



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Office of Trust Services (OTS)

FY 2022 OTS Accomplishment Report



Trust Land Services • Resource Stewardship • Results that Matter

OCTOBER 2022

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Bureau of Indian Affairs Facts

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) was established in 1824 under the War Department and transferred to the Department of the Interior in 1849. BIA provides services to American Indians and Alaska Natives from the 574 federally recognized Tribes in the 48 contiguous States and Alaska. The BIA administers and manages 56 million surface and 59 million acres of subsurface mineral estates held in Trust by the United States for Individual Indians and Tribes. More than 80 percent of Indian Affairs employees are American Indian or Alaska Native.



Office of Trust Services

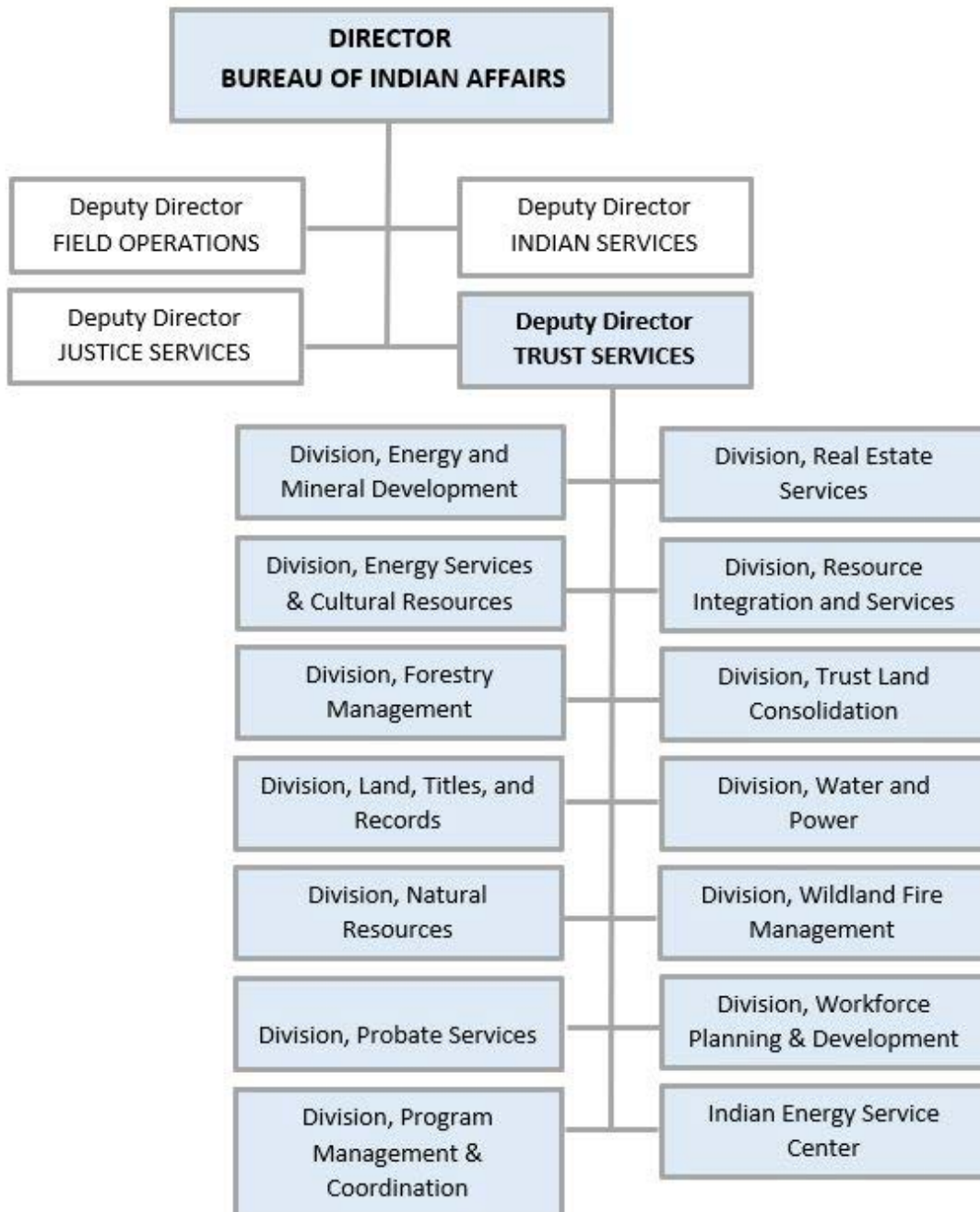
Who We Serve

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Office of Trust Services (OTS) has offices nationwide, and assists Tribal governments and allottees in managing, protecting, and developing their trust lands and natural resources, which total 56 million surface acres and 59 million acres of subsurface mineral estates. OTS programs aid landowners in the stewardship of their cultural, spiritual, and traditional resources, and help Tribal governments create sustainable sources of revenue and jobs for their communities.

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Trust Services (OTS) carries out the Indian Affairs' trust responsibilities to protect, develop, manage, and enhance Indian trust resources for the benefit of American Indian and Alaska Native peoples. This includes expanding economic opportunities through effective trust management that recognizes and supports Tribes' self-governance and self-determination.

This Fiscal Year 2022 OTS Annual Accomplishments will be posted on the Office of Trust Services main web page at <https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots>. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Trina Locke, Acting Deputy Director-Trust Services, by email at Trina.locke@bia.gov.

OTS Organizational Chart



Division of Energy and Mineral Development (DEMD)



Oil rigs operating on the Wind River Circle Ridge Oil Field

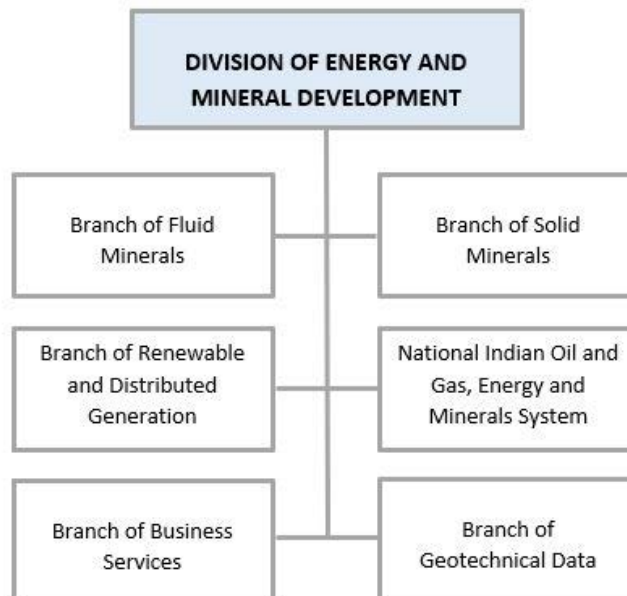
Mission

The mission of the Division of Energy and Mineral Development (DEMD) is to provide the best possible technical and economic advice and services in assisting Indian mineral owners to achieve economic self-sufficiency by creating sustainable economies through the environmentally sound development of their energy and mineral resources.

Who We Serve

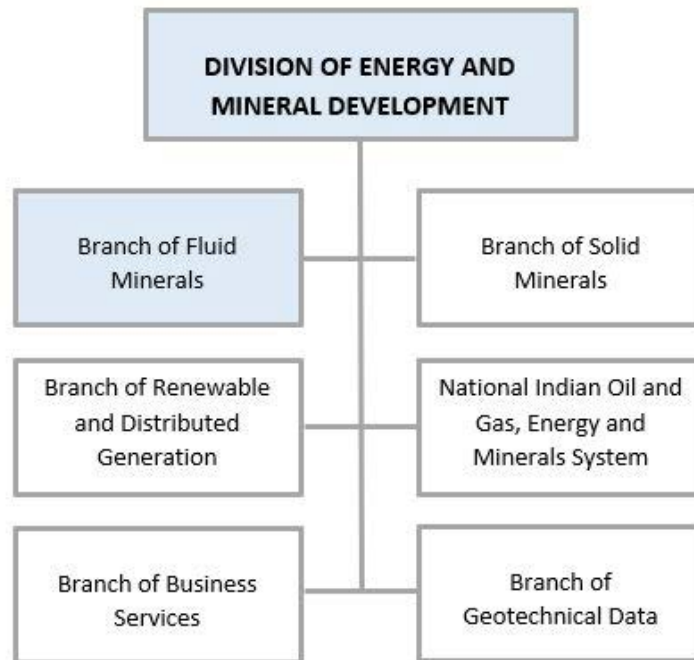
Working with Tribes to stimulate their economies, the Division of Energy and Mineral Development functions much like a full-service consulting firm. Armed with an expert team of geologists, engineers, marketing experts, and other key personnel, our staff facilitates all aspects of energy development for Tribes. DEMD is committed to finding the best companies that fit with Tribal goals.

The Division of Energy and Mineral Development oversees six Branches



DEMD, Branch of Fluid Minerals

The Branch of Fluid Minerals provides technical support for oil and natural gas energy resources, helium development, and subsurface geothermal support for Tribes and Individual Indian landowners. They work with industry partners to provide mapping, information, and contact with Tribes interested in developing oil and gas resources on their land.



Accomplishments

Wind River Circle Ridge projected earnings \$500 million over 10 years

With DEMD's help, the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes of the Wind River Reservation of Wyoming have transformed themselves from long-time lessors to full owners of the reservation's most productive oil field. As lessors, they earned a 20 percent royalty per barrel from the 1,800 barrels per day produced from their 940-acre Circle Ridge Field. Now as owners they are generating 66% royalty and profit on the same amount being produced at \$88 per barrel. Moreover, with a tribal investment of \$20 million for enhanced oil recovery, the Tribes will earn a projected \$500 million over 10 years.

The Tribe allowed the Circle Ridge Field lease to expire in January 2021 and opted to produce the field's hydrocarbons themselves. It was an opportune time to do this because the lessee of the expiring lease offered a lower royalty (20% proposed lease vs. 29% under the original lease) than before, believing that both oil prices and the field's production were in decline and that capital for improvements would be difficult to obtain.

After extensive research and analysis, DEMD advised the Tribes that, on the contrary, Circle Ridge production could be increased dramatically using new technology and enhanced recovery methods, including waterflooding and installation of electrical submersible pumps. DEMD expended an estimated 5,100-man hours assisting the Tribes to make the ownership leap. The Tribes hired a third-party service contractor to manage the field and implement the improvements recommended by DEMD – improvements the prior operator was unwilling to implement. As a result:

- Productivity of the field is expected to increase two or three-fold, from 1,800 barrels per day when the field was under lease to a projected 4,000 – 6,000 barrels per day in 2024.
- The Tribes are keeping the 29 percent royalty rate it enjoyed under the lease but are retaining the operating profits by leveraging their immunity from payment of state and federal taxes.
- The Tribes were able to achieve 97 percent of historic production while operating just 48 of the field's original 81 leave-in wells (33 have been retired and SI for future use).
- Ownership has also created incentives for environmental protection that did not exist in the leasehold.

The Tribes' takeover was an exercise in sovereignty

Tribal sovereignty and self-determination can be expressed in different ways, from restoring land bases, and reclaiming languages and culture, to expanding the reach of tribal laws and courts. But few are as important to nation building as putting valuable natural resources on tribal land to their highest and best use. The Tribes' control over their hydrocarbon resources has increased revenue, added to per capita payouts, and boosted jobs and economic growth on the reservation.

This is an example to other mineral-rich Tribes that they no longer need be passive participants at the brunt end of a rentier economy. They can choose to be owners rather than lessors. Lessors in rentier economies collect royalties for leasing commodities, which diminish over time. They occupy the least remunerative spots on the commodity value chain while outsiders further up the chain reap the greater share of profits by producing, selling, delivering, and improving the raw materials.

This is just the beginning of the Tribes' embrace of mineral sovereignty. With their flexibility as owners and their desire to expand green energy production, they will be addressing power issues at the field with a plan to install 7 MW of solar energy. As tribal oil field workers are trained and gain experience, the Tribes plan to eventually replace their service contract employees with tribal operators. They also aim to expand tribal ownership to the rest of the wells and related machinery on the reservation as leases expire.

Wind River Technical Assistance (TA) on Steamboat Oil Field

The DEMD is assisting the Wind River Tribes with assuming control of the Steamboat and other oil fields. The Steamboat oil field lease expires on December 31, 2022, and the Tribes have provided a formal technical assistance request to assist them with assuming the oil field operations. This field produces over 700 Barrels of Oil Per Day (BOpd), which at today's oil value of \$81.66 (September 7, 2022) equates to \$57k/day, \$1.7M/month, and \$20.9M/year gross revenue to the Tribes. This is anticipated to create four to six new jobs.

Energy and Mineral Development Program (EMDP) Grants

The Energy and Mineral Development Program grant provides the opportunity for Tribes to receive financial assistance to evaluate the energy and mineral resource potential of their lands.

<https://www.bia.gov/service/grant-assistance-energy-grants>

Southern Ute EMDP Grant

The DEMD awarded a grant to the Southern Ute Reservation to investigate methane capture from coal outcrops. By capturing this valuable resource, economic growth and jobs will result along with the added benefit of capturing one of the strongest greenhouse gases. This area of the US is one of the highest incidences of natural methane seeps. The purpose of the project is to assess the economic viability of capturing methane within a short distance underground of the outcrop of coal seams on the reservation. There are more than 30 miles on the reservation (and 100s of miles off the reservation) that have potential to benefit from this project. Phase 1/area 1 was completed by July 2022 with favorable results. The Southern Ute are planning to drill a well to test the concept in 2023. There are two additional areas/phases to investigate, and the DEMD anticipates future EMDP grant requests from the Tribe to complete these areas. The value of this project could be as high as \$50 million and could create three jobs.

Uintah and Ouray (U&O) EMDP Grant

The DEMD awarded two grants between FY 2018 and FY 2020 to the U&O Reservation to assess the Tribe's oil and gas resources. A total of \$1.6 million was issued, and in 2022 alone, the Tribe realized a \$10 million return on five projects. With a return multiplier of 6.25x of the investment, these grants have proven to be among DEMD's most successful. That return is expected to hold steady in the future. The grant projects created employment for an evaluation specialist/landman.

Navajo Helium

The DEMD awarded an EMDP grant and assisted in TA with the Navajo to prospect for helium. Helium prices have increased from \$80/MCF to more than \$200/MCF in recent years, and the demand for the Noble Gas is expected to rise with its aerospace, medical, military, and consumer applications. Helium is a trace gas in most production, but the value to the Navajo could be more than \$100 million.

Tasks Going Forward

Wind River

The DEMD anticipates EMDP grant and technical assistance requests from the Wind River Reservation for geothermal, oil and gas, and solar assessments. Assistance on the Steamboat and other oil field transitions is expected to continue.

Southern Ute EMDP

The DEMD anticipates further work with phase/area 2 of the methane capture project.

Uintah & Ouray Tribe EMDP

The DEMD anticipates an EMDP grant request from the Uintah & Ouray for assessment in an undeveloped area on the reservation that has not been reviewed.

Helium

The DEMD is attempting to generate interest on tribal lands to prospect for helium. Tribes contacted are Navajo, Uintah & Ouray, Ft. Belknap, and Rocky Boys.

Challenges

Tribal Contact Turnover

The DEMD has witnessed the turnover of tribal contacts and their positions to be an ongoing concern and headwind.

Internal Hiring

The agency hiring process is too slow. Salaries offered are often half or less of what comparable industry jobs pay, which constricts recruitment.

Technical Assistance, Task, and Grant Tracking

Before COVID restrictions and remote work became required, the Fluid Mineral Branch was implementing processes to track TA, tasks, and grants. Unfortunately, due to early IT issues, the effort was not completed. In FY 2023, the branch will reinitiate this tracking process.

Opportunities

Tribal Engagement

With Covid-19 restrictions loosening, the DEMD is attempting to reengage non-virtually with Tribes that the DEMD has had difficulty meeting with over the past two years.

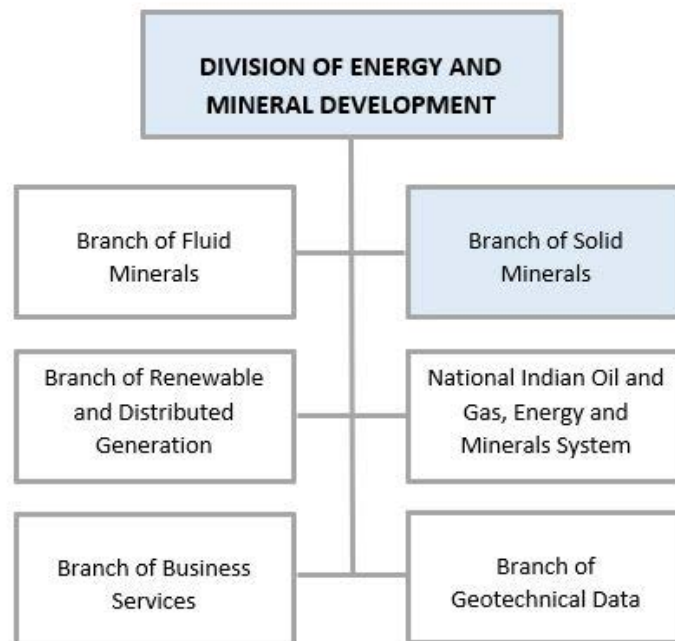
Best Practices

Meetings

The Fluid Minerals Branch now uses Microsoft TEAMS exclusively for meetings to ensure full participation from teleworking and remote work personnel.

DEMD, Branch of Solid Minerals

The Branch of Solid Minerals works with Tribes and individual Indian landowners to develop the mineral resources on their trust land. Assistance is available to determine the quality and quantity of mineral resources on the land and assess the best uses and practices for mineral resources. This BIA team then helps market the resources to potential partners and aids with connecting and negotiating Tribes and individual Indian landowners with well-established, well-financed industry partners.



Accomplishments

The Branch of Solid Minerals has developed a list of Tribal Mineral Development services provided over FY 2022. These services included:

- Land Acquisition Planning and Assistance
- Mine Life Estimate for Energy and Mineral Development Grants
- Division of Capital Investment Indian Loan Guarantee applications
- Project Structuring
- Basic Geologic Assessment
- Volume/Year
- Plant Design
- Calculating Capital and Operational Expenditures
- Cash Flow Analysis
- Internal and External Market Analysis
- Business Plans
- Sales Contracts

Ft. Independence Tribe Grinding Rock Aggregates Business

The Ft. Independence Tribe of Paiute Indians is showing tribal nations how they can play a lead role, generate larger revenues, and create more jobs in America's booming commercial mineral economy. The Tribe's formula for success is simple: It's mining, refining, and marketing its minerals on its own.

Construction aggregates – sand and gravel -- can be found on most reservations. But unlike aggregate development at other reservations, Ft. Independence will quarry, improve, sell, and haul its rich deposits of alluvial gravel, crushed granite, rocks, and ripraps itself rather than leaving those opportunities to lessees and external suppliers.

With SMB's technical assistance, the Tribe has launched its own quarry company, Grinding Rock Aggregates (GRA), to operate four ongoing mining projects that are producing 1,500 tons per day of high-quality aggregate suitable for a variety of construction projects. GRA refines this raw material in a tribally owned, state-of-the-art crushing, sorting, and washing facility. The Tribe is starting a trucking business to deliver the improved product to customers.

SMB helped the Tribe with project structuring, basic geologic assessment, plant design, cash flow analysis, internal and external market analysis, a mine life estimate, land acquisition planning, and development of a business plan. The Tribe's receipt of an EMDP grant that identified aggregate development as the highest and best use of the reservation's rock resources prompted GRA's inception.



Grinding Rock Aggregates produces 1,500 pounds a day of high-quality aggregate suitable for a variety of construction projects

Job Creation

From quarrying, to refining, sales, and hauling, GRA is creating high-paying, reservation-based jobs at every stage. 2021 operations produced \$1.2M in total annual income and benefits for GRA's employees. With these jobs have come new options for expansion. The Tribe is considering adding a concrete batch plant, which would open a broad new market.

These new jobs and enterprises bring cash to the reservation. SMB expects GRA to generate net profits of more than \$3 million a year in the second through fifth years of its operation and \$200 million in revenue through 2030 based on a production volume of 18 million tons of aggregate. SMB estimates that GRA will achieve a five-year rate of return on investment exceeding 100 percent. SMB began helping the Tribe assess the value of its aggregate and the potential for starting its own quarry business in August 2021. Two months later, GRA was formed, and began operations in January 2022.

FY 2022 Branch of Solid Minerals provides Technical Assistance to 19 Tribes

Tribe	Technical Assistance Provided
<i>Crow</i>	Provided the nation with recommendations on Track 1 coal mine plans, the feasibility of mining uranium, and implications of reduction in severance taxes paid by Westmoreland Coal.
<i>Duck Valley</i>	Provided Tribes with business infrastructure options and costs including capital and operational expenditures in setting a tribal aggregate business.
<i>Hoopa Valley</i>	Tribe has requested assistance with increasing its aggregate product lines and extending its market research.
<i>Houlton Band of Maliseet</i>	Identification of future aggregate resources.
<i>Hualapai</i>	Assistance in writing a lease agreement with company interested in mining tribal flagstone.
<i>Mescalero</i>	Working with Tribe to assess the economic feasibility of developing their rare earth element zirconium resource. Funding a study to determine whether the metals can be economically separated from the rock (metallurgy). If economical, this resource could provide from 35 to over 100 highly paid jobs and generate multimillion dollar annual tribal revenues for over 20 years.
<i>Metlakatla</i>	Assisted the community in opening the Yellow Hill Aggregate Pit to supply aggregate material for a variety of infrastructure projects. Pit development is underway.
<i>Mi'kmaq</i>	Identification of future aggregate resources.
<i>Morongo</i>	Provided Tribe with maps of mineable aggregate resources and information on tax advantages that accrue to Tribes in California.
<i>Moapa</i>	In-depth economic analysis of potential agreement with White Cement for construction of a cement plant.
<i>Penobscot</i>	Identification of future aggregate resources.
<i>Pine Ridge</i>	Assisting the Tribe with setting up a business corporation to mine tribal aggregate.
<i>Pleasant Point Passamaquoddy</i>	Tribe wants to buy an old aggregate pit and requested economic feasibility determination. Tribe is also pursuing identification of new aggregate sites.
<i>Quinault</i>	In process of determining the economic feasibility of a crushed stone aggregate resource.
<i>San Xavier</i>	Calculated operational expenditures for moving a gold oxide stockpile to a processing facility.
<i>Tohono O'odham</i>	Interpreted soils map data to the San Xavier and San Lucy Districts for use in locating quality sand and gravel resources for construction aggregate projects. Assistance negotiating a lease agreement with Granite Construction to mine decorative stone and other aggregate products
<i>Torrez-Martinez</i>	Provided Tribe with business infrastructure options and costs, including capital and operational expenditure, in setting up a tribal aggregate business.
<i>Warm Springs</i>	Assisting the Tribe with the potential development of three different quarries.

Vertical Integration

GRA is demonstrating to other mineral-rich Tribes the value of starting their own vertically integrated quarry companies. On most reservations, Tribes lease valuable minerals to outsiders in return for royalty payments, abandoning to non-tribal lessees and suppliers the greater share of profits from mining, processing, and delivering the mineral. “Vertical integration” is the strategy of combining into one company two or more stages of production usually operated by separate companies. This strategy has given GRA greater control of all stages of production, improved supply chain coordination, captured downstream profits, expanded core competencies, and led to more jobs for tribal members.

The California Department of Transportation and the LA Department of Water and Power have approached GRA about supplying aggregate for general highway, dam, aqueduct, and environmental remediation projects. Inyo County, the China Lake Naval Weapons Base, the BLM, and US Forest Service have also become customers. The need for aggregates is especially acute in markets reachable by GRA, where the Tribe has identified demand for at least five million tons of its rock over the next decade. With the closure of a nearby BLM mining operation, there are no competing mining projects in the 200-mile-long Owens Valley where GRA operates.

GRA’s success is also a story of federal agencies collaborating on a place-based economic development strategy involving an array of interventions on the reservation. The Tribe seeded GRA with \$1 million in economic development funds. But the U.S. Housing and Urban Development funded housing for workers; the U.S. Economic Development Administration paid for the tribal travel plaza expansion; and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is supporting construction of a reservoir. GRA’s raw materials are a byproduct of the reservation’s place-based projects. Marketable aggregate was excavated during construction of a casino, travel plaza, and gas station, with more coming as the Tribe excavates for a park, roadside truck center, hotel, the reservoir, and other projects.

Tasks Going Forward

Beginning general outreach to all new Solid Mineral EMDP grant awardees.

Opportunities

Staff assists Tribes and allottees in assessing and developing their solid mineral resources, evaluating economic viability of development, and bringing resources into production and profitable businesses. The result is improved infrastructure, jobs, and increased sustainable tribal revenues.

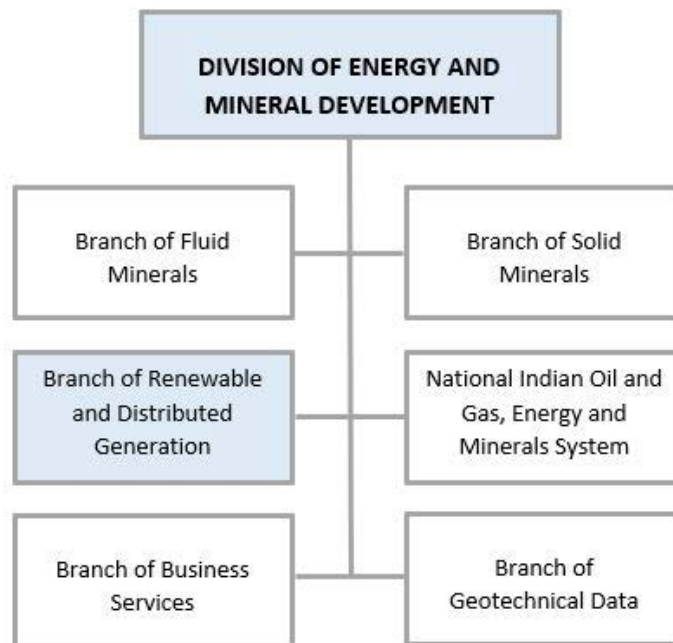
Challenges

- Procedures for use of the new grant tracking system (Grant Solutions) are unclear.
- Onboarding new employees results in significant issues with PIV cards, laptops, and software.
- COVID-19 and the FY 2022 Divisions transition to BIA brought about more travel restrictions and led to less tribal engagement.
- Turnover of tribal contacts and tribal positions are an ongoing concern.

DEMD, Branch of Renewable and Distributed Generation

Renewable and distributed energy represents an opportunity for Tribes to utilize their local resource to create sustainable economies. However, there is no one-size-fits-all solution and identifying the most effective options can be a challenging process. Our staff of engineers, economists, business development specialists and natural resource specialists are available to help.

The Branch of Renewable and Distributed Generation (BRAD) is committed to helping Tribes formulate and implement energy development strategies that best fit with their unique circumstances and long-term visions.



Accomplishments

Commodity Teams

The Branch is subdivided into several commodity teams that provide specialized technical project support and monitor industry trends with the aim to inform tribal and BIA leadership about important issues and/or opportunities for energy development on Indian land. Accomplishments by team are follow below:

Energy Resource Primers

This last year, all commodity teams developed Energy Resource Primers, which provide a preliminary overview of energy resource development opportunities and key considerations for determining project viability. These primers are now available for viewing on the Branch webpage:

<https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots/demd/renewable-energy>.

Solar

DEMD's Solar Team is expanding use of solar analysis software programs, such as System Advisor Model (SAM) and HelioScope, allowing for an increased capacity to perform technical assistance for Tribes who wish to explore solar development opportunities.

Microgrids

The Microgrid Team was able to gain access to Hybrid Optimization of Multiple Energy Resources (HOMER) software, which will enable DEMD to perform in-depth analysis on the technical and economic viability of microgrid integration for tribes.

Hydro

DEMD's Hydropower Team has begun collaborations with the [Department of Energy's Water Power Technologies Office](#), Idaho National Laboratory, and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory on best practices to determine the feasibility of hydropower development at a broad level.

Geothermal

The Geothermal Team completed the first draft of the Geothermal Roadmap. They also participated in the [National Renewable Energy Laboratory](#) (NREL) Geothermal Interagency Collaboration Taskforce, providing input on pathways for accelerating permitting and deployment of geothermal projects.

Biomass

DEMD's Biomass Team continued research efforts for best practices for biomass resource evaluation methods.

Wind

DEMD's Wind Team expanded use of wind analysis software, such as System Advisor Model (SAM), increasing capacity to perform technical assistance for Tribes that wish to explore wind energy development opportunities. The Wind Team also conducted research on laser imaging, detection and ranging (LiDAR) systems regarding resource data collection and accuracy of the technology.

Natural Gas/Distributed Generation

The Distributed Generation Team has been on multiple facility tours with the most recent being at the Red Cedar Natural Gas Treatment Facility in Ignacio, Colorado. This facility is owned by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. These tours allow the team to learn more about the technology, equipment and safety regulations that are associated with natural gas generation, treatment, and distribution.

