

TRUST LAND RESOURCES - RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP - RESULTS THAT MATTER

Message from the Deputy Director

The Office of Trust Services had a remarkable year thanks to the hard work and dedication of our staff. The results are detailed in our FY2026 Accomplishments Report highlighted on Page 4 of this newsletter.

We began FY 2026 prioritizing energy dominance, incorporating AI into our workflows, repatriation efforts in our museum program, advancing water and power construction projects, GIS mapping of reservations, and streamlining environmental processes.

As you read through the newsletter, I would encourage you to pay particular attention to upcoming training events, and opportunities to request technical assistance. We at Trust services remain dedicated to providing effective resource stewardship and delivering results that matter. We welcome your feedback by email at OTS@bia.gov.

Best wishes to you and your families this holiday season!



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NATIVE WISDOM

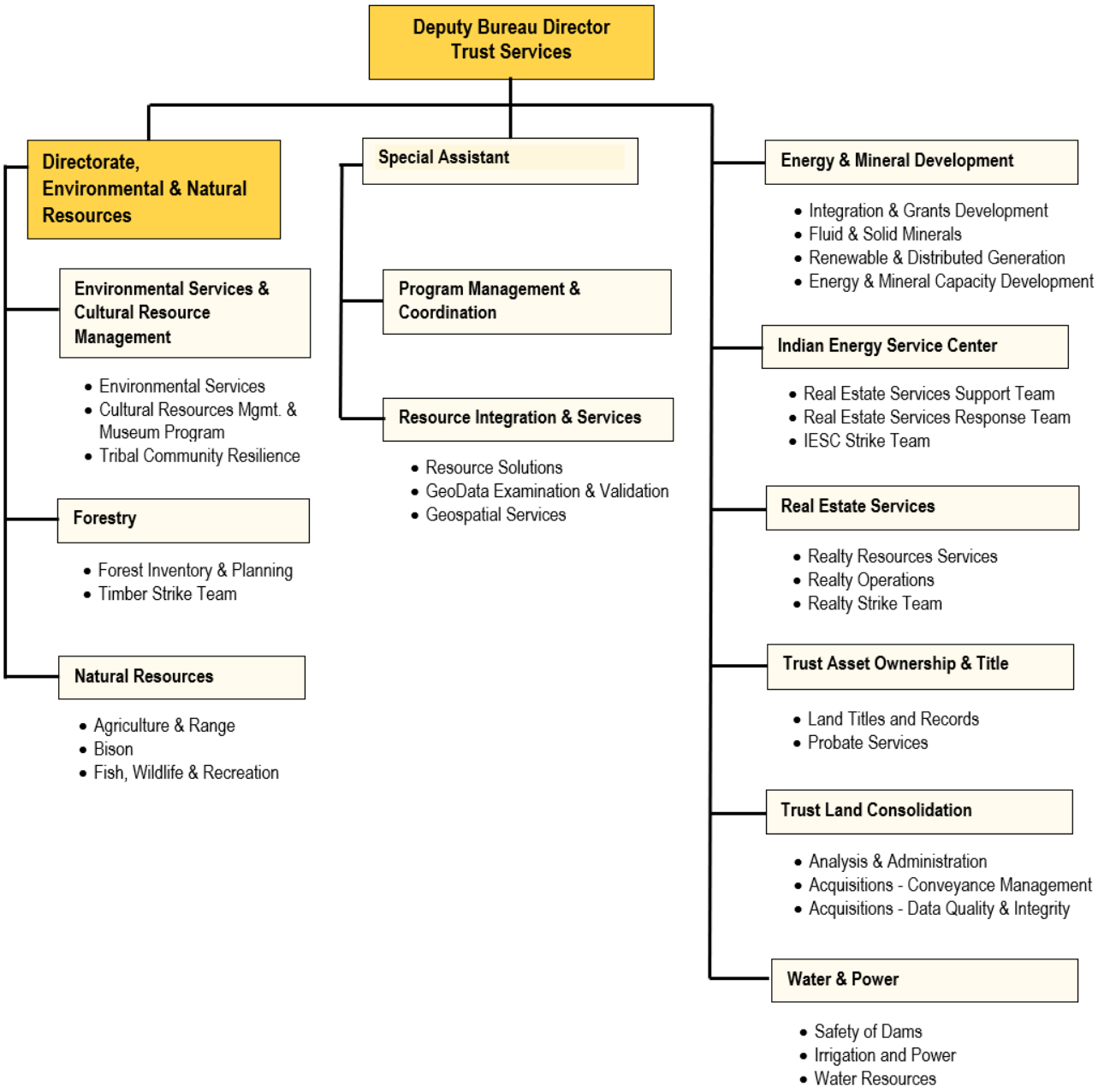
I believe much trouble would be saved if we open our hearts more.

