



Trust Land Resources • Resource Stewardship • Results that Matter

Message from the Deputy Director

Welcome to a brand-new year filled with possibilities! As we turn the page to 2026, let's embrace this moment as an opportunity to dream bigger, push boundaries, and achieve milestones that demonstrate the value we bring to Indian country.

This year, our mission is clear: to lead with trust, innovate with courage, and deliver excellence in everything we do. Each of you brings unique strengths that make our team unstoppable. Together, we can transform challenges into victories and ideas into impact.

Let's make 2026 the year we set new standards – not just for our organization, but for ourselves. Your dedication and creativity are the heartbeat of our success, and we're excited to see what we'll accomplish as a united team.

Here's to a year of growth, collaboration, and bold achievement!

With gratitude and optimism,

Deputy Bureau Director-Trust Services



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"It does not require many words to speak the truth".

Chief Joseph
Nez Perce Tribe

OFFICE OF TRUST SERVICES OVERVIEW

Mission

The Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) Office of Trust Services (OTS) is committed to serving Tribal Communities and their members by ensuring the activities associated with management and protection of trust and restricted lands; natural resources; forestry; irrigation, power, and safety of dams; and real estate services are improving Tribal government infrastructure and communities, along with other components of long-term sustainable economic development, to enhance the quality of life for their Tribal members and protect and improve trust assets of American Indians, Indian Tribes and Alaska Natives.

FY 2026 Retired Staff Members

| Employee | Title | Service | OTS Division |
|---------------------|---|----------|--------------------------|
| Dale Albert Bond | Program Manager | 23 years | Energy & Mineral |
| Susan G. Brave | Realty Specialist | 18 years | Real Estate Services |
| Rosina Carrion | Program Specialist (Pathways/Workforce) | 23 years | Workforce/Pathways |
| Mildred A. Garcia | Budget Analyst | 32 years | Wildland Fire |
| Francis Holiday | Associate Deputy Bureau Director | 34 years | Water & Power |
| Gerald Hood | Geographic Information Specialist | 23 years | Resource Integration |
| Judy A. Jones | Management Analyst | 39 years | Program Management |
| Luree L. Livermont | Realty Specialist | 35 years | Real Estate Services |
| Ira L. New Breast | Water & Land Resources Officer | 23 years | Natural Resources |
| Brenda R. Racehorse | Budget Analyst (Fire) | 28 years | Wildland Fire |
| Samuel K. Scranton | Forester | 34 years | Wildland Fire |
| Travis P. Teegarden | Supervisory Agricultural Engineer | 26 years | Water & Power |
| John Trebesch | Civil Engineer | 20 years | Water & Power |
| Pater M. Wakeland | Supervisory Forester | 9 years | Forestry |
| Event Spotted Wolf | Realty Specialist | 29 years | Trust Land Consolidation |

We wish our former colleagues' great success in their future endeavors



Retirees pictured above (L-R): Susan Brave, Rosina Carrion, Luree Livermont, Ira New Breast, Event Spotted Wolf, Peter Wakeland

GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE & RESULTS ACT (GPRA)

Background

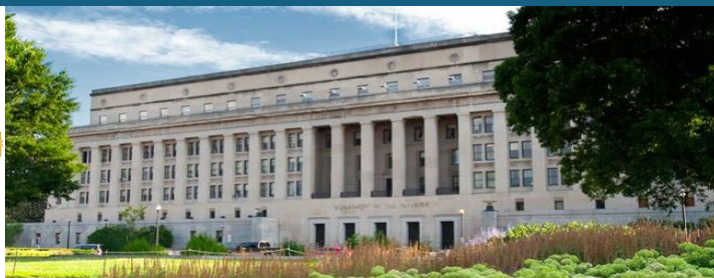
The [Government Performance and Results Act](#) (GPRA) was enacted in 1993 and modernized in 2010, requiring federal agencies to set goals, evaluate their programs, and assess performance. The GPRA Modernization Act of 2010 added requirements for performance improvement officers as Performance Improvement Council, and a government-wide performance website.

GPRA emphasizes using data and evidence to inform policy, budget, and management decisions. The Act promotes transparency and accountability by requiring agencies to publicly report on their performance. The following table identifies the 13 separate GPRA measures assigned to the Office of Trust Services.

FY 2025 OTS Government Performance & Results Act Results

| Measure ID | Program & Measure ID | Measure | FY25 Target | FY 25 Final | FY 25 Goal Met or Not Met |
|------------|------------------------|--|-------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 462 | Museum Program | Percentage of museum collections in good condition | 85% | 85% 129 / 152 | Goal Met |
| 2295 | Forestry | Timber sales prepared & offered for sale or free use | 43.7% | 48.5% 329,212,271 / 687,534,494 | Goal Met |
| 2041 | Agriculture & Range | Grazing permits monitored for compliance | 36.6% | 37.9% 10,570 / 27,880 | Goal Met |
| 2043 | Range Management | Range units assessed for utilization and condition | 51.5% | 45.4% 2,930 / 6,454 | Goal Not Met |
| 2100 | Real Estate Services | Fee to Trust | 78% | 77% 253 / 328 | Goal Not Met |
| 2411 | Real Estate Services | Land and Leasehold Mortgage processing time | 48% | 79% 80 / 101 | Goal Met |
| 1553 | Probate Services | Percent of estates closed | 93% | 92% 1,940 / 2,105 | Goal Not Met |
| 2171 | Probate Services | Percent of qualifying probate orders encoded within 72 hours | 91.8% | 93.3% 943 / 1,011 | Goal Met |
| 2371 | Land, Titles & Records | All LTRO documents accepted & processed | 93.76% | 98.52% 6,327 / 6,422 | Goal Met |
| 2373 | Land, Titles & Records | Percent of land titles certified in 48 hours | 93.2% | 97.9% 8,107 / 8,279 | Goal Met |
| 1826 | Water Management | Maintenance projects completed | 75% | 97% 2,092 / 2,147 | Goal Met |
| 2037 | Irrigation | Number of linear miles of functional canals | 94.1% | 98.2% 11,842.6 / 12,056.6 | Goal Met |
| 2052 | Irrigation | Percent of water projects completed | 72.2% | 70.0% 126 / 180 | Goal Not Met |

NEWS YOU CAN USE

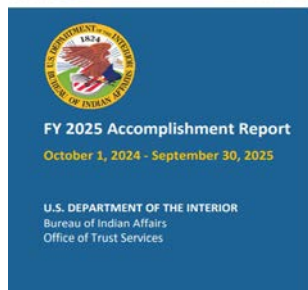


Main Interior Building, Washington, DC



OTS Publications: Year-End Report

The final FY 2025 Accomplishment Report for OTS was published on the main OTS website at <https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots>.



OTS Trust Quarterly Newsletter

The Trust Quarterly Newsletter is produced collaboratively by the Trust Services Division under the direction of Deputy Director Johnna Blackhair. To find out more or to submit your ideas and suggestions for future issues, please contact Dawn.selwyn@bia.gov or BIATrustQuarterly@bia.gov

Current and past newsletters are available for viewing on the BIA Trust services web page at <https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots>.

Content for April newsletter due March 18, 2026



DISCLAIMER

The U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) Office of Trust Services (OTS) strives to make this newsletter's information as current and accurate as possible; however, OTS makes no claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness or adequacy of the content and expressly disclaims liability for errors or omissions in the content of the newsletter. References in this newsletter to any specific commercial product, process or service, or the use of any trade, firm or corporation name is for the information and convenience of the public, and does not constitute endorsement, recommendation or favoring by the DOI.

A NEW ERA IN WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT BEGINS



U.S. WILDLAND FIRE SERVICE

On January 12, 2026, the Department of the Interior (DOI) launched the U.S. Wildland Fire Service (WFS), a *historic step toward unifying wildland fire programs across multiple DOI bureaus*, including:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park Service
- Fish & Wildlife Service
- Office of Wildland Fire

This initiative, formalized under [Secretarial Order 3443, Elevating and Unifying DOI's Wildland Fire Management Program](#), is designed to modernize wildfire prevention and response, enabling faster decision-making and strengthening partnerships with federal, state, local and Tribal entities.

The creation of the WFS ensures DOI is better prepared to meet the growing challenges of wildland fire management while honoring Tribal trust responsibilities and maintain bureau missions.

Wildland Fire Consolidation Effort

This wildland fire consolidation effort throughout the federal government will include:

- Creating a joint federal firefighting aircraft service
- Standardizing the Emergency Firefighter Program
- Establishing a joint contracting, procurement, and payment center
- Building a government-wide Wildfire Enterprise IT System
- Developing a unified wildfire risk mapping tool

Tribal Consultation

Although BIA Wildland Fire Management is transitioning into the WFS, the mission to protect trust lands and uphold Tribal sovereignty remains unchanged. Tribal consultations held in November 2025 guided the initial development and organizational structure of the WFS.

Feedback from Tribal nations emphasized the importance of co-design and communication throughout the transition. DOI remains committed to government-to-government engagement and ensuring trust responsibilities remain central to all organizational changes.

During this transition, BIA will continue supporting Tribal programs and P.L. 93-638 contracts to ensure continuity of operations and protection of trust lands. DOI is taking steps to build internal capacity within the WFS to be able to directly administer these agreements in the future.

Executive Order 14308, Empowering Commonsense Wildfire Prevention and Response

[Executive Order 14308, Empowering Commonsense Wildfire Prevention and Response](#), dated June 2, 2025, directed the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to streamline Federal Wildland Fire governance to the maximum degree practicable and consistent with applicable law, consolidate their wildland fire programs to achieve the most efficient and effective use of wildland fire offices, coordinating bodies, programs, budgets, procurement processes, and research and, as necessary, recommend additional measures to advance this objective.

New Leadership

Interior selected Brian Fennessy to oversee the creation of the U.S. Wildland Fire Service. His focus is building an integrated framework that supports firefighters and protects communities, while fostering collaboration across agencies and integration with Tribal partners. This historic effort marks the beginning of a unified, resilient, and innovative wildland fire service, one that honors Tribal sovereignty, upholds trust responsibilities, and protects communities and cultural resources for generations to come.