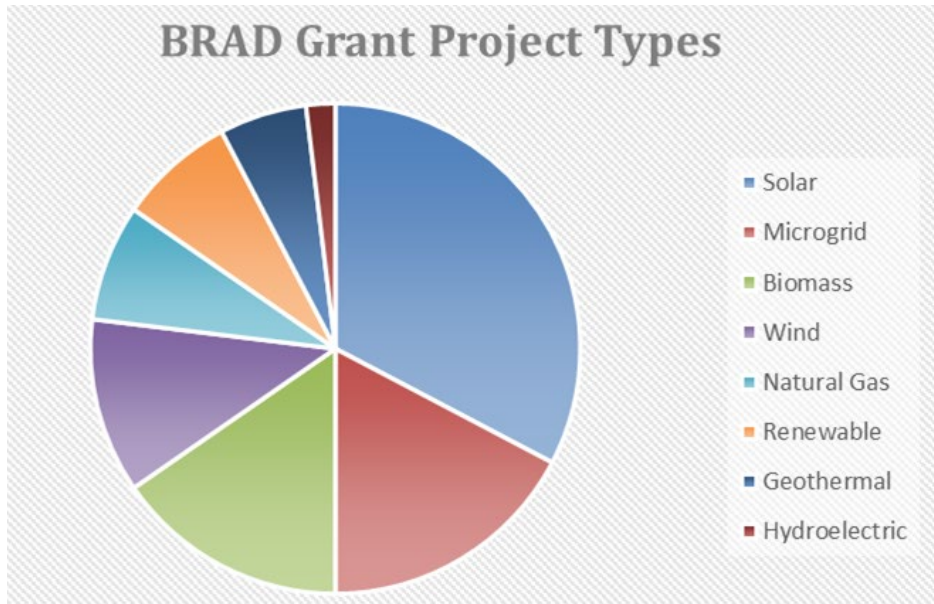
Hydrogen

The Hydrogen Team has added new members from different Branches within DEMD, with a wide array of different disciplines and backgrounds to help better provide information on hydrogen to interested tribes. The Team drafted a roadmap that has information on different aspects of hydrogen such as transportation, storage, production, blending and much more. The Team is currently working on formulating an economic model that tribes can use to identify the benefits of hydrogen production and distribution in their respective areas.

Grant Assistance Projects

Over FY 2022 BRAD was active on 52 Energy and Mineral Development (EMDP) grant projects with 47 Tribes nationwide. Of these, six have successfully completed project development work, with high likelihood to develop 4-5 MW of power within the next few years. An additional eight projects have been closed out as either not viable at this time or requiring further assessments.

FY 2022 EMDP Grant Project Activity by Resources type



Solar and microgrid projects represent almost 50% of active projects. In addition to the EMDP grant projects mentioned above, BRAD also provides support to 17 projects under the Tribal Energy Development Capacity (TEDC) program where many Tribes are evaluating the feasibility of tribal utility authority formation.

Tasks Going Forward

FY 2022 marked a year of unprecedented funding opportunities and policy changes through enactment of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act. These laws are, in part, designed to accelerate advancement towards a clean energy future. For Tribes, this means there will be a growing number of opportunities to support their clean energy goals, and BRAD is striving to help Tribes plan for and maximize participation.

The Branch's priority efforts will be centered on:

- Advancing Tribal energy sovereignty and local energy resiliency,
- Advocating for Tribal participation in the national electric vehicle infrastructure deployment and,
- Opportunities for increased tribal participation in large-scale clean energy deployment

Going forward, 38 of the 52 active grant projects from FY 2022 will continue work into FY 2023. An additional 15-30 grant projects are expected to be added into this portfolio due to the \$4.8 million appropriations earmark in FY 2022 to support tribal clean energy projects. This funding is expected to support roughly 10-15 new project awards from the [Tribal Energy Development Capacity \(TEDC\) Grant](#) program and 15-20 new projects from the [Energy and Mineral Development Program \(EMDP\) Grant](#) program.

Clean energy project funding is expected to increase, and additional EMDP and TEDC grant opportunities are expected to become available in FY 2023. The Branch will continue marketing and outreach efforts to help Tribes learn more about how EMDP and TEDC grant programs can support their clean energy development goals.

Technical Assistance

Heading into FY 2023, BRAD has 10 technical assistance requests in queue from Tribes with interests in solar, energy storage, electric vehicles, geothermal, and biomass. This number is expected to continue to grow throughout the year.

The Branch looks forward to this growing interest and will continue to build internal capabilities for higher quality deliverables to requesting Tribes. This will include a spectrum of improvements with application of technical software programs as well as tribal engagement and relationship building practices.

Challenges

The influx of clean energy funding opportunities and incentives will put increasing demand on BRAD's services. Additional staff will be needed to ensure tribal requests are promptly fulfilled. High interest rates and equipment costs may have a negative impact on the economic viability of tribal energy projects. Tribes may need additional support for financing project deployment, or they may prioritize other projects over energy investments.

Opportunities

More emphasis has been put on local and reliable energy for small communities to deal with climate issues and inflated prices; renewable energy can be a part of a more resilient, localized energy system. With the Inflation Reduction Act being signed into law, Tribes now can take advantage of several incentives surrounding renewable energy development.

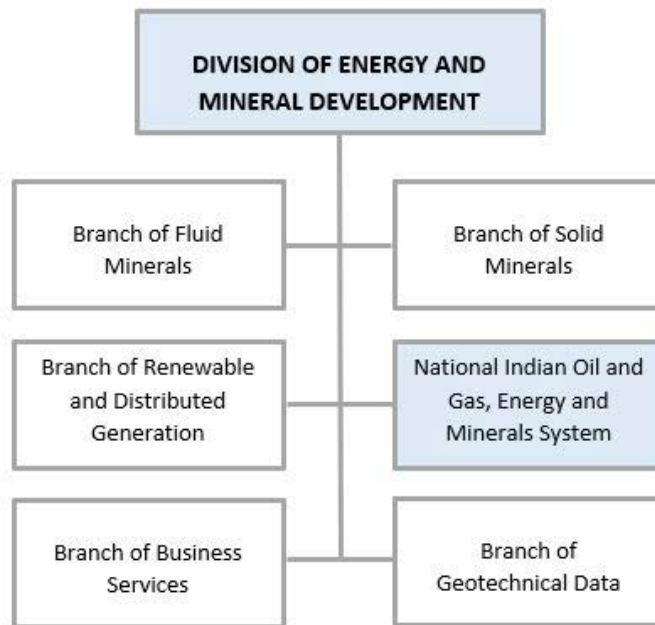
Best Practices

The BRAD aims to prepare better Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and provide more technical assistance to Tribes. The goal is to help Tribes to (1) make informed decisions about their energy options; (2) improve the effectiveness of DEMD's grant programs; and (3) increase successful development of energy resources.

DEMD, National Indian Oil & Gas, Energy and Minerals System (NIOGEMS)

The National Indian Oil and Gas, Energy and Minerals System (NIOGEMS) is exclusively available to Tribal offices and Tribal-supporting federal entities including the Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs (AS-IA), the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR), and the Appraisal and Valuation Services Office (AVSO).

NIOGEMS staff provides user training and support. The software, data, training, and support are all provided at no cost to a requesting Tribe or federal office, bureau, or agency that serves American Indian and Alaska Native communities.



Key Data Sources used in NIOGEMS include the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), United States Census Bureau (Census), Hart Energy and IHS Markit

The Division of Energy and Mineral Development (DEMD) owns, maintains, and operates the National Indian Oil & Gas, Energy and Minerals System (NIOGEMS). Built for ease of use, NIOGEMS is a map-oriented computer application for managing the development of tribal and allotted trust resources. NIOGEMS is a unique application that unifies data from multiple discrete datasets, sources, and systems. The application is designed as a reader for the unified datasets presenting the desired information in concise report and map-based forms. The purpose of the software is to provide tribal resource managers one application to view all the data needed to manage their trust energy and mineral resources. The software is available free of cost to tribal employees and federal employees with a trust responsibility.

Accomplishments

The NIOGEMS Team is focused on two major avenues to success:

Software Upgrades

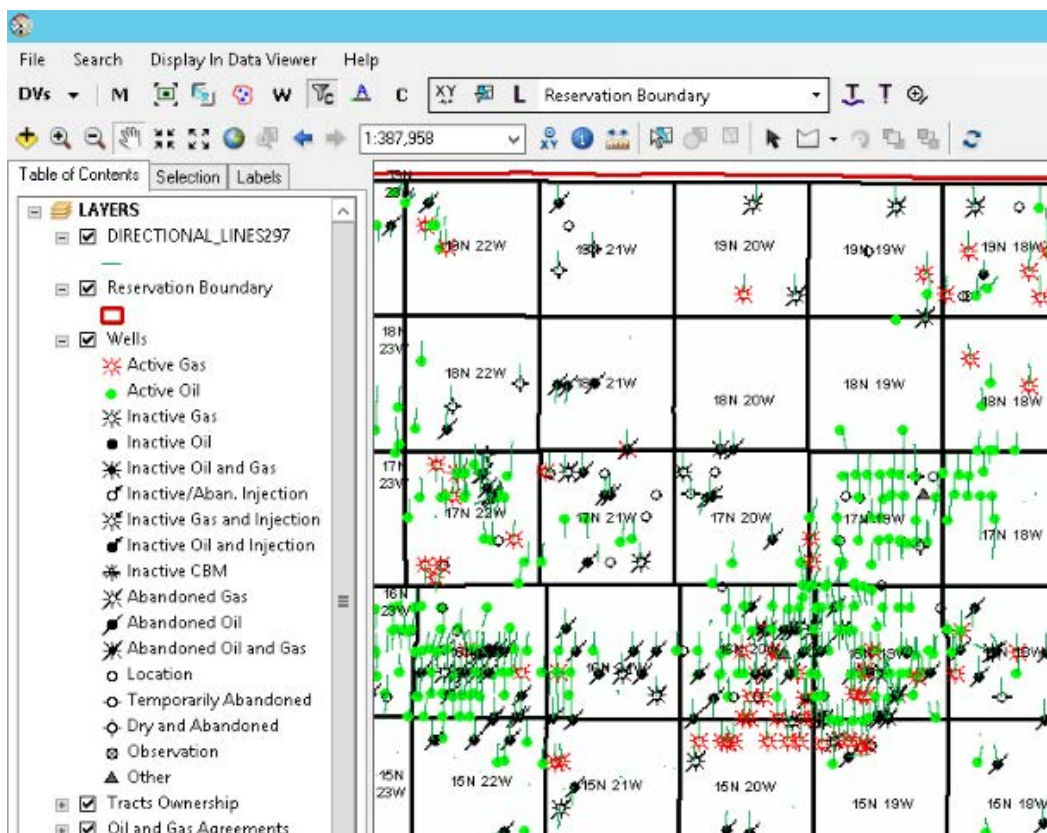
The most obvious is to continue to maintain and improve the software (two software upgrades were completed in FY 2022). Upgrades included adding new features such as the Rights-of-Way Module, Soils Survey Data, and increasing the number of renewable energy data layers. They also included necessary maintenance like bug fixes and changing the coding to support BLM's Agreement data migration from LR2000 to MLRS.

Growth in Software Users and Reservations Added

The second major avenue is to ensure users have access to the datasets they need, and the training to know how to use the software effectively. 20 new federal users were added, and seventy-five users were trained in FY 2022 (which, after FY 2021, is the second highest annual amount on record).

Growing the users and number of users trained is accomplished through outreach, as well as making more reservations available in the software. In FY 2022, 12 new reservations were added to the software, bringing the total to 78. Also, two new tribal installations were added, bringing the total number to eight.

Screenshot of the Map Viewer in NIOGEMS - Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal land



Tasks Going Forward

NIOGEMS System Upgrades

Tasks going forward mirror the accomplishments of FY 2022 in that the software will continue to be upgraded, and users will continue to be trained and added to the system. The largest upgrade currently being evaluated is adding the [ONRR Oil and Gas Operations Report](#) (OGOR) production data and Osage production data from Osage Suite into NIOGEMS, as well as linking this data to the data NIOGEMS currently pulls from BIA's Trust Asset and Accounting Management System (TAAMS) Database. Being able to cross reference data from these systems will allow users to analyze trust assets in greater detail and more easily.

Federally hosted server for Tribes

To train and add more users, more reservations will be supported by NIOGEMS, but the largest upgrade will be adding a federally hosted server for tribal users. Currently, Tribes have NIOGEMS installed on the tribal servers located on the reservation that makes keeping the software available and up to date difficult. It is not uncommon for multiple systems to be down due to issues out of the NIOGEMS Team's control. By hosting tribal users, NIOGEMS will be more reliable and accessible than ever before, and it is anticipated the numbers of Tribes utilizing the software will increase substantially.

Challenges

NIOGEMS is a constantly evolving software system that must change to provide better service to users, which translates to better management of trust resources. Challenges experienced and anticipated are:

- Maintaining tribal installations until the federal server solution is implemented.
- Understanding and implementing the process of granting access to NIOGEMS to non-BIA Employees who have a trust responsibility to Tribes.
- Gaining permission to add new datasets to NIOGEMS that are not owned or maintained by the BIA but are needed by users to manage trust resources.
- Outreach to Tribes that have never heard of the software system but could benefit from its use.

Opportunities

NIOGEMS has key opportunities to provide more and better service to its federal and tribal users including:

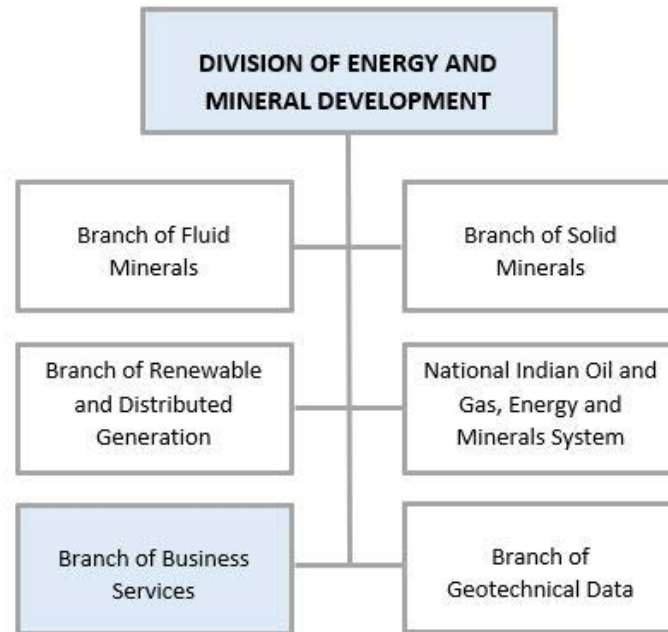
- Continuing to upgrade the software's datasets, capabilities, and functionality
- Continuing to expand the number of reservations covered by the software system
- Increase tribal use through ease of access with the federal server solution
- Increase tribal outreach to spread awareness of the benefits of NIOGEMS

Best Practices

NIOGEMS will continue to support and listen to users to ensure the software is meeting current expectations and needs while growing to provide better support in future versions of the software.

DEMD, Branch of Business Services

The Branch of Business Services (BSB) ensures each Tribe's long-term plans are well developed and in full alignment with Tribal values and economic development goals. The BSB's expert team of business consulting professionals advise Tribes in the evaluation of new business structures and the adoption of critical business legal infrastructure. The team also guides Tribes through the process of establishing new ventures that facilitate the development of energy and mineral projects while focusing on generating new jobs and income throughout Indian Country.



Accomplishments

Ft. Independence Grinding Rocks Aggregate Business Technical Assistance (TA)

The Business Services Team assisted the Tribe in the establishment of an aggregate business operation branded as Grinding Rocks Aggregate (GRA). GRA has subsequently won a bid with the Los Angeles Division of Water and Power to annually provide ~\$3.5 million in aggregate material over three years, a \$10.89MM contract value. GRA is also in final negotiations to close on \$4 million in financing.

Vertical Integration Businesses

The Business Services Branch is also helping GRA to vertically integrate, via startup of a trucking business and a cement plant (possible acquisition). The trucking business will service lucrative hauling contracts that GRA will require to deliver material. BSB is also providing economic analysis to evaluate expansion into cement processing and sales to support tribal construction needs and to service demand in the region from the California Department of Transportation (both highway maintenance and near-term major expansion projects).

Wind River Energy Commission

The Business Services Team provided TA for the takeover of the Circle Ridge Oil Field, which is expected to generate \$18 million to \$22.5 million in revenues per year.

Rolf Lake and Sheldon Dome Fields

The Team assisted in TA to determine the value and liability associated with production in Rolf Lake and Sheldon Dome fields. This analysis was used by the Commission in deciding to take over the fields. The outcome is not finalized but the Commission is moving forward with the takeover.

Steamboat Butte Field

The Team is assisting, under a TA request, in the valuation and risk assessment associated with the production of the Steamboat Butte field. This is being performed to assist the Commission in moving forward on the takeover of the field when the lease expires at the close of the year.

Maverick Springs Field

The Team is further assisting, under an additional TA request, in the valuation and risk assessment associated with the production of the Maverick Springs field. This is being performed to assist the Commission in making the decision to acquire the current operator's ownership in the field. An acquisition would increase the Tribe's ownership from a 50% net profits interest to a 100% ownership position. The acquisition would also eliminate the current leaseholder from any further operations on the reservation.

DEMD continues to assist the Eastern Shoshone and the Northern Arapahoe Tribes to achieve their stated strategy of full reservation consolidation of all oil & gas operations to maximize tribal jobs and income while utilizing "world class" environmental best practices. Moreover, the Tribes intend to capture the full economic benefits of all incremental growth potential, including opportunities for carbon sequestration and hydrogen generation.

The BSB Team is providing production, reservoir, and value analysis of several other potential oil and gas field acquisition targets on the Wind River Reservation that will continue well into FY 2023.

Southern Ute Methane Seep Mitigation Project

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) is engaged in the development of a Methane Seep Mitigation Project (a \$100 million capital expenditure). This is a regional environmental issue spanning 100 miles, crossing two states, three reservations, and two counties.

BSB is providing technical assistance, working on both tribal and regional scale (Four Corners) economics. Grant funding was provided to conduct the initial reservoir engineering evaluation. BSB is currently working with a tribal engineer to draft project scope and development timelines. DEMD is engaging two other Tribes in the next fiscal year (FY 2023) to suggest additional grant applications that can further refine the reservoir engineering required for a complete mitigation solution. This is the most readily identifiable methane seep in the US.

Jicarilla Mineral Development Agreement

The BSB Team is evaluating current value of oil and gas royalties on tribal lands that will give an outlook on future cash flow from oil and gas revenues and tribal severance tax. The goal is to identify upside potential on Tribal lands to increase cash flow and job/economic opportunities. The BSB Team assisted in the review of a Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) between the Jicarilla Apache Nation and Jicarilla Apache Energy Company (aka Blackhawk). The MDA was reviewed, and comments were submitted to assist in developing an agreement that would be beneficial to the Tribe.

Outreach and collaboration with university partners

The Business Services Team and the Colorado School of Mines are coordinating on the use of National Science Foundation (NSF) funds on projects that support tribal needs and will deliver technical training to students and tribal partners.

BSB and the Solid Minerals Branch are also working with the University of Wyoming to evaluate coal-to-hydrogen potential as a tribal solution to lost income from electric utility sales for coal-fired power generation. The project targets coal-impacted Tribes for a pilot project.

Mentorship/Staff Development

Senior Members of the Business Services Team are mentoring less senior technical staff on asset evaluation and economic analysis.

BSB Marketing Team:

Website Modernization

The BSB Marketing Team has recently worked to update content, layout, and designs for the DEMD website. Recent updates include the addition of branch chief headshots, new general contact information incorporating the transfer of programs from the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (OIEED) to BIA Office of Trust Services (OTS), <https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots/demd> and updated content on DEMD's grant and technical assistance offerings.

Each branch's homepage features their major accomplishments, which can include grants awarded, their amounts, number of current projects, and number of TA projects. Also listed on each branch's homepage is a menu of "Services and Resources for Tribes" to improve ease of use. Tribes can now find direct phone numbers to a branch chief or send an email to the branch email address, which is monitored by staff.

Regional Project Summaries

The BSB Marketing team completed the 2022 Regional Project Summaries. Work included compiling, editing and design/layout. The full packet of Regional Project Summaries has been shared with OTS leadership and disseminated to all BIA Regional Offices to ensure they have up-to-date information regarding DEMD's efforts in their areas.

DEMD Branding Efforts

The BSB Marketing Team has provided updated design and branding assistance across all DEMD Branches, providing modernized presentation templates, event materials (Brochures, popup displays, and promotional items, etc.) that have been used at conference, speaking events, and tribal meetings.

Tasks Going Forward

The Business Service Branch has a wide array of business advisory services and marketing tasks that will carry over from FY 2022 to FY 2023. Continued Technical Assistance will be provided to the 14 Tribes and 40 active projects that the Branch is currently engaged in providing critical development assistance. Much of this TA work is a partnership between DEMD and the Tribes being served and does not follow a fiscal year cycle, but rather, follows a multi-year development cycle. Furthermore, the BSB Marketing Team will continue to provide a wide array of marketing, branding, and event logistics assistance across all DEMD's Branches throughout FY 2023.

Challenges

Challenges exist due to the high volume of technical assistance projects and grants to be monitored. Currently, the BSB has one federal position and staffing is a significant concern. The remainder of the labor effort is covered by a contract which provides ten additional contractor positions. Due to the diversity of the work the BSB does, providing stable staffing capable of managing significant workload is always a challenge.

Opportunities

Interagency collaboration is a key opportunity for the BSB. Throughout FY 2022, new legislation, like [American Rescue Plan Act](#) (ARPA), [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) (BIL) and [Inflation Reduction Act](#) (IRA), has provided a vast number of new government programming and dollars, which are now available to tribes to assist in the development of their trust energy and mineral assets. DEMD is a key asset, working with a diverse set of Federal agencies ([DOE](#), [USDA](#), [EDA](#), [USBR](#), [FEMA](#), [Treasury](#), etc.), in their efforts to outreach to and engage with Tribes. BSB is working diligently to take advantage of the many interagency collaboration opportunities and is poised to be an excellent liaison between federal agencies that lack BSB's close working relationships with Tribes. Moving forward the BSB will work directly with Tribes to access new government programs and dollars, now made available by recent legislation, and will also work with those agencies that wish to serve Indian Country.

The Treasury Direct Pay in lieu of the Investment Tax Credit (ITC) and Production Tax Credit (PTC) for energy development and storage that came out of the Inflation Reduction Act will be a game changer for tribal energy development. The BSB will be tracking IRS guidance to advise tribes on how to utilize the Direct Pay Program most effectively.

Best Practices

Workload Transparency

BSB utilizes a Technical Assistance Tracker, an Excel spreadsheet that allows the branch to keep track of which Tribes have requested TA, types of projects, project status and critical next steps. Many Tribes that have requested technical assistance for only one project have expanded to multiple projects as the BSB team analyzes opportunities.

The Business Services & Marketing Team convene weekly, both internally and with DEMD Leadership, sharing updates and highlights of weekly work the Branch is doing. Meeting notes/minutes, Technical Assistance Tracker and the weekly agenda are sent out to all BSB staff so everyone is informed.

Sharepoint Site

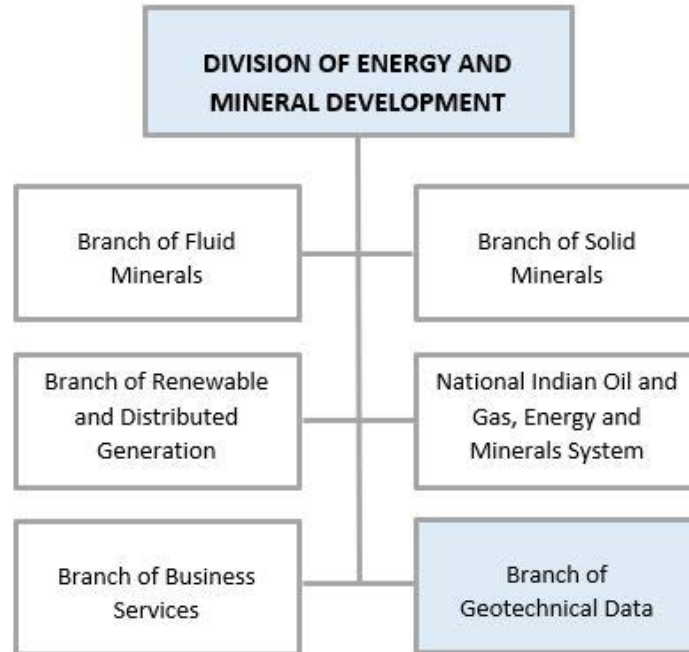
BSB has been working with IT to create a designated SharePoint website, Teams Channel and Email group to facilitate effective communication.

Marketing Team Events Planning & Presentations

The BSB Marketing Team began implementing “Prep Meetings” with DEMD Branches for presentation timing, flow, and technical assistance with Power Point edits. This has increased confidence in the material being shared as well as allowed for DEMD staff to pick up on any last-minute edits needed before presenting live to a Tribe, conference workshop or as a guest speaker at a live or online event. Marketing also hosts lessons-learned debriefs.

DEMD, Geotechnical Data Services Branch

The Branch of Geotechnical Data Services (GDS) provides support for the Division of Energy and Mineral Development's (DEMD) work on Tribal grant and technical assistance projects. To assist Tribes and individual Indian landowners with energy and economic development goals, GDS works closely with each of the DEMD Branches to research and develop geographic information systems (GIS) datasets and cartographic (map) products that show energy demand, existing infrastructure, and energy generation potential.



Accomplishments

Designed over 80 maps to support the Division of Energy and Mineral Development's grant programs and technical assistance projects, serving more than 40 federally recognized Tribes and Alaska Native Villages.

- Produced 12 new tribal databases for use in the National Indian Oil and Gas, Energy and Minerals System (NIOGEMS).
- Analyzed over 10,000 lease and ownership records for accuracy and digitized the records for display on Division maps and in NIOGEMS.
- Acquired new seismic data and reprocessed older seismic data for several Tribes performing exploration and development activities for new oil and gas resources on their lands.

Initiatives

The Branch of Geotechnical Data Services (GDS) provides support for the Division of Energy and Mineral Development's (DEMD) work on tribal grant and technical assistance projects to assist Tribes and individual Indian landowners with energy and economic development goals.

- Works closely with each of the DEMD Branches to research and develop geographic information systems (GIS) datasets and cartographic (map) products that show energy demand, existing infrastructure, and energy generation potential.
- Focused on research and data collection in a few key areas, namely bulking up DEMD's stores of information for non-powered dams, generators, biomass carbon stocks, and alternative fuel corridors on or adjacent to tribal lands. Data staff worked with engineers to determine relevant statistical thresholds for sufficient resources for economic and energy development.
- Worked with engineers and geologists from all DEMD's Branches to provide insight for a variety of feasibility studies, lease sales, business plans, etc.
- Processed and uploaded data layers for 12 additional reservations for NIOGEMS. Producing data for NIOGEMS includes the collection, analysis, and processing of datasets for well production, tribal land ownership, public land survey system, high resolution imagery, digital elevation models, and other geospatial administrative, energy and resource datasets. Several existing NIOGEMS reservations were also updated, including improvements to over 10,000 lease and ownership records displayed in NIOGEMS.
- Analyzed and displayed data in more than 80 map products. These maps were used for initial feasibility planning for solar and wind projects, economic considerations for business development, and presentations with tribal representatives and/or other government agencies to aid in documenting and sharing the progress of ongoing energy and economic development projects.
- Purchased new seismic data, reprocessed older seismic data, and continued storing and protecting existing tribal exploration data.

Tunica Biloxi Tribe

Reprocessed 135 miles of 2D seismic lines in-house for the Tribe. Licensed 57 miles at a cost of \$71,320 through Energy and Mineral Development Program (EMDP) grant funds.

Ft. Berthold, Navajo, Osage, and Ute Mountain Ute Reservations

Fulfilled multiple tribal seismic data requests.

Wind River Reservation

Reprocessed key seismic lines near Circle Ridge Field and reprocessed Steamboat Butte 3D survey on the Wind River Reservation. Completed seismic processing parameter testing near Circle Ridge Field in advance of a potential seismic acquisition project in FY 2023.

Jicarilla Reservation

Performed a detailed geophysical data review of seismic on the Jicarilla Reservation.

Southern Ute and Fort Peck

Monitored the execution and closeout of EMDP grants.

Other Activity

Completed the migration of geophysical projects from a stand-alone server to a network server. Established a remote connection to a Linux machine to continue processing seismic data during the pandemic.

Tasks Going Forward

- Provide instruction aids to staff on where to locate data.
- Implement internal standard operating procedures for staff use on handling data.
- Cleaning of digital data storage areas.
- Continued expansion of NIOGEMS databases.
- Update current databases with new FY2022/2023 datasets.

Challenges

- The large size and volume of data makes it difficult to maintain and locate data easily. Also, it's more difficult to categorize and ensure data accuracy, consistency, data types and formats.
- Procedures for handling data sent to outside parties upon request by Tribes. Confidentiality agreements are in place, but enforcement of having data returned on time is challenging.
- Lack of dataset availability or datasets may not include the required geographic information for mapping or project analysis.

Opportunities

Establish good governance of data -- establishing rules on how DEMD staff use and handle data, and especially when data is sent to a Tribe upon request. This is more difficult when a tribe wishes a private entity to have copies of data.

Best Practices

Effective management, using existing data management tools and techniques. Incorporate best practices of data governance; educate staff who use data; provide easy access and standard operating procedures regarding accessing data; and provide templates for agreement letters, confidentiality contracts, rules of handling data and for providing security.

Division of Environmental Services and Cultural Resources Management (DESCRM)



Mission

The mission of the Branch of Environmental and Cultural Resources Management (BECRM) is to provide advice and assistance regarding environmental laws, environmental regulations, and their effect on trust land's environmental and cultural resources.

Who We Serve

The programs and policies of BECRM ensure that the environmental, cultural, and historical resources of American Indian and Alaskan Native Tribes and individuals are served by federal environmental laws and regulations. This Division includes Environmental Services, Cultural Resources Management and Tribal Climate Resilience Branches.

The Division of Environmental Services and Cultural Resources Management continues to provide central leadership support for several of the Administration's key priorities, including development and implementation of a large-scale national tribal climate program and strengthening protections of environmental and cultural resources. The Division is a newly organized division and is in a growth period as it recruits and onboards new leadership and personnel.



DESCRM, Branch of Environmental Services

The Branch of Environmental Services provides leadership, guidance, policy, and support for protection of environmental resources working with federal, state, and Tribal governments to ensure compliance with environmental law on Indian trust lands, restricted lands and federal facilities owned or operated by Indian Affairs. This Branch offers oversight and guidance for implementing a range of environmental laws and regulations, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act and the National Historic Preservation Act.



Accomplishments

Environmental Disposal Liabilities

Provided guidance and approved funding to regions for ongoing work and future removal of Environmental Disposal Liabilities (EDL) sites requiring longer cleanup. Reviewed all EDL sites quarterly to ensure at least 90% accuracy of the projects and the relevant documentation. Reviewed sites for compliance and to suggest possible remedial/removal actions that would accelerate the removal of the sites from the DOI EDL list.

