided our report to the OSMRE Deputy Director.

Bureau of Land Management Employee's Actions Created the Appearance of a Conflict of Interest

We investigated allegations that a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) employee shared nonpublic information with a family member for use in an Off-Range Pasturing (ORP) contract proposal and had a direct financial interest in the award of the contract.

We did not find that the employee violated conflict-of-interest laws or provided nonpublic information to a family member. The employee did, however, assist a family member with some aspects of the ORP contract bid and stood to gain financially if the family member had received the contract. (We note, however, that when the family member learned that the proposal had raised concerns, the family member rescinded the submission.) The Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch state, in part, that employees may not use their public office for the private gain of themselves or their relatives and that employees should avoid even the appearance of violating these standards. We concluded the employee did not comply with the standards because their actions created the appearance of using public office for the private gain of themselves and their family member.

We provided our report to the BLM Deputy Director.

Alleged Ethics Violation by Senior DOI Employee

We investigated allegations that a senior political employee of the DOI violated a Federal ethics pledge by meeting with a former employer during the required 2-year recusal period following the senior employee's resignation from that organization.

We also investigated whether this senior employee's attendance at events hosted by the organization violated the section of the standards of ethical conduct for executive branch employees that governs the receipt of gifts from outside sources.

We found that the senior employee attended two events hosted by the organization, and we determined that this was permissible under Federal gift rules for executive branch employees. In addition, we obtained no evidence that official DOI matters were discussed with the senior employee at either of the events; therefore, the senior employee's actions on these occasions did not implicate Federal ethics rules or the ethics pledge.

We provided our report to the DOI Chief of Staff.

Alleged Misuse of Position by a BLM State Director

We investigated allegations that a BLM State Director used their Government position for the financial gain of two personal friends. We found no evidence that the State Director misused their Government position or violated any ethics regulations.

We provided our report to the BLM Deputy Director of Policy and Programs.

Alleged Conflict of Interest by Bureau of Indian Affairs Official

We investigated an allegation that a now-former Bureau of Indian Affairs official violated the ethics pledge and ethics regulations by acting on behalf of a former client when executing their duties related to a land-to-trust appeal. We did not substantiate the allegation and closed the case as unfounded.

We provided our report to the DOI Chief of Staff.

Policy Compliance and General Misconduct Highlights

The DOI Did Not Deploy and Operate a Secure Wireless Network Infrastructure; the OIG Successfully Attacked DOI's Wireless Networks

Our work in cyber security underscores the DOI's challenge in implementing an IT governance approach that establishes effective authority and oversight. During this reporting period, we issued one verification review and one evaluation report.

In the verification review, we found that the DOI resolved and implemented four of the six recommendations from our 2016 evaluation report on the Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation Program. Our evaluation report, *Evil Twins, Eavesdropping and Password Cracking: How the OIG Successfully Attacked the DOI's Wireless Networks* (Report No.: 2018-ITA-020), found that the DOI did not deploy and operate a secure wireless network infrastructure.

The DOI operates hundreds of wireless networks to allow employees greater flexibility in mobile computing. Wireless networks are much easier to attack and potentially compromise than their wired counterparts because they are often accessible from public areas. With over 2,200 facilities and an unknown number of wireless access points, the options available to attackers have increased significantly.

As part of our evaluation, we gained access to internal computer networks by exploiting wireless network vulnerabilities from publicly accessible areas in departmental facilities. Our attacks simulated the techniques of malicious actors attempting to break into departmental wireless networks, such as eavesdropping, evil twin, and password cracking. These attacks went undetected by security guards and IT security staff and were highly successful—we intercepted and decrypted wireless network traffic in multiple bureaus.

After gaining access to internal networks, we scanned ranges of network addresses and identified high-value IT assets. We also found that several bureaus and offices did not implement measures to limit the potential adverse effect of breaching a wireless network. Further, we found that the DOI:

- Did not require regular testing of network security
- Did not maintain complete inventories of their wireless network
- Published contradictory, outdated, and incomplete guidance

These deficiencies occurred because the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) did not provide effective leadership and guidance to the DOI and failed to establish and enforce wireless security practices in accordance with National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) guidance and recommended best practices. We made 14 recommendations to strengthen the DOI's wireless network security to prevent potential security breaches. The OCIO concurred with all 14 recommendations and has begun taking significant steps to mitigate these weaknesses.



Evil Twins, Eavesdropping, and Password Cracking

The OIG Successfully Attacked the Department's Wireless Networks

We tested wireless networks representing each bureau and office and reviewed the Department's policies and guidance related to wireless network security.





We assembled **portable test units for less than \$200**, easily concealed them in a backpack, and operated these units with smartphones from areas and locations open to visitors. Our testing simulated the techniques of malicious actors attempting to break into departmental wireless networks, such as eavesdropping, evil twins, and password cracking.



The Department's Wireless Networks Were At High Risk of Compromise At The Time Of Testing

Our evaluation revealed that the Department did not deploy and operate a secure wireless network infrastructure and did not have sufficient policies and guidance on how to do so.

As a result, we were able to:

-  Collect passwords using **evil twin** attacks and **eavesdropping**
-  Crack passwords at a **40 percent success rate** and use them to breach networks
-  Reuse those passwords to access internal systems
-  Perform **reconnaissance** of enterprise networks

- An **evil twin** is a fake wireless network that may appear legitimate to users but instead is used to steal information such as usernames and passwords.
- **Eavesdropping** involves stealing information that is being communicated over a network.
- Malicious actors may use **password cracking** techniques to reveal encoded passwords, which allows them to gain access to wireless networks and other systems.

Why This Matters

- Wireless networks can be easy to attack and potentially compromise because they are often accessible from public areas. It is imperative that the Department's wireless networks be securely configured, regularly tested, and continuously monitored to detect and prevent such attacks.
- Effectively implementing security controls across the Department's diverse, decentralized, and interconnected infrastructure is a difficult and complex goal. Any misconfigurations or weaknesses in one technology can have a domino effect that allows an attacker to pivot from one system to the next.
- Failure to limit employee access to systems needed to do their jobs increases security risks; without such limitations, if unauthorized entities gain access to one system, they may have an open door to additional systems.
- The Department agreed to implement our recommendations, which will help strengthen its wireless network to prevent potential security breaches and limit potential adverse effects on Department operations, assets, or individuals.

