

Summary: Investigation of Nevada BLM Ranger

Report Date: March 8, 2013

In May 2012, OIG received allegations that a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) ranger may have used his law enforcement authority to persuade a Nevada Highway Patrol officer not to arrest another BLM employee who was involved in an accident while driving a BLM vehicle to an official BLM meeting. The complainant alleged that the BLM employee may have been under the influence of prescription drugs at the time of the accident, and that the ranger may have interfered because of a romantic relationship with the other BLM employee. The complainant also alleged that there may have been irregularities with the Board of Survey that convened to review the accident.

Our investigation revealed no improper use of law enforcement authority by the BLM ranger regarding the accident and no evidence of a romantic relationship between the ranger and the BLM employee involved in the accident. We found that there were delays with the Board of Survey's investigation but determined that the Board's review was otherwise conducted properly and thoroughly. Neither the Board of Survey nor our investigation was able to determine whether or not the BLM employee was impaired at the time of the accident. Evidence obtained during the investigation showed that alcohol was not a factor in the accident.

We provided BLM with a copy of this report for any action deemed appropriate. BLM responded that it took no corrective action because the allegations were unsubstantiated.

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.