Environmental Justice Air Quality Project

Finalized a \$750,000 Interagency Agreement with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife to support an Environmental Justice Air Quality Project. BIA and USF&W collaborated with the Isleta Pueblo tribal government, the Environmental Protection Agency's Air Quality program, and Bureau of Indian Education's (BIE) Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute on development of this project.

Environmental Management Assessment and Performance Audits

Facilitated contract support to the Regions to complete 55 Environmental Management Assessment and Performance (EMAP) Audits and an additional 55 virtual EMAP follow up site visits at BIA/BIE tribal schools.

BIE Service Line Agreement

Provided intensive focus and support to the finalization of a Service Line Agreement with the BIE to transfer environmental management system and environmental audit (EMS/EMAP) duties for tribal schools to BIE. Going forward BIA will continue to provide technical assistance to BIE as it fully assumes implementation of this important program.

NEPA Reviews

Completed NEPA reviews at BIA facilities for all program actions subject to federal approvals and participated in review of three remediation project requests for cleanup to comply with environmental requirements and provided recommendations for approval to DOI Office Remediation and Damage Assessment.

New Categorical Exclusions

Working with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and DOI's Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance, the Branch drafted two new National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Categorical Exclusions to support a more efficient environmental review process. These drafts packages are under review by the DOI's Solicitors Office and CEQ.

NEPA Tracker 2.0

Provided critical support to implementation of NEPA Tracker 2.0, a database that allows quick query into the status of NEPA reviews. Reviewed IT hosting agreement. Assured access and provided technical assistance for regional points of contact.

Training

Conducted 5 virtual environmental training sessions for BIA personnel on National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Safe Drinking Water Act, Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, solid waste management, and wastewater.

Asbestos

Worked with the Division of Financial Reporting and Analysis (FRA) to report the BIA liabilities associated with actual and potential asbestos contamination.

Environmental Projects

Reviewed and approved environmental projects and expenditures for the Division of Facilities, Maintenance, & Construction (DFMC) - AHERA inspections, fuel spills, groundwater cleanup, mold, and asbestos removal.

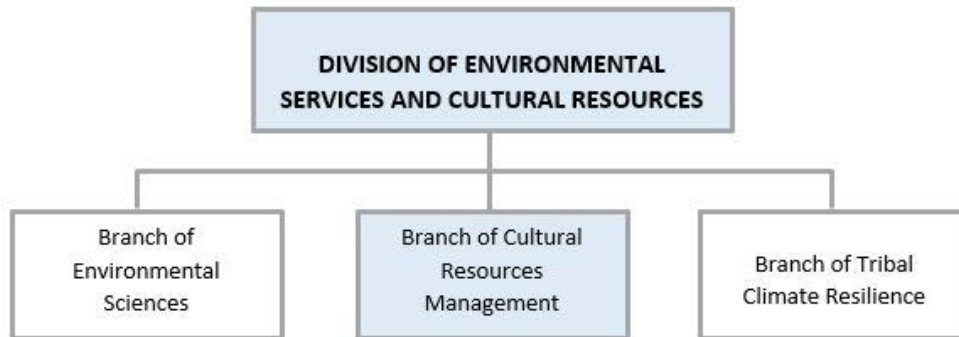
Challenges, Opportunities and Best Practices

In FY 2023, the Branch will bolster integration of Environmental Justice and Indigenous Knowledge into Bureau activities through hiring of additional experienced personnel and in partnership with the Pathways program.

Coordination between the Regions and Central Office will be enhanced via regular meetings with the Regional Environmental Scientists.

DESCRM, Branch of Cultural Resources Management

The Branch of Cultural Resources Management provides leadership, guidance, policy, and support for the protection of cultural resources. This includes BIA museum collections management, curation of artwork and artifacts.



Accomplishments

Worked with BIA-Information Technology (IT) staff to complete a BIA museum inventory and worked with the DOI Museum program to facilitate BIA collections management, including curation of artwork/artifacts at Main Interior Building (MIB) for DOI, Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs (ASIA), and other Bureau Offices.

Managed grants with ten non-BIA museums, including completion of research and inventories required by the [Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act](#), as well as rehousing, and cataloging archeological collections. Reviewed five museum and university cooperative agreements to assure proper management of BIA collections.

- Submitted a Draft Notice of Inventory of Completion collaborating with the University of Denver and the Navajo Nation
- Submitted a Notice of Inventory of Repatriation with the University of Denver and the Eastern Shoshone Tribe.
- Completed a transfer of custody for human remains and cultural items that came out of the Black Mesa Archaeological Project to the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe.

The Branch worked directly and regularly with the Native American Tribal Preservation Officers (NATHPO) to discuss, support, and collaborate on opportunities and challenges related to their tribal historic preservation programs.

The Museum Program provided key support in the preparations and grand opening of the [USDA Tribal Hall of Nations](#) grand opening. Branch staff were invited to serve as MC for the opening ceremony, detailing the history of the Tribal Hall of Nations at DOI and the importance of Tribal recognition in DC. Additionally, working with the Department's media team, Branch staff produced a high-quality video detailing the development of the DOI Tribal Hall of Nations to share with other federal agencies and interested partners.

The Branch collaborated with BIA Justice Services to staff a table at the Santa Fe Indian Market to display the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People One Earring Exhibit and provide information to the public about the BIA Museum program.

The Museum Program supported a special event in Washington DC, in which the Department of Interior hosted students from the Gila River Indian Community. The students and their chaperones met with Department leadership and were provided of a tour of Interior offices, Native murals, the BIA museum, and information about the Tribal Hall of Nations.

Challenges, Opportunities and Best Practices

The [BIA Museum Program](#) is looking ahead to showcase exhibits involving indigenous perspectives and traditional care and conservation practices. It plans to expand collaborative work with Native communities across the country.

The [Interior Museum Program](#) has issued a contract to IBM to develop a next-generation museum collections management system database to support tracking and care of Department of Interior Museum collections. The new system will replace the current software which is outdated and difficult to use. The Branch as a stakeholder and user, will be involved in sessions focusing on specific components, product roadmap, and expectations of the software as the collections management system is being developed and deployed.

COVID impacted the program's ability to conduct site inspections of museum collections, which are key to the evaluation of item condition and implementation of mitigation measures to address any deficiencies in care. The program looks forward to a robust program of in-person inspection in FY 2023.

DESCRM, Branch of Tribal Climate Resilience

The Branch of Tribal Climate Resilience (TCR) partners with Tribal Nations and Bureau of Indian Affairs agencies to incorporate climate considerations into their policies by providing funding, training, technical assistance, and organizational support.

Tribes can leverage TCR programs to further support their existing operations, program planning, project design, as well as Indigenous and Traditional Knowledges into their management and protection of Trust resources and Tribal economies.



Accomplishments

The Tribal Climate Resilience (TCR) Branch is currently expanding in areas supporting training and educational opportunities, technical assistance at the regions, and implementing Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) opportunities for community relocation and climate adaptation strategies.

Listening Sessions and Tribal Consultation

TCR held three listening sessions in October-December 2021 focused on Tribal Climate Resilience Program (now Branch) and supported three other listening sessions focused on tribal discretionary grants through partnership with the Office of Policy Analysis and Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights. The feedback from these listening sessions played a key role in enhancing several efforts, including the identification of new categories of funding and initiatives to support capacity building.

TCR also participated in the formal consultation on funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for climate change adaptation and relocation. The Branch developed a Spend Plan and incorporated input from the listening sessions to make improvements responsive to tribal feedback.

\$216M in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funds

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provided a total of \$216 million to the BIA Tribal Climate Resilience programs to be spent over a five-year period. The bill language directs that \$130 million is provided for community relocation and \$86 million is provided for Tribal climate resilience and adaptation projects. Additionally, \$46M was allocated for the Branch's Annual Awards Program for FY 2022 through both TCR appropriations as well as BIL appropriations.

Per input from the listening sessions, the Branch raised the funding caps in some categories and added in 3 new funding categories to the Annual Awards Program utilizing BIL funding and authority, including implementation funds and support for Tribes to hire a Relocation, Managed Retreat, or Protect-in-Place Tribal Coordinator.

Community Driven Relocation Pilot Projects

Additionally, the BIL has allowed for approximately three Community Driven Relocation Pilot Projects (2 in Alaska and 1 in the Lower 48) to address Relocation, Managed Retreat (aka “partial relocation” or “site expansion”) and Protect-in-place decisions. The following criteria was used to select the projects: Community Readiness, Risk Level, Lessons Learned, Existing Plans and Land Already Identified.

TCR has drafted an Implementation Plan for Community Driven Relocation Pilot Projects and is working to identify other key agencies with funding to collaborate on these pilots and coordinating with the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, the Special Advisor to the Secretary on Alaska, the WHCNAA Climate Subgroup, the DOI Interior Arctic Coordination Group, the Arctic Executive Steering Committee-Arctic Resilience Working Group and an informal DOI Relocation Working Group.

Arctic Resilience Working Group

The TCR has facilitated six Arctic Resilience Working Group RMPP subgroup meetings which has provided the direction for a coordinated, multi-organizational framework and defines roles/responsibilities for agencies to address needs of Alaskan Tribes with a “whole of government approach.”

DOI Equity Action Plan Team Membership

TCR joined the DOI Equity Action Plan Team to ensure that Tribal Climate Grants were considering equity in all our decisions. TCR hired a contractor, Chickasaw Business Solutions CNI/Deloitte to review TCR actions and provide a DOI Policy Assessment for Initial Focus Areas of Tribal Grants. Incorporating this feedback, TCR developed the Step-Down Implementation Plan for Equity as a part of the DOI Equity Action Plan. These efforts were recognized at the FY 2022 Secretary’s Honor Awards as an award-winning diversity initiative.

National Climate Program Staffing and Partnering

As the Branch works to fill Central Office staff and contractor support needs, it is also working to strengthen staffing out in the field. In FY 2022, BIA Regional Climate Resilience Coordinator positions have been hired to provide a presence in each BIA Region.

- Up to 14 Tribal liaisons are supported through cooperative agreements with Tribal organizations, including with the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance, College of Menominee Nation and United South and Eastern Tribes. These positions are housed in with [USGS/DOI Climate Adaptation Science Centers](#).
- The liaisons provide training, information exchange, technical support, grant-writing, and site visits for relationship and trust building.

Cooperative Agreement

A cooperative agreement with the Institute of Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) was renewed this year. ITEP is a key partner to implementation of the [NTICC National Tribal and Indigenous Climate Conference](#) and toward assisting with Relocation, Managed Retreat, and Protect in Place Cohort Curriculum Development. The curriculum supports the new cohort of tribal relocation coordinators, who are employed by the tribes via federal climate funding.

Outreach and Engagement

Branch personnel provided presentations and participated in partnership discussions at numerous events, as well as accepted invitations to visit and work with climate threatened tribal communities.

- TCR was invited and attended tours of Golovin, Shaktoolik, Chefornek, and Ketchikan along with other federal agencies for a Community Environmental Threat Planning Meeting and tour of critically impacted infrastructure.
- The Branch coordinated with the Steering Committee of the [Native Youth Climate Adaptation Leadership Congress](#) in Shepardstown, WV, and co-hosted a youth outreach event to expand skills in climate conversation. TCR also held a booth during the event's Career Fair Outreach.
- TCR served as co-host, co-planner, and co-sponsor of the [National Tribal and Indigenous Climate Conference](#), in St. Paul, MN, along with the Institute of Tribal Environmental Professionals and other partners. The event included a half-day partnership meeting of the Tribal Climate Resilience Partnership network and an orientation workshop for the BIA-funded Tribal Community Relocation Coordinators. 568 people registered (289 in-person and 279 virtually) to participate.

Challenges, Opportunities and Best Practices

- The Inflation Reduction Act will bring an additional \$220 million to tribal climate resiliency efforts. Tribal Consultations will be held in the Fall of 2022 to guide the planning to coordinate these funds with the BIL and annual appropriations.
- In FY 2023, TCR is moving away from grants as the funding mechanism to move federal climate dollars to the Tribes and instead will use PL 93-638 Contracts and Compacts. This change stems from feedback from the Tribes.
- Strong budget tracking of appropriations, and BIL and IRA funding will be a focus. TCR is enhancing its tracking system/Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) numbers and developing a TCR Dashboard to support data calls, decisions, and program analyses of services. TCR plans to add an Indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ) Contractor for Program Evaluation to prepare for A-123 Reviews to evaluate activities and performance, and guide towards optimum internal controls for program management.
- Branch personnel will serve as the Lead Author for the Development of the Tribes and Indigenous Peoples Chapter of the [Fifth National Climate Assessment](#), which is anticipated to be finished in FY 2023.

Division of Forestry Management



The mission of the Division of Forestry is to provide for the efficient, effective management and protection of trust forest resources for the benefit of American Indians and Alaska Natives through recognition and support of their resource management goals – all with the spirit of self-determination, and consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s trust responsibilities.

Who We Serve

The Division of Forestry works for the benefit of American Indians and Alaska Natives – supporting the management, planning, and best use of trust forest resources.

The Branch of Forest Resources Planning’s highest priority is to serve Tribes and forestry field staff by providing technical expertise in forest inventory, data collection design and analysis, and the management planning process. The Branch maintains facilities for data processing, application development, biological modeling, and automated systems for practical forest management in Indian Country.



Accomplishments

Indian Trust Asset Reform Act (ITARA)

The Indian Trust Asset Reform Act was passed into law on June 22, 2016. Title II of the Act authorizes the Secretary of the Department of the Interior to establish and carry out an [Indian Trust Asset Management Demonstration Project](#).

Under the project, Tribes engaged in forest land management and/or surface leasing activities on trust lands may apply to participate in the project. If selected to participate, Tribes must submit an [Indian Trust Asset Management Plan](#) (ITAMP), for the management of Tribal trust assets. An approved plan could allow Tribes to develop tribal forestry and/or surface leasing regulations and assume certain approval authorities currently held by the Secretary of the Department of the Interior.

- The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians and Coquille Indian Tribe have been approved to participate in the ITARA Demonstration Project and are now managing their forests under an approved ITAMP.
- In FY 2022, the DOF provided technical assistance to the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Tribe of Indians (CTCLUSI), resulting in their gaining approval of the Secretary for their participation in the project. CTCLUSI is now developing their ITAMP.

Eligible Tribes may still apply to participate, and the DOF continues to provide outreach and information to the Inter-Tribal Timber Council (ITC) and Tribes.

Indian Forest Management Assessment Team (IFMAT)

As required by [National Indian Forest Resources Management Act](#) (NIFRMA), the Secretary must ensure Indian forest land management is independently assessed every 10 years. Findings and recommendations developed by the IFMAT are used in guiding Indian forest management activities in the future and serve as a principal communication tool in explaining the challenges and opportunities of managing the Indian Timber Trust to the Secretary, the Office of Management and Budget, and Congress.

In FY 2022, the DOF worked closely with the IFMAT to gather information to complete the Funding and Position Analysis, that will be used in the development of the IFMAT report which is scheduled for completion in 2023.

Ecosystem Restoration (ER)

The DOF provided outreach through communications with the Inter-Tribal Timber Council (ITC). The DOF also provided to ITC, a walk-through of the projects that were developed at Central Office; how the projects were developed; the rationale for how the projects fit into the various Ecosystem Restoration (ER) Activity funding opportunities; and how to use the Office of Trust Services (OTS) template to propose a project. Additionally, the DOF provided information on ER funding and project proposals to Tribes at the recent ITC National Annual Timber Symposium in Fairbanks, Alaska. Two of the DOF proposals were funded: Tribal Greenhouses; \$800,000 and Ecosystem Restoration Projects on at Least 10,000 Acres, \$1.2 Million

Portable/Small Infrastructure

The FY 2022 budget included an increase in the Forestry Projects budget line. A portion of the increase was utilized to support creative methods to accomplish timber harvest and increase forest health in areas where existing markets create barriers for Tribes to manage their forests.

Seven portable infrastructure projects were funded out of the FY 2022 Forestry Projects budget increase. The funding for these projects in Alaska, Northwest, Pacific, and Western Regions totaled \$1,436,000:

FY 2022 Portable Infrastructure Projects total \$1,436,000

Project	Region	Funding
<i>Port Graham Portable Infrastructure</i>	Alaska	\$230,000
<i>Colville Sawmill Purchase</i>	Northwest	\$250,000
<i>La Jolla Band of Indians Portable Infrastructure</i>	Pacific	\$250,000
<i>Hoopa Tribe Portable infrastructure</i>	Pacific	\$176,000
<i>Pit River Tribe Portable Sawmill</i>	Pacific	\$95,000
<i>San Carlos Tribe Portable Sawmill</i>	Western	\$185,000
<i>Hualapai Tribe</i>	Western	\$250,000

Light Detection and Ranging (Lidar) Enhanced Forest Inventory Projects

The FY 2022 Forestry budget included an increase in the Forestry Projects budget line. A portion of the increase was utilized to support the use of technology to accomplish inventory projects that gather large amounts of data relevant to Forestry and Natural Resources. The use of Lidar has proven to be an efficient and cost-effective method to gather this important data, especially in locations experiencing challenges in staffing levels.

FY 2022 Lidar Projects funded by DOF total \$904,302

Project	Region	Funding
<i>Quinalt Indian Nation Lidar Inventory</i>	Northwest	\$368,902
<i>Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians Comprehensive Lidar-derived Single Tree Inventory</i>	Northwest	\$260,000
<i>Crow Tribe Lidar-assisted Complete Natural Resource and Forest Inventory</i>	Rocky Mountain	\$275,400

Forest Health

Annually, Tribes are eligible to receive Forest Health funding provided by the United States Forest Service. The DOF facilitates the submission of tribal projects and funding requests and completes year-end reporting for the Tribes. The DOF coordinated with the US Forest Service to provide funding for four forest health projects to be completed on BIA trust lands in FY 2022.

FY 2022 Forest Health Projects coordinated with US Forest Service total \$263,721

Project	Region	Funding
<i>Santa Clara Pueblo Southside Dwarf Mistletoe Treatment</i>	Southwest	\$96,000
<i>San Felipe Ball Ranch Mistletoe Suppression</i>	Southwest	\$49,000
<i>Warm Springs FY22 White Pine Blister Rust</i>	Northwest	\$108,600
<i>Menominee FY22 Oak Wilt Project</i>	Midwest	\$10,121

Timber Sales Operations Group (TSOG)

The DOF accomplishes many critical tasks with the help of the Timber Sales Operations Group (TSOG) working team. Along with DOF central office staff, TSOG's members are comprised of volunteer participants from regional and agency offices; Tribal employees have also participated and contributed to projects in the past. The group may number 7–10 members at any given time.

- **Handbooks**

The “Harvest of Forest Products Handbook” which replaces the current 53 IAM 3-H Timber Sales Handbook and 53 IAM 4-H Permit Sales Handbook has been vetted to the Regional Foresters and is near completion.

- **Policy**

In FY 2022 the TSOG also drafted the National Policy Memoranda for Direct Payment of Revenue from the Sale of Forest Products to Tribally administered accounts; the Policy on Tribal Collection and Retention of Forest Management Deductions; and a Carbon Agreements policy.

- **Trust Asset Accounting Management System (TAAMS)**

Over the past year, the TSOG has developed 11 TAAMS forestry change requests that have been approved by the TAAMS Change Management Board or are in varying stages of development. These improvements will help streamline TAAMS Forestry processes and include major new functionality such as the “Timber Sale Money Books” enhancement, which will enable an interactive ledger of all timber scale and financial transactions.

Training offered in FY 2022 included Introductory and Advanced TAAMS Forestry Training Sessions held in Dallas, and an Introductory course held in Sacramento, and a Southwest Region TAAMS Forestry Module Roundtable.

Timber Team

In 2018 the DOF, through the support of BIA Leadership, stood up the Timber Team to focus on helping accomplish forestry field work for Tribes.

In FY 2022, The Timber Team spent 30 weeks traveling and between driving and flying to locations. The Team works in all types of field conditions including steep terrain, winter conditions, insect infested woods, and poison ivy just to name a few. They traveled over 32,000 miles and successfully completed forestry work for sixteen Tribes throughout the nation:

- Over 3,500 acres prepared for timber management with an estimated volume of over 20 million board feet
- Gathered timber cruise data on 778 plots
- 120 stand exams measured
- 169 continuous forest inventory plots remeasured
- Mapped tribal forestlands using GIS on 132,000 acres

The Timber Team also provided work experience for two BIA Pathways program interns. One intern is a Cherokee Tribal member from Oklahoma and is currently enrolled at Oklahoma State University and pursuing a bachelor's degree in Forest Resource Management. A second intern is a member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians enrolled at Oregon State University and pursuing a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources with a focus in Policy and Management.

Timber Team has a new web page hosted on BIA.gov, complete with a project request form and information about the Timber Team at <https://www.bia.gov/service/timber-team>. The DOF is seeking proposals for calendar year 2023 and federal/tribal staff that would like to work with the Timber Team on any assignment this year.

Timber Harvest

The harvest of the Allowable Annual Cut of timber from tribal forests is one of the primary metrics for DOF.

- In FY 2021 targets of 377 million board feet to be prepared for sale and 1.9 million tons of biomass to be harvested were exceeded.
- FY 2022 targets are set at approximately 400 million board feet of timber to be prepared for sale and approximately 2 million tons of biomass to be harvested. Targets are expected to be exceeded again in FY 2022.

National Inventory Standardization

The standardization of inventory data gathering, and analysis is critical to provide consistent, reliable inventories. Metrics and methodologies change over time, and standardization must be done periodically to capture efficiencies. After researching CFI projects across the nation and how data is being collected, the Branch of Forest Inventory and Planning (FIP) led the development of a national inventory standards to facilitate the change in the master inventory database and analysis program. The collaboration and commitment from central office foresters, regional foresters, agencies, and tribal foresters resulted in a final national standard for forest inventory data collection and codes that will streamline the forest inventory process and increase efficiencies in the overall standard operating procedures.

Staffing

At times, vacant positions were advertised up to four times before qualified candidates on certificates were attained. Central Office DOF is now almost 90% staffed. However, nationally approximately 40% of BIA Forestry positions are vacant.

- Two new foresters and one Administrative Officer were hired at Forest Inventory and Planning (FIP)
- Filled a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) position.
- Standard positions descriptions were developed for GS-5/7/9 Foresters
- Coordinated with Human resources to build a data base for vacant and needed forestry and fire position across all BIA Regions
- After losing key positions on the Timber Team, DOF was successful in advertising five new Timber Team positions.

Forest Inventory and Planning (FIP)

Forest Inventory and Planning is essential for the management of tribal forests and the development and maintenance of Forest Management Plans. FIP staff successfully supported the Regions and Tribes with forest inventory projects:

- Great Plains Region – Developed and completed inventory materials for 3 Tribes
- Southwest Region - Developed and completed inventory materials for 3 Tribes

- Provided technical assistance to 6 Tribes during the field data collection.
- Completed 9 field inventory data cleaning projects and returned them to the Regions and Tribes.
- Prepared and processed 8 forest inventories for forest inventory analysis
- Conducted 3 in person trainings for forest inventory data collection and data analysis.

Closed 6 inventory projects when we received the completed 2022 Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) report:

- Great Plains Region – Pine Ridge
- Great Plains – Rosebud Sioux Tribe
- Rocky Mountain – Omaha Tribe
- Rocky Mountain – Winnebago Tribe
- Rocky Mountain – Chippewa Cree Tribe
- Southwest – Southern Ute

National Advanced Silviculture Program (NASP)

The NASP is designed to provide BIA and tribal foresters with training necessary to become a Certified Silviculturist. Silviculturists perform a variety of duties related to reforestation, improvement, and conservation of tribal forests. They design site and area specific treatments to make forests healthier, more productive, and sustainable.

- Placed 5 BIA foresters into the NASP Class 16.
- Initiated and retrofitted the new Certified Silviculturist Position Task Book (PTB) based on the current [US Forest Service Task Book](#) for use by BIA Foresters.
- To utilize the new Position Task Book, FIP will update the 53 IAM 9-H Silviculture Policy and Handbook.
- Drafted a National Policy Memorandum allowing BIA Foresters to begin their path toward certification. The NPM-TRUS-45-Silviculturist-PTB was published online on the [Indian Affairs \(IA\) Policy and Directives](#) website on September 16, 2022, providing guidance for one year.

Forestry Outreach

Outreach has become an important function to support DOF recruitment and retention efforts.

- Outreach included Northern Arizona University; Oregon State University; and Salish Kootenai College.
- Organized and conducted a Junior and Senior Forestry Outreach at several Navajo Nation High Schools. The outreach engaged high school students to think about a rewarding career in forestry and how to strategically plan and select high school curriculums focused on science and math to increase their knowledge and success when they enter college. The presentation focused on the BIA's incredible opportunities, such as mentorship from BIA forestry professionals, BIA Pathways Program, college forestry curriculums, and a comprehensive general forestry introduction, "What does a BIA forester do."

Tasks Going Forward

Timber Team

Timber Team has pre-planned two GIS assignments.

- Identifying and mapping all the forestlands for the Southern Plains Region. It is estimated that there are over 100,000 acres within the Region that has not been mapped.
- Metlakatla Tribe of Annette Island, Alaska. Reprojecting and reorganizing old GIS data such as roads, streams, CFI plots, and other geospatial data. Creating a land cover file classifying the approximately 88,000-acre island into manageable (less than 120 acre) timber and non-timber (rock, water, muskeg, urban, etc.) classifications. Timber stands will be further classified by species, size class, and density.

Scheduled and Unscheduled Projects

Scheduled field assignments for FY 2023 include fire salvage preparation on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, forest stand exam measurements on the Chehalis Reservation in Washington and timber sale preparation for the Yurok Tribe in California. Additional project proposals for FY 2023 will be coming in soon and another busy year is expected.

Ecosystem Restoration (ER)

In FY 2022, DOF developed eight ER proposals. Only four were submitted, however, because the other four did not fit cleanly into the targeted ER Activities due to the FY 2022 focus for those Activities. DOF will continue efforts in projects funded in FY 2022 and outreach/technical assistance to produce tribally developed project proposals

Indian Trust Asset Reform Act (ITARA)

ITARA was passed into law in June of 2016 and the Demonstration Project (DP) was authorized for 10 years. Two Tribes are participating and operating under an approved Indian Trust Asset Management Plan (ITAMP), and one more Tribe was recently approved to participate and is in the process of developing an ITAMP. It is expected that more Tribes will apply.

- DOF is moving to fill the last GS-14 forester position and include 40%-50% ITARA responsibility in that position.
- Continue coordinating efforts to seek Secretary's approval to extend the DP indefinitely to give Tribes more time to apply, and to provide certainty in running their forestry programs under an approved ITAMP into the future.
- Provide technical assistance and review to gain Secretary's approval of the third ITAMP.
- Develop formal guidance on the relationship and interaction between ITARA Tribes, DOF, and the Regions.

Tribal Interior Budget Council (TIBC)

Chief Forester DOF was assigned the Federal Co-Chair responsibility for the TIBC Land, Water, and Natural Resources Subcommittee responsible to prepare informative materials for the Subcommittee, build strong relationships, and maintain a TIBC focus on OTS Forestry, Natural Resources, Climate, and Environment programs.

Student Outreach

Outreach and engagement will continue to be important in FY 2023 by on-going coordination with the Pathways program, attendance at student conferences, and partnering with the [Society of American Foresters](#) (SAF) on position advertisements and attend SAF events.

Indian Forestry Management Assessment Team (IFMAT)

The next IFMAT report is due for completion in FY 2023. DOF has provided support for the past two years.

A-123 Reporting Training

Accomplishment reporting and A-123 reporting has been challenging for the past three years. There are 5 vacant Regional Forester positions and Acting staff are not well versed in how to report. Year-end workshop and A-123 workshops were planned for regional and agency staff.

Verification of Analysis Programs

As part of a more significant effort to develop a single analysis program, the FIP team continues to analyze and verify the analysis programs.

- Complete work on the Western and Northwestern Analysis programs. This work has involved identifying how field-collected data is read and used by the specific analysis program.
- Correct the translation of outdated code. Further work is needed to verify the equations and subsequent outputs.

Inventory Projects

FIP will continue to provide support on Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) projects during the various inventory phases and continue to assist the Eastern Oklahoma Region with its cover typing project and provide recommendations.

Applications

FIP will continue to modernize the data collection process with tablet-based field records and support the CFI Fielder program, which will involve additional field and office testing to identify problems and fixes. This includes refining the existing user interfaces of both the tablet and desktop inventory applications, including adding elements to the user interfaces that have yet to be developed and refining and improving components already deployed.

Handbooks and National Policy Memorandums (NPM)

The Timber Sales Operating Group (TSOG) has spent significant time developing Handbooks and National Policy Memoranda (NPM) and working with Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action (RACA) and the Solicitor (SOL) on reviews and edits.

- The National Policy Memoranda for Direct Payment of Revenue from the Sale of Forest Products to Tribally administered accounts; the Policy on Tribal Collection and Retention of Forest Management Deductions; and a Carbon Agreements policy are all currently awaiting additional comments from the Office of the Solicitor.
- Regions have provided comments on the Draft Harvest of Forest Products Handbook and the TSOG is currently working to address comments.

TAAMS Forestry

TAAMS Forestry Courses planned for FY 2023 are two TAAMS Forestry Management Overview sessions and at least one session each of Introductory and Advanced TAAMS Forestry module training.

Other-Forest Health and Portable Infrastructure Projects

- Forest Health projects will be collected in October, graded, and sent to Forest Service representatives for funding determination for work to be completed in FY 2023.
- Portable infrastructure project proposals will be collected, evaluated, and funded at central office. Once the projects are funded the Regions and/or Tribes will be notified to complete work in FY 2023.

Challenges

The current challenges to Indian forestry include high rates of staff turnover; field locations that are distant from wood processing facilities; limited infrastructure hampering transportation and communication; aging field offices and facilities, hindering recruitment and retention; and climate change factors that contribute to catastrophic wildland fires, insect infestations and disease outbreaks, invasive species, and weather extremes. Predominant issues follow:

Workforce

- These issues include natural turnover of the workforce from retirements of Baby Boomer generation workers, accelerated by other workforce challenges around training and continuing education due to budget limitations in recent years.
- Low rates of recruitment and retention of new hires due to remote locations, difficult working conditions, and aging facilities.
- The lack of trained tribal personnel in forestry has a direct adverse economic impact on tribes.
- Despite a target specified by policy of preparing 100% of the annual allowable cut for harvest, because of these staffing challenges, in FY 2021 only 60% of the annual allowable cut was prepared.