The National Park Service Did Not Oversee Its General Agreements

We evaluated the National Park Service's (NPS') general agreements (GAs) to determine whether the NPS oversees its GAs to ensure compliance with policies and governing laws.

We found that the NPS did not oversee its GAs to ensure compliance with policies and governing laws. The NPS did not maintain a central inventory for its GAs and was unaware of the number of active GAs. Therefore, we selected three parks to review in the Intermountain Region: Yellowstone, Grand Teton, and Rocky Mountain.

We found the NPS was misusing GAs at all three parks we reviewed, which is likely a result of the informal review process associated with these instruments. During our evaluation, we determined that the NPS used the GAs to provide financial assistance or transfer goods or services to non-Federal entities, in apparent contravention of policies and laws. Further, we noted that personnel who were not authorized to commit NPS resources signed the GAs that inappropriately transferred something of value, which puts the NPS at risk of unauthorized commitments. The NPS has neither provided clear, consistent guidance, nor provided training on how to develop and use GAs at the national level.

We made five recommendations to help the NPS improve oversight of its GAs. Based on the NPS' response to our draft report, we considered one recommendation unresolved, one recommendation resolved and implemented, and three recommendations resolved but not implemented. We referred the recommendations to the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget for resolution and to track implementation.

Alleged Reprisal by an Office of Public Safety, Resources Protection, and Emergency Services Official

We investigated a complaint of whistleblower reprisal under Presidential Policy Directive 19—which prohibits whistleblower retaliation in the form of actions that affect an employee's eligibility for access to classified information—after an employee from the Office of Public Safety, Resources Protection, and Emergency Services alleged that their supervisor withdrew their national security clearance after they had filed two Equal Employment Opportunity complaints against their supervisor.

We concluded that the evidence established that the supervisor did not have the employee's Top Secret security clearance administratively withdrawn as reprisal for protected disclosures the employee made in 2017 and 2018 with the DOI Office of Civil Rights (OCR).

We determined that while the supervisor knew about the employee's protected disclosures, there was clear and convincing evidence that the employee no longer needed access to classified information as part of their job duties and, therefore, their Top Secret clearance would have been administratively withdrawn regardless of the protected disclosures to the OCR.

We provided our report to the Secretary of the Interior.

Alleged Interference in FOIA Litigation Process

We investigated whether career DOI staff were directed to delay releasing documents responding to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request that was being litigated in U.S. district court, and whether withholding these documents conflicted with the court's order to the DOI to review a certain number of potentially responsive pages every month.

We found that after David Bernhardt's nomination for Interior Secretary was announced on February 4, 2019, then Counselor to the Secretary Hubbel Relat directed career DOI staff to temporarily withhold documents related to Bernhardt from a release of FOIA documents scheduled to occur under the court order. As a result, 253 pages of information were not included in the scheduled release, but most of those pages were released later in 2019. Accordingly, we have determined that this matter does not warrant further investigation and that the court is the proper venue to determine whether the DOI met its obligations under the court order.

We provided our report to the DOI Chief of Staff.

Statements Made to Congress Regarding the Bureau of Land Management's Office Relocation

In response to a congressional request, we investigated whether DOI officials made false statements to Congress related to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) need to move out of its Washington, DC offices to various western locations. The statements at issue were made in two letters to congressional committees and hearing testimony. The BLM's statements asserted that the BLM was unable to remain at its 20 M Street location in Washington, DC, after its lease expired in January 2021 because the new lease rate would exceed \$50 per rentable square foot (rsf). We did not review policy decisions behind the DOI's decision to move BLM headquarters personnel to western offices.

We determined that the DOI's statement that it could not remain at its 20 M Street location due to the expiration of its lease was accurate because the DOI and the BLM had longstanding plans to move BLM personnel into the Stewart Lee Udall DOI Building (commonly referred to as the Main Interior Building or MIB) or another Federal facility, and thus, the BLM did not engage the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) to initiate negotiations with the landlord and obtain congressional approval for a renewed lease as required under Federal law and regulations.

We also found, however, that the future cost of a new BLM lease in Washington, DC, was not the motivating factor in the BLM's decision not to renew its lease because of the DOI's longstanding intent to move BLM staff into a Federal facility. Therefore, the DOI's assertion that the BLM was unable to remain at its 20 M Street location after its lease expired in January 2021 because the new rate would exceed \$50 per rsf was misleading.

We did not find evidence that the DOI and BLM officials who signed or submitted the letters and testimony in question were personally involved in drafting their respective statements about the cost of renewing a lease at 20 M Street.

Rather, we found that DOI and BLM staff interpreted information from the GSA that described market rates for commercial leases in the Washington, DC area as generally \$50 per rsf or higher to develop the definitive language used in the DOI and BLM officials' statements to Congress.

We provided our report to the DOI Chief of Staff.

Allegations of Improper Access to Employee Emails by a National Indian Gaming Commission Official

We investigated allegations that a National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) official authorized an employee to split the payment of a \$19,176 invoice to stay under U.S. Government charge card purchasing thresholds. In addition, after learning that the employee had reported concerns about the issue to a member of the Office of the Secretary's integrated charge card program, the official requested that an IT manager provide the official the employee's emails on the matter.

We confirmed that the official authorized that the invoice be split, but we did not find that this was improper because the invoice related to two distinct audio/visual projects. We also confirmed that the official orally requested copies of the emails exchanged between the employee and a member of the integrated charge card program, but the IT manager declined the request because written authorization was not obtained from NIGC's General Counsel. NIGC policy permits authorized senior staff to access employee emails to ensure "efficient and proper operation of the workplace" or the search for "suspected misconduct" and we found no U.S. Department of the Interior policy prohibiting such queries. However, the U.S. Office of Special Counsel issued a memorandum to all executive departments and agencies in February 2018, urging that policies and practices for monitoring employee communications should "not interfere with or chill employees from lawfully disclosing wrongdoing."

We provided our report to the NIGC Chairman. We also issued a management advisory to the NIGC Chairman related to concerns about how the NIGC applies its email access policy and the chilling effect this may cause for employees disclosing wrongdoing. We made one recommendation that the NIGC establish formal policies and procedures consistent with the OSC's guidance that also provide a way for the NIGC to track and retain all requests and productions.