- Chief Joseph



OTS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

The **Office of Trust Services Organizational Chart** below identifies the two Senior Executive Service (SES) leaders as the Deputy Bureau Director-Trust Services (DBD-TS) and the Directorate, Environmental & Natural Resources (DENR). OTS has 12 Division Chief positions.



OTS STAFFING

Our Divisions and positions currently occupied and/or vacant.

Org	OTS Divisions	Full-Time Employees	Vacant	Interns	Detail	Contractors	Total
400	Deputy Bureau Director	2	0	0	0	0	2
401	Director, Environmental & Natural Resources	3	4	0	0	0	7
402	Workforce & Youth Development	5	7	11	0	0	23
403	Special Assistant	0	1	0	0	0	1
404	Program Management & Coordination	7	2	0	0	0	9
405	Resource Integration & Services	21	15	3	0	9	48
409	Indian Energy Service Center	26	19		2	0	47
410	Trust Asset Ownership & Title	5	2	0	0	0	7
420	Real Estate Services	12	5	5	0	14	36
430	Trust Land Consolidation	5	1	0	0	0	6
440	Forestry	17	20	0	0	0	37
450	Environmental & Cultural Resources	17	14	1	0	0	32
460	Natural Resources	5	2	0	0	0	7
480	Water & Power	19	71	0	9	33	132
490	Energy & Minerals Development	8	40	0	0	31	79
	Totals	152	203	20	11	87	473

OTS STAFFING





Current & Future USAjobs.gov Announcements

Pay Rate	Title	Trust Services Division	Closing Date
GS-13	Geophysicist	Energy & Mineral Development	11/05/2026
GS-2/3/4	Student Trainee (Administration & Support)	All Programs	01/19/2027
Volunteers	Environmental Mgmt. System Data Analysis	Environmental Services	10/29/2026

Departed Staff

Employee	Title	Trust Services Division	Reason
Julie Moss	Grants Management Specialist	Indian Energy Service Center	Transfer
Darryl Monteau	Program Manager	Workforce Development	Transfer
Mitchell “Mitch” Hasbrouck	Petroleum Engineer	Indian Energy Service Center	Retired
David Wooten	Chief, Fish, Wildlife & Recreation	Natural Resources	Retired
Charlene Toledo	Division Chief	Trust Asset Ownership & Title	Retired

We wish each of our former colleagues’ great success in their future endeavors.







Julie Moss, Darryl Monteau, Mitchell “Mitch” Hasbrouck, David Wooten, Charlene Toledo