Currently, wildland fire management responsibilities within the Department of the Interior are distributed across multiple bureaus and offices, including the BIA, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Office of Aviation Services, and the Office of Wildland Fire.

The U.S. Wildland Fire Service is intended to streamline decision-making, improve operational efficiency and enhance the Department's ability to respond quickly and effectively to wildfire threats. The vision behind a new service is to better protect lives, communities, critical infrastructure and public and tribal lands through a more integrated wildland fire management approach.



Wildland Fire burning in the distance



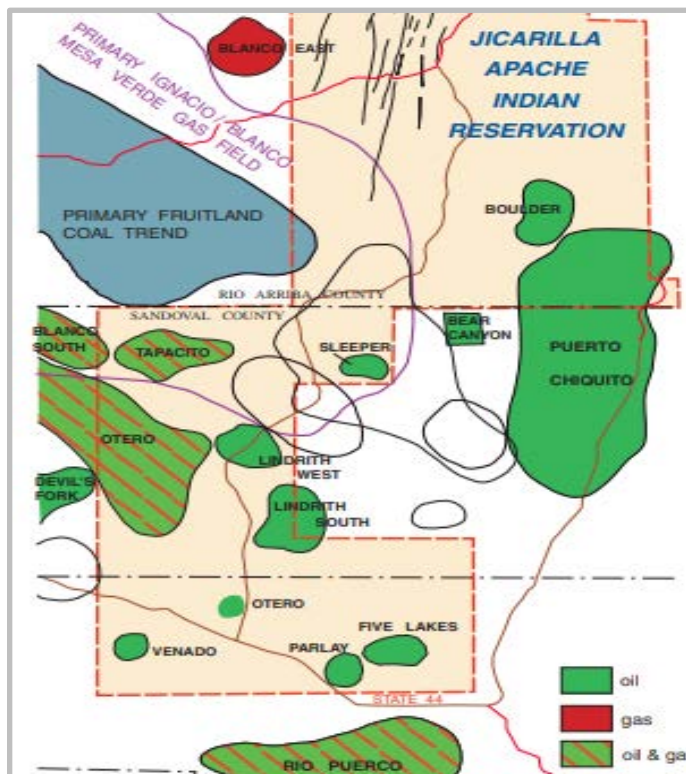
Grinding Rock Aggregate Plant owned by the Fort Independence Indian Community

Branch of Fluid Minerals

Jicarilla Apache Nation

DEMD is providing technical assistance to the Jicarilla Apache Nation to support its oil and gas leasing initiatives. This effort focuses on enhancing the Nation's capacity to evaluate leasing opportunities, negotiate favorable terms, and ensure compliance with applicable regulations.

DEMD's guidance includes market analysis, resource assessment, and best practices for sustainable development, empowering the Jicarilla Apache Nation to maximize economic benefits while safeguarding environmental and cultural values.



DEMD work product outlining the east side of the San Juan Basin outlining major producing oil and gas fields

Osage Nation

The DEMD is collaborating with the [Osage Mineral Council](#) and is providing technical assistance in creating a promotional brochure for the North American Prospect Expo (NAPE) in February 2026.



This brochure will highlight opportunities for oil and gas development on Osage lands, emphasizing strategies that align with current Executive Orders on energy development and tribal sovereignty. By showcasing responsible resource management and economic growth potential, the brochure aims to attract industry partners while reinforcing the commitment to sustainable practices and compliance with federal directives.

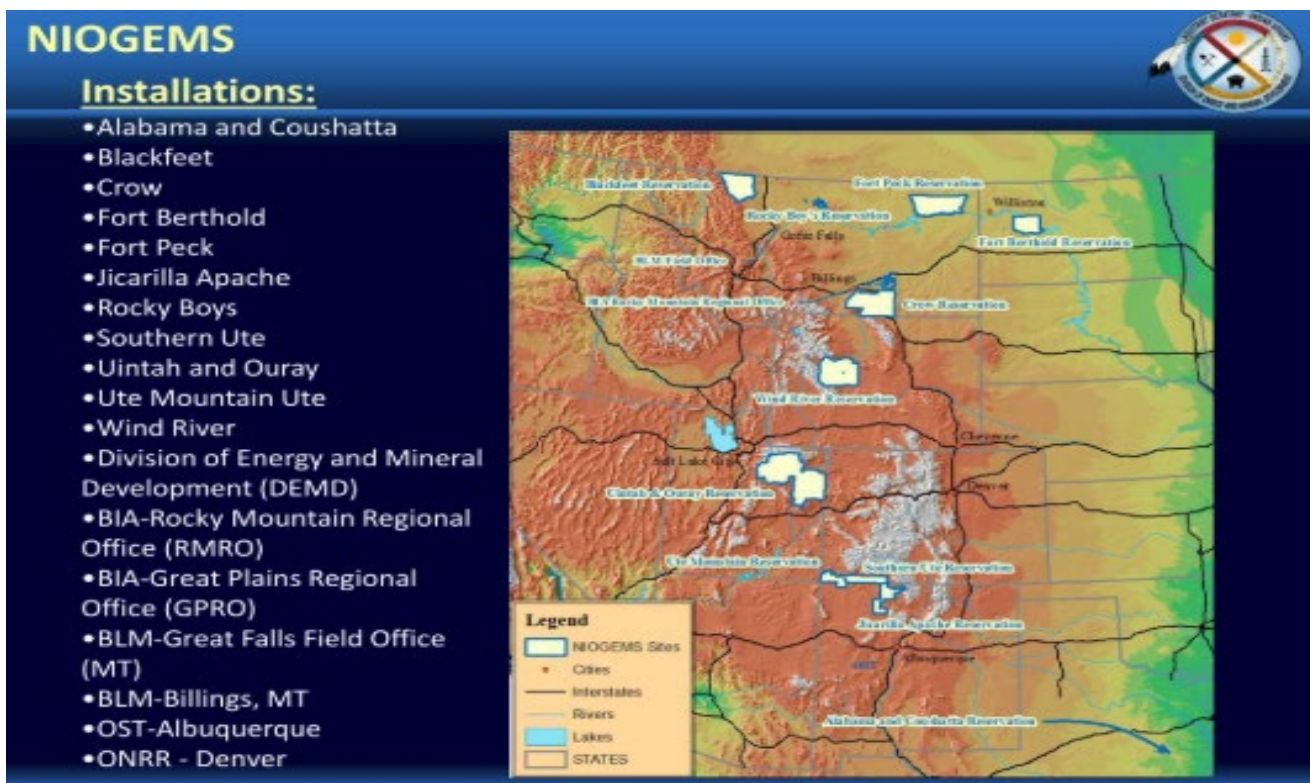
Branch of Solid Minerals

Yakama Apache Tribe

DEMD is working closely with the Yakama Apache Tribe to provide technical assistance for the development and optimization of their gravel pit operations. This support includes evaluating current production capabilities, identifying market opportunities, and exploring strategies to expand future business potential. By leveraging DEMD's expertise in resource management and economic planning, the Tribe is positioned to enhance revenue streams, create jobs, and establish a sustainable foundation for long-term growth in the construction and infrastructure sectors.

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

The DEMD is collaborating with the Division of Resource Information Systems (DRIS) to lay the groundwork for the development of NIOGEMS Version 5. This enhanced version will integrate Login.gov authentication, enabling both federal and tribal users to access the same system seamlessly. By streamlining login processes, application support, system enhancements, and overall management, NIOGEMS 5 will provide a unified platform that improves efficiency, security, and collaboration across stakeholders involved in energy and mineral resource development. NIOGEMS Version 5 is scheduled to launch March 31, 2026. See map of some NIOGEMS locations below.



A few of the NIOGEMS locations mapped



Native American Graves Protection Act & Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) continues its vital work to identify and inventory Native American ancestral human remains and associated funerary objects, unassociated funerary objects, objects of cultural patrimony, and sacred objects across the United States. Our efforts reflect a strong commitment to collaboration, transparency, and respect for Tribal sovereignty.

Tribal Consultation on NAGPRA

Over the course of FY 2025, a total of 34 consultations were held with 13 Tribes. These meetings were crucial for addressing specific NAGPRA claims, concerns, and strengthening relationships, using a mix of in-person, virtual, and remote communication methods to ensure a proactive and collaborative approach to all partnerships. The BIA received a total of 53 statements from 47 institutions across the United States, including both universities and museums.

BIA asserted control over collections from 33 institutions

This included 1,127 Ancestral remains and 6,803 objects

BIA NAGPRA Collection

- The BIA declined control over collections from 10 institutions, as they did not fit the BIA Solicitor's opinion on establishing criteria for ascertaining ownership of NAGPRA collections.
- It has been determined that there are BIA-controlled collections at 50 institutions across 24 states in the United States.

Federal Register Notices

In FY 2025, the BIA published seven Federal Register notices, including three Notices of Inventory Completion (NICs) and four Notices of Intended Repatriation (NIRs).

These notices accounted for

- 92 Ancestors
- 456 Associated Funerary Objects (AFOs)
- 1,033 Unassociated Funerary Objects (UFOs)
- 197 Sacred Objects and Objects of Cultural Patrimony with additional notices still pending publication

This progress underscores the BIA's ongoing commitment to accurately accounting for and preparing BIA-controlled museum collections for repatriation.



Land Title Services

Land Titles and Records Offices examine, certify, and issue Title Status Reports (TSRs) to report the current ownership and encumbrance information of tracts of Indian land, including the legal description and acreage for the tract. In addition, LTROs issue Probate Inventory Reports for the estates of deceased Indian individuals, and individual Tribal Interest reports including all individual or Tribe's land ownership. LTROs are also responsible for preparing, maintaining, and providing land status maps.

Leasing on Individual Indian and Tribal Lands

BIA coordinates the surface lease approval process on individually owned and Tribal trust and restricted American Indian and Alaska Native lands. DRES works with Tribal nations to promote and support Tribal sovereignty and self-determination (Executive Order 14112) and coordinated the approval of individual Tribes' surface lease regulations through the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Home Ownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act).