Sexual Misconduct by an NPS Employee

We investigated allegations that an NPS employee engaged in a pattern of harassing, intimidating, and otherwise unwelcome behaviors of a sexual nature toward a coworker, including two occasions where the employee coerced the coworker to perform sexual acts.

We confirmed that the employee engaged in a pattern of sexual harassment toward the coworker. We also found at least one incident where the employee coerced a sexual act after hearing the coworker say, "I don't want this."

The employee was subsequently removed from Federal service. Federal and county prosecutors declined the case.

We provided our report to the NPS.

Bureau of Indian Affairs Seasonal Firefighter Sexually Harassed and Inappropriately Touched BIA Employee

We investigated allegations that a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) seasonal firefighter sexually harassed and inappropriately touched a BIA employee. The employee alleged that the firefighter had harassed her since 2009. She further alleged that in 2019, while at work, the firefighter inappropriately touched her, used sexually explicit language, and left her a handwritten note proposing a sexual relationship. The employee said she told the firefighter to stop on multiple occasions and decided to report him after the 2019 incident.

We determined that the firefighter's behavior toward the employee was unwelcome and based on her sex and that his comments, written note, and conduct could reasonably be considered to have adversely affected her work environment. Therefore, we concluded that the firefighter's conduct violated DOI Personnel Bulletin No. 18-01, the Department's policy on preventing and eliminating harassing conduct. The firefighter denied making sexually explicit comments to the BIA employee, but admitted to hugging her on occasion and writing her the note to see if she was interested in him sexually. We found that BIA management took appropriate and timely action and addressed the reported misconduct in accordance with DOI policy.

We referred this case to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Mexico, which declined to prosecute. We provided our report to the BIA Director.

Alleged Misconduct by Senior Official

We investigated allegations that a senior career official had inappropriate conversations about personal matters with female employees that made those employees feel uncomfortable.

We found that the senior official engaged in conversations about personal matters with female employees on three separate occasions and made comments during those conversations that could reasonably be considered to have adversely affected the work environment. We determined the senior official's conduct violated U.S. Department of the Interior Personnel Bulletin No. 18-01, "Prevention and Elimination of Harassing Conduct."

During our investigation, the senior official left Federal service. We provided our report to the DOI.

Tribal Firefighters Convicted of Arson

We investigated allegations that a tribal fire chief and a volunteer firefighter intentionally set fires on a reservation and subsequently submitted fraudulent claims for pay associated with fighting the fires. The tribal fire department received funding through a P.L. 93-638 Self Determination Contract administered by the BIA.

We worked with the BIA to investigate the allegations and confirmed the tribal fire chief and a volunteer firefighter committed arson throughout 2015. Both were convicted in tribal court for their actions, and the tribe subsequently removed both individuals from the tribal fire department.

A Federal grand jury indicted the fire chief and volunteer firefighter on four counts of wire fraud associated with fraudulent claims made to the BIA. Those charges were subsequently dismissed.

We provided our report to the BIA Director.

Alleged Smuggling of Contraband by an NPS Employee

We investigated an allegation that an NPS employee assisted inmates from a prison work detail to smuggle contraband into a Federal penitentiary.

We determined that during the prison work detail at a national park, inmates—whose criminal histories included firearms- and drug-related convictions—were found with contraband after they had been left working unsupervised in the park’s campground for approximately 2 hours.

We found insufficient evidence to prove or disprove that the employee assisted the inmates who smuggled contraband into the penitentiary. The employee has since left the NPS.

We also investigated whether the employee followed NPS and departmental procedures for the use of prison work details, and if the NPS had established policies and procedures for the supervision of inmates working at the national park. We presented those findings and recommendations on the lack of departmental policies and procedures in a separate management advisory issued to the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

We found that the absence of NPS policies and oversight regarding prison work details at NPS properties creates risks to NPS employees, park visitors, and the prison community, and may expose the DOI to liability. We made three recommendations to improve the safety and security of NPS employees and park visitors, and to ensure consistent approval and employment of prison work details across the NPS. As a result of the management advisory, on April 2, 2020—the same day we issued the advisory—the NPS stopped all prison work details at national parks pending development of new policies and procedures. The NPS signed a policy memorandum on July 9, 2020.

We provided our report to the Deputy Director, Exercising the Authority of Director for the NPS.

Alleged Improper Dismissal of Criminal Citations by the U.S. Park Police

We investigated allegations that a senior U.S. Park Police (USPP) official asked the United States Attorney's Office to dismiss criminal citations (tickets) issued to Presidio Trust employees and contractors at the request of Presidio Trust officials.

We found that a Presidio Trust official asked a senior USPP official to request the dismissal of several tickets stemming from two separate incidents that occurred at the Presidio and that the senior USPP official's decisions to request the dismissals were, in part, influenced by these requests. In addition, while we found that the senior USPP official had the discretion to request that the tickets be dismissed and that there was no USPP General Order or U.S. Department of the Interior policy about the process or authority for dismissing tickets, the senior USPP official appeared to deviate from past USPP practices at the Presidio when requesting the dismissals.

We provided our report to the Deputy Director, Exercising the Authority of the Director of the National Park Service.

The Bureau of Indian Education Implemented Recommendations To Address Background Checks at Indian Education Facilities

We completed a verification review of 6 of the 11 recommendations in our 2018 evaluation report titled *The Bureau of Indian Education Is Not Ensuring That Background Checks at Indian Education Facilities Are Complete*. Our 2018 report found that the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) was not completing and updating required background checks for its employees, contractors, and volunteers who have regular contact with children. We made 11 recommendations to help the BIE improve its background check process for both BIE-operated and tribally controlled schools.

Our verification review focused on recommendations 1 – 3 and 6 – 8 and found that the BIE had implemented all six recommendations. As such, we consider these recommendations closed.

Energy Highlights

The Bureau of Land Management Montana/Dakotas State Office Misused Oil and Gas Funds

We evaluated the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Montana/Dakotas State Office's use of oil and gas (O&G) funds.