New Staff Member



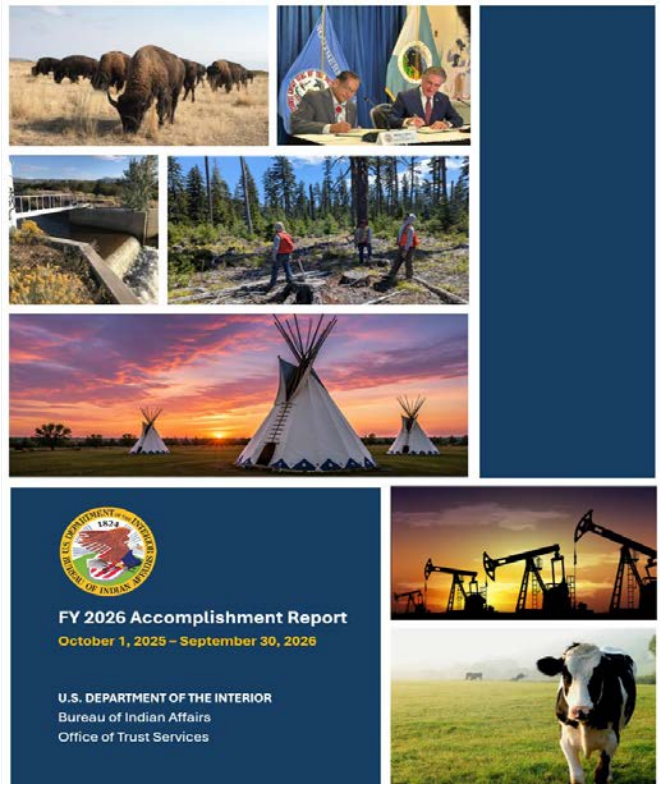
Employee	Title	Trust Services Division
Julia Sharp	Realty Specialist	Indian Energy Service Center
Sean Henderson	Program Specialist	Environmental Services & Cultural Resources



Main Interior Building, Washington, DC

OTS Publications: Year-End Report

The final FY 2026 Accomplishment Report for OTS was published on the main OTS website at https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots and includes the final Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) performance results.



OTS Trust Quarterly Newsletter

The Trust Quarterly Newsletter is produced collaboratively by the Trust Services Divisions under the direction of Deputy Director Johnna Blackhair. To find out more or to submit your ideas and suggestions for future issues, please send an email to our editor 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.

December 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Content for the January newsletter is ***due by December 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 make 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.

DIVISION OF ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT



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.

Services to Provide

The DEMD offers a suite of programs and services to assist Indian Tribes and Tribal Energy Development Organizations (TEDOs) in the exploration, development, and management of energy and mineral resources on Indian lands.

Key services include:

- Consultation and technical assistance for Tribal energy and mineral resource development planning through dedicated and accessible engineers, geologists, geophysicists, and business-oriented staff.
- Producing and delivering best available scientific information and data to inform critical resource management decisions.
- Administration and processing of grant programs, including the Energy and Mineral Development Program (EMDP) and the Tribal Energy Development Capacity (TEDC) program.
- Capacity building to equip Tribal governments and organizations with the necessary legal, regulatory and business infrastructure to manage energy resources effectively.
- Energy and mineral agreement development and economic best interest review.
- Industry engagement to help tribes develop energy and mineral partnerships in Tribal communities.
- Collaborative interagency engagement with Federal partners that fosters an all-of government approach in meeting trust and treaty obligations to Tribes regarding Tribal energy and mineral resource development.

NATIONAL INDIAN OIL, GAS, ENERGY AND MINERAL SYSTEM (NIOGEMS)

Modernizing Access to Tribal Energy and Mineral Information

NIOGEMS Version 5 Launch Mid-October

A major modernization effort is underway with the development of NIOGEMS Version 5. The legacy Version 4 desktop application—built on ArcGIS technology—reached end of life in March 2026. Version 5 is being developed as a web-based platform using centralized hosting and authentication services, which will increase efficiency, reduce maintenance needs, and improve the overall customer experience.

This next-generation release represents a significant step forward in DEMD's commitment to strengthening Tribal sovereignty by improving access to energy and mineral data, delivering modern analytical tools, and enhancing decision-support capabilities.

Building on the strengths of previous versions, NIOGEMS v5 transitions to a fully web-based, centrally hosted platform, making it more accessible, efficient, and resilient. The new version integrates multiple authoritative datasets to provide a unified, map-based resource for Tribes, federal partners, and DEMD staff. This integrated approach supports faster and more comprehensive evaluations of energy and mineral opportunities across Indian Country.

By modernizing the platform's architecture and expanding its analytical capabilities, NIOGEMS v5 empowers Tribal communities to make data-driven decisions, improve resource management, and pursue economic development opportunities with greater confidence. This release is not only a technical upgrade, but it is an important investment in Tribal self-determination and long-term energy and mineral planning.