DRES also coordinates a streamlined lease approval process for broadband infrastructure projects as part of the National Tribal Broadband Strategy.

Surface leases include Agricultural, Business, Residential and Wind Energy Evaluation leases (WEELs) and Wind and Solar Resources (WSR) leases.



Timber Team

The Timber Team successfully concluded fiscal year 2025 by supporting Yakama Agency Forestry with timber marking operations on the Old Reservation Boundary Timber Sale. Over the course of two weeks, the team completed internal leave tree marking across 654.8 acres.



Following the Yakama assignment, the Timber Team continued its interagency support by assisting the Crow Reservation in Montana with timber sale preparation for the Sioux Pass Timber Sale.

Between upcoming travel assignments, the Timber Team remains committed to providing ongoing support for timber sale preparation activities as needed.

National Advanced Silviculture Program (NASP) - December 2025 Update

Four BIA and Tribal students from NASP Class 19 successfully completed Module 2 at Oregon State University. Module 3 titled, "Advanced Silviculture Topics" will be located at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA and is scheduled for April 26 - May 9, 2026. The instructor will be John Munsell.

NASP Class 20, application period closed on December 12, 2025, and successful applicants will be notified soon.

Nominations for NASP Class 21 will open next fall. Applicants will need to submit an "Accountability Plan," including a resume detailing experience in seven foundational silvicultural tasks, a letter of intent, and letters of support.

Portable Milling Infrastructure

The BIA Division of Forestry received 20 proposals from seven different regions. The total amount requested was \$3,030,000. Twelve proposals were selected for funding utilizing regional rankings and central office review. Seven regions are represented in the selection and \$1,983,254 was distributed to the Regional Offices and the Office of Self Governance.



Brute 23 Firewood Processor that will be utilized by the Confederate Tribes of Warm Springs

NASP Module 2: Oregon's Coast Range

By Casey Sigg

Oregon State University's (OSU) College of Forestry hosts the second module of the National Advanced Silviculture Program, Title Inventory/Monitoring and Decision Support. The focus is on the quantitative side of forestry. Concepts taught include inventory, mensuration, sampling, statistics, monitoring, economics, and forest regulation. The influence of federal laws on forest management and legal policy is also covered. OSU has a rich tradition as a forestry college, and I was excited to learn from professors whose research papers I had read and to explore the university's new forestry building, made from cross-laminated timber.

Each day was a mix of classroom lectures and field site visits. Yes, plenty of equations were stared at, frustration expressed and eventually worked through. If you haven't thought about the power of interest rates in a while, this module is for you. Examples were given on the economic returns of certain management actions, such as rotations of Douglas fir plantations.

Different scenarios were explored: What is the difference in harvest timing if the interest rate used is 4% versus 6%? These economic metrics are balanced with forest biology concepts, such as determining when your stand will attain the *culmination of mean annual increment* – the point of highest average growth rate. Foresters will remember from college that this is central to sustained yield management, which is mandated by the National Indian Forest Resource Management Act of 1990 for trust lands.



Douglas Fir trees

The most meaningful experiences came from field trips. As fog from the coast rolled through the hills, some mornings were spent examining silvicultural treatments on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land and in the Siuslaw National Forest. During a weekend excursion to Newport, we visited several sites on the Central Coast Ranger District of the Siuslaw with their silviculturist. I marveled at remnant stumps of massive western red cedar cut during the 1920s, and the 'springboard' notches still visible at our first stop which was a thinning treatment of Sitka spruce. Other stands we visited were thinning treatments designed to accelerate the development of old-growth structure, intended to provide habitat for species such as the marbled murrelet.

Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) are a good strong interest of mine, and I started a good discussion about their management on the Siuslaw. It turns out a herbaceous plant called salal is harvested commercially for floral arrangements popular in Europe, and chanterelle mushrooms are also picked commercially.

As a forester, it just wouldn't be a complete trip to Oregon's coast without visiting some big trees. After our field trip to Siuslaw, we had the afternoon to explore Cape Perpetua Scenic Area, where we hiked the "Big Tree Trail." The big tree at the end of the trail is a ten-foot diameter Sitka spruce! On our final field trip during the second week, we hiked through a stand of old-growth Douglas-fir and western hemlock while discussing different forestry inventory techniques. Walking among 300-year-old Douglas-fir and watching the morning light shine through the hemlock needles is an uplifting experience.



Artificial regeneration on an intensively managed coast range forest

My favorite section from this module was density management. Stand Density Index (SDI) is taught in every college silviculture course, but in NASP, you revisit it in depth. SDI – or the “ $-3/2$ law” – is as close as foresters have to a biological law when managing forest growth. A researcher named Reineke observed that in fully stocked, even-aged stands, there is a log-linear relationship between the number of trees per acre and the quadratic mean diameter (QMD) of those trees. When graphed, this relationship creates a line with a negative $3/2$ slope, which represents the maximum number of live trees a site can support.

Determining where your stand lies on this slope allows you to assess whether it is growing optimally or if competition-induced mortality is beginning. It’s fascinating how this discovery, made nearly 100 years ago, is still widely true. This law can even be seen in other vegetation, such as cornfields or your tomato garden, as our professor quipped!



The writer with a 400-year-old Douglas-Fir

The module concludes with a group project that all students work on throughout the two weeks. In small groups, you write what is essentially a mini-National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) document with different silvicultural alternatives. Each student writes a different alternative and is expected to model the results in the Forest Vegetation Simulator.

Along with writing an analysis of the model results and the implications of each alternative, group presentations are given on the final morning before everyone departs. Watching everyone's hard work culminate and hearing about silviculture from across the nation was a high note to end the course on.

Oregon's Coast Range gives you a lot to think about as a forester. Driving along Highway 20, viewing the different age classes of Douglas-fir—from industry land managed on a 40-year rotation to late-successional reserves likely never to be harvested again in my lifetime—the different values forests hold for us come to mind. Determining how to manage these lands is often complex and controversial, as the 1990s showed us. Thankfully, opportunities like NASP exist to give foresters the quantitative tools to navigate these challenges—and to be inspired by some big trees.

INDIAN ENERGY SERVICE CENTER



Mission

The mission of the Indian Energy Service Center (IESC) is to fulfill the Department of the Interior's (DOI) Indian trust responsibility in the energy and mineral development arena. We do this by modernizing business processes to efficiently develop the Indian energy and mineral estate while protecting trust assets by removing barriers to energy (renewable and conventional) and mineral development on Indian lands.

Services We Provide

The Indian Energy Service Center (IESC) coordinates and processes Indian energy, mineral and renewable energy development, resource management and leasing activities for the BIA in coordination with our several Interior bureaus. IESC is staffed by BIA, the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA). The IESC facilitates energy, mineral and renewable energy development, resource management and leasing activities in Indian Country.



Abandoned Oil Well

Key Projects - Energy

In response to the National Energy Emergency and the unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential Executive Orders, the DOI Secretary issued Secretarial Orders in accordance with the Executive Orders on energy dominance aimed to reduce regulatory barriers and promote the development of energy resources, including oil, gas, and renewable energy, on federal and tribal lands.

For the BIA's Indian Energy Service Center, improving productivity in oil and gas transactions requires a multi-faceted approach that will combine process optimization, technological integration, stakeholder collaboration, regulatory clarity, and staff development. By streamlining workflows, fostering clear communication, and leveraging new technologies, the BIA will expedite oil and gas transactions, ensuring that tribes benefit more efficiently from their resources while maintaining responsible land management practice.

On December 16, 2025, the IESC Division Chief and staff met with Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Janel Broderick, Ken Bellmard and Jarrod Lowry, to discuss the IESC's Mission, Programs and impact in support of energy development.

Permitting

In response to President Donald J. Trump's declaration of a National Energy Emergency, the Department of the Interior and BIA are preparing emergency permitting procedures to accelerate the development of domestic energy resources and critical minerals. These measures are being designed to expedite the review and approval, if appropriate, of projects related to identification, leasing, siting, production, transportation, refining, or generation of energy within the United States.

Tribal Energy Resource Agreements (TERA)

TERA is an agreement between a Tribe and DOI for the Tribe to manage leasing, business agreements, and rights-of-way for the purposes of developing energy resources on Tribal land. IESC provides training and technical assistance to Tribes interested in submitting a TERA proposal. To date, one Tribe has submitted a TERA Application.

Indian Energy Service Center Strike Team

The BIA has been tasked with establishing a Communitization Agreement (CA) Strike Team in support of the Department of the Interior's initiative under Secretarial Order 3418 – Unleashing American Energy.

The IESC Communitization Agreement Strike Team will operate to address outstanding CA backlogs and support oil and gas, CA, and mineral case work.



SOP Fluid Minerals Training

On December 9-10, 2025, IESC hosted a virtual Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Training for Indian Fluid Minerals. Attendees gained valuable insights into the interconnected roles and responsibilities of DOI bureaus and offices involved in fluid minerals development and operations on Trust Lands across the United States. Training provided a comprehensive overview of each agency's functions, emphasizing collaborative obligations and transitions between agencies in fluid mineral development (oil and gas) on Trust Lands. The next SOP Training is scheduled for April 2026.

A special thanks to the ONRR team – Justin Gallegos, Supervisory Minerals Revenue Specialist; Jordan Clark, Minerals Revenue Specialist, and Matthew Moore, Minerals Revenue Specialist – for facilitating the training and ensuring a smooth technical experience.

TAAMS Training

The upcoming TAAMS Mineral Leasing training is scheduled for February 18-19, 2026

Trust Asset and Accounting Management System (TAAMS) is the DOI's integrated land management system. TAAMS is a contractor maintained, and contractor operated major application. It is the system of record for title and land ownership data for land held in trust by the DOI for Tribes, American Indians, an Alaska Natives. The system manages the leasing process including the invoicing and distribution of income to the Department's beneficiaries on the land held in trust for Tribes, American Indians, an Alaska Natives.