We found that the BLM Montana/Dakotas State Office did not comply with O&G fund expenditure requirements from fiscal years (FYs) 2015 through 2018. Specifically, BLM employees incorrectly charged more than \$1 million in labor costs to the O&G program. We also found that the BLM transferred more than \$3.5 million in labor hours originally charged to non-O&G accounts (e.g., rangeland management) to O&G accounts. In addition, the BLM incorrectly charged \$268,251 to the O&G program for retention bonuses and awards for employees who did not perform related duties. The BLM also incorrectly charged \$144,000 in miscellaneous operations expenses to O&G accounts. In total, we identified more than \$4.8 million of questioned costs and funds that could have been put to better use for FYs 2015 through 2018.

We made 12 recommendations to help the BLM improve program accountability for its O&G funding. The BLM concurred with 11 of the 12 recommendations in its response to our draft report. We considered one recommendation unresolved, eight recommendations resolved and implemented, and three recommendations resolved but not implemented. We referred the recommendations to the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget for resolution and to track implementation.

Oil and Gas Company Used Offshore Platform Decommissioning Funds To Pay Other Expenses

We investigated allegations that an offshore oil and gas production company improperly paid operational expenses with money from an escrow account dedicated to paying expenses related to decommissioning offshore platforms in Federal waters.

We found that the company routinely used funds from its decommissioning account to pay what appeared to be various operating expenses. We also found instances where the company appeared to claim reimbursement for duplicate expenses.

Based on our findings, the company submitted credits and adjustments, totaling \$1.9 million, to the decommissioning account to cover these expenses and other disbursements. In addition, we referred a number of unresolved expenses for non-decommissioning activities to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) for resolution.

We referred this matter to the U.S. Department of Justice. We provided our report to the Directors of BSEE and BOEM.

Suspected Illegal Gas Flaring in North Dakota

We investigated allegations that Continental Resources, Inc. flared gas from Federal mineral leases in North Dakota without an approved permit from the BLM and failed to report the flaring to the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR).

We confirmed that Continental flared natural gas produced from Federal leases without a BLM-approved permit but did report the flared gas volumes to ONRR. As a result of the flared natural gas, the company owed unpaid royalties to ONRR in excess of \$900,000 that ONRR is attempting to recover.

We provided our report to ONRR and the BLM.

Mining Company Removed Coal From Unleased Land

We investigated allegations that Bronco Utah Operations, LLC (Bronco), a coal mining company based in Utah, improperly removed Federal coal without a lease.

We determined that Bronco trespassed into unleased Federal coal deposits that resulted in a loss of public revenues. The BLM granted Bronco a right-of-way that allowed the company to tunnel through Federal land to continue the company's coal operations designated by its mining plan. As the company tunneled through the right-of-way, it removed Federal coal deposits from areas outside the boundaries of the right-of-way, resulting in the removal of unleased deposits. As a result of the trespass, Bronco paid the Federal Government \$92,099.44, a value based on an estimated bid for the coal removed and the mineral royalties owed if a Federal lease had been issued.

We provided our report to the Directors of the BLM and ONRR.

Oil and Gas Production Company Failed To Properly Report Oil and Gas Production

We investigated allegations that an oil and gas company improperly reported oil and gas production from Federal leases to ONRR, which resulted in a loss of public mineral royalties.

We found the company failed to properly report production and mineral royalties to ONRR as alleged, but we did not find the company intended to defraud the Government. The improper reporting occurred because the company did not provide adequate lease production information to the contractor it hired to perform the production and royalty reporting. Further, the contractor was unfamiliar with ONRR's reporting procedures and requirements.

We provided our report to the ONRR Director.

Alleged Oil Theft Referred to the BLM for Enforcement

We investigated allegations that an oil and gas company unlawfully removed oil from a Federal mineral lease, transported the Federal oil to a Wyoming State lease, and concealed both the production and the transfer of the oil from the BLM.

We determined that the alleged transfer of oil from the Federal well site was a minimal amount and an isolated occurrence. We closed this investigation and referred the matter to the BLM to address it through its regulatory authority.

We provided our report to the Acting Director of the BLM.

The OIG Referred Allegations to ONRR for Possible Enforcement Action

We investigated allegations that an oil and gas company incorrectly adjusted oil and gas reporting and failed to apply the proper pricing for minerals produced from leases in New Mexico, potentially resulting in a loss of royalties.

We determined that the alleged conduct occurred outside the 5-year statute of limitations for criminal conduct and would be appropriately addressed through administrative enforcement actions and orders. As a result, we referred the matter to ONRR.

We provided our report to the ONRR Director.

Gas Marketing Company Employees Debarred From Participating in Federal Procurement

In our April 2020 Semiannual Report to Congress, we reported that Billy Charles Rogers, Jr. and Wynon Rogers, co-owners of gas marketing company B. Charles Rogers Gas, Ltd. (BCR), and Thomas R. Lutner, III conspired to defraud approximately 30 oil and gas companies. From 2003 through 2015, the Rogerses and Lutner provided producers false transaction statements in connection with the BCR's gas purchases that underreported the volume and value of the natural gas liquids that the BCR purchased. The Rogerses then shared the fraudulent profits with Lutner. As a result of the BCR's fraud scheme, the victim companies relied upon the false gas marketing statements issued to them by the BCR and unknowingly failed to properly calculate mineral royalties associated with Federal and tribal leases. The companies thus paid less in royalties than they should have.

All three co-conspirators pleaded guilty for violating 18 U.S.C. § 371, conspiracy to commit wire fraud. In addition to receiving time in prison and probation and being ordered to pay restitution, all were debarred from participating in Federal procurement and nonprocurement programs. On June 30, 2020, Lutner was debarred through February 11, 2030. On July 30, 2020, B. Charles Rogers was debarred through May 14, 2030, and Wynon Rogers was debarred through June 10, 2030.

The BIA Implemented Recommendations To Improve Oversight of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Energy Resources

We completed a verification review of seven recommendations in our 2016 evaluation report, *Bureau of Indian Affairs' Southern Ute Agency's Management of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Energy Resources*. Our 2016 report made seven recommendations designed to improve the effectiveness of the Agency's oversight of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's energy resources. Our verification review confirmed that the Bureau of Indian Affairs had implemented all seven recommendations. As such, we consider all seven recommendations closed.