Notices of Funding Opportunities

DEMD published Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) for two major energy and mineral programs.

Energy and Mineral Development Program

The Energy and Mineral Development Program (EMDP) helps Tribes assess, inventory, and develop their energy and mineral resources by funding technical evaluations and studies that provide Tribes with essential information for resource development decisions.

In FY 2026 DEMD awarded $7.4 million to 12 tribal energy and mineral projects federally recognized American Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, and Tribal energy development organizations to support development of Tribal energy and mineral resources.

The EMDP Grants.gov Opportunity Number was BIA-EMDP-2026, published on May 6, 2026. An informational webinar was held on May 14, 2026, and proposals were due June 18, 2026. DEMD received 43 applications requesting $39 million.

Tribal Energy Development Capacity Program (TEDC)

The Tribal Energy Development Capacity (TEDC) program supports Tribal efforts to develop the internal capacity needed to manage energy resources.

In FY 2026 DEMD awarded $6.5 million to 21 projects to support and enhance energy business and regulatory capacity. The TEDC Grants.gov Opportunity Number was BIA-TEDC-2026, published June 2, 2026. Two webinars were held to promote the TEDC opportunity. First, an application process webinar on June 11, 2026, followed by an informational webinar on June 18, 2026, focused on how Tribes can use the TEDC program to build capacity for Tribal Energy Resource Agreements. Proposals were due July 16, 2026. A total of 49 applications were received requesting $15.8 million.

TERA Accelerator Initiative

The TERA Accelerator initiative, developed in partnership with the Indian Energy Service Center, is creating a streamlined pathway for Tribes to assume greater authority over energy development on their lands. Through Tribal Energy Resource Agreements (TERAs), once approved, Tribes may issue energy-related leases, business agreements, or rights-of-way without review or approval by the Secretary—an unprecedented advancement in Tribal self-determination.



Signing ceremony for the first approved Tribal Energy Resource Agreement (TERA) with the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Chairman Melvin J. Baker and Secretary of Interior Doug Burgum.



The first TERA agreement was in May 2026, marking a historic milestone. The initiative enhances intergovernmental coordination, supports community-driven growth, and positions Tribes as leaders in energy governance.

DEMD supported many accomplishments for TERA Accelerator in FY 2026. Targeted outreach and education increased promotional efforts at over 5 Tribal energy events, providing general awareness of the TERA authority, the application process, and financial and technical assistance resources for implementation. Additionally, special TERA focused funding was made available through the FY 2026 TEDC grant program. As a result of increased outreach and funding assistance, the Bureau has seen 10 new engagements with Tribes interested in pursuing or evaluating their readiness for a TERA.

Southern Ute Tribal Logo

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & CULTURAL RESOURCES



DESCRM Mission

The mission of the Division of Environmental Services and Cultural Resources Management is to work with Tribes to protect, develop, mange and enhance American Indian and Alaska Native environmental, cultural and historical resources by providing technical assistance, service and support to Tribes and through administration of federal laws and regulations.

BRANCH OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (BES)

Expanding Tribal Access to NEPA Tracker

BES partnered with the DOI Office of the Chief to enhance the NEPA Tracker by integrating Login.gov, allowing Tribal employees and contractors to access the system as "Submitters." BES also standardized NEPA forms and templates with input from Regional Environmental Scientists (RESs), making these resources available to regional staff through the system.

Advancing Environmental Audits at BIA-Owned Facilities

The Environmental Management Assessment & Performance (EMAP) Program completed 36 baseline environmental audits at BIA Agencies, dams, and irrigation projects in FY 2026. Following an April 7th Bureau-wide kickoff webinar, BES and its contracted auditors assessed environmental risks, identified opportunities for improvement and provided technical assistance to support compliance and protect staff, visitors, and the environment. Additional audits have commenced for FY 2027.