Hiring Process

- The federal hiring process continues to be overly complicated and time consuming. At present, approximately 13 documents must be prepared before a position hiring package can start to move through the process.
- Further, once positions have been advertised and closed, the amount of time it takes to get qualified certificates of eligible candidates can be lengthy, and potential candidates accept other job offers outside of the BIA.
- Staffing at our Human Resources Servicing Centers is not adequate to process and manage the number of hiring packets needed to fill critical vacancies.

Markets

The forest products industry has been in a state of rapid change since the mid-1990s. While some of this is due to the adoption of new technologies and changes in consumer demand such as the replacement of paper products by electronic equivalents, much of it is due to other market dynamics. Individual companies have merged, eliminated work divisions in favor of using contractors, and closed outdated facilities rather than modernizing them.

Smaller companies, including some operated by Tribes, struggle due to lack of capital needed to update outdated mills, or due to uncertain supply chains caused by changes in availability of timber from Federal lands, natural disruptions such as large wildland fires, and shifts in operating costs tied to energy prices. Tribal forest management is often geared toward a single market, and lack of secondary market outlets makes forest product sales vulnerable to the economic externalities that affect primary markets.

Emergency Planning

The impacts of climate change and other forest health factors, including catastrophic wildland fires, insect infestations and disease outbreaks, invasive species, and weather extremes, disrupt or destroy forests, nearby communities, and forest-related economies. In many cases, local tribal governments remain unprepared for natural disasters including wildfires, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and other severe weather events.

- The BIA is currently using Lidar, when possible, to gather landscape level data that can be used to determine forest health and show where forests are at higher risk for loss due to wildfire, insects, and disease, and does coordinate with other Federal land managers in determining the larger risks to tribal and Federal forests. This effort provides critical data to allow for planning to avoid future resource loss.
- BIA's Tribal Resilience program supports initiatives from tribes to better prepare for natural disasters but grant funding for these projects is limited compared to the numerous and often immediate tribal vulnerabilities and threats to tribal forests are often not prioritized. The result is not all priority areas can be fully covered to bring about desired conditions that could fully protect communities and forests.

Forest Inventory and Planning (FIP) Challenges

Some of the challenges FIP faces are technological. Expediently sharing large files with the Tribes is difficult and Tribal foresters find it challenging to share their databases directly with BIA FIP Foresters. We rely on FedEx services to overnight a USB drive, which can delay a project for several days.

- Providing Tribes with modern data collection equipment and software quickly and seamlessly ready for implementation has been a challenge.
- Even though FIP has been effective at returning CFI and other priority projects, understaffing has provided challenges to the Team in the form of work-life balance. It can be stressful for team members to manage project workloads meant for twice the capacity.

Opportunities

Despite the challenges identified above, tribes are assuming greater leadership in Indian Forestry through self-determination and self-governance. BIA and tribal programs have the potential to provide models for sustainable forestry and resource management for the nation's forests. Opportunities include:

Forest Inventory and Planning (FIP) Opportunities

Forest Inventory and Planning (FIP) has recently begun filling vacant forestry positions. With adequate staffing of foresters and administrative support, more time will be dedicated to the FIP modernization effort. Increased utilization of FIP Inventory Foresters' experiences and backgrounds in research, management planning and optimization, fire and fuels modeling/inventories, growth and yield simulation, field data software design, post-disturbance reforestation methods, and more to provide specialized forest management services to the tribes.

Workforce Development/Outreach

The Division of Forestry is exploring opportunities to conduct more outreach programs with K-12 students to engage the younger generation in natural resources management, especially in forestry careers.

Timber Team

The Timber Team provides opportunities to increase our ability to meet targets for timber volume prepared and offered. The team allows programs a greater ability to harvest salvage after a fire or other timber damaging event and allows programs with limited or inexperienced staff to take advantage of use of the team to accomplish tasks that couldn't otherwise be accomplished or to provide training to staff thereby increasing future capabilities at an Agency or Tribe.

Portable/Small Infrastructure and Timber Harvest Initiative (THI)

The Division of Forestry will continue to provide the Regions and tribes the opportunity to submit Portable Milling Infrastructure and Timber Harvest Initiative (THI) Proposals given adequate Forestry Projects funding levels. This opportunity is intended to increase the ability of the receiving Tribes to harvest the Annual Allowable Cut, and to add value to their forest products.

Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR)

The Division of Forestry will continue to support Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) projects through the Forestry Projects budget activity. New high-resolution Lidar, along with other GIS and aerial imaging technologies, provides BIA and tribal forest managers the opportunity to inventory forest and woodland tracks that would otherwise be too expensive or time consuming to inventory using traditional methods.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

The Ecosystem Restoration Work Group (ERWG) is revising and updating FY 2023 guidance for the Ecosystem Restoration (ER) portion of the BIL to make the process easier to navigate. The deadlines for FY 2023 proposals have not been identified, but opportunities for BIA and tribal forestry programs will be upcoming. The Division of Forestry has discussed the preparation of proposals with the Regional Foresters. Forestry will continue to develop proposals and will resubmit proposals that received funding in FY2022.

Best Practices

Forest Inventory and Planning (FIP) Best Practices

FIP continues to improve forest inventory project tracking tools as new and better solutions are found. The utilization of these tools will increase efficiency and enhance technical assistance provided to the tribes.

Budget Execution and Tracking

The Division of Forestry continues to improve internal tracking tools for the discretionary Forestry Projects and the discretionary Forestry Program (TPA) budgets. Each fiscal year, detailed projections are developed for DOF operations. These, along with funding request data collected annually from each region and Forestry Projects funding formulas, are utilized to provide Regions and Self Governance Tribes funding in a timely manner and to minimize year-end carryover.

Collaboration

The Division of Forestry continues work with the Timber Sales Operation Group and the Inventory and Planning Operation group to collaborate with BIA Regions, Agencies, and tribes on policy, special projects, and updates to standard operating procedures.

Division of Land, Titles and Records



Mission

The mission of the Division of Land Titles and Records is to maintain timely and certified Federal land title ownership and encumbrance services, to record, maintain, and certify land title documents, to provide certified Title Status Reports that are accurate, timely, accountable, and efficient, and state the complete status of title ownership and encumbrance for Federal Indian trust and restricted lands.

Who We Serve

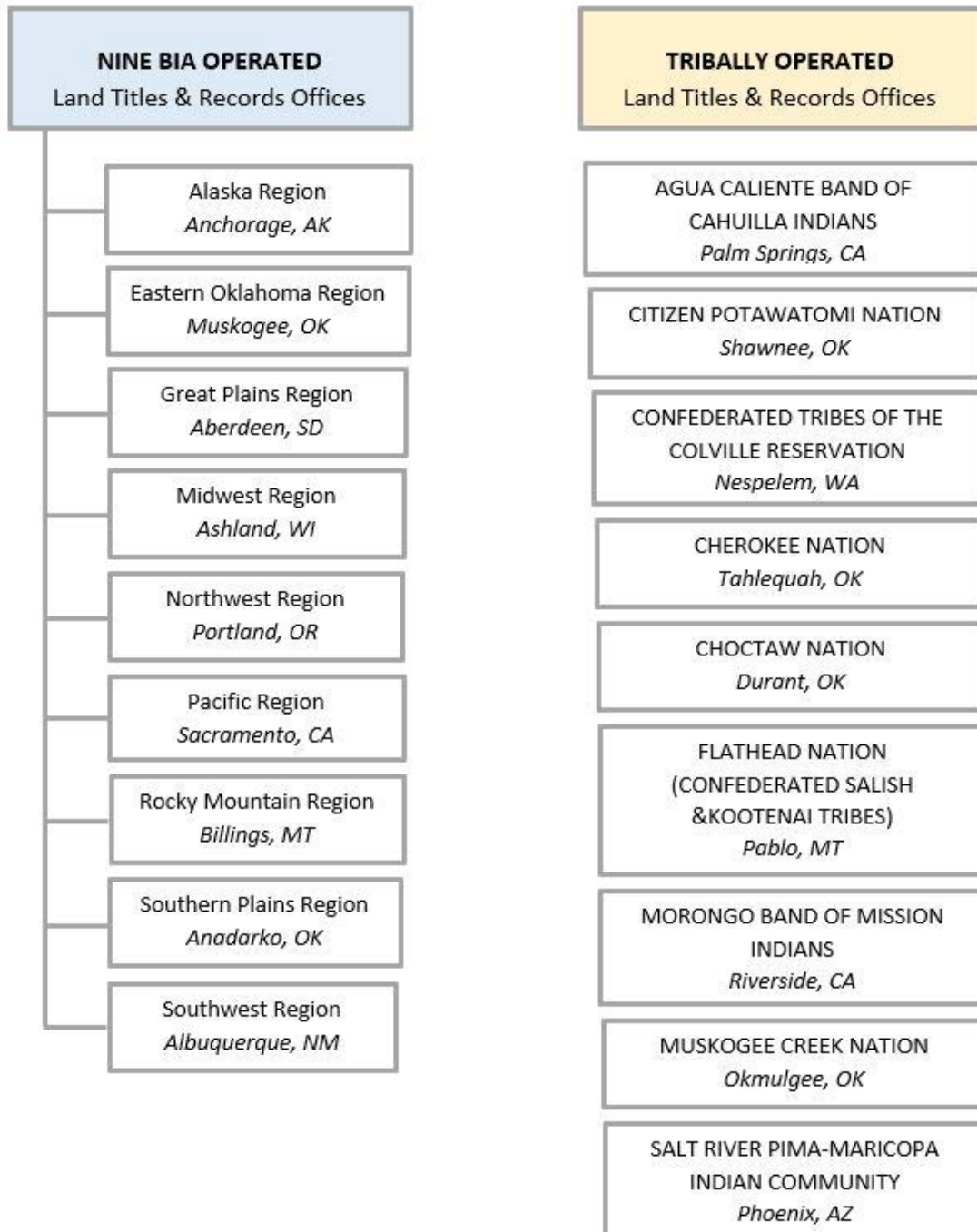
The Division of Land Titles and Records oversees nine regional and nine Tribal Land Titles and Records Offices which serve as the office of record for all trust land and restricted land titles for Tribes and individuals. DLTR also develops policy, provides for the LTRO's normal day-to-day operations and maintenance costs, and maintains the documentation and title image repository for TAAMS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs' electronic trust land management system.

Accomplishments

DLTR completed a National Land Titles and Records Handbook and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) recording and encoding various types of Trust documents in the TAAMS Legal and Recording Modules as identified in the table below.

Activity	Standard Operating Procedures developed
<i>Appeals</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Probate Appeals to Interior Board of Indian Appeals (IBIA)
<i>Corrections</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correct Encoding (CE) documents• Variance Form (Form C) Use
<i>Encoding and Recording</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encumbrances• Fee to Trust (FTT) Conveyance documents• Non-Acquisition & Disposal Conveyance documents• Non-Probate Conveyance documents• Owner managed Status Applications & Leases
<i>Inventories</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Probate Inventory Requests (BIAINVs)
<i>Title Status</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certification of Land Records & Title Documents• Preparation and Maintenance of Land Status Maps• Title Examination to Issue Title Status Reports (TSRs)• Title examination to issue Mortgage TSRs

Nine (9) BIA and nine (9) Tribally operated Land Titles and Records Offices



Staffing

Prepared Human Resource recruitment package for a Program Analyst to serve as a liaison with the Division of Real Estate Services on GIS mapping projects and review of land ownership records

Representative Trust Tract Viewer (RTTV)

Created Representative Trust Tract Viewer (RTTV) in cooperation with the Branch of Geospatial Services and the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA). Provided demonstrations and granted access to personnel for use and comment on further development needs and enhancements

NEW! TAAMS Probate Module

Worked closely with Division of Probate Services and the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) on the design and creation of the new Probate module in TAAMS. Provided training through contractor CGI for LTRO Regional employees.

Fee to Trust

Gave input on new legal description review Fee-to-Trust process to the Division of Real Estate Services. LTRO included in a presentation of the National Fee-to-Trust training outlining the LTRO Document Recording process.

Other Activity

Provided guidance to Cartographic Technicians on the National Parcel Project. Review and mapping of Uintah & Ouray litigation research.

Tasks Going Forward

FY2022 Incomplete Projects

The LTRO FY 2023 Work Plan will address incomplete projects expected to be completed in early 2023. This includes:

- Develop policies and business rules as needs arise.
- Work with Geospatial Services, Regional Geospatial Coordinators, and Cartographic Technicians on a public facing mapping project.
- Support the ongoing creation of a nationwide GIS dataset which represents all records currently housed in TAAMS. This will include the innovation, development, adaptation, and management of the dataset.
- Training and equipment supply to field staff.

Broadband

Division of Land Titles and Records (DLTRO) National Broadband Initiative Team Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in accordance with the approved LTRO DLTR will work with the National Broadband Initiative team (NTBG) National Broadband Map. The purpose of NTBG is to improve the quality of life, spur economic development and commercial activity, create opportunities for self-employment, enhance educational resources and remote learning opportunities, and meet emergency and law enforcement needs by increasing broadband services to Native American communities that lack adequate connectivity. DLTR has been leading the effort to coordinate and supply NTBG with BIA GIS data to support Tribes in all aspects of applying, receiving, and creating broadband opportunities.

Challenges

Training

Unexpected workload, changes in policy, regulations, etc., required training of LTRO and other staff on handbook, regulations, and Indian Affairs Manuals (IAMs) and National Policy Memos (NPMs) issued in FY 2023. Implementation of new TAAMS modules and enhancements required training employees on the TAAMS updates. TAAMS and business processing training are provided upon request of LTROs.

Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)

Worked to clearly define the GPRA reporting measures and reporting requirements

Human Resources

Reviewed and updated DLTR organizational chart. Advertised a new Program Analyst to act as a liaison between DLTR and the Division of Real Estate Services on GIS and TAAMS records cleanup.

Title Defect Cleanup Project

Initiate a Title Defect cleanup project nationwide for LTRO and Realty offices working from TAAMS queries of unexpired defects. LTRO promotes the use of available TAAMS reports.

Opportunities

Partnered with Regional and Tribal LTROs to provide requested TAAMS and business processing training

Best practices

- Handbooks, policy, etc., capture new technology used to simplify business practices.
- Engaging field LTROs in addressing process questions or training requests in development of a National LTRO Handbook. Training program planned and executed for TAAMS Module rollout.
- Availability to address questions/hot topics through monthly LTRO Management calls to provide real time guidance.
- Availability to respond to LTRO office requests for focused training upon request via Teams Meetings or Zoom.
- Partnered with Federal partners to address workload, policies, and processes that overlap or go together for the Trust Acquisition and Realty functions.

Division of Probate Services



Southwest landscape by Bob Wick, BLM

Mission

The mission of the Division of Probate Services is to compile inventories of Indian Trust assets and family information, and to coordinate the timely distribution of trust assets with the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA), the Division of Land Titles and Records (DLTR), and the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA).

Who We Serve

DPS gathers information regarding decedent's family and property and prepares it for adjudication by OHA. After OHA issues a probate order, DPS works with other trust offices and BTFA to distribute the assets to the designated heirs or beneficiaries.

Accomplishments

New Probate Tracking Module

DPS implemented the new Probate Tracking Modules within the Trust Asset Accounting Management System (TAAMS). With the implementation of the modules the program digitized the submission of the probate package to OHA eliminating the need to mail the probate package. An additional Major release was implemented August 2022.

Modified probate regulations were implemented and finalized

- The new regulations expanded the use of trust funds in IIM accounts for burial expenses. The regulations also clarified the document needs for presumptive death cases.
- In addition, established a less burdensome document requirement for cash only estates that are less than \$300.
- The purchase at probate process was revamped to ensure heirs were named and a probate order issued without waiting for the sale to be final.

ProTrac System Decommissioned

- Decommissioned ProTrac, a legacy system, with many security deficiencies.
- Eliminated the need for a software service contract for the ProTrac system that has been in place with various vendors for 18 years.
- Collaborated with BTFA to document system requirement for the automation of the Probate closing process. This portion of the probate process will be utilized by the BTFA.

Training Conducted

A train the trainer approach was provided as the regulations were finalized during the conversion.

- The program took full advantage of the virtual environment to accomplish the monumental task of conducting over 45 classes and trained over 300 students that included staff from: BIA Probate staff, Superintendents, Regional Directors, Office of Hearings and Appeals and the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration prior to implementation.
- Tribal Compact and Contract employees were included in all training activities of the new module. A representative from a compact tribe was included in the testing of the module.
- A train the trainer concept was also developed to ensure the Regional Legal Administrative Specialists were trained to continue training staff on an on-going basis. This has worked well. The program continues to conduct short only sessions as improvements are made to the system.
- Three one-hour topic specific sessions have been conducted to provide the Probate module users tips and tricks regarding the new module.

Sharing Data with Non-DOI Entities

Awarded a Task Order to build a means to accept and share non-Personal Identifiable Information from TAAMS with non-DOI Entities such as Tribes for their Fee to Trust Activities. A successful implementation in FY 2023 will pave the way for other Trust activities and move the acceptance of lease and probate information electronically.

Human Resources

Successfully recruited two employees from a Region and a sister Agency to fill two vacancies.

Tasks Going Forward

- Continue to improve the new probate tracking module
- Document requirement/development of a survey mechanism for the families served to improve the customer experience.
- Implement Fee to Trust Portal and develop a user-friendly site for users to take advantage of electronic means to submit Fee to Trust applications.
- Convert the TAAMS database from a site-specific source to a FED-RAMP Approved Cloud environment.
- The program will work on aged cases. These aged cases will continue to fractionate land interest as these cases do not fall within the American Indian Probate Regulations Act (AIPRA). These aged cases also have the potential of reopening cases that have already been adjudicated thereby increasing the case workload.

Challenges

- To maintain accurate ownership data within TAAMS, the Probate packages must be prepared timely and accurately. The probate program is highly dependent on the information from family members to complete the information needed. There are times that families are unwilling to provide the information or provide incomplete information probate information. Because the program is highly dependent upon family, the cases can sit stagnant for many years.

- In our current environment, many landowners no longer reside on the reservation making it difficult to obtain family information. The program takes full advantage of internet search tools; however, those sites are incomplete, making family history unobtainable.
- Keeping the probate program staffed is challenging, due to the work and the workload.
- Dealing with grieving families and those that want their case heard and closed.
- The goal of the Probate program is to probate all cases; however, this can be extremely challenging when records are no longer available for a decedent. Some records have been destroyed in fires or the decedent lived off the reservation and did not provide any information to family, the Tribe they were enrolled or the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The program has no means to prepare these types of cases.

Opportunities

- Completed Action Plans for the Program's participation in the High Impact Service Provider (HISP) to focus the program delivery of service based on customer experience. This is the first year BIA Probate has participated in the program. The program is looking forward to participating in the HISP programs to improve our services based on customer feedback.
- The program will continue to improve the workflow and continue to implement efficiencies.

Best Practices

- With the implementation of the new Probate tracking module, the program will continue to successfully digitize its records and continue to implement efficiencies to improve the workflow.
- The probate program provides on-going virtual training sessions. This type of training is cost effective and efficient.

Division of Program Management and Coordination



Historical Photo at the White House

Mission

The mission of the Division of Program Management and Coordination is to provide administrative management to the Office of Trust Services which entails quality assurance, performance management, administrative support, and budget administration.

Who We Serve

We provide administrative support assistance to the Divisions, Branches, and Programs that fall under the Office of Trust Services. External contacts and coordination of Trust functions may include communication with key Bureau and Departmental officials, Congressional staff, the Office of Management and Budget, high ranking officials from major federal agencies, state, local and tribal governments, officials, and representatives.

Accomplishments

General Accounting Office (GAO)

GAO provides Congress, the heads of executive agencies, and the public with timely, fact-based information that can be used to improve government and save taxpayer funds. GAO's report recommendations having the potential to save taxpayer funds and improve government operations. Work is done at the request of congressional committees or subcommittees or is statutorily required by public laws or committee reports. Closed 17 of 18 GAO findings. GAO 15-43 Recommendations were recently closed.

OMB Circular A-123, Management's Responsibility for Internal Control

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls to achieve the objectives of effective and efficient operations, reliable financial reporting, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

- Ensured all A-123 and performance data calls are accurate, completed annual certification to the Director, BIA in advance of deadline.
- Identified and implemented additional controls to ensure program accountability and success. Coordinated resources to achieve goals.
- Coordinated the development of OTS wide Dashboards to track and monitor program performance, enhanced A-123 monitoring and reporting efforts.

OTS Program Reviews

- Developed plans for Administrative Program Reviews conducted for each Division on a 3-year rotating basis starting in FY 2023.
- Initial pilot review of both the Division of Energy and Minerals Development and the Indian Energy Service Center completed, and reports issued identifying corrective actions and recommendations.
- Internal Organizational Design Review in coordination with OPM, resulted in updated organization charts and properly aligned leadership, planned for succession and workforce challenges.
- A new position description and recruitment package developed for a new SES Division Chief overseeing Environmental and Cultural Resource Management, the Supervisory Archeologist, Branch of Cultural Resources Management and the Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist, Branch of Tribal Climate Resilience.

Funding Increases

FY 2022 funding levels came with the largest increase OTS has ever received

Fiscal Year	Program	Funding Increase	Purpose
<i>FY 2022</i>	<i>Trust Natural Resources</i>	\$42,004,000	Planning, management, conservation, development, and utilization of soil, water, farmland, rangeland, fish and wildlife resources on trust land
<i>FY 2022</i>	<i>Trust Real Estate</i>	\$6,326,000	Real property operations
<i>FY 2022</i>	<i>Indian Land Consolidation Program</i>	\$7,000,000	Re-established program
<i>FY 2022</i>	<i>Resource Management Construction</i>	\$2,500,000	Natural Resource management
<i>FY 2022 to 2026</i>	<i>BIL Tribal Climate Resilience</i>	\$216,000,000	\$130M Community Relocation \$86M Climate Resilience and Adaptation Projects
<i>FY 2022 to 2024</i>	<i>BIL Irrigation and Power</i>	\$10,000,000	Management, oversight, and engineering technical assistance to irrigation and power projects under Indian Affairs' jurisdiction
<i>FY 2022</i>	<i>BIL Ecosystem Restoration</i>	\$4,800,000	Collaboration with Tribes to restore habitat connectivity for aquatic species, advance habitat restoration, invasive species control, etc.

- Defended amounts under the Inflation Reduction Act and coordinated development of plans and roll out.
- Plans for FY 2023 funding has been identified and submitted for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review.
- Budget formulation data calls reviewed for accuracy and submitted on time. Program often reached out to the Regional Budget Officers for comment and or identification of use for additional funding opportunities.

Other Administrative Functions

- FY 2022 Employee Performance and Appraisal Plans (EPAPs) were complete on time and in accordance with applicable policy and guidance
- FY 2023 EPAPs were prepared and updated to reflect the new 2022-2026 DOI Strategic Plan for the Division Chiefs in time for proper review and input before implementation by the Deputy Bureau Director, OTS. EPAPs were developed in alignment with the 2022 – 2026 DOI Strategic Plan with the addition of the administration’s priorities for equity, inclusion, accessibility, and diversity.
- National Policy Memos (NPMs) were tracked and appropriately routed in the DTS tracking system in a timely manner. The Program has developed an excel tracking sheet to monitor expiration of Indian Affairs Manuals (IAMs), Handbooks and NPMs. The report will be converted to Smartsheets.
- Mapped 100% of Division workflow and incorporated all aspects of the OTS Workforce Action Plan into day-to-day objectives.

Office of Personnel Management

Managed the OPM Workforce Plan and Organizational Design Review Agreement with several tasks as follows:

- **Organization Design Review**
This task is to establish a foundation for workforce planning activities, OPM conducted reviews to assess whether the design of the organization supports efficient and effective mission execution and how OTS operates within the larger BIA and services to BIA Field Operations (FO).
- **Workload Analysis**
This task is to determine OTS and FO workforce composition needs, OPM supplemented the organization design review with a workload analysis. OPM partnered with OTS workforce planning stakeholders to identify and establish a methodology for conducting workload analysis regularly across BIA. Then OPM deployed that methodology to conduct a workload analysis for OTS and FO. OPM conducted a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the workload demands on staff to determine a recommended skills mix, including the number and types of positions needed to achieve strategic objectives across both OTS and FO.
- **Workforce Plan Development**
Leveraging the analyses and findings in Phase 1 activities, OPM created a Workforce Plan for 3 of the mission critical occupations across OTS and FO, including strategies for building a workforce that will best support BIA’s mission demands.

- **Competency Modeling and Gap Analysis**

This task was conducted to identify competencies or confirm an existing competency model using focus groups and survey methodology. Succession Planning - Individual Succession Planning and Risk Assessment. OPM assisted OTS and FO in the evaluation of key leadership positions considering the required competencies and proficiency levels, bench strength, recruitment challenges, turnover risks, etc.

- **Managed the OPM Classification Agreement**

Task supports OTS ongoing classification and position management support, including review and analysis of organizational information (e.g., mission, functional statements, organizational charts, and positions descriptions). OPM provided classification recommendations to best support the organization's strategic goals.

- **OPM Training Agreement**

Identified the need and executed a new OPM Training Agreement in support of OTS and FO to provide much needed Human Capital related training. Topics include but are not limited to assessment development, job analysis, structured interviews, designing and assessment strategy, classification, avoiding burnout, individual resilience, supervisory training that can be tailor, performance management, strategic planning, and telework.

Budget Administration

Budget distribution documents were reviewed and updated to reflect updates from most current Omnibus.

- Managed and oversaw the effective and efficient distribution of 48 program lines.
- Completed timely reconciliation. RESBA improved and there is a plan to de-obligate remaining undelivered orders.
- Closed FY 2022 with a \$0 balance in expiring funds.
- Ensured the NOAA agreement to distribute \$30M on their behalf was closed out and all funds were appropriately drawn down.

Carryover Funding

Emphasized the importance in obligating funding in the current year which resulted in much less in Carryover going into the next Fiscal Year.

Challenges

Staffing shortage cause challenges in addressing Freedom of Information Act requests when performed as a collateral duty assignment. Unapproved organization charts delay classification processing and meeting grade levels.

Best Practices

Enhanced OTS Central Office and BIA Region Communication

OTS participated in four BIA Region and/or Tribal engagements to share opportunities, inspire stakeholders and generate new ideas to accomplish work that impacts them. Identifies Region specific issues and concerns and coordinate communication and options to get to yes.

OTS Quarterly Newsletter

Implemented and managed the OTS Quarterly Newsletter to communicate opportunities, share program successes and keep leadership and field level staff apprised of new initiatives, program deadlines, and introductions to new staff.

Division of Real Estate Services



Badlands in South Dakota

Mission

The mission of the Division of Real Estate Services is to protect and maintain the integrity of trust lands and resources by providing policy direction, technical assistance, training, and administrative review and monitoring of real property operations.

Who We Serve

We work to ensure that the natural resources of American Indian and Alaska Native landowners and Tribes are protected, and help tribal communities reap the economic benefits from their land.

Accomplishments

OMB A-123 Reviews

Reviewed both Land Mortgages and Leasehold Mortgages at five regions to evaluate program internal controls effectiveness and regulatory compliance.

Draft Inherent Risk Register

The Division of Internal Evaluation and Assessment (DIEA) and the Office of Budget and Performance Management (OBPM) assisted in development of Indian Affairs first Draft Inherent Risk Register. The document identifies high-level risks that may adversely affect Indian Affairs' ability to support and achieve the goals established in the Secretary's FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. DRES will continue to coordinate with DIEA and OBPM to complete, finalize, and submit required ERM deliverables.

Improve Government and Performance Results Act (GPRA) Measure

DRES worked with OBPM on improving the GPRA Measure for Fee-to-Trust. DRES identified internal processes where processing timeframes could be improved. DRES worked one-on-one with the Regions to ensure the measure scope and processes were clear and understood and provided guidance in how to provide reports for the annual performance measure.

Fee to Trust Two Year Goal

DRES worked with OBPM on developing a two-year Agency Priority Goal for Fee-to-Trust processing. The two-year goal aligns with the Secretary's Strategic Plan and in coordination with the Office of the Solicitor (SOL) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will reduce the amount of time required to process land into trust applications. DRES developed strategies to reach identified targets during the

two-year reporting period and provides quarterly reports to OBPM on the status of all identified milestones and progress made during the reporting period. Fee to Trust Strike Team Human Resources Advertisement and Recruitment Packages.

Regional Realty Officer monthly meetings were held in FY 2022

DRES hosts monthly conference calls with all Regional Realty Officers to discuss topics that are currently impacting the field offices, or may affect them in the future, shares key information that will likely impact real estate services and requests input on information to expedite decisions.

Status of GAO Recommendations

GAO Report No.	Title of GAO Report	Status
15-502	Indian Energy Development	Open
16-553	Indian Energy Development (Revenue Sharing Agreements)	Closed/implemented
17-43	Indian Energy Development	Closed/implemented
19-87	Indian Programs	Closed/implemented
105356	Engagement: BIA/BTFA Duplication of Services	Open
105875	Engagement: DOI Real Estate Services for Tribes	Open
106157	Engagement: Broadband Permitting on Federal Property (FWS/NPS/BOR/BIA)	Open

TAAMS Records Management and Scanning/Recording

DRES submitted Trust Management Improvement Program (TMIP) requests for several projects.

- One TMIP request was approved for Santa Ana Pueblo Trespass issue where \$25,000.00 was needed. DRES worked with the Region to ensure documentation was received and submitted.
- DRES also submitted TMIP documentation for the Gila River Indian Community ROW survey project need under Public Law 115-350 and \$1 million dollar was able to be awarded to the Region for surveys of ROWs needed to be identified through this legislation.
- HEARTH one-time funding in the amount of \$500,000 sent out to HEARTH Tribes.
- Various TAAMS Change Requests for Acquisition & Disposal (A&D), and Fee to Trust (FTT)
- Various TAAMS User Testing for A&D, FTT, Minerals, Right-of-Way (ROWs), Leasing and CLIK

Website

During this fiscal year, the DRES ensured that its information on its websites were updated and reflected important information. The Division Chief ensured that any new announcements such as NPM rollouts and trainings were on the website.