Water and Public Land Highlights

Status of the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation's Land Selection in Arizona and New Mexico

This report is part of a series of reports to help decision makers plan for the future of the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation (ONHIR). ONHIR was established by the Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act of 1974 (Pub. L. No. 93-531) as an independent Federal agency responsible for assisting with the relocation of Navajo people and Hopi people living within each other's boundaries.

When the Settlement Act was passed, each tribe claimed exclusive rights to some or all of the lands they both lived on. The Settlement Act authorized the partition of the disputed land between the two tribes and directed the Secretary of the Interior to take up to 400,000 acres into trust to become part of the Navajo reservation.

As of March 2020, 387,448 acres (96.9 percent) of the 400,000 acres had been selected. ONHIR currently has land selection authority for the 12,552 acres (3.1 percent) remaining to be selected.

If ONHIR closes, legislation may be needed to resolve questions about who has land selection authority and for how many acres, as well as whether future land selections should be taken into trust as a mandatory trust acquisition or in restricted fee status (with title held by a tribe or individual Indian).

Status of the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation's Administration of Relocation Benefits

The second report of our series focused on ONHIR's administration of relocation benefits. ONHIR established a series of beginning-to-end relocation benefits to aid eligible recipients through the relocation process (such as assistance with site selection, construction and related inspections, and a home warranty). A disagreement exists between the Navajo Nation and the Federal Government regarding whether the relocation benefits include providing infrastructure and community services.

Relocations for all but one Hopi individual certified as eligible were completed in 2013 (that case was administratively closed in 2004). The status of all remaining Navajo individuals who have been certified as eligible and could still qualify for relocation benefits includes:

- 1 contract in process
- 1 homesite selection in process
- 3 eligible applicants who have not yet signed a contract or begun seeking a homesite

- 85 applicants certified eligible but whose cases have been closed administratively and relocations have not been completed

In this report we provide further detail on ONHIR’s administration of relocation benefits and summarize what we found regarding the status of home warranties, the condition of relocation case files, and the condition of relocation homes.

If ONHIR closes, legislation may be needed to identify a successor agency to provide any remaining eligible applicants with relocation benefits, determine whether any changes are needed to the relocation benefits that can be given to eligible applicants, and determine whether to provide funding to address infrastructure needs for relocatees as requested by the Navajo Nation.

Status of the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation’s Appeals on Denied Eligibility Determination Cases

The third report of our series focused on ONHIR’s appeals on denied eligibility determination cases. As one of its key functions, ONHIR manages the administrative appeals process for applicants who are denied relocation benefits. These appeals can potentially span multiple years and three levels of Federal courts: the District Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

The objective for this review was to determine the status of ONHIR’s applicant appeals—both active appeals on denied eligibility determinations and cases eligible for appeal. We found that:

- As of May 2020, 1,351 denied applicants had requested a hearing for reconsideration of a denial of benefits decision. Of those applicants, 521 were certified eligible for benefits before their cases reached a Federal court.
- The remaining 830 cases had denials upheld and were determined eligible for appeal to the District Court level. So far 259 of those cases have resulted in eligibility certification. Five of these certified applicants have not claimed their benefits.
- In addition to these active appeal cases, there were 212 cases that fell within the 6-year statute of limitations and are eligible for appeal.

If ONHIR closes, its ongoing litigation will require a successor agency to be responsible for any appeal cases and to reconsider any decisions reversed by the courts and remanded. Legislation may be needed to identify a successor agency, designate what relocation benefits will be provided, and direct ONHIR to ensure that case files include all necessary documents for active and eligible appeals.

BOR Employee Diverted Water From Federal Canal to Private Ranch

We investigated allegations that a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) employee illegally diverted water from a BOR canal to a private ranch.

Our investigation confirmed the BOR employee approved the water diversion, but we did not find evidence the BOR employee received any personal benefit, financial or otherwise, as a result. The BOR employee said they approved the water diversion because they were trying to solve the ranch owner's concern that construction in the area had blocked flood-water overflow from coming onto the ranch owner's property. The BOR employee further said they were concerned that the ranch owner would terminate an agreement that allowed the BOR to operate a pump station—which the BOR uses to protect endangered species in the area by pumping water to dry areas—on the ranch owner's property because the terms of the agreement allowed the ranch owner to terminate the agreement if the ranch owner believed the BOR impeded any of their projects.

We further found the BOR employee circumvented engineering and environmental approval by funding the project through an existing operations and maintenance contract instead of a new contract, which would have triggered the BOR's review and approval process. The BOR employee said they believed the project was within the scope of work of the existing contract and did not seek approval before authorizing the water diversion.

We provided our report to the BOR Commissioner.

Indian Country Highlights

Through the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), the DOI provides services to 567 federally recognized tribes with a population of about 1.9 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. In the past, the BIA, the BIE, and tribes have faced many challenges in managing Federal funds, providing education and safe school environments, and overseeing energy and mineral development on tribal lands.

Our work in Indian Country addressed these areas as well as the new challenges associated with the coronavirus pandemic. We issued:

- **Three CARES Act flash reports**, consisting of two that provided funding snapshots on the BIA and BIE and one that presented lessons learned that the DOI, BIA, and BIE should consider when making awards, promoting safety, and providing oversight under the CARES Act
- **Five reports on financial risk and impact**, including one inspection of a potential violation of the Antideficiency Act and four investigations regarding stolen funds and forged travel receipts, misused Government charge cards, embezzled funds at a tribal school, and improperly disclosed confidential mineral valuation information
- **One ethics report** that did not substantiate the allegation that a BIA official engaged in ethics violations
- **Four reports on policy compliance and general misconduct**, consisting of two that focused on improper access to employee emails, one that substantiated an allegation of sexual harassment, and one that found that a tribal fire chief and volunteer firefighter intentionally set fires and then submitted fraudulent claims for pay
- **Three reports on water and public land** that are part of a series to help decision makers plan for the future of the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation (ONHIR)
- **Three verification reviews** highlighting that the BIA resolved and implemented all 7 recommendations from a 2016 evaluation report on the management of a tribe's energy resources, that the BIE resolved and implemented 6 of 11 recommendations from our 2018 evaluation report on background checks, and that the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development resolved and implemented all 13 recommendations from our 2017 evaluation of internal controls over the Indian Affairs Loan Guarantee Program

In the coming year, we anticipate that more of our work will focus on Indian Country. We plan to address many of the issues that have affected the BIA, BIE, and tribes, including financial mismanagement, education, and energy and mineral development. We will continue to report on the unique challenges in preventing, preparing for, and responding to the coronavirus pandemic.