Strengthening NEPA Guidance and Training

BES continued providing training, regulatory updates, and current NEPA guidance to support field staff. On September 2, 2026, BES hosted the Navigating the NEPA Tracker training to help staff navigate and use the system effectively. The upcoming Responsible Officials training is scheduled for December 2, 2026. Recordings of past training are available in the 'Resources' tab on the BIA NEPA Tracker website at BIA NEPA Tracking.

BES is also exploring opportunities to adopt additional Categorical Exclusions used by other DOI bureaus, helping streamline environmental reviews and permitting while protecting Tribal environments and cultural resources.

Regional Environmental Scientists identified gaps in usability of a National Policy Memorandum (NPM-DBIA-3); thus BES is amending the policy since the Regions were not given an opportunity for input the first go round. Improvements will clarify ambiguities and confusion around roles and responsibilities, as well as correct NEPA Tracker actions.

Supporting Natural Resources Damage Assessment & Restoration

The BES Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) Program received approval for six BIA-involved projects totaling $430,477. The program also completed its first- and second-quarter FY 2026 Environmental and Disposal Liability reports ahead of schedule. BES represented BIA at the 2026 NRDAR Technical Support Group meeting in Washington, DC, and supported the development of damage assessment funding recommendations. EMAP audit findings may also help identify sites requiring further environmental liability assessment.

BRANCH OF CULTURAL & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (BCRM)

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Notices and Consultation

In FY 2026, ten Federal Register notices were published; four Notices of Inventory Completion and six Notices of Intended Repatriation. An additional three notices are pending publication. A minimum number of 33 Ancestors along with 324 Associated Funerary Objects were repatriated. Additionally, eight Unassociated Funerary Objects, 23 Sacred Objects, and 363 Objects of Cultural Patrimony were repatriated. A total of 39 Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations were consulted.

NAGPRA notices are formal announcements published in the Federal Register by museums and federal agencies. A notice of Inventory Completion identifies Native American Ancestor and associated funerary objects, while a Notice of Intent to Repatriate describes cultural items proposed for return. Both notify lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations and invite claims under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

NAGPRA Partnerships and Holdings

The BIA asserted control over NAGPRA collections at 44 institutions, encompassing approximately 3,212 Ancestors and 417,931 cultural items. The BIA NAGPRA team holds regularly scheduled meetings with these institutions to support ongoing collaboration and track the status of Ancestors and cultural items throughout the NAGPRA process. In FY 2026, the team conducted 71 meetings with the 44 institutions housing BIA-controlled collections. These meetings advance consultation and repatriation efforts, with additional check-ins for institutions that hold CESU agreements.

Main Interior Building (MIB) BIA Collections Move

The newly renovated Curation Room at the Main Interior Building is almost a capacity, approximately 85% of 3-D objects and 35% of 2-D objects have been permanently housed. The remaining objects are either exhibited or remain in temporary housing awaiting relocation. To address the remaining workload, staff are planning to travel in the New Year, 2027.

Conserv Units – Collections Management Environmental Monitoring

Conserv units have operated for nearly a year, enabling Curators to monitor temperature and humidity at thirteen IA repositories nationwide. Conserv delivers real-time data and sends alerts to Curators when conditions enter “danger” zones, such as high humidity that could cause mold. Repositories maintain safe environmental conditions at least 90-100% of the time.

Conserv calculates the Time Weighted Preservation Index (TWPI), which estimates how many years an object will last in its current environment. Based on TWPI results from September 2025 to September 2026, nine repositories were rated as having an acceptable environment, while four were classified as poor. Facilities with poor or average environmental conditions often experience significant variations in humidity and, occasionally, high light levels.

Museum Facility Site Visits and Condition Assessments

Museum staff conducted site visits at five Indian Affairs facilities and two non-federal museums in FY 2026. These site visits ensure facilities meet federal standards for storing and displaying BIA museum collections. Approximately 83% of repositories are in good condition, 7% in fair condition, 2% in poor condition, and 8% have yet to be evaluated.

The number of unevaluated facilities increased after the NAGPRA regulations were revised, because the BIA asserted control over collections at non-federal museums not yet evaluated by the BIA Museum Program, another Department of the Interior Museum Program, or the American Alliance of Museums.

Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) Assistance Program

Through its ARPA Assistance Team and partnerships with Tribes and Archaeology Southwest, the BIA advanced archaeological site protection and cultural heritage preservation by relaying more than 50 crime tips from SaveHistory.org to law enforcement, completing four major damage assessments on Tribal lands, and developing reports to support restoration and enforcement. The team also delivered three ARPA trainings, created new Tribal Cultural Resources Monitoring and Human Osteology curricula in response to Tribal requests, and supported restoration projects with the White Mountain Apache THPO and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.

BRANCH OF TRIBAL COMMUNITY

A Look Back at Summer 2026

Pathways intern, Keenan Hoffman, completed a summer internship at TCR where he engaged at multiple Pacific Northwest tribal site visits, created a draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to navigate tribal construction projects, and supported Branch activities.





Keenan Hoffman, Pathways Intern and Sean Henderson, Program Specialist

Sean Henderson joined TCR as a Program Specialist. Sean is Assiniboine (Nakoda) and transferred from the Tribal Electrification Program (TEP), where he served as Program Manager leading multiple energy development projects. He now provides support and expertise to TCR-funded development projects on Tribal lands. Sean is based out of Fort Belknap, Montana.



TCR recognizes the substantial workload involved in managing our annual awards program and the need for specialized technical support to carry out AOTR responsibilities effectively. All program staff are now trained AOTRs, and the branch has been strategically strengthening internal capacity through dedicated trainings and process improvements to enhance the quality and consistency of our awards work.

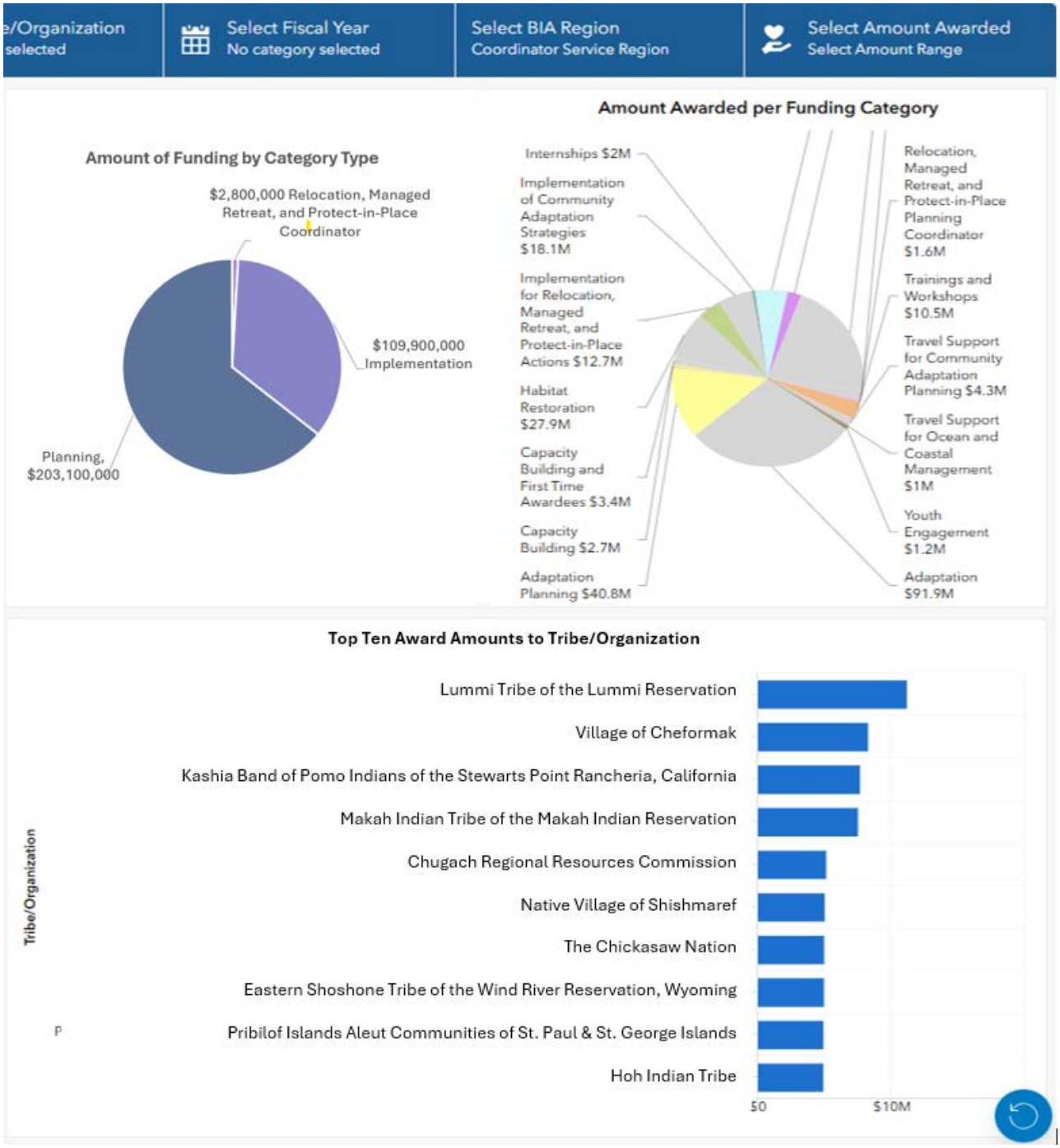
The fiscal year close marks the conclusion of multiple 5-year cooperative agreements that have provided technical assistance support with regional expertise on disaster preparedness and resilience. These staff facilitated a national Tribal Community Resilience webinar series in 2025 & 2026 to provide Tribal Nations with critical information on environmental hazards, plant and wildlife range shifts, food security, resilient infrastructure, and other emergency preparedness topics. Tribal environmental and natural resource professionals presented their experiences with tribal hazard response and offered recommendations for project implementation.