DRES worked with OIMT to create a DRES Training Webpage at <https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots/dres> The site hosts recorded real estate services training sessions including materials for Tribes, Individual beneficiaries, federal partners, and BIA staff.

Fee to Trust (FTT) Policy to Modernize Legal Description Review Process

Implemented NPM-TRUS-43, Modernize the Land Description Review Process for Fee to Trust (FTT) Acquisitions on April 26, 2022. The policy improves the efficiency and quality of processing FTT acquisitions and replaces the BLM Indian Lands Surveyor's (BILS) Land Description Review (LDR) FTT handbook requirement with a review by an appointed GIS Strike Team or trained Realty staff.

Fee to Trust Training

On May 23-26, 2022, the BIA DRES completed four full days of the National FTT training for over 280 BIA and tribal participants. Covered the 151 Regulations, processing timeframes, the FTT Handbook, incomplete applications, reporting and audits, notice of decisions and appeals. Presenters included the Office of Solicitor, Environmental Services, Bureau of Land Management, Land Titles & Records, Office of Indian Gaming, and the Branch of Geospatial Support.

On November 30-December 1, 2021, the BIA DRES completed a FTT training specifically for the Alaska Region to discuss the 151 Regulations, processing timeframes, the FTT Handbook, incomplete applications, reporting and audits, notice of decisions and appeals.

Fee to Trust Strike Team

The FTT Strike Team comprised of five (5) BIA Realty personnel completed two (2) 120-day details focusing on brining FTT applications to a Notice of Decision and/or an Acceptance of Decision.

- A compilation of the two details resulted in the Team completing review of 407 cases.
- Drafted/assisted 93 Notice of Decisions (NODs) and 84 were approved by the Regional Directors.
- 63 AOCs had been sent to the Regions, of those, 62 were accepted (deed approved) in the Trust Asset and Accounting Management System (TAAMS).
- Weekly monitoring of UFJ and High-profile cases progress. 42 UFJ's were completed in FY21 and 69 UFJ's in FY22.

Completed three significant TAAMS change requests.

- Change request created the TAAMS FTT Maintenance module allowing staff to conduct Quality Assurance and correct previously encoded and not editable information, if needed. The FTT Strike Team initiated a quality assurance project for the TAAMS FTT module. Steps 1 through 9 of the FTT process were addressed in the clean-up project.
- Change request to monitor the progress of appeals more accurately in TAAMS and track the new RLDR/LDEV process created in NPM-TRUS-43.

New Fee to Trust TAAMS Module

TAAMS 6.4 Release incorporates some new features in the Acquisition & Disposal Module for Fee-to-Trust (FTT) that affect Notice of Incomplete (NOI), Land Description Reviews and QLIK reports. These new enhancements will be covered in 2023 FTT TAAMS Training classes. These enhancements are in coordination with the BIA's NPM Titled: Modernize the Land Description Review Process for Fee-to-Trust Acquisitions approved April 26, 2022.

Policy Corrects Deed and Affidavits

The DRES submitted 52 IAM 7; Corrects Deed and Affidavit Policy (updated September 2022) to the Office of the Solicitor and RACA for final review, approval, and implementation.

HEARTH Act Approvals

- New Regulations received in FY 2022 include three Agriculture/Business/Residential/WSR/WEEL, four Business, and one Residential regulation.
- Twenty-two (22) HEARTH Act cases were closed out which required a Federal Register Notice.
- Updated Indian Affairs website on status of HEARTH Act submissions, approvals, policies, and trainings.

HEARTH Act Approvals in FY2022

Tribe	Date Approved	Approved Tribal Leasing Regulations
<i>Pascua Yaqui Tribe of AZ</i>	October 26, 2021	Residential
<i>Cabazon Band of Mission Indians</i>	October 26, 2021	Business
<i>Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation</i>	October 29, 2021	Business
<i>Tule River Indian Tribe</i>	December 16, 2021	Agriculture, Business, Residential, Wind Solar, Wind Energy Evaluation
<i>Pascua Yaqui Tribe of AZ</i>	December 22, 2021	Solar & Renewable Energy
<i>Eastern Shawnee Tribe of OK</i>	December 22, 2021	Agriculture, Business
<i>Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe</i>	December 22, 2021	Business
<i>Ysleta del Sur Pueblo</i>	January 22, 2022	Agriculture, Business, Residential, Wind Solar, Wind Energy Evaluation
<i>Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of OR</i>	January 24, 2022	Business
<i>Eastern Shawnee Tribe of OK</i>	January 24, 2022	Residential
<i>Northern Cheyenne Tribe</i>	January 24, 2022	Business, Wind & Solar
<i>Kootenai Tribe of Idaho</i>	February 1, 2022	Business
<i>Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians</i>	February 7, 2022	Agriculture, Business, Residential, Wind Solar, Wind Energy Evaluation
<i>Table Mountain Rancheria</i>	February 11, 2022	Business
<i>Northfork Rancheria of Mono Indians</i>	March 24, 2022	Business
<i>Pala Band of Mission Indians</i>	March 25, 2022	Business
<i>Pechanga Band of Indians</i>	March 25, 2022	Residential
<i>Karuk Tribe</i>	March 25, 2022	Agriculture, Business, Residential
<i>Morongo Band of Mission Indians</i>	April 14, 2022	Agriculture, Business, Residential, Wind Solar, Wind Energy Evaluation
<i>Nisqually Indian Tribe</i>	August 30, 2022	Business
<i>Pueblo of Laguna</i>	September 7, 2022	Business

HEARTH ACT Trainings and Webinars

DRES, in conjunction with the Office of the Solicitor (SOL), has conducted, led, and moderated training sessions for the BIA Realty field, Regional Realty Officers, and several overview sessions for Lenders and Tribes.

Training	Audience	Date(s) of Training
<i>HEARTH Act Overview</i>	Regional Realty Officers	November 4, 2022
<i>National Lending Systems Focus Group</i>	External Organization	December 9, 2021 February 10, 2022 April 14, 2022 June 16, 2022 September 8, 2022
<i>New Mexico Tribal Home Ownership Coalition</i>	External Organization	December 16, 2021 April 26, 2022
<i>Tribal Housing and Related Infrastructure Interagency Task Force</i>	Federal Agencies	January 27, 2022
<i>National HEARTH Act Training</i>	BIA Realty Field staff	June 15 & 22, 2022
<i>Tribal HEARTH Act Overview</i>	Tribes	July 6 & 7, 2022 August 17, 2022
<i>DOI Tracking System (DTS) HEARTH Act Documents</i>	Regional HEARTH Act points of contact	September 14, 2022

Policy Updates

- The 52 IAM 13 policy for the HEARTH Act approved June 16, 2022, establishes the review and approval process for Tribal leasing regulations under the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act). It has been updated since the 2020 version to reflect changes to format and other guidance.
- Rights-of-Way (ROW) on Indian Lands Handbook, 52 IAM 9-H, approved on January 10, 2022, updated version 2016 handbook.
- This NPM streamlines the ROW and Business Lease Application Process for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Telecommunication and Renewable Energy Projects after NPM-TRUS-40 expired.

Rights-of-Way

- DRES conducted training on NPM-TRUS-44 in June 2022. The DRES also provided updates and information to its partners on this policy memorandum.
- Input provided on implemented Memorandum of Understanding with the [National Telecommunications and Information Administration](#) (NTIA) regarding ROWs and Business Leases environmental reviews the [Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program](#) (TBCP).
- Technical assistance and trainings on ROWs by the Trust Asset and Accounting Management System (TAAMS) and DRES have been provided to agency and regional field staff several times this year.

American Broadband Initiative

DRES collaborated with the [American Broadband Initiative](#) (ABI) Streamlining Federal Permitting and the DOI Broadband and Infrastructure Team in weekly meetings. The ABI is a work group made up of 25 federal agencies mandated reporting on the [Mobile Now Act](#). The ABI work group requested analysis on the Inflation Reduction Act and its effect on their offices.

The DOI Broadband bi-weekly meetings have demonstrated the need for more collaboration on the efforts to reduce the burden and streamline policies on ROWs for broadband projects by updating and amending regulations and policies. The group has incorporated infrastructure to the work group discussion. The work group collaborated on the [Clean Energy Act of 2020](#) with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to establish Renewal Energy Coordinating Offices (RECOs) with other federal agencies. DRES presented information on broadband ROWs at the DOI 2022 National Tribal Broadband Summit.

Excess Lands

- DRES has reviewed the online the General Services Administration (GSA) [Notices of Availability for excess federal government property](#) and distributed out to the Regions for a tribal connection and use of the property under authority 40 U.S.C. Section 523 (excess within the boundaries of a tribal reservation) and Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) P.L. 93-638 contracts/compacts to delivery services under their agreements.
- Drafted technical handbook and NPM on the processing of excess land transfers. Collaboration efforts took place with the Indian Health Service (IHS) and BIA's Facilities Management office for the drafts.
- Technical assistance provided to four (4) Regions with pending land transfer requests. In addition, Division received a land transfer request from the Midwest Regional office for the transfers of excess real property for the USDA's Forest Office Complex in Manistique, MI, on behalf of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Proclamations

- The last time Reservation Proclamations were updated in the Federal Register was in 2017, 82 FR 4405.
- DRES will be updating the Fee to Trust handbook that will include procedural guidance for its employees on processing reservation proclamations, including simultaneous requests for trust acquisition and reservation proclamations.
- DRES received one proclamation request from the Northwest Regional Office that is still pending.

Surface Leasing

- DRES for the Surface Lease User Group, queried Realty Officers this fiscal year in its RRO Meetings and based on their expressed needs, initiated work on the first draft on an update to the Residential Lease Handbook.
- Responses were made this Fiscal Year for Senate Committee on Indian Affairs hearing March 2022 regarding agricultural lease challenges and activity and opportunities for collaboration with USDA.

Proposed Land Transfers

DRES has commented on various proposed land transfer legislation for lands to be held in trust for tribes from the both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate on the following:

Bill Number	Purpose of the Bill
<i>H.R. 2402</i>	<i>Winnebago Land Transfer Act.</i> To transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands from the Army Corps of Engineers to the BIA, on behalf of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.
<i>H.R. 7581</i>	<i>Yurok Lands Act of 2022.</i> DOI must enter into a cooperative agreement with the Yurok Tribe to protect the natural resources of Redwood National Park and transfers 1,229 acres in the Yurok Experimental Forest and Six Rivers National Forest to DOI.
<i>H.R. 8380</i>	<i>Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Shab-eh-nay Band Settlement Act of 2022.</i> The tribe may use settlement funds to acquire up to 1,151 acres of land within or near the reservation and authorizes tribe to enter into an agreement with the State of Illinois and local governments.
<i>S.3773</i>	The bill authorizes Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation to lease their trust land for up to a 99-year term.
<i>H.R. 8286</i>	Bill to take certain Federal land in the State of Washington into trust for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and for other purposes.
<i>H.R. 8109</i>	Tribal Cultural preserve and protect cultural sites and the management of the sacred sites. Explicit designation.
<i>H.R. 8719</i>	<i>Gila Conservation Act.</i> Creates a tribal commission that have historical connection by providing ecological knowledge with historical and critical areas.
<i>H.R. 4881</i>	<i>Old Pascua Community Land Acquisition Act.</i> DOI to take tribally owned lands in Pima County, AZ, into trust for the benefit of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of AZ and lands shall be part of the Reservation.
<i>Energy Act of 2020</i>	The Act includes funding for various carbon management and removal program over five (5) years. BLM is lead agency, requesting BIA comment on the interagency MOU that would establish Renewable Energy Coordinating Office (RECOs) that would work with the tribes.
<i>Energy Act of 2020</i>	The Act includes taking certain lands in Bernalillo, Cibola, Sandoval, Valencia Counties in New Mexico into trust for the benefit of the Pueblo of Laguna and other purposes.

Lockbox

The DRES initiated Phase II of the Outstanding Lockbox Checks and Invoices Project in February 2022. The project required the Regions to submit plans of actions on how it would address its outstanding invoices and checks. The project ends September 2022. The DRES met monthly with each Region throughout the project and Regions provided monthly status reports. As of September 1, 2022, all the Regions have collectively resolved 1,933 100% Direct Pay invoices totaling \$7,322,504.62; and 3,422 Agency Pay/Direct Pay Invoices totaling \$2,210,807.84 and \$90,034.16 respectively.

Cadastral Survey Programs

DRES ensured FY2022 Reimbursable Services Agreement (RSA) and associated Inter/Intra-Agency Agreement (IIA) was in place for the Cadastral Survey program. Recently RSA Modification 2 to Purchase Order (PO)4500160283 was approved for a total funding of \$2,927,714.91. The DRES has responded this Fiscal year to GAO providing its Cadastral Inventory.

Mortgages Approved

A total of 323 mortgages were received this year and 248 mortgages of those have been approved. Overall, 296 mortgages have approved this year and 71% have been processed within regulatory timeframes.

DRES continues to work with the field to process mortgages in accordance with regulations. Weekly Mortgage Reports are prepared, analyzed, and distributed to Senior leadership on the ongoing status of all pending mortgage applications received by BIA. DRES continues to work on enhancing the Mortgage Tracker to provide reporting to Senior leadership and field staff.

Mass Appraisals

AVSO is using mass appraisal techniques to address some of these requests, especially for agricultural leases and rights-of-way; however, developing multiple regression models takes time and may cause cases to go into the backlog for a time. The mass appraisal technique allows many cases (sometimes 500+) to be completed once the model is complete. To further this effort, AVSO has established a special project team that uses the expertise of staff from the former Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations and applies these techniques where allowed by law and regulation. This group is assigned to the AVSO Central Region, which covers the four BIA regions with the highest amount of backlog assignments and where they can most effectively address the backlog.

Appraisal and Valuation Services Office

The [Appraisal and Valuation Services Office](#) (AVSO) Workgroup/Appraisal Streamlining Workgroup had its fourth meeting on June 3, 2022. BIA DRES joined the group on its second call and has thus far attended three meetings. The initial stated purpose of the Workgroup in its draft group charter is below:

- Examine Yellow Book in the context of Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) and identify significant differences and reasons for the same.
- Explore and consider/reconsider the need for Yellow Book Standards for all federal land acquisitions.
- Analyze the national LWCF appraisal workload and discern risk when developing recommendations on what appraisal assignments might be suitable for USPAP appraisal standards.
- Explore appraisal reporting requirements in conjunction with those properties identified for USPAP appraisal standards.

DRES recommends in addition to its participation on the workgroup to meet separately and regularly with AVSO for services on Indian lands as the current yellow book workgroup group objectives reflect service needs provided to other DOI agencies such as National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&W).

The backlog number is generally between 450 and 500 cases at any given time and has dropped 12% since July. Backlog is generally found in 4 regions – Great Plains, Rocky Mountain, Eastern Oklahoma, and Southern Plains Regions. The backlog occurs partly because of bulk appraisal orders entered at one time (sometimes up to 1000 requests in one batch) and the established timeframe for when a request is considered in the backlog.

Backlog of Appraisals by Region for week ending September 9, 2022

Region	Open Cases	New Cases Assigned	New Cases Unassigned	Appraisals Closed	Reviews Closed	Backlog
<i>Eastern</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Midwest</i>	50	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Great Plains</i>	166	1	4	0	3	114
<i>Rocky Mtn.</i>	215	0	3	0	0	138
<i>E. Oklahoma</i>	94	1	10	0	7	81
<i>S. Plains</i>	110	17	216	0	0	96
<i>Southwest</i>	2	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Navajo</i>	5	4	3	0	0	0
<i>Western</i>	49	0	8	0	0	0
<i>Pacific</i>	48	0	0	2	0	0
<i>Northwest</i>	361	0	67	0	13	19
<i>Alaska</i>	14	0	9	1	0	0
TOTAL	1114	23	320	3	23	450

Conversion from OASIS to new Appraisal System

This is related to the conversion from OASIS to Interior Valuation Information System (IVIS), which has been underway for two years. One challenge was maintaining the ability of IVIS to handle bulk appraisal requests, such as those where the most significant numbers of backlogs occur. Issues related to bulk appraisal ordering and the generation of Statements of Value which are the deliverable from a multiple regression model, are the final obstacles to overcome in the complete cutover to the IVIS system.

BLM Contract Numbering Change

There was a change in the numbering scheme for contracts at Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This influenced the lease numbering scheme as it comes across in the file that is ultimately loaded in TAAMS. A change request was written for this enhancement to TAAMS so that it would allow us to accept an increased character count in the lease number that comes from the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR).

Tasks Going Forward

Handbooks

DRES aims for the first draft of an updated Residential Lease handbook to be submitted for review to SOL and RACA by early 2023. DRES also plans to update the outdated policies and handbooks associated with Lockbox, FTT, Trespass, and any other as needed. DRES will also update all outdated TAAMS Business Rules for Acquisition & Disposal and Fee to Trust, and any other as needed.

One of the DRES Senior Realty Specialist has been an instructor as a part of a team teach approach to the Standard Operating Procedures for Indian Fluid Mineral Activity trainings. This year's sessions have all be held virtually. This regularly scheduled training is for staff from BLM, ONRR, BIA, and BTFA. A training session was also tailored for the Executives in December.

Program Reviews

DRES was requested to review two BIA Agencies in the Rocky Mountain Region and the Great Plains Region that will be completed within the next fiscal year.

The Southern Ute Trust Program Review occurred in May 2021 by several DRES personnel. The report was provided but it was also revisited for Corrective Action Plans (CAPs). The agency did place some CAPs on their programs and there was follow up. Upcoming plans are being made to complete real estate services' program reviews at two more agencies, Fort Belknap, and Fort Berthold.

Excess Lands Transfer Requests

DRES expects the BIA Real Property Acquisitions, Transfers and Disposals handbook to be completed in FY 2023. It was decided to provide the field staff with a handbook on the acquisitions and disposals for excess real property from BIA land holdings and from other federal agencies under the acquisition authorities, ISDEAA P.L. 93-638 and 40 U.S.C. Section 523. The handbook on excess property was initiated during the last fiscal year as an additional resource for the field staff and tribes. It will include collaboration from and in conjunction with other BIA program area and other federal agencies who have excess real property within and outside of a tribal reservation available to tribes.

The handbook will serve as a guidance to the BIA agencies and regions on the process on responding to excess real property transfer requests from tribes or from a General Service Administration (GSA) Notice of Availability. In addition to the handbook, there will be a revision to the delegation of authority policy for the acquisitions and disposals of excess real property transfer process to tribes as a streamlining effort. Once the handbook is completed, training will be provided to the field on both the handbook and Indian Affairs Manual (IAM) for dealing with excess real property requests submitted by a tribe.

HEARTH Act Leasing

The HEARTH Act team will continue to provide and present trainings to the BIA field as well as to Tribes and Lenders to address any issues relating to leasehold mortgages under the [HEARTH Act](#).

- HEARTH Act Overview for Tribes scheduled on October 27, 2022
- National HEARTH Act training for field staff scheduled on November 9, 2022.
- DRES works to meet a 120-day statutory review and approval timeframe for new HEARTH Act submissions.
- Work on-going with senior management to implement an online application system for Tribes to be able to submit their HEARTH Act regulations for Secretarial review and approval and follow the case progression.

Lockbox Project on Phase II

A proposed Phase II Outstanding Lockbox project in early FY 2023 focuses on development of a national Lockbox processing training with updated Indian Affairs Manuals (IAMs). The training is geared toward field staff with daily duties including Lockbox, TAAMS payments, payment terms and check matching.

Enhancement was made to TAAMS that deals with the distribution of the Amoco Settlement payments for five allotted oil and gas leases on the Wind River Reservation. The enhancement has not been implemented at this time; however, it is ready to be used as soon as the Wind River Agency has finished the updates to the ownership decks with the five involved leases.

General Accounting Office (GAO) Recommendations

In conjunction with the Indian Energy Service Center, Real Estate Services has completed tasks in the effort to close GAO 15-502. This recommendation has been identified for tracking the approvals of oil and gas leases. This recommendation is on track to be closed by the end of this early next FY 2023. The communication between GAO and IESC will continue as monthly updates and status will be provided to the Division of Real Estate Services and to the Regional Realty Officers.

Challenges

- The National Telecommunication and Information Administration's Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program will provide almost three (3) billion for tribal broadband projects for Tribes.
- As a result of an OPM report on Competency Modeling and Gap Analysis for the BIA Real Estate Services positions, DRES was tasked to identify the proficiencies of each grade level and their competencies. This included the positions of Realty Officers, Realty Specialists, and Realty Assistants.
- Addressing Current or Potential (Transaction) Backlogs
- Staff Vacancies presents a challenge for most if not all Regions where prioritizing current data cleanup and new projects.
- The DRES also experienced staff shortages/vacancies this fiscal year. DRES has repeatedly prepared packages for advertisement of three realty specialists and one program analyst. To date, the positions have not been advertised. DRES continues to work with OTS – Human Resources to see these positions filled.

- Indian Energy Service Center has assumed the mineral activities (nationwide bond approval and termination, bankruptcy tracking, bimonthly MRAD principal validation, Mineral User Group lead, TAAMS subject matter expert for training, etc.) that were once performed by DRES under an administrative realignment. This has resulted in shifting of duties within DRES and its organizational

Opportunities

Under this year FY 2022 Cadastral Reimbursable Service Agreement (RSA), additional funding from Trust Management Improvement Program (TMIP) and regional sources was made available for the Santa Ana Pueblo Trespass (\$25,000) and a cooperative staff agreement (\$100,000) for a retired Bureau Indian Land Surveyor (BILS) at the Western Regional Office to provide training and support.

Best Practices

- Best practices include handbooks, policy, etc., along with use of technology to simplify business practices. The DRES is working on updating the Residential Lease Handbook with its user group and hopes to have a draft to begin the review process by early 2023. The standardization of handbooks, guidance and policy at the national level assures that all strategies and services are in alignment and opportunities to realize efficiencies in operation are captured
- DRES will work to continue implementation of the HEARTH Tracker, Mortgage Tracker, Cadastral Surveys SmartSheets, Excess Lands SmartSheets, TAAMS Change Requests, and the Fee to Trust Public Portal.
- Management must gain expertise to understanding and incorporate Tribes' needs into decisions by engaging with stakeholders about what they want and need.

Division of Trust Land Consolidation



Mission

The mission of the Division of Trust Land Consolidation is to facilitate sound land management and administration, support Tribal sovereignty and self-determination, and promote economic opportunity in Indian Country by reducing Indian land fractionation.

Who We Serve

The Division of Trust Land Consolidation provides opportunities for individual Indian landowners to voluntarily sell fractional land interests, at fair market value, for consolidation under Tribal ownership. The DLTC supports Tribes by increasing Tribal management control over reservation lands, better enabling Tribes to protect and utilize lands for purposes benefitting the Tribal community.

Accomplishments

The Land Buy-Back Acquisition Center is responsible for carrying out the land acquisition and title related functions of the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (Buy-Back Program). In Fiscal Year 2022, the Acquisition Center acquired fractional interests in trust or restricted land at twelve reservation locations:

Blackfeet	Lower Brule	Sisseton
Crow	Northern Cheyenne	Turtle Mountain
Crow Creek	Omaha	Umatilla
Fort Belknap	Pine Ridge	Winnebago

Accomplishments at these locations

- 4,108 sales processed
- \$77,428,869.58 paid to willing sellers
- 34,042 fractional interests in 8,875 tracts acquired
- The equivalent of 123,616 acres consolidated under Tribal ownership
- Tribal ownership increased to 50% or greater in 542 tracts

Since the first Buy-Back Program sales were processed in 2013, the Acquisition Center has purchased over 1 million fractional interests in 51,955 tracts of land at 53 locations. The equivalent of nearly 3 million acres has been restored to Tribal ownership, with Tribes gaining majority ownership in more than 20,000 tracts. Willing individual Indian sellers have been paid a total of nearly \$1.7 billion for interests sold.

The Buy-Back Program is scheduled to end in November 2022 under the terms of the Cobell Settlement. While Indian land fractionation has been reduced substantially through the Buy-Back Program, resources made available through the Cobell Settlement are not sufficient to purchase all fractional interests and many will remain after the Program ends. Without sustained land consolidation efforts, Indian lands will continue to fractionate, diminishing the Buy-Back Program's achievements.

Re-Established Indian Land Consolidation Program

In recognition of the benefits to be gained by sustained efforts to reduce fractionation, Congress provided authorization and an initial appropriation of \$7 million in Fiscal Year 2022 to re-establish an Indian land consolidation program in BIA. The re-established program utilizes existing infrastructure in the Acquisition Center and adheres to best practices from the Buy-Back Program, including:

- Close coordination and collaboration with participating Tribes, including through cooperative agreements (the Indian Land Consolidation Act prohibits use of 638 contracts/compacts).
- Streamlined, standardized, and automated processes and procedures for acquiring fractional land interests, specifically designed to minimize associated administrative costs, and
- Efficient and cost-effective mass appraisal methods for obtaining timely fair market values on large numbers of properties.

Funds provided in Fiscal Year 2022 have been utilized to take actions necessary to stand up the new program. These actions have been and will continue to be conducted concurrently with Buy-Back Program land acquisitions, for which the Acquisition Center remains responsible through November 24, 2022, when the Buy-Back Program ends. The new program anticipates making purchase offers at initial locations in late 2022 or early 2023, depending on availability of appraisals.

The Acquisition Center, redesignated as the Division of Trust Land Consolidation, will continue land consolidation efforts on a nationwide basis by purchasing fractional land interests from willing sellers at fair market value, thereby increasing the amount of Tribal trust land for conservation, stewardship, economic development, or other uses deemed beneficial by Tribes. Continued efforts will further enhance the ability of Tribes to address the climate crisis while supporting environmental justice principles and Tribal sovereignty and self-determination, in support of Administration priorities and initiatives in Indian Country. Continued efforts will also further reduce Federal government costs associated with managing fractional land interests.

Tasks Going Forward

Tribal Listening Sessions

Two Tribal Listening Sessions were held in September 2022, seeking Tribal input on utilizing new Congressional funding to acquire fractional interests in trust or restricted land. Received input will inform development of proposed operating plans for the new/re-established Indian land consolidation program. Tribal consultation on proposed plans will follow in late 2022 or early 2023.

Deployment of New TAAMS Module

Necessary actions to stand up the new/re-established program – including deployment of a new TAAMS module for processing transactions, finalization of new policies, and coordination with AVSO on appraisals for land consolidation at initial locations – will continue through the remaining months of 2022.

Sunset of Land Buy-Back Program

The Buy-Back Program will formally end on November 24, 2022, and is on track to fully expend the funds made available through the Cobell Settlement to reduce fractionation. Until that time, the Acquisition Center will remain responsible for processing Buy-Back Program land acquisitions at the sunseting Program's final locations. The Acquisition Center, redesignated as the Division of Trust Land Consolidation, anticipates making purchase offers at initial locations in late 2022 or early 2023, depending on availability of appraisals. To leverage existing appraisals, initial locations may include Buy-Back Program locations at which insufficient Buy-Back Program funds were available to make purchase offers on all eligible fractional interests.

Challenges

On-Going Fractionation

Unless Indian land consolidation efforts are sustained, the substantial reduction in fractionation achieved by the Buy-Back Program will ultimately be erased by continued fractionation; voluntary acquisitions must continue at a rate at least comparable to the rate of continued fractionation to prevent this from occurring. Once fractional land interests are consolidated under Tribal ownership, the fractionation process is permanently halted. The Department requested \$150 million in FY 2022 to continue cost-effective voluntary acquisitions beyond the Buy-Back Program; \$7 million was ultimately authorized. Without adequate funding, the rate of continued fractionation will outpace consolidation.

Mass Appraisals

Another challenge is continued access to timely appraisals for large numbers of fractionated reservation tracts. In 2000, when Congress first authorized the Interior Secretary to purchase fractional land interests from willing sellers for consolidation under Tribal ownership, Congress recognized that one of the most significant impediments to Indian land consolidation is the cost of appraisal. To address this challenge, Congress authorized the secretary to employ alternative appraisal methods for land consolidation purposes, such as the mass appraisal methodology used for and key to the success of the Buy-Back Program. Continued use of statutorily authorized mass appraisal methods will be key to cost-effective Indian land consolidation efforts going forward.

While mass appraisal is not appropriate under all circumstances, tracts within many of the most highly fractionated Indian reservations are amenable to mass appraisal. This approach is efficient and economical, expedites the appraisal process, and makes values for large numbers of tracts available within established timeframes at a fraction of the cost of individual appraisals. Mass appraisal capability and use should be maintained and expanded for future acquisitions of fractional interests from willing sellers.

Opportunities

The voluntary nature of the Buy-Back Program has been key to its success. By making it possible for individual Indian landowners to voluntarily participate in land consolidation, and by prioritizing landowner education and customer service, the Program overcame initial skepticism and distrust and built trust in Indian Country. Voluntary participation has exceeded 50% at numerous locations, reaching 70% and above in some instances. Many willing sellers remain who missed or never had an opportunity to participate in the Buy-Back Program, including and especially at numerous locations the Program did not reach during its limited timeframe. Many other landowners who previously participated in the Program are ready and willing to sell additional fractional interests. Much opportunity remains to consolidate Indian lands efficiently and effectively through voluntary acquisitions.

The Division of Trust Land Consolidation stands ready to continue this work beyond the Buy-Back Program, and to thereby further enhance the ability of Tribes to address the climate crisis while supporting environmental justice principles and Tribal sovereignty and self-determination. Continued efforts will also further reduce Federal government costs associated with managing fractional land interests. To support continued voluntary acquisitions, the Department requested \$80 million in FY 2023.

Best Practices

To successfully consolidate fractional interests on an unprecedented scale while minimizing administrative costs, the Acquisition Center developed and utilized a streamlined, automated, and standardized conveyance process and procedures for implementation of the Buy-Back Program. Leveraging best available technology, the Acquisition Center generates, and processes offers in TAAMS, making it possible to accurately process far more sales in significantly less time and at less cost than would otherwise be feasible.