Appendixes

Appendix 1: Statistical Highlights

Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations Activities

Reports Issued	38
Performance Audits, Evaluations, and Inspections	11
CARES Act	14
Contract and Grant Audits.....	6
Other Report Types	7
Total Monetary Impacts ¹	\$18,416,069
Questioned Costs (includes unsupported costs).....	\$18,272,702
Funds To Be Put to Better Use	\$143,367
Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations Recommendations Made.....	83
Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations Recommendations Closed	135

Investigative Activities

Complaints Received	394
Complaints Referred to the Department.....	203
Investigations Opened.....	33
Investigations Closed	41

Criminal Prosecution Activities²

Indictments/Informations	4
Convictions.....	0
Sentencings.....	0
Jail	0
Probation.....	0: 0 months
Community Service.....	0: 0 hours
Criminal Restitution	1: \$7,454.88
Criminal Fines	0: \$0
Criminal Special Assessments.....	0: \$0
Criminal Asset Forfeiture	\$0
Criminal Matters Referred for Prosecution	12
Criminal Matters Declined This Period	8

¹ Includes \$143,367 in non-Federal Funds that are not included in Appendix 3.

² The information in this table may differ from the information in the earlier narrative summaries because of the timing of particular activities as well as the date the final report was completed.

Civil Investigative Activities

Civil Referrals.....	8
Civil Declinations	5
Civil Settlements or Recoveries.....	1: \$688,500.00

Administrative Investigative Activities

Personnel Actions	7
Removals	1
Resignations	1
Reassignments/Transfers	1
Retirements	2
Restitution	\$0
Suspensions/Downgrades	1
Counseling.....	0
Reprimands (Written/Oral).....	1
Procurement and Nonprocurement Remedies	6
Debarments.....	6
Suspensions.....	0
Administrative Compliance Agreement.....	0
Royalties: Settlement Agreements	\$0
General Policy Actions	8
Past-Due Responses ¹	10
Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.....	2
Bureau of Indian Affairs.....	1
Bureau of Indian Education	2
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.....	1
National Park Service	1
Office of the Secretary.....	2
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	1

¹ Past-due responses is a category indicating that as of the end of the reporting period we have not received a bureau's response to our referral for action within the 90-day response period.

Appendix 2: Reports Issued

This listing includes all reports issued by the Office of Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations during the 6-month reporting period that ended September 30, 2020. 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

2019-CR-010

The Bureau of Land Management Montana/Dakotas State Office Misused Oil and Gas Funds (09/29/2020)

**\$268,251

Indian Affairs

2019-ER-012

Recommendation for Reconsideration of Scope of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Fee Retention Authority (07/16/2020)

Multi-Office Assignments

2018-ITA-020

Evil Twins, Eavesdropping, and Password Cracking: How the Office of Inspector General Successfully Attacked the U.S. Department of the Interior's Wireless Networks (09/14/2020)

2019-CR-050

U.S. Department of the Interior Followed Office of Management and Budget Guidance for Shutdown Plans During 2018 - 2019 Lapse in Appropriations (05/06/2020)

National Park Service

2019-CR-035

The National Park Service Did Not Oversee Its General Agreements (09/23/2020)

Non-Interior

2020-WR-016-A

Status of the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation's Administration of Relocation Benefits (09/29/2020)

2020-WR-016-B

Status of the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation's Appeals on Denied Eligibility Determination Cases (09/29/2020)

2020-WR-016-C

Status of the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation's Land Selection in Arizona and New Mexico (09/29/2020)

Office of the Secretary**2020-FIN-023**

U.S. Department of the Interior's Compliance With the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act of 2010 in Its Fiscal Year 2019 Agency Financial Report (07/15/2020)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**2019-CR-011**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Needs To Improve Oversight of Its Friends Program (09/21/2020)

2019-FIN-044

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 2017 through 2018 (05/04/2020)
**\$116,597

CARES Act***Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement*****2020-CR-047**

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement's Safety Inspection Program COVID-19 Response (CARES Act Flash Report) (09/21/2020)

Indian Affairs**2020-FIN-045**

Lessons Learned for Indian Country (CARES Act Flash Report) (06/25/2020)

2020-FIN-050

Bureau of Indian Education Snapshot (CARES Act Flash Report) (07/14/2020)

2020-FIN-051

Bureau of Indian Affairs Funding Snapshot (CARES Act Flash Report) (09/03/2020)

Insular Areas

2020-WR-041

The Office of Insular Affairs Took Appropriate Action With CARES Act Funds (CARES Act Flash Report) (06/25/2020)

Multi-Office Assignments

2020-ER-042

CARES Act Funds for DOI's Wildland Fire Management Program as of June 19, 2020 (CARES Act Flash Report) (07/31/2020)

2020-FIN-036

April 2020: Where's the Money? (CARES Act Flash Report) (05/05/2020)

2020-FIN-037

Lessons Learned for CARES Act Awards (CARES Act Flash Report) (05/20/2020)

2020-FIN-046

May 2020: Where's the Money? (CARES Act Flash Report) (06/15/2020)

2020-FIN-052

June 2020: Where's the Money? (CARES Act Flash Report) (07/28/2020)

2020-FIN-055

Lessons Learned For Purchase Card Use (CARES Act Flash Report) (08/25/2020)

2020-FIN-059

July 2020: Where's the Money? (CARES Act Flash Report) (08/17/2020)

2020-FIN-068

August 2020: Where's the Money? (CARES Act Flash Report) (09/28/2020)

National Park Service

2020-CR-039

NPS 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Operating Plans (CARES Act Flash Report) (06/25/2020)

Contract and Grant Audits

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

2019-CR-023

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Grants Awarded to the State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources, From July 1, 2016, Through June 30, 2018, Under the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (09/21/2020)