Federal Partners Meeting FY 2026

The IESC coordinates meetings between Federal partners and Tribes to address oil and gas issues, with dates subject to change.

| Federal Partner Charter Meetings | Meeting Dates |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Fort Berthold (Feds Only) | October 16, 2025, March 19 and April 6, 2026 |
| Fort Bethold with MHA Nation | October 21-22, 2025, March 24-25, June 9-10, and August 11-12, 2026 |
| Navajo Federal Partners | October 28, 2025, April 7, 2026 |
| Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas | February 3 and August 4, 2026 |
| Rocky Mountain Region | March 3 and September 8, 2026 |
| Southwest | January 6 and July 8, 2026 |
| Uintah & Ouray Federal Partners | November 18, 2025, and May 5, 2026 |

DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Branch of Agriculture

Ongoing TAAMS Rangeland Management Training is offered for Range Staff throughout the year with the next sessions being offered in February and August of 2026.

The Branch of Agriculture, in coordination with Regional Range Staff, is updating the 54 IAM 1-H Agriculture and Rangeland Management Handbook to implement technical guidance to the BIA region, agency, and Tribal Range staff. The Handbook is in its 2021 draft form and has been internally reviewed by the Region and Field Agency staff members. Once all comments are reviewed from those offices the 2026 draft can go to the Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action.

Branch of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Recreation

The Branch of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Recreation (BFWR) support Tribal efforts to manage invasive Species Task Force, policies, and regional project prioritization.

- In 2025, BFWR assisted 71 tribes with 99 projects focused on controlling and preventing invasive terrestrial and aquatic species.
- Between BFWR and the Branch of Agriculture, 102 projects from 92 tribes were selected for FY2025 invasive and noxious weeds funding.

The following projects illustrate the range of invasive species work.

Navajo Nation – Monitoring, Preventing and Removing Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

The Navajo Nations' Department of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) diligently works to monitor and remove invasive fish and mussel species from tribal lakes and the San Juan River. Morgan Lake is a popular fishery that also serves as a cooling reservoir for Four Corner's Power Plan and near Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI) lands. An infestation of mussels into Morgan Lake would cause operation and maintenance issues at both the power plant and NAPI.



Morgan Lake on the Navajo Reservation

Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians (EBKI) – Early Detection, Inventory and Rapid Response

To prevent devastating ecological damage to EBKI's woodlands, native ecosystems, and cultural resources, EBKI staff will develop an EDRR Plan upon completion of this project.

The Tribe states that they are creating an inventory of indigenous habitat by marking and mapping as well as removing dead and/or infested trees which will significantly reduce the risk of fire.

Little Traverse Bay Bands (LTBB) of Odawa Indians – Invasive Species Project

Through the implementation of their Aquatic Invasive Species Plan, LTBB staff employ mitigation techniques to effectively reduce invasive species' role in diminishing cultural and regionally significant manoomin (wild rice, *Zizania palustris*) production. This project will focus most on reducing damage to wild rice beds caused with selective capture and removal of common carp.

In 2025, the BIA remained one of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society's (NAFWS) primary partners and funders. The BIA funded NAFWS operations and maintenance, Summer Youth Practicum, CLEO training and several special projects including the NAFWS Invasive Species Program (ISP).

The NAFWS ISP Team is committed to helping Tribe's bridge gaps by providing technical assistance related to all flora and fauna of an invasive species program, from species identification and management planning to control techniques and surveillance or monitoring training.

During the 42nd Annual National NAFWS Conference in Riverton, Wyoming, the NAFWS held a workshop on Invasive Species Management. The session included both classroom discussions and informative field tour. Participants toured areas of reservation land that has shown improvement from the removal of invasive species.



42nd Annual NAFWS attendees on a field tour of reservation lands to view improvements from the removal of invasive species.

DIVISION OF PROGRAM MANAGEMENT & COORDINATION



Mission

The mission of the Division of Program Management and Coordination emphasizes planning, budgeting, internal controls, performance management, human resources liaison activities, accountable property inventories, coordination, compliance, and continuous improvement. It also sits within OTS's broader mission to support trust responsibilities for American Indians, Indian Tribes, and Alaska Natives.

Staff Introductions



Sheena Schemm, Management Analyst

Sheena Schemm is an enrolled member of the Cherokee and Delaware Nations. She has worked nearly 17 years in the federal government, including 3.5 with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, where she enjoys collaborating with Tribes – seeing projects come to life, learning from each, and sharing technical knowledge to support on-the-ground success.

Fun Fact: Sheena lives in North Central Texas on a small 30-acre farm with her husband and two sons, who keep them busy with sports, cattle, and show pigs. On the farm she puts her rangeland management experience and Wildlife Conservation degree to work caring for their native pastures, and livestock.



Velda Garcia, Supervisory Management/Program Analyst.

Velda (Vee) M. Garcia is a member of the Kewa Pueblo (Santo Domingo Pueblo), New Mexico, with 30 years of federal service. She began her career as an Office Automation Clerk with the Southern Pueblos Agency in Albuquerque, NM, and later served at the Western Regional Office in Phoenix, AZ, and the Mescalero Agency in southern New Mexico. She currently serves as Division Chief for the Division of Program Management & Coordination in the Office of Trust Services, where she brings valuable administrative field experience to the central office level.

Fun fact: Vee is a proud Harley rider who enjoys sharing the road with her Silver Fox/Dove (Road Glide 3).



Karinda Granger, Program Analyst

Karinda Granger began her federal career in June 2002 and brings over 23 years of federal service, with experience in records and information management, travel and acquisition support, reporting, and compliance coordination. Karinda enjoys supporting mission-critical work and helping teams stay on track while outside of the office, spending time with family, staying busy, and exploring new places.

Fun fact: she loves travel and has visited Ireland, Mexico, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Belize, the Bahamas, and Grand Cayman – and believes in working to live, not living to work.



Weston Cain

Weston Cain is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation from eastern Oklahoma. A graduate of Oklahoma State University with a bachelor's degree in forestry, he has served 17 years with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He currently works in the OTS Budget shop, supporting trust resource management and tribal economic development.

Fun fact: Hunts from a treehouse literally 250 yards away from his home.

Ashley Roubideaux, Budget Analyst (*not pictured*) began her Federal career in September 2008 with the Office of Indian Services in the Division of Human Services, which overall was a great experience. She felt it was time for a change. In February 2011, she joined the Office of Trust Services, where she learned all things budget from some of the Bureau's top budget gurus. She has 17 years of federal service.

Outside of work, Ashley is a recently engaged mother of three: a 15-year-old who is in honors classes with a deep love for all things flute; a 10-year-old who is curious with tons of questions and continuously experimenting with her artistic style; and last but not least, a growing, ear-to-ear grinning 5-month old who is just the happiest little guy.

Fun fact: Ashley has a passion for oil painting "Bob Ross" style and, when inspired, sketching and writing poetry and cooking. She also provides meals from new recipes for her retired parents, enjoys going to local state and federal parks for picnics and camping. She enjoys badminton, volleyball and basketball (all equipment in her vehicle).



Jonathan Begay, Secretary

Jonathan Begay is enrolled with the Comanche Nation in southwestern Oklahoma although also half Navajo (not enrolled). Began his career with the BIA's Division of Program Development and Implementation in October 1986 in Washington, DC, and joined the OTS Division of Real Estate Services in 1998.

Fun fact: Jonathan enjoys travel and has visited Canada and Mexico. His interests include hard rock and heavy metal, and Fortean (unexplained paranormal phenomena). He is proud to have met the actor Lloyd Bridges, boxing's George Foreman, AC/DC's Angus Young and Brian Johnson, and former and current members of Judas Priest. He found it interesting that actress Olivia Thirlby (from the movies Juno and Dredd) was born the date after I started federal service.

Darin Begay, Inventory Management Specialist is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation from the Chinle Agency in Arizona. He spent his youth on the reservation helping his grandparents with livestock and ranch work, growing up without electricity or running water – experiences that shaped his strong work ethic and resilience. He attended school in Gallup, New Mexico.

Darin is a U.S. Air Force veteran who served as an Aircraft Maintenance Specialist, working on trainer and fighter jets, and completed four years of service with an Honorable Discharge. After military service, he and his wife relocated to Albuquerque, NM, where he worked for many years as a government contractor at Kirtland Air Force Base supporting Air Force Fuels Logistics and the Air Force Research Laboratory.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and has been with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for over five years, where he continues to enjoy serving Indian Country and supporting mission-critical work.



Darin Begay with a few of the 505 Thunder girls basketball team members he coaches

Fun fact: Outside of work Darin has coached AAU girls' varsity and junior varsity basketball for over 10 years, traveling throughout the Southwest to compete in tournaments and preparing to take his varsity team to Hawaii this year. He recently added a 3rd/4th grade Native American girls' team to his program, expanding opportunities for younger athletes. He also serves as a sports official, refereeing middle school boys' and girls' basketball, youth leagues (7U, 9U, and 11U divisions), and recently officiated junior varsity and middle school football games on the Navajo Nation and at Zuni Pueblo High School.



SECRETARIAL PRIORITY: PROBATE AND ESTATE PLANNING

Trust and Restricted Land Conveyances

DRES played a key role in assisting the Probate Surge Team with Realty Acquisition & Disposal Estate Planning. This included an onsite outreach to the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, also known as the Three affiliated Tribes, located on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in central North Dakota. The outreach resulted in 48 gift conveyance cases initiated, 8 applications approved, 8 deeds approved, and 8 cases completed.

25 CFR 152 Handbook

DRES, in coordination with the TAAMS A&D User Group, is developing the Trust and Restricted Land Conveyances Handbook under 25 CFR Part 152 to implement technical guidance to the BIA region, agency, and tribal realty staff. The Handbook is in its initial draft form and is ready for an internal review by the Land Title Records Office and BIA Probate. Once comments are received from those offices the initial draft can go to the Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action.

Gift Conveyance and Negotiated Sales Flyers

Gift Conveyance Flyers were completed for public use and were handed out at the Probate Surge Team outreach in North Dakota. A Negotiated Sales Flyer will be the next one to be released for Trust and Restricted Land Conveyances.