Likewise, the Buy-Back Program has utilized efficient and cost-effective mass appraisal methods for obtaining timely fair market values for large numbers of reservation properties.

In addition, close coordination and collaboration with Tribes has been a priority for the Buy-Back Program. While the Indian Land Consolidation Act precludes Tribal 638 contracting and compacting, Tribes have participated in numerous aspects of fractional interest acquisition through cooperative agreements and MOUs.

The Division of Trust Land Consolidation will adhere to all established best practices in its continued efforts to reduce Indian land fractionation after the Buy-Back Program ends.

Division of Water and Power (DWP)



Lower Two Medicine Dam

Mission

The mission of the Division of Water and Power promotes self-determination, economic opportunities, and public safety through the sound management of irrigation, dam, and power facilities owned or operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In support of this mission, DWP is committed to the following:

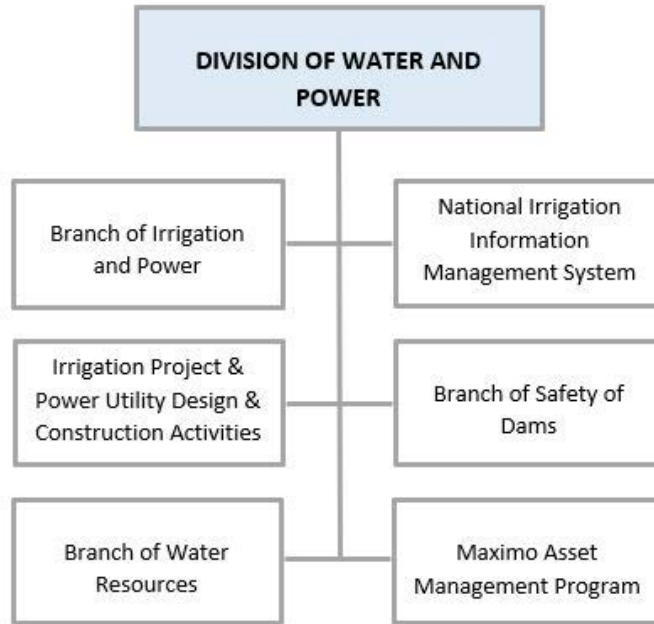
- Providing our stakeholders with quality services and improved accountability, including protecting and preserving life, property, and trust resources.
- Assisting tribes in the management of water resources through measurement, analysis, and modeling.
- Promoting the transfer of management, administration, operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of irrigation, dam, and power facilities to tribes, irrigators, and water user associations.
- Fostering communication, cooperation, and consultation among Federal, State, tribal, and local organizations related to water resources, irrigation, power, and dam safety.
- Promoting state-of-the-art technologies to improve the management and conservation of water resources in a sustainable manner, while maximizing the economic benefits to our stakeholders.

Who We Serve

The Division of Water and Power is responsible for the management, operation, maintenance, and asset management of BIA-owned irrigation and power projects and under the Safety of Dams program, for maintenance and rehabilitation of dams on Indian lands. The division is also responsible for providing policy, oversight, advisory, and technical support to BIA regions, agencies, and projects on water resources, irrigation, power, safety of dams, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hydropower licensing and re-licensing.

Accomplishments and Tasks Going Forward

DWP accomplishments and Tasks Going Forward are primarily captured in the Branch reports below.



Challenges

DWP faces difficulties in obtaining and retaining adequate human resources. The Program has awarded a technical services contract to assist, but inherently federal duties remain that bottleneck to the execution the program. There have been many HR challenges, including the time it takes to for a position to be advertised. Many additional federal personnel are needed. A significant recruiting and retention challenge faced by the Program is that the BIA does not participate in Special Salary Rates used by other agencies for engineers performing similar duties. In addition, the BIA Regional and Agency Offices have difficulty recruiting and keeping qualified and trained Regional Irrigation Engineers, Project Managers, Dam Tenders, and other related SOD, Irrigation, or Power staff. Attracting and maintaining a qualified federal staff remains the program’s most significant challenge.

Opportunities

The FY 2022 budget increase and the additional funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will afford the opportunity to accelerate the completion of several safety of dams, irrigation, and power rehabilitation projects.

DWP is taking the opportunity to update organizational charts and develop a strategic plan to address the challenges it faces and looks forward to embracing the growing challenges of programmatic growth and performance expectations.

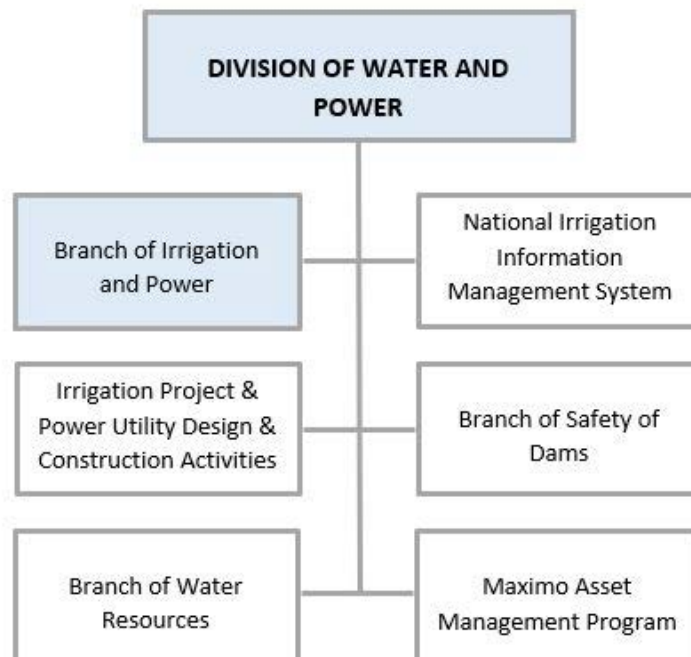
Best Practices

The Decision Support Tool allows for tracking ongoing work activities in a geospatial context. There has been extensive work to continue development and data checking for this tool. Each Branch has identified specific Best Practices in this writeup.

DWP, Branch of Irrigation and Power

The BIA owns and operates, in full or in part, the following sixteen (16) revenue-generating irrigation projects: Blackfeet, Colorado River, Crow, Duck Valley, Flathead, Fort Belknap, Fort Hall, Fort Peck, Navajo, Pine River, Pyramid Lake, San Carlos (Indian Works and Joint Works), Uintah, Walker River, Wapato, and Wind River. Currently, the Irrigation Program serves approximately 25,000 water users and delivers irrigation water over 780,000 acres of land.

BIP provides policy, advisory, oversight, and technical assistance to the 17 congressionally authorized irrigation projects and associated Regions, including billing and collection activities for operations and maintenance (O&M) assessments, and distributes funds both collected and appropriated for the O&M of those facilities. In addition, there are over 100 irrigation systems, mostly operated and maintained by the Indian Tribes, which were established under the general authority of the [Snyder Act](#) (25 U.S.C. § 13). These 17 irrigation projects and over 100 systems are under the jurisdiction of the specific Region or Agency where they are located.



The Power Program provides oversight and technical assistance to three power utilities located in two Regions and distributes the collected funds for the operation and maintenance (O&M) of those facilities back to the projects. The individual congressionally authorized power projects provide transmission and distribution of electrical services to customers within their project service areas. The Colorado River Agency utility also has generation capabilities. These three power projects are under the jurisdiction of the specific Region or agency where they are located:

- San Carlos Irrigation Project – Power Division (Arizona)
- Colorado River Agency – Electrical Services (Arizona)
- Mission Valley Power (Montana), which is currently managed, operated and maintained under the P.L. 93-638 contract with the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)

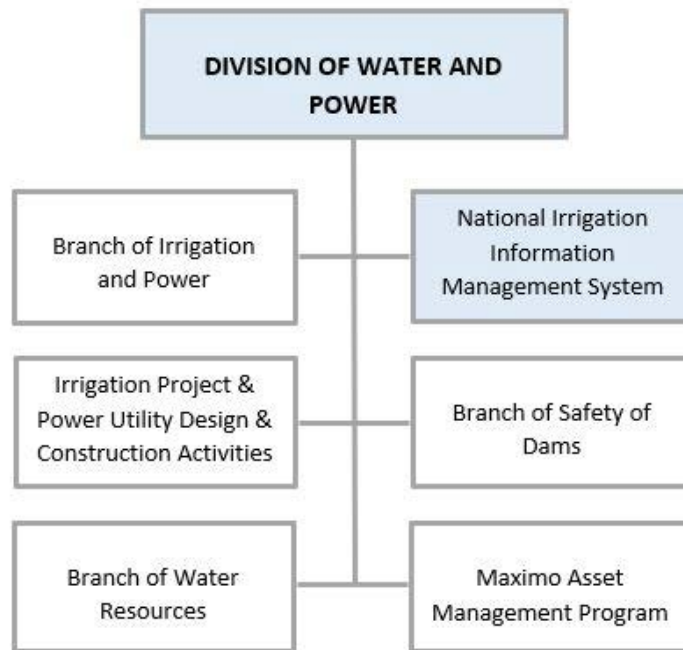
Funds Management

Conducted funds management activities for the five Functional Areas within the Branch of Irrigation and Power area of responsibility:

Code	Functional Area	FY 2022 Funding	Projects Funded
A0N30	<i>Irrigation Operation and Maintenance</i>	\$14,169,000	Invoice exceeded funding by \$111,046. Determined which location would receive shortfall after requests for additional funds not granted
A1121	<i>Navajo Indian Irrigation Project</i>	\$3,410,000	Worked with Navajo Region, Navajo Nation, and Reclamation Four Corners Construction office to determine activities to identify desired accomplishments
A1122	<i>Engineering and Supervision</i>	\$2,706,000	Branch salaries, Region Irrigation Engineer salaries, and contract staff
A1123	<i>Survey and Design</i>	\$1,016,000	Irrigation Modernization and Economic Sustainability Studies
A1128	<i>Irrigation Projects</i>	\$15,296,000	Used to fund construction related salaries and rehabilitation projects
A1163	<i>WIIN Act</i>	\$10,000,000	Appropriated from Indian Irrigation Fund and distributed to the 17 Congressionally authorized Indian Irrigation Projects
Ai112	<i>Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds for Irrigation and Power</i>	\$10,000,000	Appropriation for Irrigation and Power projects below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3,000,000 to 3 Power Utilities (\$1M each) • \$1,000,000 to CO River Agency, Branch of Electrical Services for the Headgate Rock Dam PP Unit 3 Overhaul Supplement • \$1M to Mission Valley Power Kerr Substation Upgrades Supplement • \$1,850,000 to CO River Indian Irrigation Project Radial Gage Rehab • \$1,250,000 to Fort Peck Irrigation Project Wiota and Frazer Pumping Stations Rehab • \$3,740,000 to Wapato Irrigation Project, Wapato Main Diversion Structure

DWP, National Irrigation Information System (NIIMS)

BIP assesses operation and maintenance (O&M) charges to customers in accordance with 25 C.F.R. § 171 and other regulations, as applicable, for reimbursement to the BIA for O&M costs and to repay construction costs for 15 BIA owned Irrigation Projects and the Fort Yuma Irrigation District Indian Lands. The Fort Yuma Irrigation Project is owned and operated by the Bureau of Reclamation with a portion serving the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation. All lands suitable for irrigation, to which water can be delivered through individual congressionally authorized constructed works of the Indian irrigation projects (Project), are subject to O&M assessments (whether water is delivered or not) unless exempted by legislation or specific regulations.



Accomplishments

NIIMS Metrics (through August 31):

- 7,965 annual and supplemental bills printed and mailed
- ~\$31.2M collections
- ~5,600 total customer payments
- ~2,700 electronic payments processed
- 48.6% of total payments paid via electronic payment (DASM set a challenge to increase e-payments while decreasing paper checks)
- 799 delinquent receivables referred to U.S. Treasury
- ~\$714,000 from customers paid to U.S. Treasury for delinquent irrigation O&M debt

Provided ten (10) NIIMS for Users training sessions on topics including New User; NIIMS for Managers; Quarterly Update; NIIMS Refund Process; and Irrigation O&M Overpayments.

Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA) Audit

The NIIMS application was selected for a Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA) performance audit in April 2022 and was conducted by KPMG contractors. A follow-up technical debrief discussion was held in July 2022 to review results of Vulnerability Security Scanning of the NIIMS application.

Memorandum of Understanding with U.S. Treasury

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the U.S. Treasury and BIA-OTS-DWP-NIIMS is fully signed. The MOU is an understanding to explore a new pilot project offered by the U.S. Treasury Debt Management Service (DMS) Cross-Servicing program. The pilot is for an initial duration of five years. The U.S. Treasury DMS will monitor BIA NIIMS debtors for bankruptcy filings, and if appropriate, file a claim on behalf of BIA, then perform the subsequent servicing functions which entail real-time access to [PACER.gov](https://pacer.gov) for monitoring bankruptcy filing status. This will minimize legal risk and potentially improve the chances of recouping unpaid delinquent debt for BIA irrigation projects. U.S. Treasury and BIA will meet monthly to coordinate the pilot project.

DWP will utilize the DOI Cloud Program for procuring a replacement system for NIIMS. The SOW for NIIMS replacement is undergoing review by NIIMS, Capital Planning, and Office of Information Management Technology (OIMT), and will be forwarded to the DOI Cloud Program for solicitation. NIIMS staff meet with the DOI Cloud Program on a weekly basis.

U.S. Treasury Lockbox

NIIMS is implementing a U.S. Treasury Lockbox for receiving and processing irrigation O&M paper payments for 14 out of 16 irrigation projects. Testing is currently underway with U.S. Treasury's servicing financial institution, U.S. Bank, to test and transmit BIA irrigation billing coupons with a scanline. Full implementation is expected in FY 2023 prior to annual O&M billing.

NIIMS continues to strive to improve the revenue realized position of BIA irrigation projects.

- A customizable billing insert was created with a QR code directing customers to the Irrigation Services BIA.gov webpage to access electronic payment options, project contact information, forms, FAQs and more.
- BIA Irrigation customers are encouraged to pay their irrigation O&M fees via electronic payment options: online bill pay through their financial institution; Pay.gov for amounts up to \$24,999.99; ACH Credit for amounts greater than \$25,000; Pay.gov pay-over-the-phone (currently only available for Fort Hall Irrigation Project customers).

The NIIMS program began migrating paper records to electronic by using the DWP SharePoint 365 and successfully implemented a non-print option in NIIMS for the schedule of collections report.

NIIMS program documentation has been created and updated for the following: System Administration Guide, Standard Operating Procedures, Central Office Functions Guide, NIIMS User Training Slides, and five internal use forms. Also, the Paperwork Reduction Act OMB 1076-0141 forms renewal was coordinated with Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, along with implementation of a Carriage Agreement template.

NIIMS staff conducted irrigation O&M rate-setting sessions with Northwest, Western, and Rocky Mountain Region irrigation project staff to propose 2024 annual O&M rates.

NIIMS staff coordinated with the Office of the Solicitor on drafting and publishing Federal Register Notices.

- Proposed Electric Power Rate Adjustment Increase for San Carlos Irrigation Project—Power Division, Arizona.
- Proposed and Final Irrigation Rate Adjustments for calendar year 2023.

Tasks Going Forward

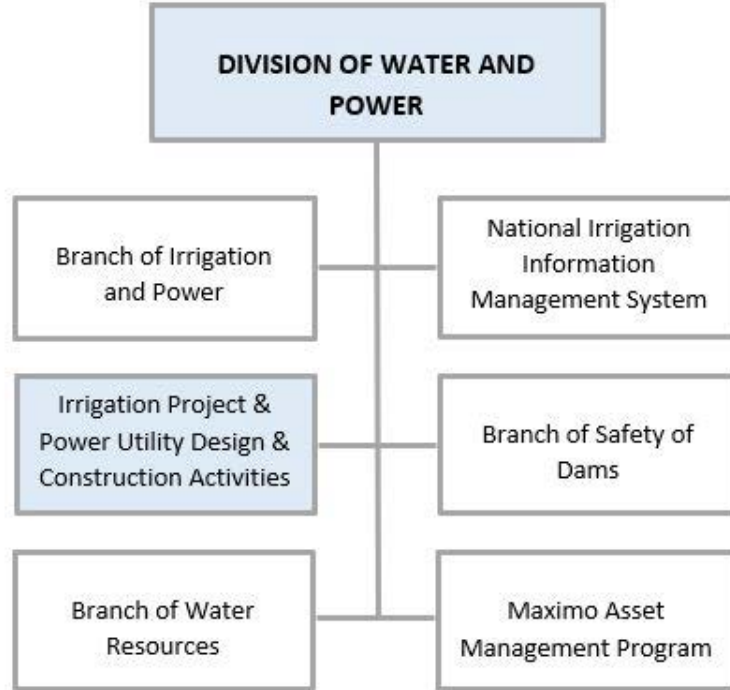
- NIIMS Replacement – DOI Federal Cloud Hosting Services (FCHS) published solicitation and awarded the new system.
- Implement U.S. Treasury Lockbox for paper payments.
- NIIMS metrics and charting; information sharing with Irrigation Projects, Agencies, and Regions. Continue promoting electronic payment options, billing inserts, and ACH credit mailer kits for Projects.
- Analysis of Year 1 of Bankruptcy Claim Filing pilot project with U.S. Treasury.
- Schedule NIIMS Training: New User, Managers, Quarterly Updates.
- Migration of paper records to electronic: printable reports menu option for temporary file storage.
- NIIMS documentation: Update 5 additional internal use forms and fully implement OMB-approved Carriage Agreement template.
- Data quality goals include: Reduce billing errors and revenue loss, land analysis, potential for geospatial layers and Delinquent debt and Taxpayer Identification Number compliance per regulation.

Challenges, Opportunities, Best Practices

The NIIMS application is set to be replaced with an updated solution to continue meeting BIA’s mission and goals. Irrigation is seasonal; most BIA irrigation project billing lifecycles are timed with irrigation water supply availability. The billing lifecycle must run on one version of NIIMS—either in the legacy system or replacement system, but not both. Engagement with all invested IA program areas such as Irrigation Project, Agency, and regional staff; Acquisitions; Office of Information Management and Technology; and Associate Chief Information Officer will streamline the process for implementation of a complete system replacement.

The transition to a modern technology platform allows for enhanced functionality; it will also further improve our efficiency and greatly reduce the risk of system failure, thereby maintaining compliance with regulations.

DWP, Irrigation Project & Power Utility Design & Construction Activities



Contracting Officer Representative (COR) duties on various projects

Wapato Irrigation Project - Drop 1 Pumping Plant, Water Screen, Pumps, and Structure A&E

- Successful award of Phase 1 “Water Screen Design” and Phase 3 “Drop 1 Condition Assessment” to Jacobs Engineering for \$1.1M.
- Onsite Project Kickoff Meeting scheduled for October 2022.

Coolidge Dam Outlet Works Rehabilitation Engineering Services and Construction Management

- All contract activities are on-schedule and up to date.
- Negotiated and implemented two contract modifications with Stantec Engineering to increase scope of services on the pre-construction support task and the construction administration task, specifically in the areas of inspection and submittal review. Modifications and Period of Performance (POP) extensions were the result of unforeseen site condition impacts and additional challenges due to COVID.
- Served as co-COR on the Coolidge Dam Outlet Works Construction Contract. Negotiated an acceptable award amount to match scope of services. Final award amount was \$12.231M to McMillen LLC. The contract is being administered through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Construction Branch.
- Assisted in the negotiation and implementation of a \$3.5M contract modification to accommodate additional debris removal around the base of the intake towers.
- Final inspection has taken place on the rehabilitation work. Both the engineering and the construction contracts are in the process of being closed out.

Power Divestiture Study Task Order

- Successful \$319,222 award and administration of the task order to HDR Engineering.
- Final report has been delivered.
- Formal report rollout September 2022 at the BIA National Power Meeting in Pablo, MT.

Wapato Main Diversion Dam Engineering Services and Construction Management

- Project team included key individuals from the BIA Central Office, Region and Agency, Yakama Nation Engineering, Yakima Lower River Group and DOWL Engineering.
- Negotiated and awarded contract to DOWL Engineering. All contract activities are on-schedule and up to date.
- Separated the project into four phases with 21 individual tasks. Currently on Phase 2 of the contract (“Conceptual Design Alternatives and Feasibility Study”); cost is \$1,699,811.
- Phase 2 includes a construction contract for dewatering the Yakima River to gather geotechnical information of the existing dam and perform minor rehab on the headworks. The Phase 2 contract is currently under advertisement with an award expected in November 2022.

Tyhee Siphon Rehabilitation Engineering Services and Construction Management

- Awarded task order to DOWL Engineering for \$1,065,171. All contract activities are on-schedule and up to date.
- Provided lengthy coordination and dialogue with DOWL Engineering on all construction RFIs, submittals and contractor invoices.
- Construction is complete. Final inspection has taken place. Project was formally closed out in August 2022.

Tyhee Siphon Phase III Construction Contract

- All contract activities are on-schedule and up to date.
- Team leads through the contract award process. Negotiated an acceptable award amount to match scope of services. Final award amount was \$8.124M to Doyon Management Services, LLC.
- Established an acceptable Request for Information (RFI) and submittal information exchange portal to prevent construction delays and accept final work accomplishments.
- Negotiated two contract modifications for out-of-scope work to include a change in pipe size and upgrade valve components.
- Coordinated weekly progress meetings and processed monthly pay applications. Construction is complete and final inspection has taken place. Project was formally closed out in August 2022. Continuing to provide Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System (CPARS) information.

Power Condition Assessment and Engineering Review Task Order

- Award of task order to HDR Engineering for \$1.7M. Original contract officially closed, continuing to provide CPARS information.
- Conducted a final report rollout workshop in conjunction with the 2021 BIA National Power Meeting in Pablo, MT.

Bannock Pumping Plant Engineering Services and Construction Management

- Administered the Source Selection Evaluation Board.
- Awarded Phase 1 “Condition Assessment and Conceptual Design” to HDR Engineering for \$127,567.
- Coordinated the assembly of a Statement of Work (SOW), Independent Government Cost Estimate (IGCE), Purchase Request (PR) and assignment of a CO.
- Currently utilizing Phase 1 findings to develop final SOW for Phase 2 “Final Design and Construction Support Services”. Expected to award Phase 2 by December 2022.

CRA Main Canal Check Structures Engineering Services and Construction Management

- Administered the Source Selection Evaluation Board. Identified the best avenue for administration of the construction contract through the BIA Central Office Contracting group.
- Coordinated the assembly of a SOW, IGCE, and PR, and coordinated assignment of a CO.

Fort Belknap Irrigation Rehabilitation Engineering Services and Construction Management

- Training Central Office engineering staff to take the lead on this contract.
- Finalizing plans and specifications for 2023 construction contract.

Branch of Irrigation and Power 5-year Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) A&E contract

- Maintaining the contract requirement for the five contractors that hold awards under this IDIQ contract. Initiated Option Years 1, 2, 3 and 4. Providing CPARS information.
- Working with the Central Office contracting team on advertising and awarding the next Branch of Irrigation and Power 5-year Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quality (IDIQ) Architecture & Engineering (A&E) contract. The contract will be valid for A&E service up to \$50M each for five years, 2023 to 2028.

Reporting and Training

- Staff maintained Level II COR Certification.
- Established the agenda and facilitated the 2022 BIA National Power Workshop in Pablo, MT.
- Assisted with training new NW Regional Irrigation Engineer and 2 new Central Office Civil Engineers.
- Assisted with FY 2022 DWP-BIP Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) Report submittals.
- Assembled 2022 Project Data Sheets (PDS) for several of the irrigation projects, as well as training other staff on assembling PDS information.
- Trained other staff on the process of collecting project information, assembling list of candidate projects, populating the spreadsheet, and initiating fund distributions.
- Maintained the Project Ranking and Prioritization Spreadsheet.

Technical Assistance

- Coordinated with Regional Irrigation Engineers on A1128 deferred maintenance project write-ups and submissions.
- Provided BIA Central Office technical assistance for the Portneuf Pumping Plant Rehab Project at Fort Hall Irrigation Project. Project is a design/build through the Shoshone Bannock Tribes.
- Provided technical assistance for establishing a scoping report on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Flathead River Pumping Plant to be conducted by CSKT and BOR.
- Provided technical assistance to Regional Irrigation Engineers in the development of a Five-Year Project Priority Lists for each of their irrigation projects.
- Aided the Regional Engineer on the Dr. Morrison Chute rehabilitation project at Pine River Irrigation.
- Initiated the Drop 1 Rehabilitation project at the Wapato Irrigation Project. Developing the SOW and IGCE.
- Conducted SCIP Electrical Services Program and Colorado River Irrigation Program Reviews.

Assisted as needed with the following tasks:

- BIA WIIN Act reporting
- Cost indexing standard for updating irrigation construction costs
- Indian Affairs Manual for Irrigation (50 IAM 1)
- Regulations for Power (25 CFR 175)
- Indian Affairs Manual for Power (50 IAM 2)
- Irrigation O&M Rate Notices
- IRRRT Control Matrix
- Reviewing Irrigation Modernization and RAP reports
- Irrigation Self-Assessment Questionnaire

Tasks Going Forward

- Wapato Irrigation Project - Drop 1 Pumping Plant, Water Screen, Pumps, and Structure A&E Task Order
- Wapato Main Diversion Dam Engineering Services & Construction Management Task Order.
- Bannock Pumping Plant Engineering Services & Construction Management Task Order.
- CRA Main Canal Check Structures Engineering Services & Construction Management Task Order.
- Fort Belknap Irrigation Rehab Engineering Services and Construction Management Task Order.
- Development of 2023-2028 Branch of Irrigation and Power 5-year IDIQ A&E contract.
- Distribution of A1128 Deferred Maintenance Rehab Funds, A1163 WIIN Act Funds and Ai112 BIL Funds

Challenges

Funding Levels

BIP is challenged with insufficient staffing levels to implement the recent growing budget for infrastructure improvements (A1128 – Rehabilitation/Construction, A1163 – WIIN Act, and A1i22 – BIL).

The mandatory payment account (A0N30) is facing a shortfall resulting in reduction in funding to at least one Tribe, and possibly more in FY 2023 if funding levels are not increased.

Staffing and Retention

The Program faces difficulties in obtaining and retaining adequate human resources. The Program has awarded a technical services contract to assist, but inherently federal duties remain that bottleneck the execution the program. Due to HR challenges, it took over two years for the Program to hire two Senior GS-13 Engineers. Many additional federal personnel are needed. A significant recruiting and retention challenge faced by the Program is that the BIA does not participate in Special Salary Rates used by other agencies for engineers performing similar duties. In addition, the BIA Regional and Agency Offices have difficulty recruiting and keeping qualified and trained Regional Irrigation Engineers, Project Managers, and other related Irrigation or Power staff. Attracting and maintaining a qualified federal staff remains the program's most significant challenge.

Opportunities

The FY 2022 budget increase and the additional funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will afford the opportunity to accelerate the completion of several irrigation and power rehabilitation projects.

DWP and BIP are taking the opportunity to update organizational charts and develop a strategic plan to address the challenges it faces and looks forward to embracing the growing challenges of programmatic growth and performance expectations.

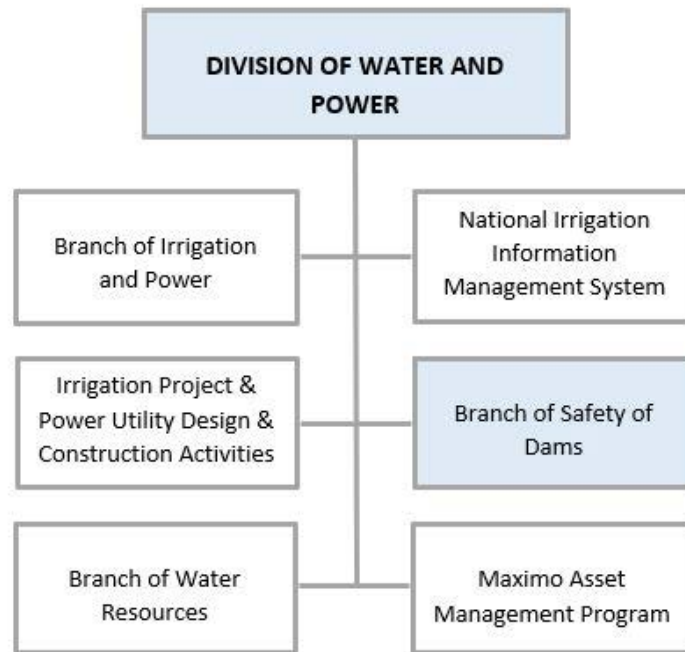
Best Practices

BIP has developed a positive relationship and created a unique model of seeking and receiving excellent, dedicated services from Contracting/Acquisitions. This model could be viewed as a successful model in other support areas of business with which BIP interacts to accomplish its mission. BIP has developed and nurtured relationships with Region and Project staff and are generally perceived as very positive.

The Decision Support Tool allows for tracking ongoing work activities in a geospatial context. There has been extensive work to continue development and data checking for this tool.

DWP, Branch of Safety of Dams

The Safety of Dams (SOD) Branch is currently responsible for the safety of 141 high-hazard potential dams on 42 Indian Reservations. Annual funding provides for dam rehabilitation projects, maintenance, and Program activities.