*\$112,639

***\$77,426

2019-CR-041

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, 2016, Through June 30, 2018 (07/30/2020)

2019-CR-047

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Grants Awarded to the State of Kansas, Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, From July 1, 2016, Through June 30, 2018, Under the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (08/25/2020)

*\$30,728

**\$103,191

2019-ER-053

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Grants Awarded to the State of Alabama, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Marine Resources Division, From October 1, 2016, Through September 30, 2018, Under the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (07/30/2020)

**\$6,207

2019-WR-006

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Grants Awarded to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Fish and Boat Commission, From July 1, 2016, Through June 30, 2018, Under the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (07/30/2020)

***\$17,701,030

U.S. Geological Survey**2018-FIN-051**

The U.S. Geological Survey and Quantum Spatial, Incorporated, Did Not Always Comply With Federal Regulations, Policies, and Award Terms for Task Order No. 140G0218F0251 and Contract No. G16PC00016 (08/25/2020)

Other Assignment Types***Indian Affairs*****2020-CR-025**

Verification Review - Recommendations for the Evaluation Report Titled Bureau of Indian Affairs' Southern Ute Agency's Management of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Energy Resources (CR-EV-BIA-0011-2014) (09/21/2020)

2020-CR-031

Verification Review - Recommendations for the Report Titled Stronger Internal Controls Needed Over Indian Affairs Loan Guarantee Program (Report No. 2016-CR-036) (09/23/2020)

2020-CR-033

Verification Review - Recommendations 1-3 and 6-8 From the Evaluation Report Titled The Bureau of Indian Education Is Not Ensuring That Background Checks at Indian Education Facilities Are Complete (2017-WR-024) (09/23/2020)

Multi-Office Assignment**2020-ER-048**

Verification Review - Recs 1, 2, 5, and 6 for the Evaluation Report titled U.S. Dept of the Interior's Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation Program Not Yet Capable of Providing Complete Information for Enterprise Risk Determinations, ISD-IN-MOA-0004-2014-I (09/23/2020)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**2019-CR-015**

Management Advisory - FWS Land Reconciliation (04/13/2020)

2020-FIN-049

Verification Review - Recommendation for the Report Titled Interim Costs Claimed by Coastal Environmental Group, Under Contract Nos. INF13PC00214 and INF13PC00195 With the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (X-CX-FWS-0002-2014) (09/21/2020)

2020-WR-019

Management Advisory - Issues Identified With Wildlife Restoration Subawards to the University of Tennessee, National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (07/06/2020)

Appendix 3: 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	0	0	0
B. Which were issued during the reporting period	6	18,272,702	17,778,456
Total (A+B)	6	18,272,702	17,778,456
C. For which a management decision was made during the reporting period	6	18,272,702	17,778,456
(i) Dollar value of costs disallowed		18,272,240	17,778,456
(ii) Dollar value of costs allowed		462	0
D. For which no management decision had been made by the end of the reporting period	0	0	0

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

**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	0	0
B. Which were issued during the reporting period	0	0
Total (A+B)	0	0
C. For which a management decision was made during the reporting period	0	0
(i) Dollar value of recommendations that were agreed to by management	0	0
(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	0	0

* Does not include non-Federal funds.

Appendix 4: Reports With Recommendations Pending Decision

This listing includes a summary of recommendations from audit, inspection, and evaluation reports that were more than 6 months old on September 30, 2020, and still pending a final 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

Bureau of Reclamation

2017-WR-048-B

The Bureau of Reclamation Did Not Effectively Manage the San Luis Demonstration Treatment Plant (11/13/2019)

Referred for Resolution: 4

Awaiting Decision: 2

Indian Affairs

2017-ER-018

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

Referred for Resolution: 2

National Park Service

2018-CR-009

The National Park Service Needs to Improve Oversight of Residential Environmental Learning Centers (12/17/2019)

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

2018-FIN-059

The U.S. Department of the Interior Needs To Improve Internal Controls Over the Purchase Card Program (11/13/2019)

Referred for Resolution: 1

Appendix 5: Reports With Unimplemented Recommendations

REPORTS WITH UNIMPLEMENTED RECOMMENDATIONS

This listing provides a summary of reports issued by the Office of Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations before April 1, 2020, that still had open (unimplemented) recommendations as of September 30, 2020. 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 less than the total number of recommendations in the report.

Unimplemented Recommendations

Open	357
Resolved	344
Disagreed	10
Awaiting Decision	3
Questioned Costs	\$82,007,432
Funds That Could Have Been Better Used	\$3,473,412

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: 3

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

2018-CR-010

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

Resolved: 1

2019-FIN-032

Independent Auditors' Report on the U.S. Department of the Interior's Financial Statements for FYs 2019 and 2018 (11/15/2019)

Resolved: 3

2019-ITA-034

Independent Auditors' Performance Audit Report on the U.S. Department of the Interior Federal Information Security Modernization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (02/26/2020)

Resolved: 10

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-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: 2

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

2017-WR-048-B

The Bureau of Reclamation Did Not Effectively Manage the San Luis Demonstration Treatment Plant (11/13/2019)

Resolved: 1

Disagreed: 4

Awaiting Decision: 2

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)

Resolved: 2

2019-FIN-032

Independent Auditors' Report on the U.S. Department of the Interior's Financial Statements for FYs 2019 and 2018 (11/15/2019)

Resolved: 6

2019-ITA-034

Independent Auditors' Performance Audit Report on the U.S. Department of the Interior Federal Information Security Modernization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (02/26/2020)

Resolved: 10

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

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement**2017-EAU-043**

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

Resolved: 5

Indian Affairs

2017-ER-018

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

Resolved: 2

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: 3

2018-ER-062

Weaknesses in the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians' Death Record Process Threaten Proper Distribution of Trust Payments (12/17/2019)

Resolved: 3

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

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

2017-WR-037

The National Park Service Misused Philanthropic Partner Donations (03/13/2019)
Resolved: 1

2018-CR-009

The National Park Service Needs to Improve Oversight of Residential Environmental Learning Centers (12/17/2019)
Resolved: 6
Disagreed: 2

2018-WR-011

The NPS Needs To Improve Management of Commercial Cellular Facilities' Right-of-Way Permits and Revenues (07/19/2019)
Resolved: 5