The webinar series:

- Increased tribal capacity to develop shovel-ready projects by equipping participants with essential information on TCR implementation;
- Provided a peer-to-peer networking space for tribal environmental and natural resources professionals and students to discuss success and challenges from their regions; and
- Highlighted TCR-funded projects including water infrastructure improvements at Gila River Indian Community, relocation and managed retreat efforts at the Native Village of Shaktoolik, and emergency preparedness efforts at the Pala Band of Mission Indians.

The TCR-funded National Seed Strategy Assessment will be released by the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) at the end of the fiscal year. The assessment report, a tribal companion document, and recorded informational webinar will assist the BIA and other federal and non-federal entities with meeting tribal seed needs for habitat restoration.

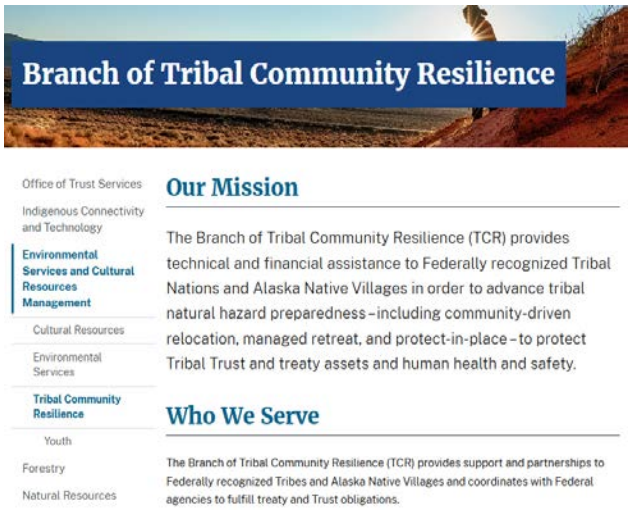



e/Organization
selected
Select Fiscal Year
No category selected
Select BIA Region
Coordinator Service Region
Select Amount Awarded
Select Amount Range
Amount of Funding by Category Type
$2,800,000 Relocation, Managed Retreat, and Protect-in-Place Coordinator
$109,900,000 Implementation
Planning, $203,100,000
Amount Awarded per Funding Category
Internships $2M
Implementation of Community Adaptation Strategies $18.1M
Implementation for Relocation, Managed Retreat, and Protect-in-Place Actions $12.7M
Habitat Restoration $27.9M
Capacity Building and First Time Awardees $3.4M
Capacity Building $2.7M
Adaptation Planning $40.8M
Relocation, Managed Retreat, and Protect-in-Place Planning Coordinator $1.6M
Trainings and Workshops $10.5M
Travel Support for Community Adaptation Planning $4.3M