Accomplishments and Going Forward

In FY 2022, the SOD Branch performed routine scheduled activities for program high-hazard dams, including Periodic Reviews, Comprehensive Reviews, Early Warning System maintenance, emergency preparedness, **and non-routine design and construction activities:**

Projects Advanced

- 10 Hazard Potential Classification studies

Projects Awarded

- 6 Comprehensive Review/Periodic Review Task Orders totaling approximately \$4.7M, including Task Orders for the FY 2023 Comprehensive and Periodic Reviews
- Emergency Action Plan Task Order for \$0.6M
- 5 Early Warning Systems Task Orders totaling approximately \$1.2M

Projects Completed

- 13 Comprehensive Review reports completed; 25 Comprehensive Review reports are ongoing
- Emergency Action Plan Tabletop Exercises for 24 dams
- Emergency Action Plan Exercises for 13 dams are in the planning stage
- 2021 Annual Maintenance and initiated 2022 annual maintenance for all EWS Sites

- Hydrologic Hazard Studies for 27 dams and 7 studies are on-going
- Site-specific Extreme Precipitation Studies for 7 dams completed, 2 studies ongoing
- Dam Failure Inundation Studies for 16 dams completed, 12 studies ongoing
- Dam Failure Consequence Assessment Studies for 10 dams completed, 11 studies ongoing

Other Activities

- Disbursed \$2.4M in O&M funding in support of all 141 high-hazard dams on 42 Reservations
- Periodic Review reports for 7 dams completed, 8 Periodic Reviews (11 dams) ongoing
- Conducted infrastructure improvements and site maintenance activities at 43 EWS sites on 23 Reservations

FY 2022 Completed Dam Construction Projects

Name of Dam	Tribe	State	Value	Activity
<i>Four Horns</i>	<i>Blackfeet Indian Reservation</i>	MT	\$15M	Construction is complete with some final site grading planned for Spring 2022
<i>Headgate Rock</i>	<i>Colorado River Indian Reservation</i>	AZ	\$1.6M	Cable replacement for ten radial gates and two canal gates was completed in February 2022
<i>Wildhorse</i>	<i>Duck Valley Indian Reservation</i>	ID	\$800K	Gate rehabilitation project completed December 2021
<i>Coolidge</i>	<i>San Carlos Indian Reservation</i>	AC	\$20M	Outlet works rehabilitation project completed April 2022
<i>Charley Day</i>	<i>Navajo Nation</i>	NM	\$3.5M	Rehabilitation construction of the facility completed April 2022
<i>Crow</i>	<i>Flathead Reservation</i>	MT	\$20M	Final phase of Spillway construction was completed (including Phase I). Project has pending minor post-construction repairs scheduled for Fall 2022.

FY 2022 Dam Construction Progress

Name of Dam	Tribe	State	Value	Activity
<i>Standing Pine</i>	<i>Choctaw Indian Reservation</i>	MS	\$120K	Contract awarded to repair breached dam
<i>To'hajiilee</i>	<i>Navajo Nation</i>	NM	\$4M	Construction started August 2022 and anticipate completion by Mary 2023

FY 2022 Dam design projects in progress (17)

Name of Dam(s)	Tribe	State
<i>Allen</i>	Pine Ridge Reservation	SD
<i>Antelope</i>	Rosebud Indian Reservation	SD
<i>Bonneau</i>	Rocky Boy's Reservation	MT
<i>A1, Bootleg, Cooley and Davis</i>	Fort Apache Indian Reservation	AZ
<i>Dry Lake, Point of Pines, Tufa Stone, and Upper Point of Pines</i>	San Carlos Indian Reservation	AZ
<i>Ghost Hawk</i>	Rosebud Indian Reservation	SD
<i>Lake Pushmataha</i>	Choctaw Indian Reservation	MS
<i>Menager</i>	Tohono O'odham Nation Indian Reservation	AZ
<i>Neopit</i>	Menominee Indian Reservation	WI
<i>Oglala and White Clay</i>	Pine Ridge Reservation	SD
<i>Willow Creek</i>	Crow Reservation	MT
<i>Owhi</i>	Colville Reservation	WA

General program accomplishments

- Completed screening of all 2,169 dams reported by Tribes as required by the WIIN Act and initiated a secondary screening of the dams that were identified to have a population downstream that could potentially be harmed in the event the dam failed.
- Significantly advanced an update to the SOD Handbook and created three guidance documents to further outline SOD technical processes. A draft of the update is planned to be completed and forwarded to RACA for review in October 2022.
- Responded to breach emergency at Kiwosay Dam on the Red Lake Reservation. Kiwosay Dam was identified as a potential program dam in April 2022 but is not yet entered into the program. A hazard classification study and research to identify dam ownership is ongoing.

Staffing

- Filled three vacant federal positions by pursuing all available assistance, which increased the federal staff from five to eight individuals
- Hired a security specialist through the staff augmentation contract to address the Independent Oversight Review dam security recommendation
- Hosted BIA Pathways intern, Shasity Tsosie, through August 2022, as well as a summer Sealaska Intern
- Conducted an employee satisfaction survey that will occur annually and have initiated an effort to gather Tribal feedback

Staff/stakeholder communication

- Continued periodic meetings across SOD Program areas and with Regional SOD Officers
- Held 9 EWS Working Group meetings, which have improved communications, increased transparency, and provided additional opportunities for input from Tribes, BIA Regions, and BIA Agencies

Training

- Annual BIA/Tribal Safety of Dams Workshop virtually on November 16-18, 2021. Over 100 Tribal and federal dam safety employees attended. Devoted two of the three days to Dam Tender Training
- Three Dam Tender Virtual Training Workshops in March, May, and July 2022. Average of 60 federal and Tribal dam safety staff attended. This training will be held every two months.
- Organized two in-person Early Warning System and Dam Tender Training sessions that were held in April and May 2022. Initiated two additional in-person EWS Training Workshops scheduled for January and March of 2023 in the Western and Great Plains Regions.

New Sharepoint site

Created new SOD SharePoint site and migrated all Central Office final dam reports and records

- Accessible to Central and Regional dam safety staff
- Working to implement access for Tribal dam safety staff by FY 2023
- Created a training library for BIA and Tribal dam safety staff
- Implemented a Decision Support Tool for the SOD Branch

Challenges

In general, dams on Indian lands are in much worse condition than dams managed by other federal dam safety programs. Two-thirds of the high-hazard potential dams (those that would probably cause loss of life if they failed) on Indian lands do not meet federal dam safety standards. To minimize downstream risk, nine Program dams are breached and many Program dams have been fully or partially drained. The SOD Branch estimates that \$1.4B is required to address known life safety deficiencies at the dams that do not meet federal guidelines. In addition to the \$1.4B in known deficiencies, an unknown but not insignificant need likely exists for hidden life safety deficiencies that cannot be detected and for operational deficiencies that exist but do not pose a life safety threat. While the program has identified and prioritized actions at dams which pose unacceptable risk, addressing these issues remains a challenge.

Beyond the financial resources necessary to address these issues, the Program faces difficulties in obtaining and retaining adequate human resources. The Program has awarded a technical services contract to assist, but inherently federal duties remain that bottleneck the execution the program. Due to HR challenges, it took over two years for the Program to hire three Senior GS-13 Engineers. Many additional federal personnel are needed.

A significant recruiting and retention challenge faced by the Program is that the BIA does not participate in Special Salary Rates used by other agencies for engineers performing similar duties. In addition, the BIA Regional and Agency Offices have difficulty recruiting and keeping qualified and trained Dam Tenders and other related dam safety staff. Attracting and maintaining a qualified federal staff remains the program's most significant challenge.

Opportunities

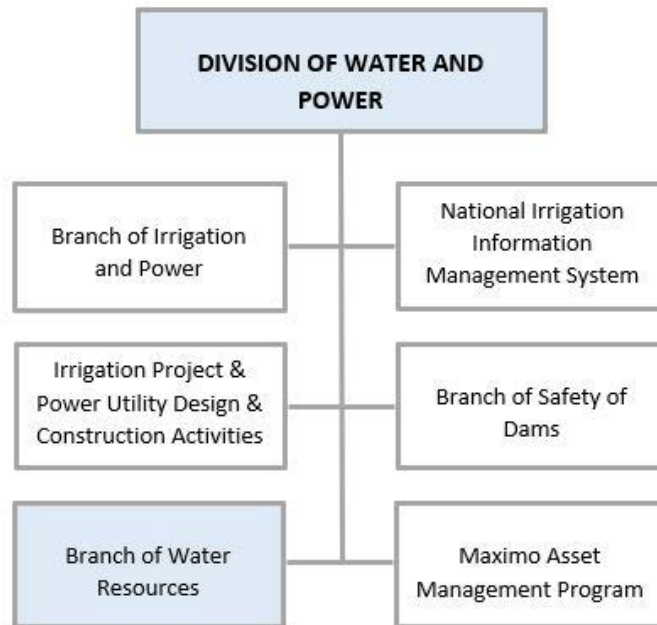
The FY 2022 budget increase and the additional funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will afford the opportunity to accelerate the completion of several dam rehabilitation projects and provide an approximately 30% increase to the SOD Program O&M budget nationwide.

Best Practices

Rehabilitation funding is prioritized for dams that currently present the greatest life-safety risk. Risk is measured using the Dam Safety Priority Rating (DSPR), a methodology based on the risk-analysis processes developed by the BOR and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In addition to considering the condition of a dam, DSPR evaluates design methodology, construction methodology, and downstream population at risk should a dam failure occur.

DWP, Branch of Water Resources

The Branch of Water Resources consists of two professional staff: Hydrologist/Engineer and Water Rights Specialist. One of the primary functions of the water program staff is the implementation of the established process for distributing annually appropriated water program funds to the regions and the tribes. The Central Office staff provides policy, oversight, and technical support functions to the Regions. Regional water staff work directly with tribes and coordinate the process of soliciting water-related funding proposals, identifying funding needs for studies required in ongoing Indian water rights litigation cases, and for advancing water rights negotiations for tribes.



Over the past years, Branch of Water Resources (BWR) has been establishing sound working relationships. Now that the COVID pandemic is dissipating, the federal government is working to get back to a normal working environment.

Accomplishments

Staffing

Staffing increases are planned. In the interim contracted staff help with historical research for water rights settlements and aid in information flow to senior management for ongoing reporting of status of settlements. The Branch has also contracted with a subject matter expert (retired BIA individual with a previous leadership role in water rights settlements) to aid in ongoing interpretation of the laws and regulations for water rights matters. One of the goals for this year is to advertise two program manager positions and a Water Rights Specialist position to support the water programs more effectively.

Trained current staff to assume duties necessary for continued coverage of the Water Resources programs including the Attorney Fee/Litigation Support Program, construction indexing review for the various water right settlements, and overall Branch Chief administrative duties necessary to support mission objectives.

Water Resources Ranking Team

All Water Rights Program funding requests were evaluated, scored, and prioritized by a six-member Water Resources Ranking Team made up of representatives from BIA Regional Offices (Alaska, Pacific, Southern Plains), BIA Central Office, Solicitor's Office, and the Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office. The Team prioritized funding requests pursuant to the Notice of Revised Instructions for Preparing and Prioritizing Water Program Funding Requests, Federal Register, Vol. 70, No. 201, October 19, 2005.

Staff has requested proposals from the Regions for FY-2023 funding allocations and is currently receiving proposals which are due on September 15, 2022. The staff has set up a ranking team for 2023 including staff members from Southwest, Eastern Oklahoma, and Great Plains Regions, as well as staff members from the Solicitor's Office and the Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office.

Water Management Planning & Pre-Development awards \$9.5M

The Water Management Planning & Pre-Development Program received 101 Program funding requests for a total requested funding amount from Tribes and Regional offices of approximately \$10.3 million (M). The \$9.5M in available funding allowed BIA to fund 94 projects.

Water Rights Negotiation/Litigation Program awards \$11.2M

The Water Rights Negotiation/Litigation Program received 66 Water Rights Program funding requests for a total requested funding amount from Tribes and Regional offices of approximately \$14.3M. The \$11.2M in available funding allowed BIA to fund 58 projects.

Water Rights settlement and implementation teams

Finally, this funding allowed the Regions to provide technical assistants to Tribes for all facets of work involving trust water resources. Allocations for four (4) Indian Land and Water Settlement Claims have been distributed from funding identified in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

- Yearly funding, including indexing for the mandatory fund for FY 2021, was distributed to Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes' (CSKT) Water Rights Compact.
- Continued funding distribution for FY 2022 is anticipated to be distributed as soon as indexing values have been determined. Continued funding for is currently being used for water rights settlements including CSKT, Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement, White Mountain Apache Water Rights Settlement, and Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement.
- Branch staff is currently working on procedures to fund these settlements with various Department staff. It is anticipated that final funding for indexing will be distributed at the end of FY 2022 or in the first quarter of FY 2023, depending on the Implementation Team's progress with the Tribes.

Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project

The Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project and the Navajo Nation is continuing implementation activities for BIA's portion of the settlement that is planned to be completed in 2024 and appears to be on schedule. Final funding for this settlement has been allocated to the Navajo Region with FY 2019 funding allocations.

Administrative Costs for Regions

Distributed Administrative costs for Water Resources Regional staff allows for oversight of Water Management Planning & Pre-Development projects, water rights settlements and litigation projects, water rights contracts, and Department of Justice agreements. Funding also allowed regional staff to participate on the Secretary's Indian

A-123 Reviews Conducted at Southwest and Navajo Regions

The Branch performed two A-123 reviews for the Southwest and Navajo Regions. These reviews were held virtually and have allowed Central Office staff to gain the Regions' perspectives on Tribal water needs on a regional level, as well as learn about various projects being implemented by the Tribes for management of reservation water resources. Two self-assessments were implemented for the Pacific and Western Regions.

Attorney Fee/Litigation Program

The Branch continued the Attorney Fee/Litigation Program. A ranking team was set up which included a staff member from the Solicitor's, BIA, and Assistant Secretary's Offices. The Team reviewed submitted proposals from the Tribes and submitted recommendations for funding to the Assistant Secretary's Office. Additionally, The Branch is in process of soliciting proposals for FY 2023 and has requested proposals back from the Regions in January 2023.

2023 Annual Water Resources Workshop

The Branch of Water Resources began to plan for its annual water resources workshop but did not move forward with this task due to the unknowns associated with the coronavirus and due to staff in the process of returning to normal working conditions including making plans to telework, remote work in various parts of the country, and going back to the office. Submittal packages have been approved and staff plans to push back this task to spring of FY 2023. BWR plans to request the workshop to be in Seattle, Washington. Attendees will include Water Resources staff from various BIA Regional Offices, Bureau of Reclamation, USGS, the Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office (SIWRO), Solicitor's Office, Conservation Legacy, and selected Tribes in the Region. The main topic for this year's workshop will be implementation procedures for Indian water rights settlements, as well as improvement of Water Resources programs. This workshop allows for staff collaboration and partnerships involving Water Resources projects on behalf of Tribes throughout the country. The Branch is currently seeking partnerships within the Department of Interior for this event.

Water Resources Technician Training

BWR has begun to re-establish the Water Resources Technician Training Program and a Cooperative Agreement with a non-profit organization that performs the AmeriCorps program for student interns has been approved. Twenty-one (21) students are planning to intern in water science careers. Staff is anticipating holding trainings at California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo (Cal-Poly) and Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. BWR has also been in discussions with the Bureau of Reclamation and Indian Health Service to partner on this activity which would bring funding from their programs to expand this activity.

Challenges, Opportunities and Best Practices

Staffing Shortages are a Challenge

BWR staffing is not sufficient for the workload. One of the goals for next year is to advertise for two program managers for oversight of the Water Resources Technician Training Program as well as administrative program activities including funding distributions, records management oversight, coordination with various DWP tracking applications, and general coordination between sister agencies involved in Water Resources throughout Indian Country. Additionally, the Branch intends to hire a Water Rights Specialist to support the water rights programs and work directly with the Solicitor's Office and the Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office. Staffing increases will allow the Branch to provide services more effectively.

Filtration System Program

The Branch is evaluating a small filtration system program requested by the Tribes for potable water use within homes. A decision will be made to increase staff for technical assistance of this program and/or enter into an agreement with Indian Health Services to service this need.

Focus on Improved Communications

BWR is challenged with lack of communication from the Regions and other bureaus, agencies, and offices concerning the needs of the Tribes relating to Water Resources Projects and water rights negotiated settlements. BWR in cooperation with other sister agencies involved with water rights should develop a process to enhance the program's functions in the following areas:

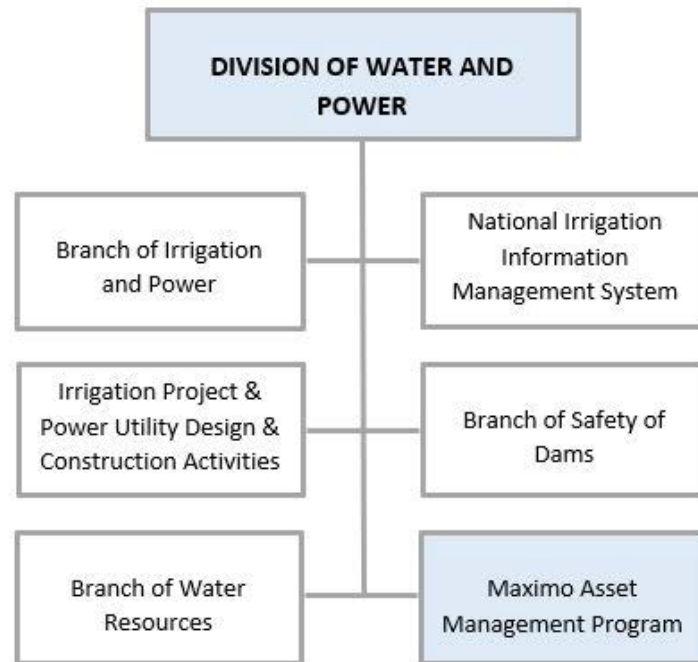
- Standardize the Construction Cost Indexing processes for enacted water rights settlements, and better define BWR's role to either develop or peer review this product. Worked with Southwest Region to ensure BWR is included in water rights settlement activities prior to their completion.
- BWR support to engage and identify implementation concerns more thoroughly before and during negotiated settlements rather than after settlements have been completed.
- Identify a standardized methodology for review and approval of memorandums and letters associated with the Water Resources Program including water codes submitted by Tribes. This methodology should apply across BWR, the Solicitors Office, and SIWRO. Generally, BWR is not included in the review of documents developed by those offices but should be.
- Set up trainings with regional Water Coordinators to identify Region Office concerns, to verify they understand the requirements of the Federal Register Notice process, and to provide training(s) as needed.

Funding is a Challenge for this Program

- Increased funding to this program could be used to develop and implement studies for technical information to address potential effects on all water resources issues including drought conditions, fish and wildlife concerns involving water resources, water supply, Tribal economies, and water rights settlement negotiations.
- Funding could also be used to develop recommendations, terms, conditions, and amendments to address water projects that affect Indian trust water resources, to protect Tribal interests, and to defend conditions if challenged in a hearing. Funding also allows for meaningful participation in settlement negotiations to resolve issues through collaboration.

DWP, Maximo Asset Management Program

MAXIMO is a cloud-based Enterprise Asset Management system.



Accomplishments

- The Maximo program met all Federal reporting requirements (Deferred Maintenance Q2, Q3, Q4, Federal Real Property Profile (FRPP), & Deferred Maintenance and Repair (DM&R).
- The Maximo admin team worked with the Division of Water and Power Decision Support Tool (DST) Developers to integrate that system with Maximo to enhance functionality.
- Safety of Dams Program work order estimates were indexed from 2018 to Calendar Year 2022-dollar values.
- A total of 26 user training sessions were held in FY 2022
- Assisted with the Division of Water and Power Program condition assessment and entered those findings into the Maximo database for work planning/prioritization and Deferred Maintenance reporting.

Tasks Going Forward

- The Maximo team plans to support the Power Program DM Reporting processes.
- Continue capturing Irrigation & Power asset and infrastructure field changes for the purposes of maintaining an accurate asset inventory.
- Hold ongoing training needs for field users and expand sessions to offer meaningful training content.
- Improve communications with field staff and increase Maximo system user participation.

Challenges

DOI works with each of its Bureaus to upgrade Maximo Asset Management software. Meeting DOI goals requires flexibility and cooperation as we work with our BIA Maximo system partners the Division of Facilities Management and Construction (DFMC) to manage UI and DB changes, version patches, and system upgrades and testing redundant environments for quality and acceptability. Some of the challenges the Maximo program faces with respect to consistent asset reporting pertains to field staff availability. The nature of field work tends to involve a fair amount of staff turnover. Designated Maximo planner/scheduler for work reporting would help to recruit and retain long-term staff.

Opportunities

With the current state of the DWP Maximo system data presents an opportunity to further refine DWP Deferred Maintenance cost estimate methods and results. Power program data, post condition assessment, is raw and in a ready state for improvement and refinement. With DWP Power Program participation in the both the refinement planning and reporting processes; defensible cost estimates and priority work planning is attainable. Additionally, the Safety of Dams Programs are positioned for improved reporting with the implementation of new dam comprehensive review processes. As more dams undergo the process the more accurate and consistent the dam DM estimates become.

- San Carlos Irrigation Project - Power Division Casa Grande Substation Supplemental Funding: \$1,000,000
- Mission Valley Power Kerr Substation Upgrades – Supplemental Funding \$1,000,000

Division of Wildland Fire Management



Laguna Interagency Hotshot Crew member

Mission

The mission of the Division of Wildland Fire Management is to execute our fiduciary trust responsibility by protecting lives, property, and resources while restoring and maintaining health ecosystems through cost-effective and creative fire-management programs, collaboration, and promoting Indian self-determination.

Who We Serve

To fulfill the Bureau of Indian Affairs mission, we acknowledge Indian Country lands are not public property. The land is the source of a Tribe's spiritual, cultural, emotional, and economical sustenance which they and their future generations depend upon for survival. In support of the mission, the Division of wildland Fire Management provides wildland fire protection and ecosystem improvement to federal trust lands held in trust for federally recognized Tribes and individual Indians. The DWFM's support is implemented through direct services, cooperative agreements, self-determination, and self-governance, where applicable.

Uniquely, the BIA promotes self-determination and self-governance with federally recognized Tribes through Public Law 93-638, which allows those Tribes to operate federal programs, such as wildland fire management programs, as their own to meet Tribal and BIA missions.

The BIA cooperates with other federal, state, county, local government, and Tribal governments to ensure the success of wildland fire management for BIA federal trust lands, providing interagency wildland fire assistance, and assisting with federally declared disasters through emergency support functions.

Services for Tribal Nations include, but are not limited to, protection of federal trust resources, life, property, and infrastructure. Also, services provide ecosystem improvements, wildland firefighter and safety training, firefighter equipment, fuels management and prescribed fire, fire prevention and ecosystem support such as post-wildfire recovery.

In some instances, wildland fire response and protection are not administered by the BIA. In these areas, the Department of the Interior fulfills its trust responsibilities to Indian Country by formal wildland fire protection agreements with state and federal agencies. The State of Alaska's Native Allotments and ANCSA lands are protected by the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service in accordance with federal policy. Alaska Native allotments, townsites, and villages total over 1.1 million acres. Regardless of how the program is managed, Tribal members work and are involved with the direct protection and management of their natural and cultural resources.

Accomplishments

Fuels Treatments

A total of 230,564 Acres were treated as of September 8, 2022

National Innovation Landscape Program

BIA and San Carlos Apache Tribe (SCAT) have become integral partners within a national Innovation landscape Program in collaboration with United States Geographic Service (USGS), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Forest Service (FS). As part of the SW Innovation Node centrally based on Tucson, BIA/SCAT hosted the initial Terrestrial Laser Scanning (TLS) training cycle at San Carlos and for June 7-9, 2022. Due to the nature of the new and evolving technologies and the vital involvement of multiple integrated science disciplines the SCAT Node developed and refined the training cycle as it is introduced. Participants targeted for training were SCAT Fuels Monitoring staff, BIA Regional Fire Ecologists, FWS and FS staff. The Innovation Node will also develop the hardware/software needs and expertise/capacity required to fully support the on/off site training as it is recognized.

Fuels Management Collaboration Initiatives

In collaboration with USGS, Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research station, Western Region and San Carlos Apache Tribe (SCAT), we have begun incorporation of new technologies for quantifying fuels management and wildfire risk both spatially and temporally.

In collaboration with Interagency partners USGS, FWS, Northern Arizona University, Western Region we formed the basis for a Southwest Innovation Node for Fuels Management to support multiple tribal government entities in the Southwest.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Fuels continues to engage Forestry Central and Regional Office staff with collaborative work products for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), Light Detecting and Ranging (Lidar) and Active Management.

Preliminary Programs of Work (PPOW)

Completed Preliminary Programs of Work (PPOW) planning documents for Base, Reserved Treaty Rights Land (RTRL), Disaster Relief (DR) and BIL.

Wildfire Prevention Program Technical Guides

The program staff have created 8 wildfire prevention program technical guides to support 90 IAM 5-H. These guides cover the topics of Accomplishment Reporting, Risk Assessment, Prevention Planning, Supporting Plan Development, Communications Guidance, Inspections Guidance, Educational Program Guidance, and Using Fire Prevention Education Teams.

Disaster Relief Funds

Tribes have utilized Disaster Relief funds to contract 5,256,023 Monitoring acres via LiDAR.

Post Wildfire Recovery Funding

Emergency Wildfire Recover Funding. To date eleven Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) plans have been approved and over \$1.5 million in emergency stabilization funding has been authorized for Tribes. Four additional BAER plans are currently being finalized.

Burned Area Rehabilitation Funding. The Post Wildfire program has allocated \$4.525 million in FY2022 for Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) projects such as cultural planting, reforestation, and noxious weed treatments on 10 reservations. An additional \$2.1 million will be allocated by the end of the FY.

Wildfire Prevention

All funded programs transitioned planning and accomplishment reporting into the new Wildfire Prevention Spatial Assessment and Planning Strategies (WPSAPS) software application.

90 IAM 5 has been revised, approved, and released. This chapter establishes Indian Affairs' (IA) policy and responsibilities related to wildfire prevention. It has been updated since the 2020 version to reflect changes in responsibilities, authorities/references, other minor edits throughout, and to remove the procedures as those were added to the related handbook in 2021 (90 IAM 5-H).

Budget Activities

Firefighter compensation/incentives, provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, were awarded to approximately 426 wildland fire personnel. Accounting structure and procedures have been implemented to ensure awards continue as we move into the new fiscal year.

Specific lines of accounting were created for DWFM Fuels Program to appropriately track and execute Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding. This included 17 new functional areas (FAs) and 110 work breakdown structures (WBSs), allowing funding to be tracked and executed by program and to units/Tribe within all states across the United States.

Though Contract Support Costs/Indirect Costs (CSCs/IDCs) continue to increase, the DWFM continues to pay 100% of reported CSCs/IDCs to Tribal programs for wildland fire.

Aviation

The BIA Aviation program successfully completed a series of tasks which were identified early in the year that had been previous challenges. Our priority is to always finish our contract period accident and injury free. A combined total flight-time of 2,751 hours.

This Summer we set out to align our aerial retardant contract within DOI acquisitions and contract compliance. In addition, revising the acquisitions contract, BIA along with the Salish and Kootenai Tribe hosted a new aerial retardant contractor for the interagency wildland fire community.

For several years BIA has led the DOI bureau in establishing aerial intelligence and data gathering aircraft primarily for wildland fire support but can be utilized in other applications. The interagency need has significantly increased, allowing BIA to collaborate with the Forest Service and key BLM personnel. BIA Aviation completed two solicitations for BIA Intelligence fixed wing contracts to be awarded in early 2023.

Tasks Going Forward

It is estimated that Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding for firefighter compensation/incentives, could be exhausted prior to the end of FY 2023. Interagency work has begun aimed at extending firefighter compensation incentives for the duration of the Infrastructure Law (2022-2026) and beyond. BIA DWFM is working with the Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) to address Tribal firefighter compensation/activities.

Budget has recently on-boarded a new Supervisory Budget Analyst and a new Budget Director. In the event fiscal year 2023 begins under a continuing resolution (CR), the DWFM is prepared to prioritize funding allocation/execution to regional and Tribal wildland fire programs.

Challenges

Engine Operator Training

Fire training has worked in tandem with many of our regions to coordinate and host the newly implemented engine operator training. This new training consists of a 40-hour course and a new position requirement which includes an engine operator (ENOP) position task book. This course and qualification follow suit with engine requirements currently mandated by the other Department of Interior (DOI) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) fire bureaus. The intent is to further professionalize our engine staff, creating a safer working environment and strategically investing in a demographic which represents an estimated 65% of our initial attack workforce. At this point, we have hosted three national level courses and are in the process of assisting with coordination and funding of four regional level courses upcoming this fall. BIA Wildland Fire Management will be hosting three national courses annually, projected through fall of 2024.

New 0456 Wildland Fire Fighter Job Series

The fire training director and fire training specialist have been appointed to assist with and oversee the transition to the newly mandated 0456 Wildland Fire Fighter job series enacted by Congress in late 2021. Overall, the transition to the 0456 series has been positive. Acknowledging our fire personnel properly by recognizing them as Wildland Fire Fighters as opposed to Forestry Technicians has been a long time coming. As with any large joint-scaled effort taking place between many of our interagency partners and DOI divisions, the pace of progress is a challenge. Meeting the one-year deadline the office of Personnel Management (OPM) has been tasked with for the 0456 series implementation, while also ensuring all voices at the table are heard and the new series is implemented not only quickly, but also correction, has been daunting.

Federal Fire Workforce Development Program (FFWDP)

BIA fire training along with the other DOI and USDA national training officers have proposed and been approved to begin building a Federal Fire Workforce Development Program (FFWDP). The intent will be to provide a clearer roadmap for new employees to understand how to plan for and manage their fire careers and to ensure proper training is available at the right junctures. This program will also be utilized by current employees with a similar purpose in mind, to provide training and workforce development. This new program will not focus on fire qualification training which the National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG) already provides but rather focus on day job duties our fire staff are expected to perform, but at this point, may not have been exposed to adequate training to be fully successful. Initially, this will be funded through the BIL workforce development funds.

Aviation Program Recruitment Challenges

The BIA Aviation program continues to experience a lack of protective recruitment efforts and timely advertisements. The HR, hiring workflow confusion, long period of time completing hiring from beginning to end, have yet to improve. BIA aviation has provided personnel to serve as liaison/subject matter experts to assist with various HR needs. Furthermore, personnel recruitment and retention, adapting to demographic shifts continue to be under-staffed at many field locations. With the assistance of BIA Fire Training personnel and creative media efforts we plan to target a wider recruitment audience as well as offer advancement and retention incentives.

Air Base Facilities

BIA air base facilities remain below standards to operate and offer modern and clean workplaces. BIA aviation is reinventing an alternative facility leasing option at centralized airports closer to towns and infrastructure to support personnel working on busy aviation programs. These critical needs primarily the responsibility of line officers, but many line officers are still unaware of the DOI requirements. We are offering more education and options to inform line officers of the departmental policy and requirements.