2019-ER-042

Big Bend National Park Mismanaged More Than \$250,000 in Equipment Purchases (02/05/2020)
Resolved: 2
Better Use: \$255,117

2019-FIN-032

Independent Auditors' Report on the U.S. Department of the Interior's Financial Statements for FYs 2019 and 2018 (11/15/2019)
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**2016-ITA-020**

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

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: 4

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)
Resolved: 2

2017-FIN-038

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

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-CR-010

Bureau of Land Management Maintenance Fee Waivers for Small Miners
(12/17/2018)
Resolved: 1

2018-FIN-059

The U.S. Department of the Interior Needs To Improve Internal Controls Over the Purchase Card Program (11/13/2019)
Disagreed: 1

2018-ITA-019

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

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)
Resolved: 2

2019-FIN-032

Independent Auditors' Report on the U.S. Department of the Interior's Financial Statements for FYs 2019 and 2018 (11/15/2019)
Resolved: 17

2019-FIN-043

U.S. Department of the Interior's DATA Act Submission for First Quarter FY2019
(11/07/2019)
Resolved: 3

2019-ITA-034

Independent Auditors' Performance Audit Report on the U.S. Department of the Interior Federal Information Security Modernization Act for Fiscal Year 2019
(02/26/2020)
Resolved: 3

C-IN-MOA-0010-2008

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

Resolved: 1

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-IN-MOA-0004-2014

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

Resolved: 2

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: 2

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

2018-ER-062

Weaknesses in the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians' Death Record Process Threaten Proper Distribution of Trust Payments (12/17/2019)

Resolved: 2

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)
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: 9

C-IN-OSM-0044-2014A

Oversight of Annual Fund Transfer for Miner Benefits Needs Improvement (03/29/2017)
Resolved: 6
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-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

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: 1

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-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

2019-ITA-034

Independent Auditors' Performance Audit Report on the U.S. Department of the Interior Federal Information Security Modernization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (02/26/2020)
Resolved: 1

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)
Resolved: 5
Questioned Costs: \$549,205

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: 9
Questioned Costs: \$12,808,434

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)
Resolved: 6
Questioned Costs: \$314,565

2017-WR-048

The Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Agreement No. R16AC00087 With the Panoche Drainage District (07/12/2018)
Resolved: 7
Questioned Costs: \$39,861

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**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)

Resolved: 1

Questioned Costs: \$150,000

2017-FIN-041

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

Resolved: 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: 5

Questioned Costs: \$3,583,879

2017-FIN-065

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

Resolved: 1

2018-FIN-050

The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Can Improve Financial Accountability for Federal Funds (10/25/2019)

Resolved: 2

Questioned Costs: \$1,234,989

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: 4

Questioned Costs: \$727,461

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: 1

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: 1

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: 3

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: 4

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: 14

Questioned Costs: \$2,694,479

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: 4

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: 1

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: 2

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: 3

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)

Resolved: 3

2018-CR-012

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

Resolved: 6

2018-CR-014

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, From July 1, 2015, Through June 30, 2017 (02/05/2020)

Resolved: 7

Questioned Costs: \$795,097

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)

Resolved: 3

2018-ER-063

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department From July 1, 2015, Through June 30, 2017 (11/13/2019)

Resolved: 1

2018-WR-038

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Oregon, Department of Fish and Wildlife, From July 1, 2015, Through June 30, 2017 (12/17/2019)

Resolved: 12

Questioned Costs: \$3,762,152

2019-CR-004

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Colorado, Colorado Parks and Wildlife From July 1, 2016, Through June 30, 2018 (03/31/2020)

Resolved: 8

Better Use: \$3,090,795

2019-CR-016

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, 2016, Through June 30, 2018 (03/23/2020)

Resolved: 3

Questioned Costs: \$56,089

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-0006-2011

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: 2

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: 1

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: 4

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-0011-2013

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: 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)

Awaiting Decision: 1

Office of the Secretary

2016-WR-022

Management Advisory- Office of Aviation Services’ Maintenance System Presents a Threat to Public Health and Safety (06/29/2016)

Resolved: 2

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

Appendix 6: 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.

Table 1. Peer Reviews Conducted by the DOI OIG

Type of Review	Date of Peer Review	OIG Reviewed	Rating	Outstanding Recommendations
Audits	None this reporting period	None	None	None
Inspections and Evaluations	April 7, 2020	U.S. Department of Energy	Pass	None
Investigations	None this reporting period	None	None	None

Table 2. Peer Reviews Conducted of the DOI OIG

Type of Review	Date of Peer Review	Reviewing OIG	Rating	Outstanding Recommendations
Audits	August 3, 2020	U.S. Department of Justice	Pass with deficiency	One recommendation: completing corrective action
Inspections and Evaluations	September 5, 2019	U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Energy, and Homeland Security	Pass	None
Investigations	March 31, 2020	Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	Pass	None

Appendix 7: Investigations Involving Senior Government Officials

19-0497

*Alleged Ethics Misconduct by the Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs
(page 23)*

19-0396

*Alleged Ethics Violations by a Senior DOI Political Employee
(pages 23-24)*

19-0300

*Alleged Violations of Ethics Pledge by a Senior DOI Political Employee
(page 24)*

19-0415

*Alleged Reprisal by an Office of Public Safety, Resources Protection, and Emergency Services Official
(page 29)*

20-0388

*Alleged Interference in FOIA Litigation Process
(page 30)*

20-0099

*Statements Made to Congress Regarding the Bureau of Land Management's Office Relocation
(pages 30-31)*

19-0123

*Allegations of Improper Access to Employee Emails by a National Indian Gaming Commission Official
(page 31)*

19-0884

*Alleged Misconduct by Senior Official
(page 32)*

Appendix 8: 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.

Appendix 9: Instances of Nonremediation

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

Appendix 10: Alleged Whistleblower Retaliation

We submitted one report containing allegations of whistleblower retaliation to the Department to make a determination as to whether retaliation occurred based on the facts of the investigation.

19-0415

Alleged Reprisal by an Office of Public Safety, Resources Protection, and Emergency Services Official

(page 29)

Cross References to the Inspector General Act

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

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

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