Modernizing Acquisition & Disposal (A&D) Business Rules

National A&D Business Rules were issued May 2022, and they included information for the TAAMS A&D Module including fee-to-trust cases since they fall under the umbrella of Acquisition & Disposal. However, because of the ongoing streamlining and modernization of processes the A&D Business Rules have been separated from the FTT Business Rules as of the August 2025 release. Once the Trust and Restricted Land Conveyances Handbook is finalized the A&D Business Rules will be updated as needed.

The TAAMS A&D User Group continues to meet monthly to review the draft handbook, discuss and prepare for TAAMS enhancements that will be implemented as result of the Trust and Restricted Land Conveyances Handbook being released. They also continue to identify user needs for TAAMS to develop immediate enhancements to ensure processes are streamlined for Realty staff efficiency.

Modernizing A&D Information Sharing

The A&D Dashboard for internal tracking is in the final stages of development. The A&D SharePoint site was updated to streamline materials and provide information needed in the field.



Ongoing TAAMS FTT Training is offered for Realty Staff throughout the year with the next sessions being offered in January, February, and March of 2026.

Acquisition & Disposal (A&D) Training

Ongoing TAAMS A&D Training is offered for Realty staff throughout the year with the next session being offered in April of 2026.

Modernizing FTT Information Sharing

The FTT Dashboard is on the schedule to be moved to a new format that is consistent with the latest dashboards released for internal tracking. The FTT and Proclamation SharePoint sites were updated to streamline materials and provide information needed in the field.

CY 2025 Accomplishments

*201 fee to trust cases approved.
27,320 acres taken into trust for
Tribes and individual Indian
landowners*

Fee-to-Trust and Proclamations

The release of the Indian Affairs Manual Processing Fee-to-Trust Applications chapter, the corresponding Fee-to-Trust Acquisitions and Reservation Proclamations Handbook, and the National FTT Business Rules in 2025 brought the establishment of the 2021 FTT Strike Team full circle. The Team was established to ensure efficiency in processing FTT acquisitions and evolved to ensure the integrity of the FTT data in TAAMS.

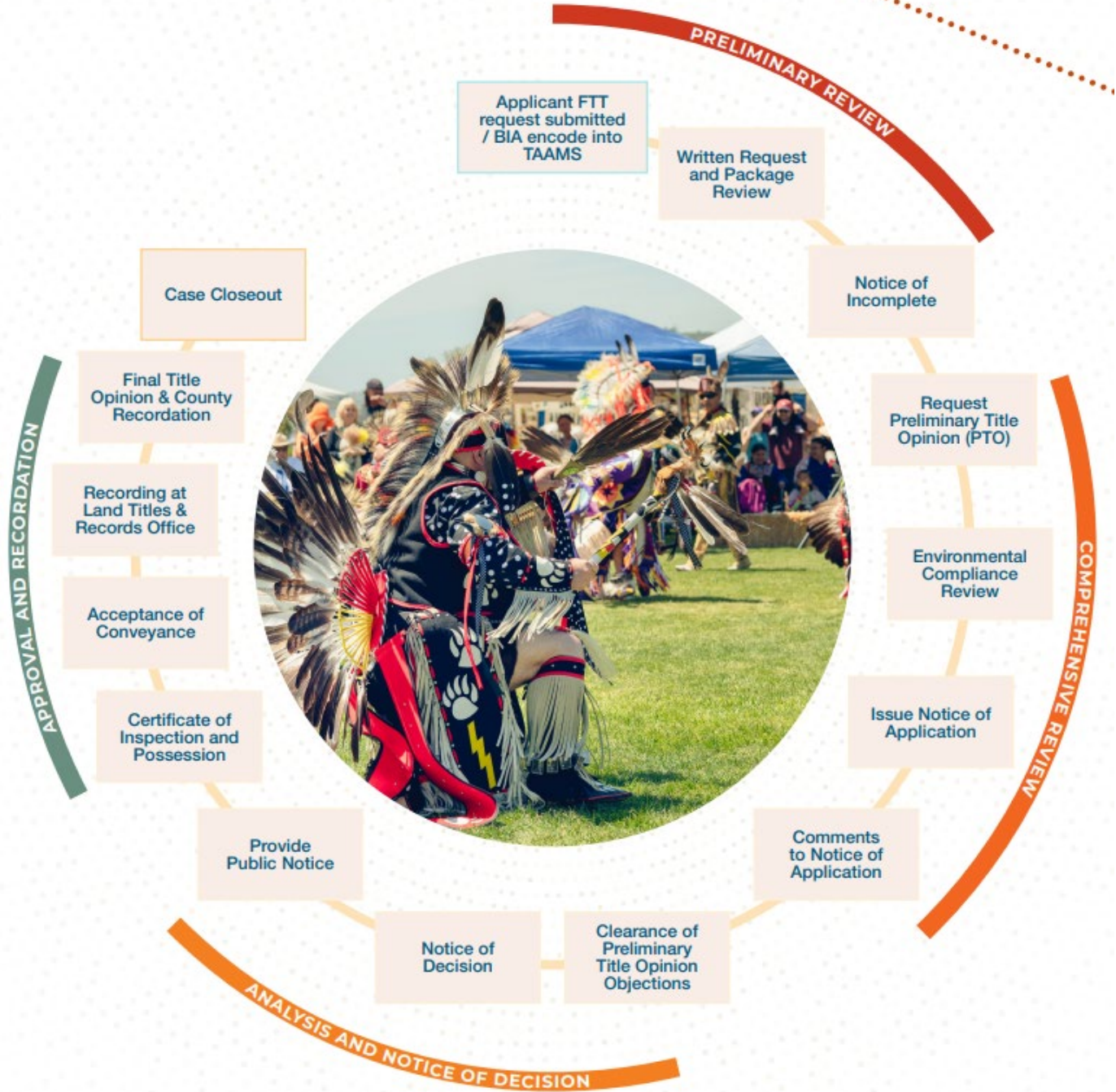
The TAAMS FTT User Group continues to meet monthly to identify user needs for TAAMS and develop enhancements to ensure processes are streamlined for Realty Staff efficiency.

Discretionary, Mandatory and AIPRA Flyers

FTT Flyers on the next three pages were developed for Discretionary, Mandatory, and Mandatory AIPRA Acquisitions for public use and are available on the BIA DRES website at <https://www.bia.gov/services/dres-flyers>.

A Proclamation Flyer will be the next one released as a follow up to the 2025 Handbook release.

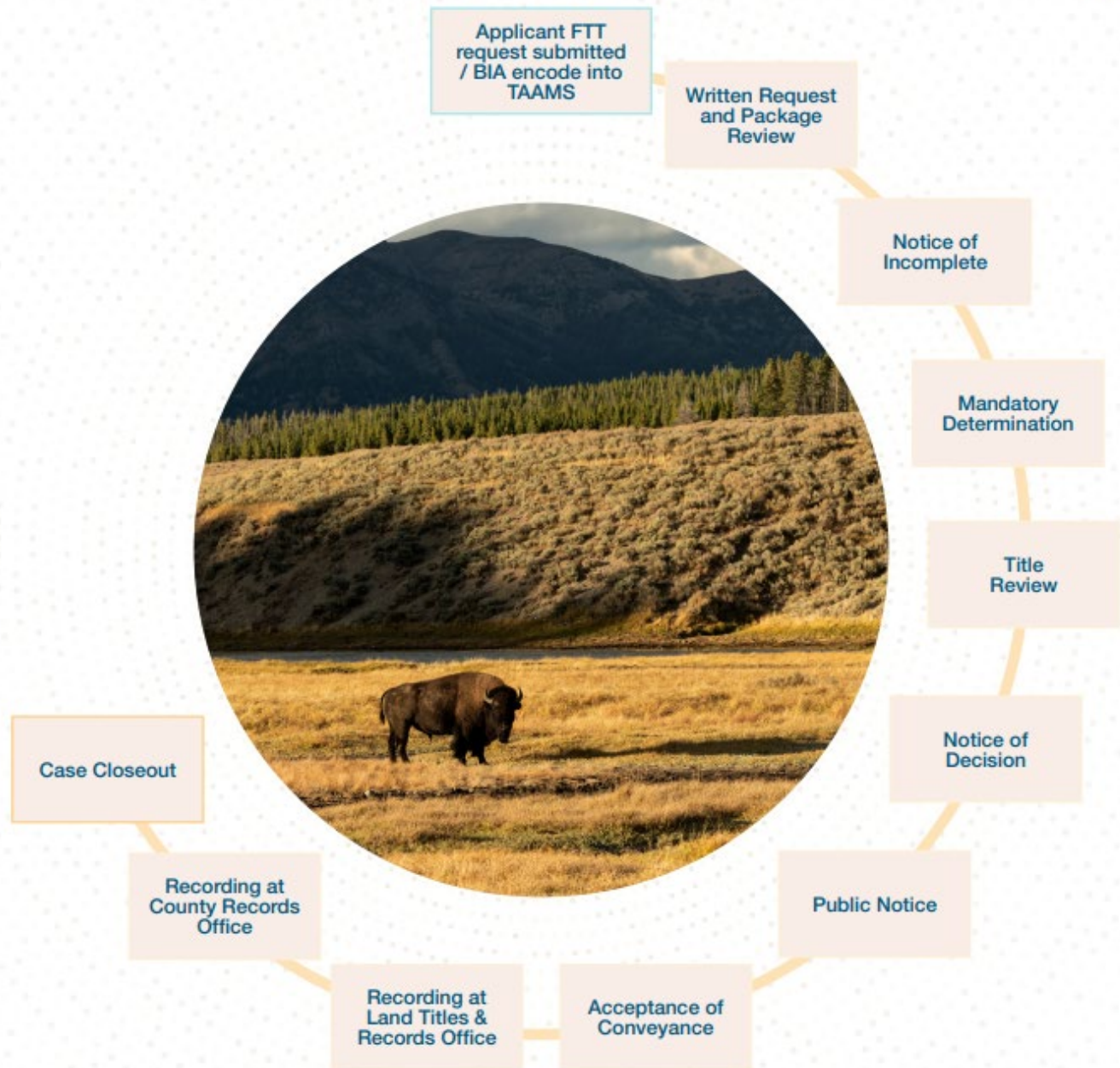
UNDERSTANDING THE
FEE-TO-TRUST PROCESS
 FOR DISCRETIONARY TRUST ACQUISITIONS



Additional Resources:

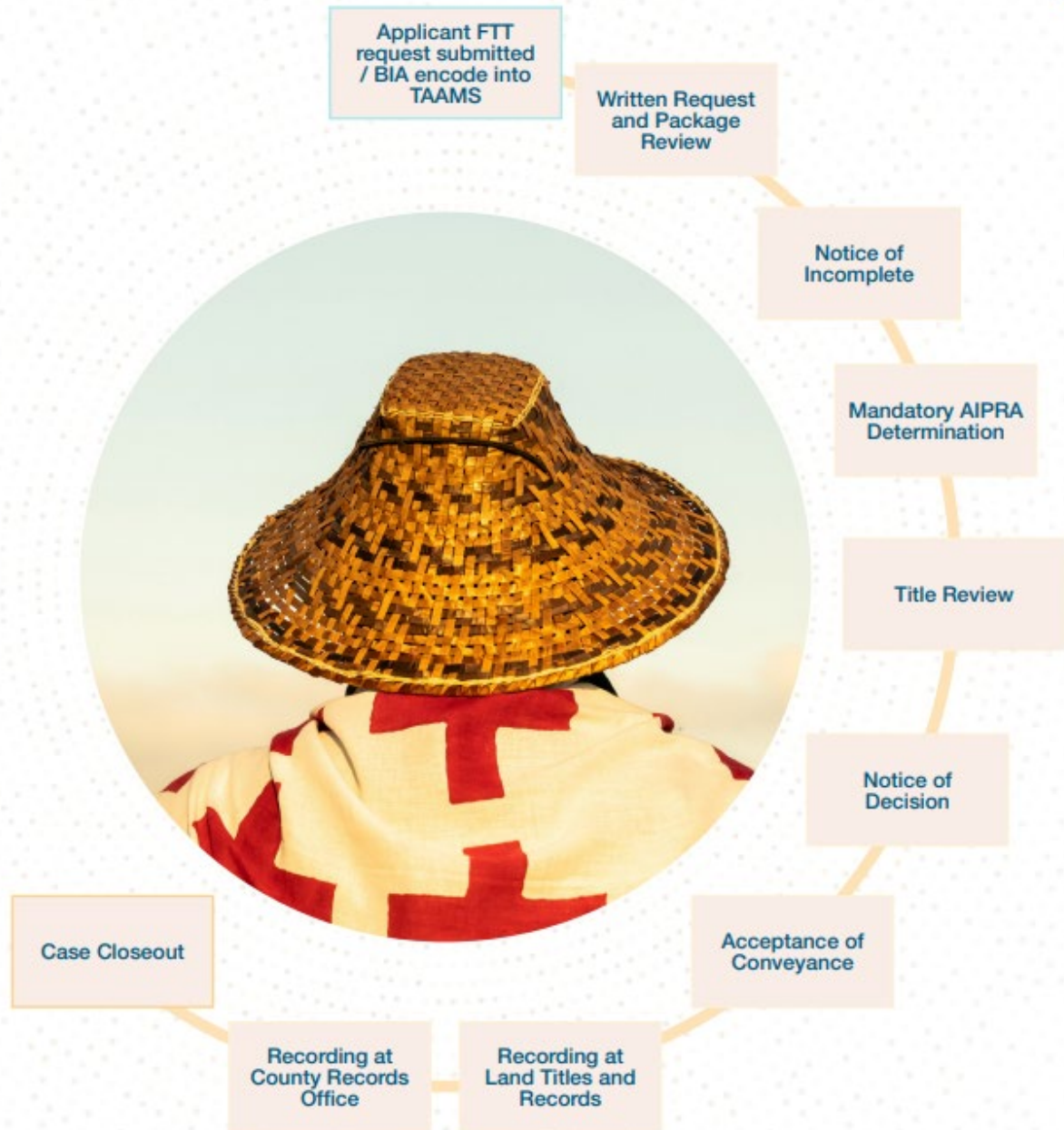
- [Fee to Trust Land Acquisition | Indian Affairs](#)
- [BIA 52 IAM 12-H: Fee to Trust Land Acquisitions and Reservation Proclamations Handbook \(Jan 2025\)](#)
- [25 CFR Part 151 – Land Acquisitions](#)

UNDERSTANDING THE
FEE-TO-TRUST PROCESS
FOR MANDATORY ACQUISITIONS



UNDERSTANDING THE **FEE-TO-TRUST PROCESS**

FOR MANDATORY AIPRA UNDIVIDED INTEREST ACQUISITIONS





Branch of Geospatial Support (BOGS)

The Branch of Geospatial Support has been working with DOI, BIA security and the Geoplatform Vendor to fully implement login.gov to our portal. This has been a project the Division has been working on for over a year and when its fully implemented, it could open many doors. It could potentially provide access to a shared space between Tribes and the BIA in the future. There are endless possibilities that login.gov could open and we are very excited for this future launch. We are hopeful that it could be fully implemented within the next month.

Modernization Initiatives

The Branch is working with the OTS Divisions of Energy & Mineral Development and Water & Power to migrate their systems to Geoplatform. We have been working with DEMD to migrate NIOGEMS the past few months and will soon begin working with DWP to begin migrating their systems over.

The Branch is also assisting DEMD with developing a new energy dashboard. In addition, BOGS is assisting BIA Office of Justice Services (OJS) with mapping data for the Oklahoma region as they work to develop a new application to be used by law enforcement.

Training

Experience Builder for ArcGIS Online

Tuesday January 6, 2026, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

- Priority Registration at [Active DOI-BIA ELA participants](#)
- Source: WarthogIS
- Online Registration: Opens [here](#) 30 days before the start of the training

Course Description: In this course, students will explore the fundamentals of ArcGIS Experience Builder

Self-Paced Online Courses

[Esri's e-Learning Course Catalog](#)

<https://geospatialtraining.com/>

Interagency collaborations

Resource Integration and Services has established a workflow for maintaining data in conjunction with the National Telecommunications and Information Agency to facilitate collaboration on projects funded through the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program. This new workflow will allow for the exchange of data critical to work for both agencies and includes real-time project and funding updates.

SECRETARIAL PRIORITY: MODERNIZING BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Resource Solutions Benefits

The Branch of Resource Solutions (BRS) has continued to make outstanding progress in our IT modernization goals. BRS specialists are also assisting across the Office of Justice Services (OJS) and the Office of Indian Services (OIS) groups with advanced tools. OJS's team collaborated on a tool for the Missing and Murdered Unit (MMU) that augments the IMARS system of record, and this tool is in the production approval stage. OIS's Administrator toolkit is in the final User Acceptance Testing phase and was patterned after the DPMC's OTS Request Tracker.

For the BIA OTS and Office of Field Operations, BRS continues to develop and deploy numerous tools across the business units, as described below.

BRS spearheaded the initiative to build out a tracking and collaboration tool in BIA STAT for NEPA support staff requests from the region and agency offices to ensure workload balancing, considering staff shortages and contract resources.

Fee to Trust

The fee to trust Land Description Evaluation and Validation (LDEV) team reviewed and processed 197 LDEVs in 2025. The Midwest Region had the highest LDEV submissions at 77, followed by the Northwest Region at 63 LDEV submissions.

The average processing time for LDEV reviews in 2025 was 18 days.

Parceling

GDEV Parcel team focuses on Nationwide parcel fabric migration by working with Regional Geospatial Coordinators to streamline a single source data layer for Nationwide ingestion into geospatial platforms and real time dashboard information.

Mapping Right of Ways (ROW)

The ROW mapping team mapped out 814 ROW Contracts from TAAMS in 2025. The ROW team will be assisting Division of Real Estate Services in 2026 in mapping new pending ROW contracts within TAAMS.

A ROW Dashboard is in the creation process for a nationwide view of ROW mapped by GDEV.

Rights-of-Way Weekly Reporting

The STAT tool is being leveraged for the weekly Division of Real Estate Services' Rights-of-Way reporting. STAT replaced manually compiled reports. The tool begins to partially automate the reports pulled from TAAMS via Qlik reports and allows them to be uploaded into a centralized repository.

Type of permits can be grouped and analyzed for standard metrics including averages. Subsequently, analytics can be run on the data based on a weekly timeframe, or across a longer-timeframe for trending.


Geodata Examination & Validation (GDEV)

This report will become more comprehensive and require less manual knowledge worker intervention over time.

Field, Agency, and Region Staff

The Tracking and Productivity System (TAPS) system was identified for replacement due to security concerns and inability to add/enhance because of the legacy Oracle platform, and alternatives were explored which varied in cost and level of effort. STAT was the selected and is being built out to replace TAPS.

BRS has also begun work to convert application functions built in legacy tools like MS Access/ Visual Basic to the STAT platform, as well as tracking spreadsheets from MS Excel.



DRIS STAT Helpful Links, Shortcuts, and Current High Priority Projects

[DRIS STAT Priorities](#)
[TAPS Replacement](#)
[User Help Portal Dashbo...](#)

DRIS STAT Top Priorities and Critical Elements

Dashboard Priority/ Support this Week

☆ DRIS STAT Priorities ⓘ

Filter [Icons]

| Critical Element for Chid, Betty, Shanna | Support/ Discussi... this week | Estimate Completion Date | Estimation to Completion | Comple... on Time (Step, Fully Built, Enhance... | Task Name | Type of Task |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|----------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | STAT v1.2 - MMU to Prod; Azure AD | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | STATv1.3 Mobile | |
| Shanna | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 01/31/26 | High priority | <input type="checkbox"/> | STAT v1.4 TAPS | New System/Modernization |
| Shanna | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 02/13/26 | Completion within 3 mo | <input type="checkbox"/> | OTS Property | Develop/Enhance Sheet |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Get Customer Outcomes involved in order to determine ROI of the suc | Program Performance Manage |

Automation of Performance Metrics

Overall, the STAT team has been capturing baseline metrics and workflow specifics of the tools in STAT and how they replace mechanisms that were built/assembled some time ago and tend to be non-optimized. The realized productivity gains and efficiencies not only improve each business unit's daily operations and will enable BIA to demonstrate measurable improvement in accordance with Administration Priorities.

