

# **Summary: Investigation of FWS Grant to Pacific Seabird Group**

**Report Date: September 17, 2013**

OIG investigated allegations of inappropriate controls, favoritism, and conflicts of interest associated with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) grant awarded to the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) to hold a World Seabird Conference in 2010. Complaints we received in 2013 alleged that the FWS employee who managed the grant award failed to provide full accounting for use of the funds and transferred unused funds to a nonprofit organization that the employee had founded in 2012.

Our review of the grant documentation and interviews with FWS and PSG officials revealed that PSG fulfilled the performance and reporting requirements of the grant agreement. We found no evidence to suggest that FWS funds were expended for purposes outside the agreement, that the controls over the grant were inadequate, or that favoritism or conflict of interest was associated with the grant. FWS has since developed additional internal controls (including letters of disclosure and recusal) to identify and prevent potential conflicts of interest for FWS employees with outside affiliations.

The allegations had been previously received, reviewed, and cleared by FWS in 2012. We found nothing further and did not require a response to our report.

*This is a summary of an investigative report that was issued internally to the U.S. Department of the Interior. This summary was posted to the web on April 10, 2015.*