Best Practices

WeTip is a national non-profit organization that offers a 24/7 telephone tip hotline (1-800-472-7766) for people who have information about arson and want to make an anonymous report. A financial reward is available to those who provide information that leads to proper adjudication of criminal activity associated with wildfires. The BIA has maintained WeTip as an option to report human-caused fires for over 15 years.

Additionally, our national prevention team meets with you to teach fire prevention at a young age. Providing in-person connection with youth is instrumental on communicating the importance of fire prevention and safety.



Smokey Bear visits Hardin Primary School's 2022 kindergarten class to teach students about fire safety in Hardin, Montana

Division of Workforce Planning and Development



Mission

The mission of the Division of Workforce Planning and Development is committed to employing, developing, and sustaining a high-quality workforce in the field of natural resources management, water resources management, and other disciplines charged with enhancing the quality of life for American Indians, Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives. The Workforce Planning and Youth Program Coordination Office, Washington, DC (Workforce Planning Office or Central Office to students) provides the framework and technical oversight of the Pathways Internship Program.

Who We Serve

The BIA Pathways Internship Program connects Native American and Alaska Native students to paid internships across the United States. With meaningful projects, rotational assignments, and multi-semester opportunities, Pathways prepares students for an impactful career in public service and offers a direct pipeline to full-time employment with the BIA or Tribal Nations upon graduation.

Accomplishments

Pathways Conversions

Since October 2021, 12 students have converted or are in the process of converting to permanent positions with the BIA or Tribal Nations/Tribal Organizations.

Internship Eligibility Requirements

Updated to be more inclusive of part-time and nontraditional students; expanded eligibility to also allow students enrolled in accredited trade and technical schools. The program was updated to cover all costs for Student Trainee salaries, overtime, and travel

Purchase of Laptops and Computer Peripherals

Pathways to supply Student Trainees with the equipment they need to successfully onboard and begin working; this change will streamline the onboarding and training process while removing barriers and technology costs for Host offices.

August 2022 Recruitment

Opened a Pathways Hiring Announcement in August 2022 to attract new candidates to the program; the first round of hiring attracted 93 students. Began the process of designing a comprehensive onboarding and training SOP for new Pathways Student Trainees

Pathways Marketing and Outreach

In Fiscal Year 2022, the Pathways Program also conducted new marketing and outreach efforts. Rebranded the program with a new logo and style guide; updated all program flyers and developed new marketing materials fully compliant with Section 508 accessibility requirements. Made updates to the Pathways website to reduce extraneous text and emphasize key messages.

Pathways Student Internships Data

- Hosted 56 Student Trainees representing 35 Tribes and 42 different academic institutions.
- 6 Students interned with Tribes/Tribal organizations (Salish Kootenai Forestry, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and Tanana Chiefs Conference, an Alaska Native nonprofit)
- 40 of the 56 Student Trainees completed Summer 2022 internships with BIA, Tribal nations, and Tribal Organizations representing 23 Tribes and 32 different academic institutions

40 Student Trainees completed Summer Internships in FY 2022

Divisions Sponsoring Interns	Pathways Interns
<i>Rangeland Management & Agriculture</i>	13
<i>Forestry</i>	8
<i>Tribal Climate Resilience</i>	6
<i>Real Estate Services</i>	4
<i>Wildland Fire Management</i>	3
<i>Energy and Mineral Development</i>	2
<i>Water and Power</i>	1
<i>Land Titles and Records</i>	1
<i>Indian Services</i>	1
<i>Geographic Information Services</i>	1

42 Pathways Interns employed by State in FY 2022

(Some students interned in multiple locations).

States	Pathways Interns
<i>Alaska</i>	1
<i>Arizona</i>	3
<i>California</i>	3
<i>Colorado</i>	5
<i>Idaho</i>	1
<i>Montana</i>	8
<i>Nevada</i>	1
<i>New Mexico</i>	7
<i>Oklahoma</i>	6
<i>South Dakota</i>	1
<i>Tennessee</i>	3
<i>Washington</i>	1
<i>Washington D.C.</i>	2

Pathways Recruitment and Outreach Events in FY 2022

Month	Pathways Event	Location
<i>March 2022</i>	The Corps Network’s 2022 Climate Action Summit	Washington, D.C.
<i>April 2022</i>	DOI Tribal Colleges & Universities Information Session, “Roadmap to a Career at DOI”	Virtual Event
<i>June 2022</i>	Center for Native American Youth (CNAY) Champions for Change Tour of the Interior Building & OTS Services and Pathways	Washington, D.C.
<i>June 2022</i>	Student Story Map Demo/GIS Presentation from the College of William and Mary	Virtual Event
<i>June 2022</i>	2022 Udall Foundation Intern Orientation & Professional Development Fair Panel	Washington, D.C.
<i>July 2022</i>	Running Strong Pow Wow	Alexandria, VA
<i>July 2022</i>	Annual United National Indian & Tribal Youth (UNITY) Conference	Minneapolis, MN
<i>July 2022</i>	United Southern & Eastern Tribes (USET) IHS-BIA Partnership Meeting	Nashville, TN
<i>August 2022</i>	Santa Fe Indian Market	Santa Fe, NM
<i>September 2022</i>	Corps Network Federal Partnership Meeting	Washington, D.C.

FY 2022 Standard Operation Procedures (SOP)

Documents to clarify program operations for students, hosts, and Tribes

- Updated the Pathways Program Participation Agreement
- Post-Internship Interview & Guided Career Discussion SOP
- Student Separation/Offboarding Guide and SOP
- Worker’s Compensation / Injury Guide for Student Trainees and Hosts
- Timekeeping Cheat Sheet and Guide for Student Trainees and Hosts
- Virtual Host Request Form and Optional Paper form to offer partnering offices and Tribes a convenient method for requests to host interns.
- Student Trainee Red Card Signature Line of Authority in collaboration with the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC)

Tasks Going Forward

- Finalize new Pathways onboarding system for incoming Student Trainees
- Continue development of Pathways SharePoint resources and internal PowerApps systems to automate and streamline operations and fulfill mission requirements
- Obtain, organize, and incorporate feedback and suggestions from stakeholders (including partnering BIA offices, Tribes, Tribal organizations, Tribal Colleges and Universities, non-Tribal academic institutions, related nonprofits, and other federal partners)
- Onboard new cohort of Pathways Student Trainees for Summer 2023 internships

- Ensure successful completion of Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 internships for existing Pathways Student Trainees
- Continue to support conversions of eligible students to permanent positions with the BIA
- Mature program data collection, analysis, and reporting processes in support of BIA strategic workforce planning needs and program goals
- Continue building Pathways' outreach and engagement strategy with internal and external stakeholders

Challenges

Student Trainee salaries and conversion salaries are less competitive when compared to private sector compensation, especially given historic inflation rates; the program hopes to offset this challenge by incentivizing student participation through scholarship awards, tuition reimbursement agreements, and expanded training opportunities (including participation in meaningful conference and events).

Many OTS and BIA offices are still unfamiliar with the Pathways Program - in the coming year, expanded communications and outreach will be necessary to ensure all stakeholders are informed of the resources and opportunities available to their programs.

Opportunities

Renewed interest for Tribal Climate Resilience, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Forestry Management, Wildland Fire Management, and Native youth programs over the last year has strengthened support and interest in the Pathways Program.

In the future, as program capacity and funding allow, the OTS Pathways Program can stand up a Pathways Recent Graduates Program and a Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Program.

Best Practices

In the interest of streamlining program processes and increasing staff efficiency, the Pathways Program has begun migrating certain administrative functions to SharePoint, OneDrive, Microsoft Forms, PowerBI, and PowerApps. Staff are using flows in Power Automate to automatically generate emails, run reports, update data entries, and perform other tasks, allowing them to communicate, process, and file more information in significantly less time.

Pathways staff are updating the file organization system in the program's Shared Drive and OneDrive folders to standardize file names, reduce duplicative or extraneous documents, archive historic documents, and improve user navigation.

Indian Energy Service Center



Mission

The Indian Energy Service Center (IESC) was created by Interior’s Senior Executives during the Indian Energy and Mineral Steering Committee (IEMSC) Meeting. This sub-activity supports the IESC staffed by BIA, the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA), formerly the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST).

Who We Serve

The IESC coordinates Indian energy, mineral, and renewable energy development in Indian Country, as well as leasing activities across Interior’s bureaus and offices. The IESC upholds the Departments fiduciary trust responsibility by expediting leasing, permitting, and reporting for conventional and renewable energy on Indian lands, and importantly, provides resources to ensure development occurs safely, protects the environment, and manages risks appropriately by providing funding and technical assistance to support assessment of the social and environmental impacts of energy development on behalf of Individual trust beneficiaries and Federally Recognized Tribes.

The IESC supports Interior’s State, Regional, Field, and Agency offices of BIA, BLM, ONRR and BTFA that process energy and mineral activities on Indian lands.

Accomplishments

\$150 Million in Orphan Well Grant Funding

The Indian Energy Service Center (IESC) serves as the Bureau Indian Affairs (BIA) office that is responsible for coordinating the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding and program activities for Tribal orphaned well plugging and abandonment, provided under Section 40601 of the BIL. The IESC is collaborating with the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC) to develop the grant funding distribution instrument for \$150 Million earmarked for Tribes from the infrastructure law. As of September 2022, the IESC has established a data analysis team and completed preliminary data analysis and data generation to develop a comprehensive inventory of orphaned oil and gas wells on Indian lands.

Tribal Orphan Well Guidance

The IESC has also commenced coordination with BIA Leadership to develop tribal outreach and consultation sessions to solicit tribal input on development of the orphaned well grant mechanism. The IESC has developed a draft written work scope to procure the services of a contractor to support tribal consultation and outreach sessions in this area. The IESC received all the well data requests from BOGS and is currently reviewing steps to complete. IESC is currently working with OPEC to prepare and finalize the Tribal Grant Guidance, notice of funding availability, and grant scoring matrix to evaluate proposals, and preparing a recruitment package to hire a full time Grants Management Specialist. The IESC's proposed budget for this project was approved and funded by OEPC.

Overview of the BLM Development of Indian Orphan Well Candidate Inventory

The purpose of the delineation process is to eliminate wells from the Indian Orphan Well Candidate list that do not qualify as orphan wells. Up to this point, wells on the Indian Orphan Well Candidate List have only been identified as having Indian mineral ownership. Our process identifies wells on Indian minerals and creates an Indian Orphan Well Candidate List. The processes we have developed enables us to take a list of tens of thousands of BLM and Indian Health Service (IHS) well records and to identify wells on Indian minerals that meet the requirements of an orphan well. The waterfall delineation process disqualifies and removes some of the orphan well candidates from the list; and the remainder move to the next waterfall level for additional testing. If a well fails to meet the orphan well qualifiers for any delineator, the well is removed from the orphan well candidate list.

Automation of Indian Orphan Well Candidate List

Our processes also enable us to use our automated data system to manage these large numbers of wells, reduce the amount of time to identify wells on Indian lands, and decrease the number of wells requiring time-staking research more efficiently. The process is very efficient because it eliminates wells at each level and reduces the size of the candidate pool, which saves time spent researching and evaluating wells.

Orphan Well Delineation Process

The delineation process begins by transferring wells from the "IHS Integrated Well List" datasheet to the "Orphan Well Delineation" workbook. This list of orphan wells are just "candidates". Up to this point in time, they have only been identified as having Indian mineral ownership, but they require further evaluation using the delineation process to determine which of these are orphan wells. Wells are qualified as orphan wells based on seven delineation steps. The purpose of the first three delineators is to remove wells that require special evaluation based on (1) mismatched wellbores, (2) multiple wellbores, or (3) multiple completions. In steps 1-3, wells in these three categories are removed from the Indian Orphan Well Candidate List and placed in the *Holding Area - Research* tab where they receive evaluation to determine their orphan well status.

All remaining wells are retained on the Indian Orphan Well Candidate list and continue to be evaluated using the four additional delineation qualifiers. Any well can be moved to the *Holding Area - Research* tab to be evaluated and tracked at any time in the delineation process. Remaining wells that meet the standards of each delineation qualifier for all process steps are retained and placed on the "Idle Well list".

Communitization Agreements

- Since 2016, the IESC has processed over 200 Communitization agreements, resulting in over \$1.4 billion in estimated royalty revenues to the MHA Nation and their allottees. During FY 2022 the IESC processed 5 CAs for approval.
- Since 2019, the IESC has processed 30 Communitization agreements, resulting in over \$65 million in estimated royalty revenues to the U&O Tribe and their allottees.

Tribal Energy Resource Agreement (TERA) & Tribal Energy Development Organization (TEDO)

- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). Pre-consultation interest was received from CSF Energy, a CTUIR Tribal Member Owned Energy Consulting firm on October 11, 2021. IESC made a presentation to CSF Energy Group, Tribe, Region, and Agency on October 22, 2021.
- The Red Lake Nation was the first tribe to be approved for a Tribal Energy Development Organization (TEDO). IESC received the initial application on December 20, 2021, reviewed and prepared draft approval documents. The IESC finalized the approval of the TEDO Application for signature by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on March 17, 2022. The TEDO was published in the Federal Register on March 30, 2022. The IESC has been working in collaboration with the Division of Energy and Mineral Development Office and the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians to develop a renewable energy project scope of work.
- Presented Tribal Energy Development Organization (TEDO) Overview presentation to Standing Rock Tribe.

ONRR Royalty Mineral Analysis/Support

- 768 – Number of properties reviewed in Montana, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico on Tribal Lands for volume reporting issues. Sent 22 referrals to ONRR to assign for review.
- Over \$700,000 in additional royalties collected for Tribes and individual mineral owners as a result of the referrals made.
- 31 – Number of Tribes that can now access ONRR’s Explanation of Payments statements for their Tribe online. ONRR has 32 Tribes that are eligible to receive these digitally.

IESC Work Group at Fort Berthold Agency

IESC provides (3) full -time Realty Specialist staff to support projects in the areas of adjudication of Communitization agreements (CAs), processing mineral lease assignments, right of ways, and lockbox transactions.

No. of Transactions	Support Provided
5	CAs adjudicated and recommended for approval
20	CAs returned to Company
13	CAs withdrawn/cancelled
295	Lease Assignments processed
25	Realty Proposals processed
31	Mineral Lease documents processed
18	Mineral Agreements encoded

BLM Engineering, Production Accounting and Lease Reviews

For North Dakota State Office, Oklahoma Field Office, Uinta & Ouray Agency, Wind River Agency, and Fort Berthold Agency

No. of Transactions	Support Provided
82	Lease Diligence Reviews for BLM Oklahoma Field Office
76	BLM Expiration Memos for Uintah & Ouray leases
29	Application for Permit to Drill Engineering Reviews
13	Suspension of Operations (SOP)
13	CA Reviews for BLM North Dakota Field Office
1	Comprehensive Review of Economic Justification for Flaring
1	Royal Explanation Request on production history and decline curve analyses for 12 wells tied to 3 CAs
83	Completed/finalized 83 wells in Wind River Well Data pull project
Numerous	Accounts receivable routing transaction processed (Ft. Berthold Agency)
Numerous	Lease Assignment process (Ft. Berthold Agency)
Numerous	CA processing (Ft. Berthold)

Manually Matched Lockbox Payments

The total amount of checks/payments manually matched in lockbox was \$5,048,327. The total amount distributed to FBA Allotted and Undivided Tribal was \$853,315,782.

Ft. Berthold Beneficiaries Support

Workgroup to process, research, and report on phase II lockbox balances and outstanding invoices. This workgroup meets monthly and works to provide documentation to clear the outstanding invoices and process checks older than 90 days that are deposited into the lockbox.

Ft. Berthold Rural Water Right of Way (ROW) Project

IESC facilitated workgroup meetings between the Bureau of Reclamation, Ft. Berthold Indian Reservation Rural Water Department, Three Affiliated Tribes, MHA Energy Office, BIA Great Plains Region, LTRO, and BIA Ft. Berthold Agency. The workgroup accomplished a 30% increase in recorded Right of Ways in TAAMS for the FBIR Rural Water Department.

Concho Agency Riparian Acres Acquisition and Leasing (TAAMS)

Lease and CA analysis done on 337 leases and CAs to determine if there were open audits. Researched production (OGOR B&C) and royalty data on 157 leases and CAs. Created a list of leases and CAs that may need to be send show cause/termination letters. The Southern Plains Regional Office is coordinating with the Oklahoma Field Office on process, procedures, and exchange of work. Three reviews and recommendations were completed for Concho Agency as of April 2022. Designation of Operator process transitioned from the BLM Oklahoma Field Office to BIA. The BIA Fluid Minerals will be updated, and Concho Agency has requested assistance in processing these transactions.

Uintah & Ouray Agency Lease expiration review and ROW processing Cancellation project

The project is a Lease Expiration/Lease Sale and Communitization agreement project. Energy related ROW and Assignment processing is included.

No. of Transactions	Support Provided
1,103	ROW Assignments processed
2	CAs adjudicated
1	CA Secondary review
27	Populated Lease Cancellation letters
Multiple use	Drafted Cover letter for notices of an Expiring Lease

Southern Ute Agency Indian Mineral Development Agreement (IMDA) and CA Reviews

The IESC team processes and maintains energy related leases and Communitization Agreements.

No. of Transactions	Support Provided
2	IMDA Lease Agreement reviews, recommended approval to BIA Agency
5	CAs reviewed including adjudicating COC 80629
20+	Project research & analysis to create GIS Maps
6	Developed Power Point Presentations on findings for BIA Leadership
Multiple use	Pulled 2014 Reports and total Revenue Details, conducted TAAMS research

Additional field offices that assistance was provided to: Office of Solicitor, BIA Anadarko Agency, BIA Fort Peck Agency, BIA Wind River Agency, and BIA Jicarilla Agency, BLM Dickinson Office, and Fort Berthold Agency

Coordination Projects

- IESC assisting the [Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement](#) (BSEE) in creating Tribal Consultation Handbook.
- Presented IESC update at the [White House Council on Native American Affairs](#) (WHCNA) meeting in November 2021
- ONRR's Supervisory Minerals Revenue Specialist served on the Compliance Strategy Partnership (CSP) board.
- Reviewed 15 Leases and Coordinated with ONRR Accounts Receivable Billing/ Indian for rental payments
- Prepared project for consideration of performance measures and tracking (Energy and mineral related Right of Way improvement of project FY 2023 to decrease processing times, track and monitor data) as part of GAO-15-502 and GAO-22-103514.
- Worked closely with contractors on site development to finalize web page content for the IESC main page at <https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots/iesc>, to include

Federal Partnership Collaboration Meetings

The purpose of the Federal Partners meeting is to serve as a DOI inter-bureau/office forum for Indian energy and mineral resource development, royalty management coordination, and information exchange at the local office level.



DOI representatives with MHA Nation tribal employees visiting Missouri River Resources (MRR) well site in New Town, ND

Fiscal Year 2022 Partners Meetings and oversight meetings of the Executive Management Group and Indian Energy and Mineral Steering Committee are listed in the following table.

<i>FY 2022 Partners Meetings</i>	2021 Dates	2022 Dates
<i>Fort Berthold (Federal Only) Partners</i>	October 19	January 27 May 17 August 4
<i>Fort Berthold (Federal and Tribal) Partners on Big/Little Missouri Litigation</i>	October 25	January 31 February 1 May 18-19 August 9-10
<i>Navajo (Federal Only) Partners</i>		October 14 April 7
<i>Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas Partners</i>		February 8 August 16
<i>Rocky Mountain Region Partners</i>		March 10
<i>Southwest Federal Partners</i>		January 11 July 12
<i>Uintah & Ouray Federal Partners</i>	November 4	May 5
<i>IESC/Solicitor Calls</i>	Monthly	Monthly
<i>Executive Management Group</i>	December 8	June 8
<i>Indian Energy and Mineral Steering Committee</i>	December 6	June 7

Standard Operating Procedures Nationwide –BIA, BLM, ONRR, BTFA

The purpose of the Standard Operating Procedures (referred to as “the SOP”) is to establish common standards and methods for creating efficient and effective working relationships to achieve the Departmental goal of accurate energy and minerals accountability for onshore Federal and Indian leases.

SOP Training and Updates

- Organized, advertised, and led three (3) SOP training classes virtually in December 2021, March 2022, and August 2022. Approximately 151 employees from across DOI, tribal governments, and other federal agencies attended.
- Created, organized, advertised, and lead first ‘SOP for Executives’ training course in December 2021.
- Created, organized, advertised, and lead first Tribal SOP Training for MHA Nation in November 2021

SOP Updates made to reflect current business practices

SOP Section	Description of Update
<i>Attachment A</i>	<p><i>Agency Responsibilities and Information Sharing (Indian Fluid Minerals)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalized SOP for Executives training course • Conducted first Tribal SOP training course with MHA Nation • Met with Solicitor to discuss language changes to Addendum 2 • Published 508 Compliant Addendum 2 in February 2022
<i>Attachment F</i>	<p><i>BIA/BLM/ONRR Responsibilities & Procedures for Indian Mineral Development Agreements (IMDA)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated/distributed unvetted comments for review by Federal partners. • Comments received and process of updating Addendum 2 of Attachment F for final approval
<i>Attachment I</i>	Updated draft attachment with additional comments made from Solicitor and ONRR

Summary of newly acquired duties

The below stated functions were transferred to the IESC from the OTS Division of Real Estate Services (DRES) via a memo from BIA Director dated March 23, 2022. As provided in 381 DM 1, the BIA is in the process of updating the above IAM guidance to reflect current organizational alignment, roles, and responsibilities consistent with those stated in this designation.

IESC Assumes DRES functions

The IESC’s role in taking on these functions will allow for modernized energy related business processes, thereby achieving better protection of Trust records and combined efficiencies in the area of energy and mineral development.

Support Services to ONRR

ONRR Program Areas that requested assistance: Tribal and State Audit Services (TSAS), Indian Trust, Outreach & Coordination - State and Indian Outreach (SIO), Reference and Reporting Management (RRM), Central Audit Management, Compliance Management (CM), Office of Enforcement (OE), Office of Appeals & Regulations, Open Data, Design & Development (ODDD), Program Support & Project Management, Market & Spatial Analytics (MSA), Royalty Valuation (RV), Strategy & Analytics Office (SAO), Data Optimization, Retrieval, and Coordination (DORC), and MRMSS Management & Systems Services.

- Over 70 requests for assistance were submitted by the ONRR program areas listed above
- Annual Tribal Letter sent to 32 tribes in January 2022 for FY 2021.
- Modernization Project for Explanation of Payments (EOP) - 30 o 32 tribes now have electronic or digital access to their EOP. Provided ongoing monthly support to tribes to gain access to ONRR's Web Center Portal.
- Presented Records training at the September 2022 State and Tribal Royalty Audit Committee (STRAC) Meeting
- Presented TAAMS training to ONRR Audit Management and Indian Trust, Outreach and Coordination (ITOC) Staff.
- Presented Automated Fluid Minerals Support System (AFMSS) 2 Training to ONRR Audit Management staff.
- Presented GLO records training to ONRR Audit Management Staff.
- Assisted ONRR Appeals with multiple active cases open on Fort Berthold Little Missouri River Communitization Agreement (NDM108182).
- Presented Indian Trust Responsibilities presentation at ONRR's Impact Expo

Support Services to Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA)

- Assisted the BTFA workforce empowerment group in developing plan for detail assignments in Trust Operations - Field (TO-F) for FY 2022.
- Provided FTO coverage, approvals and other supervisory admin activities as needed for Navajo, Eastern Navajo, Uintah & Ouray, Farmington, and Southwest Region Field Offices.
- Assisted BTFA in developing and collecting results from a Tribal Relationship Survey.
- Assisted BTFA in training team in developing plan for creating training videos for TO-F staff.
- Participated in developing assessment questions for the BTFA, TO-F positions with workgroup and Human Resources.

MRAD Mineral Royalty Accounting Distribution

A bi-monthly distribution of allotted revenues to Individual Indian Mineral interest owners. \$517,033,253 Nationwide MRAD distribution to allotted and Undivided Tribal owners. This process involves interfaces of the following Department systems:

- Mineral Revenue Management Support System (MRMSS)- ONRR
- Trust Asset and Accounting Management System (TAAMS)- BIA
- Trust Funds Accounting System, Innovest System (TFAS)- BTFA

Indian Affairs Manual Updates

Commits to updating the Indian Affairs Manual (IAM) as per 381 DM 1 and the Indian Energy Service Center (IESC): 48 IAM.

TAAMS Mineral User Group (MUG)

IESC will now manage this team of BIA subject matter experts. This group meets regularly to identify user needs for the TAAMS system. Complete user acceptance testing, business rules development, works with CGI, Inc. (TAAMS vendor).

TAAMS Change Management Board (TCMB)

The IESC Director has been appointed to serve as a voting member of the TAAMS change management board.

Nationwide Bond approval and processing

The IESC will process mineral bonds/sureties for Nation-wide collected bonds and keep the official lease file. To date the IESC has received 47 nationwide bond requests. IESC has developed an internal standard operating procedure to process and incoming nationwide bonds.

Energy / Mineral Bankruptcy

Respond to SOL request for information related to energy/mineral bankruptcies. Updates nationwide sureties accordingly.

Update as necessary

- [Fluid Mineral Handbook](#)
- 52 IAM X-H, *Fluid Minerals Estate Procedural Handbook*
https://www.bia.gov/sites/default/files/dup/assets/public/raca/handbook/pdf/52-IAM-XH_Fluid_Mineral_Estate_Procedural_HB_OIMT.pdf
- Indian Solid Minerals Guidance and Development
- Onshore Energy and Mineral Lease Management Interagency Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), Indian Solid Minerals; Responsible for content maintenance, updates & training.
- A-123 for Indian minerals & energy
- OMB Circular A-123, Management's Responsibility for Internal Control
- Nationwide annual review (sample offices only)

Challenges, Opportunities and Best Practices

The IESC continues to support inter-bureau coordination on administrative appeals and precedent-setting acreage and boundary determinations for leases affected by updated cadastral determinations along water ways on Indian lands because of river course migration. This applies to lands along the Little Missouri River.

- The IESC continues to support inter-bureau coordination on lands affected by judicial review (active litigation in the US District Court System), with respect to lands underlying the bed of the (Big) Missouri river, which are subject to competing claims against title.
- The IESC continues to support and facilitate coordination and cooperation between the major Agencies and Offices involved in the development and management of Energy Resources on Indian Trust Lands.

Going Forward

Advertised Lease Ft. Peck

Ft. Peck BIA Agency has requested IESC support to re-establish competitive oil and gas lease sale. IESC is coordinating review of eligible tract list and working to hold advertised lease sale at Ft. Peck Agency.

Tribal Consultation on Tribal Orphaned Well Grant Program

Tribal Orphaned Well Grant Program will be holding Tribal Consultation sessions regarding Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Section 40601 to be held Sept 27 & 29, 2022. IESC will be assisting The Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC) with grant review and ongoing grant technical assistance for program development. The OEPC is the lead on this BIL activity. IESC will be collaborating on these future activities:

- Tribal Consultation session(s)
- Tribal grant application processing
- Tribal Program development (capacity building)
- In lieu of Tribal projects (Contract services through BLM IDIQ contract)
- Coordination of Direct Grants Awards to Tribes
- Support of reporting requirements of the BIL

Renewable Energy Accelerated Deployment Initiative (READI) for Indian Country

Presentations to the DOE Tribal Clean Energy Summit and to the White House Council on Native American Affairs (WHCNA) – Energy Subcommittee Renewable Energy Accelerated Deployment Initiative (READI) for Indian Country

- Enhanced outreach and communication to Tribes on existing renewable energy development opportunities (i.e., assistance programs from DOE and DEMD).
- Consultation, outreach, listening sessions to Tribes and Individual Indian owners
- BIA Regional and Agency Offices are invited to participate – future events to be determined
- Regulatory updates, process development, streamlined leasing procedures
- Potential additional public resources and support functions to include technical assistance, permit coordination, and others for Tribes.

Expansion of Clean Energy

Clean energy implementation on Indian lands could be expanded through a comprehensive process like that of fluid minerals on Indian lands, subject to the preferences of the sovereign Tribal and Individual Indian Owners.

- Expanding the clean energy focus may include establishing new regulatory provisions that provide for regularly advertised, competitive clean energy lease sales, lease title maintenance and designation, renewable facility energy permitting, revenue collection and disbursement, and comprehensive valuation, accounting, compliance, and enforcement of these activities.
- The IESC identified a structured dialogue process aimed at presenting these clean energy development options to Tribal and Individual Indian Owners which can then be translated into comprehensive clean energy implementation activities described above and future regulatory updates.

Clean energy implementation on Indian lands

Clean energy implementation entails recognizing the sovereign role played by Tribes and Individual Indian Owners as primary decision makers.

- The IESC aims to work with Departmental line officers (BIA Regional Directors and Agency Superintendents, BLM State Office Directors and Field Office Managers, etc.) through the Federal Partners meetings to present information and receive feedback from Tribes and Individuals on potential clean energy initiatives.
- Input on clean energy may also be garnered from Indian trust beneficiaries through interaction with Tribal organizations and councils (like the National Congress of American Indians), outreach activities and other events conducted within Tribal communities and allottee associations, and formal, government-to-government Tribal consultation.
- Developing a comprehensive Departmental mechanism for large-scale clean energy implementation on Indian lands such as presently exists for fluid mineral development.
- Departmental regulations in Sections 25, 30, and 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations guide BIA, ONRR, and BLM, respectively, to undertake regular fluid mineral development activities on Indian trust lands. Under this process, Indian lands regularly undergo advertised, competitive oil and gas lease sales, lease title maintenance and designation, oil and gas production well permitting, revenue collection and disbursement, and comprehensive valuation, accounting, compliance, and enforcement of these activities.

The Department undertakes and administers this activity helping Tribes and Individual Indian Owners develop these resources. And although regulations do provide for some limited renewable activities on Indian lands (25 C.F.R. §§ 162.501 – 162.599, 30 C.F.R. §§ 1280.300 – 1280.307), most clean energy activities on Indian lands are pursued through small-scale, voluntary efforts that are completed outside these regulatory authorities.