The initial starting place is measuring level of effort and time durations for individual tasks, focusing on personal productivity and efficiency. Internal collaboration enhances team coordination and communication as the next layer, and the resulting tracking/monitoring truly begins to reflect how intelligent usage of BIA STAT improves the workflow within a group of individuals. Eventually, workflows can span 'stovepipe' functions and encompass functions which may have different backend IT systems presented as a cohesive view.

Gaps in reporting due to inconsistent data gathering practices and over-reliance on manual counting and one-off reporting can also be cultivated through consistent, automated mechanisms, and identifying those missing segments can be key in presenting a comprehensive perspective of performance attainment. With some of the BIA statistics, there are certain cases that may have ‘dropped through the cracks’ which leads to under-reporting and a hiccup when the discrepancy is uncovered. In some situations, manual counting can also introduce errors and different ways of interpreting data has led to inconsistent periodic reports, which make metrics less reliable. Over time, values may need to be indexed based on a specific point-in-time and trued up to present data values that are tied to a baseline figure consistently.

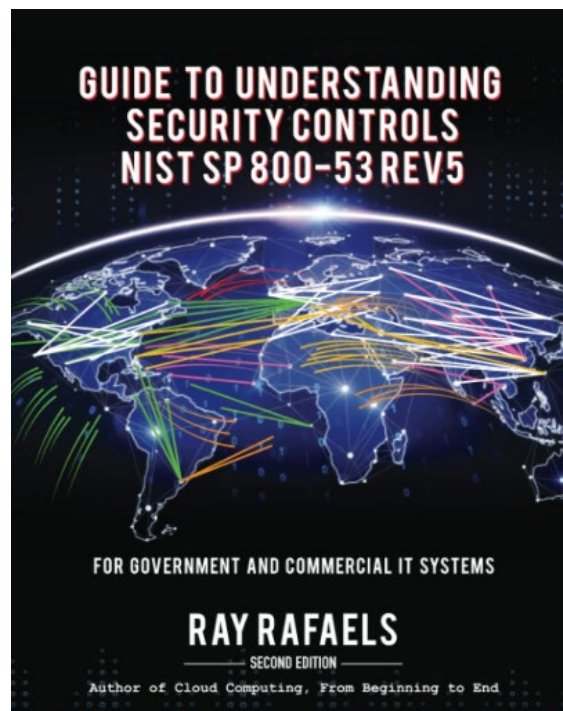
Accepting Request for new STAT Tools

The BRS STAT team is accepting requests from all BIA business units for new tools in STAT to streamline processes, augment tracking/monitoring of existing systems and deliver ways to set a baseline and accurately capture performance improvement metrics.

Improved Cybersecurity

BRS and the BIA Office of Information Management Technology are in the final stages of upgrading the cybersecurity Authority to Operate (ATO) to the most current levels of compliance, according with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication 800-53 rev 5.

OTS and the Division of Information Security (DIS) have partnered to handle the plethora of new tools being developed and deployed in the STAT platform, and supporting the increasing volume of Change Requests for tools and enhancements to be formally assessed and promoted into Production.



TRUST LAND CONSOLIDATION



The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Trust Services, Division of Trust Land Consolidation (DTLC) is responsible for managing and facilitating the consolidation of trust lands held by Individuals Indian landowners. Primary duties include identifying fragmented parcels, encouraging landowners to consolidate their holdings to improve land management efficiency, and reducing fractional ownership issues.



Details

DTLC has two staff members supporting the Department's initiative to implement [Secretarial Order 3418—Unleashing American Energy](#) for the Indian Energy Service Center's Communization Agreement Strike Team. The Temporary Detail is extended due to the Federal shutdown to March 25, 2026.

Implementation Schedule

The tentative schedule for FY 2026 land consolidation implementation, provided to [Appraisal and Valuation Services Office](#) (AVSO) for mass appraisal, is as follows by Tribe and land area code:

| L | Tribe |
|-----|---|
| 124 | Confederated Tribes & Bands of the Yakama Nation |
| 143 | Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation |
| 201 | Blackfeet Tribe of Montana |
| 202 | Crow Tribe of Montana |
| 206 | Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, Montana |
| 302 | Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of South Dakota |
| 340 | Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of South Dakota |
| 342 | Crow Creek Tribe of South Dakota |
| 345 | Rosebud Sioux Tribe |
| 404 | Minnesota Chippewa – Bois Forte Band |

AVSO is currently preparing mass appraisals for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe (345), Yakama Nation (124), and Fort Peck (206). The modeling for Yakama Nation (124) is in its final stages, with Rosebud Sioux Tribe (345) next. Mapping for Fort Peck (206) is completed, with sales pending. DTLC has provided tract lists for Standing Rock and Cheyenne River.

- 535 Cases reviewed
- 535 Cases with no issues
- 6 Cases requiring correction
- 7 Cases need further research



Pine Ridge (Oglala Sioux Tribe) reservation lands

Pine Ridge Research Project

The DTLC Supervisory Realty Specialist is leading the realty group in reviewing Pine Ridge approved applicants (344) to verify if payments were made to those who sold their interests in the Land Buy Back Program (LBBP) from FY 2013-2022. This period included 14 Offer Sets and involved over 16,500 Indian landowners. Currently, 7 Offers Sets have been reviewed, and the team is working on the 8th set, containing 589 offers.

Reviewed findings:

Between December 16, 2025, and January 8, 2026, CGI implemented updates in TAAMS to address issues related to image rendering and metadata accuracy.

- Several JIRA tickets (TSD-38026, TSD-38114, TSD-38117) resolved problems where the View Offer button displayed incorrect images, including the absence of the recordation seal on the Exhibit A – PII Detail bubble sheet.

- Additional tickets (TSD-38132, TSD-38155, TSD-38156) corrected discrepancies in Received/Scanned Date values, which were previously shown one day late.

As a result, all affected offers now display the correct recordable images with seals and accurate dates, thereby restoring the expected functionality. Thus far, the DTLC Realty concluded that no lease payments were made to Indian landowners who sold their interests under the LBBP.

Land Acquisition Funding

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Land Acquisition targeting New and Land Limited Tribes is updating required documents to align with the new NOFO process. Awards will be given through a 638 Contract. The new submission deadline is May 1, 2026.



BRANCH OF IRRIGATION & POWER

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Branch of Irrigation and Power (BIP) principally support two multi-project programs: 1) the BIA Irrigation Program and 2) the BIA Power Program. The BIP provides administration, policy, oversight, and technical assistance to BIA Regional offices and local agencies.

BIA-owned irrigation and power projects are operated and maintained under the direction of the BIA, Office of Field Operations by:

- Tribes under P.L. 93-638 contracts
- Tribes under self-governance compacts
- Water user groups under specific contracts or agreements.

BIA owns and operates irrigation projects that supply water to 25,000 users and irrigate over 780,000 acres of land.

BIA Irrigation Program

BIA owns or has an interest in irrigation projects throughout the United States located on or associated with various Indian Reservations.

The [BIA Irrigation Program](#) delivers irrigation water to Tribes and non-Indian water customers. The irrigation Program strives to improve the management of land and natural resource assets through the delivery of water consistent with applicable state and federal law, in an environmentally responsible and cost-efficient manner.

National Irrigation Information Management System (NIIMS)

As part of the BIA Irrigation Program, DWP also operates the National Irrigation Information Management System (NIIMS). NIIMS is a billing, collection, debt management and rate-setting system supporting BIA's irrigation operation and maintenance (O&M) assessments across 16 irrigation projects in Indian Country. NIIMS processes approximately \$35 million in annual receivables, which is the primary revenue source for the O&M of each irrigation project.



Power generation facility at Headgate Rock Dam, AZ/CA border



Transmission breaker at Coolidge Substation, AZ



Kerr Substation, MT

BIA Power Program

The [BIA Power Program](#) reliably and efficiently delivers electrical power to Tribes and non-Indian power customers. The Power Program operates, maintains and rehabilitates power system infrastructure on each project, including:

- *Power generating facilities* – facilities designed to produce electric energy from another form of energy.
- *Power substations* – part of an electrical generation, transmission, and distribution system transforming voltage from high to low, or the reverse.
- *Electrical switching stations* – substations without transformers and operating at a single voltage level.
- *Transmission lines* – specialized cables or other structures designed to conduct electromagnetic waves in a contained manner.
- *Distribution lines and related infrastructure* – line or systems for distributing power from a transmission system to a consumer that operates at less than 69,000 volts.

BIA power projects provide electrical service to over 38,000 customers and generate \$73 million in annual revenue.

Maximo™ Training at Navajo Indian Irrigation Project

In April DWP Maximo™ team members held an in-person training at Navajo Indian Irrigation Project (NIIP). Group sessions were held to provide about 20 NIIP staff members with asset management and work order training. This training enables NIIP and DWP to track the reduction in deferred maintenance accomplished through their work and efficiently communicate the status of work orders for ongoing and upcoming work.



Group training held at Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI) Headquarters in Farmington, NM



Group training held at NAPI Headquarters in Farmington, NM



Individual User Training



Group Training Presentation

Decision Support Tool Funding Lines Enhancements

DWP has enhanced the Decision Support Tool to provide staff with easy visibility of planned allocation and available funding. The Decision Support Tool empowers DWP staff with a user-friendly dashboard that provides information necessary to process eFEDs, Purchase Requests, and make informed planning decisions.

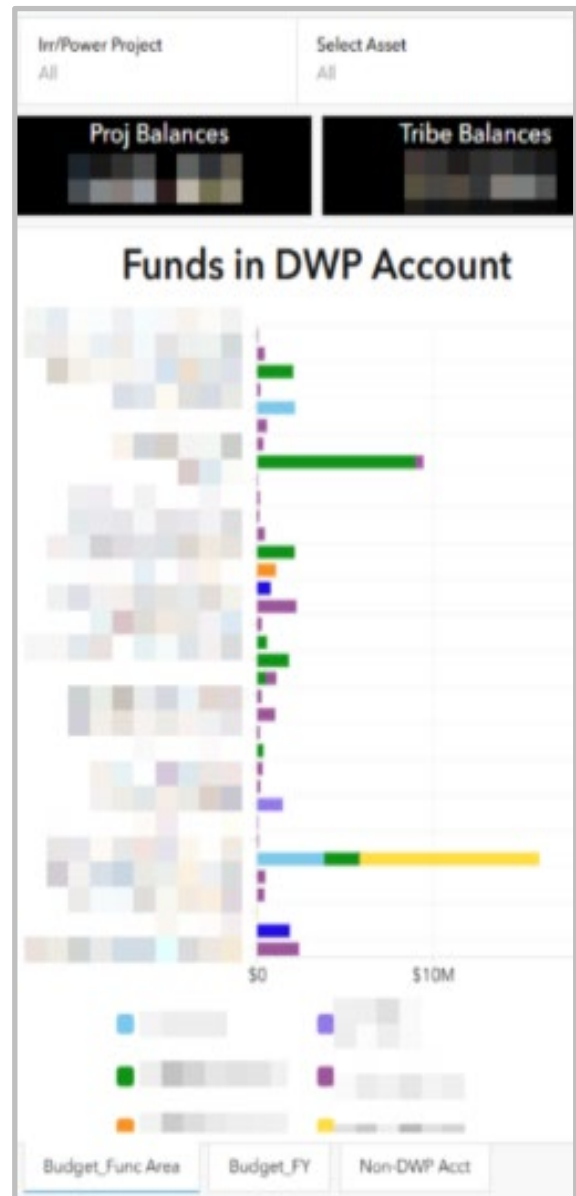
The Decision Support Tool provides DWP staff a single pane-of-glass dashboard that enables them to view and filter funding data to identify

- Lines of accounting (LOA)
- Funding balances
- Money obliged
- Planned funding available by Region, Project, or specific assets or activities



Filters include

- Functional Area
- Fund Center
- Region/Locality/Specific Asset receiving funding





Wapato Irrigation Project – Main Canal Drop 1 Pumping Plant

Wapato Irrigation Project – Drop 1 Pumping Plan Modernization

Key Messages

- Recognition of potential failure of the Drop 1 Pumping Plan infrastructure on the Main Canal has become the top priority of the DWP – Branch of Irrigation and Power
- Voids in the foundation, structural deficiencies, and flow conveyance limitations results in the Drop 1 Pumping Plant having a very high failure risk potential
- Current Drop 1 infrastructure replacement and rehabilitation cost estimates are \$40M to \$50M, respectively planning for a funding mechanism to address the Drop 1 rehabilitation or replacement is warranted due to the severity of know deficiencies

Importance

- The Drop 1 Pumping Plant is an essential component of Wapato Irrigation Project's (WIP) infrastructure as it conveys approximately 1,800-cfs of irrigation water to more than 125,000 acres of high value crops
- 95% of WIP's water users are fully dependent on the Drop 1 Pumping Plant to receive irrigation water.

Drop 1 Pumping Plant was constructed on the Wapato Main Canal in the early 1900's, as a diversion, pumping, and energy dissipation structure, located about 4.5-miles downstream of the Wapato Main Canal Headworks on the Yakima River. The water it receives is delivered by hydraulic turbine and electrical pumps to the High Line Canal (~165-cfs), by gravity to the Main Canal extension (225-cfs), and through it to the continuation of the Wapato Main Canal (1,360-cfs).

The Drop 1 Pumping Plant was designed to safely remove 22-ft of hydraulic head from its forebay to its tailrace in the Wapato Main Canal. The three hydraulic turbine pumps have been providing "free" pumping of irrigation water to the High Line Canal since originally installed.

Background

In 2014 a high-level structure evaluation and condition assessment was performed and rated the Drop 1 Pumping Plan infrastructure as "Critical" and categorized it as a facility needing "Critical Health and Safety Capital Improvement".



Wapato Irrigation Project – Main Canal Drop 1 Pumping Plant

In 2022, BIA DWP contracted for a detailed condition assessment of the Drop 1 Pumping Plant. The detailed condition assessment included: foundation assessment, building structural evaluation including concrete soundness, assessment of the hydraulic turbine pumps and butterfly valves, outlet piping, and the spillway drop structure.

The condition assessment concluded that “...the facility is at an elevated risk of failure either in the event of a seismic event, high wind, or some form of soil failure. The failure could range from structural collapse, irreparable damage, or falling debris from buildings to a major sinkhole or loss of canal embankment allowing the canal to drain to adjacent land.”

If any of these events mentioned occur, there is a potential for health safety risks to the pumping plant operators, loss of human life, loss of irrigation operations and structure, and significant impact on the community.

Failure of the Drop 1 Pumping plant would also jeopardize WIP’s economic output and possibly result in significant and costly tort claims against

Current Status

Drop 1 Pumping Plant is currently operating under an elevated risk of failure and will continue until it can be rehabilitated or replaced. To address the risk of failure, WIP and BIA developed monitoring measures and an emergency action plan to guide the operations and maintenance of the Drop 1 Pumping Plant until repairs or rehabilitation can be carried out.

In June 2025, BIA technical and operations staff met with contractors in Boise, ID at a design charrette to select Drop 1 Pumping Plant replacement and rehabilitation concepts to be advanced to feasibility designs. At the end of the feasibility design, a preferred alternative will be selected to advance to final design and construction.

Construction cost estimates will be prepared for each concept design, feasibility design, and final designs. This process will take approximately 2-3 years to complete. As of June 2025, the estimated cost for a complete replacement of the Drop 1 Pumping Plant is \$40M and entails the acquisition of land easements. Conversely, rehabilitating the existing Drop 1 Pumping facility is estimated to cost \$50M and presents significant construction challenges to maintain irrigation services during the rehabilitation period.

To mitigate current operational safety concerns, automated traveling screens were installed in the hydraulic turbine pump forebay. This will significantly reduce the health safety risks to the pumping plant operators. The automated traveling screens are salvageable and can be reused at the Drop 1 facility. Construction is scheduled to be completed prior to the 2026 irrigation season.



BIA Pathways: Intern Travel Update

Wiley Bearcomesout (*not pictured*) completed a successful summer internship with BIA OIT, supporting regional offices across the Rocky Mountain region through desktop support, cybersecurity, networking, and special projects. The internship included travel to the Northern Cheyenne, Fort Peck, and Blackfeet reservations. Wiley contributed to critical tasks that served the BIA OTS staff and programs.



Clarissa Dixon served as a DESCRM Museum intern this summer, demonstrating strong communication, independence, and teamwork while supporting archaeology and cultural resource management efforts. She participated in program meetings to build knowledge, contributed to field assessments, and supported affiliated organizations. Clarissa also began working with GIS and completed an archaeology field training requirement. Her assignments took her to sites including the Tonkawa Museum (OK), Flandreau Indian School (SD), MIB Museum Office (DC), and BIA DOJ in Chama (NM), and Foxtail Flats Solar Farm (UT), gaining hands-on experience with NEPA and large-scale cultural resource projects.



Kevin Coronado, a DESRM-TCRP intern, participated in a summer project in Washington, DC, supporting the Museum Program through hands-on work in collections relocation, inventory, artifact handling, and preservation. He found deep value in connecting his environmental science background with the preservation of Native American art and cultural heritage. Kevin graduated in May 2025 and is now serving as the Environmental Protection Department Manager for his Tribe, the Northfork Rancheria of Mono Indians.



BUILD work skills and experience

EXPLORE different Federal occupations

LEARN from a professional workforce

RECEIVE on-the-job training

Pathways Student Spotlight



Taylor Broadbent

I am a proud citizen of the Cherokee Nation, and my journey has always been guided by the values of service and community that my parents instilled in me. I was born in Oklahoma, raised on stories of our Nation's resilience, and taught from a young age that the work we do should honor those who came before us. That philosophy has carried me through my education, first at the University of Oklahoma, where I studied Letters – Constitutional Studies with minors in Native American Studies and Latin, and now at the University of Melbourne, where I am completing a Master of Public Policy and Management. Along the way, I have been fortunate to be recognized as a Fulbright Scholar to Australia through the Anne Wexler Scholarship, a Udall Scholar in Tribal Public Policy, and a Rhodes Scholarship Finalist.

My Pathways experience at the BIA was where those lessons of service became real. My placement in the Office of the Director, gave me the privilege of helping to create a historical timeline for the Bureau's 200th Anniversary, compiling tribal constitutions, preparing reports for the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, and contributing to the White House Tribal Nations Summit.

What stayed with me the most was the sense of responsibility as the work we did carries the weight of our sovereignty and the hopes of our people.

My path from Oklahoma to Washington, D.C., and now to Melbourne has been about finding ways to serve Indigenous communities in every space I enter. My Pathways appointment taught me that public service is not only about policy but about relationships, respect, and remembering the generations yet to come. I hope that in everything I do, I am honoring the ancestors who dreamed of this future and helping to clear a path for those who will come after me.



Workforce Development

The Division of Workforce and Youth Development is developing a new training initiative to strengthen the OTS workforce through targeted professional development. The program focuses on both general and mission-critical competencies, aligning staff growth with the evolving needs of the Office of Trust Services.

Initial efforts are centered on general competencies – such as communication, collaboration, adaptability, and problem-solving – which will serve as a foundation for training across all roles. By investing in core skills, the division is laying the groundwork for a more capable, agile, and future-ready workforce.