Travel Support for Ocean and Coastal Management $1M
Youth Engagement $1.2M
Adaptation $91.9M
Top Ten Award Amounts to Tribe/Organization
Tribe/Organization
Lummi Tribe of the Lummi Reservation
Village of Cheformak
Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria, California
Makah Indian Tribe of the Makah Indian Reservation
Chugach Regional Resources Commission
Native Village of Shishmaref
The Chickasaw Nation
Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, Wyoming
Pribilof Islands Aleut Communities of St. Paul & St. George Islands
Hoh Indian Tribe
$0
$10M

OTS Web Refresh Project

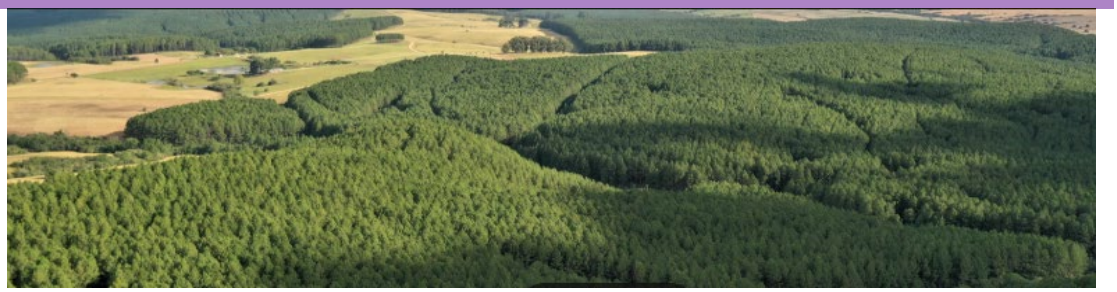
In alignment with the OTS Web Refresh, TCR webpages now reflect simplified and up-to-date information to support tribal disaster resilience initiatives. Additionally, the Branch of Geospatial Services (BOGS) supported TCR in updating the Annual Awards Program Dashboard and Technical Assistance Provider Network Directory.

Learn more at https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots/descrm/tcr.



Looking Forward to FY 2027

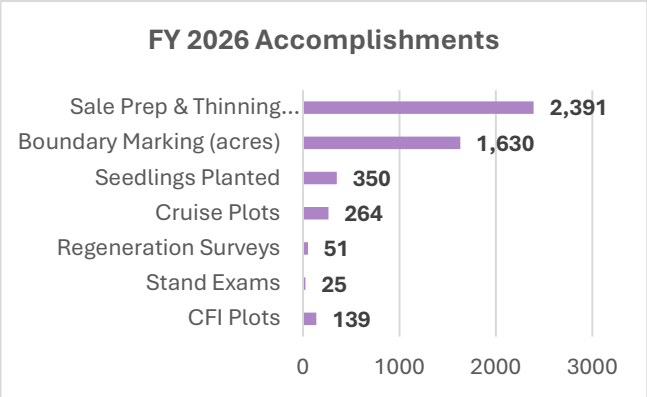
- Aim to release TCR Annual Awards Program RFP to support tribal implementation projects, building physical infrastructure to support tribal economies and strengthen natural hazard resilience
- TCR staff will attend NTICC 2026 in October to share federal resources and facilitate conversations between Tribes on voluntary relocation strategies in the face of rapid erosion, flood events, and environmental change
- Recruiting BIA Pathways intern to support our team with a focus on engineering, construction, and data management
- Aim to have a division-wide meeting for strategic coordination and metric setting on environmental permitting, infrastructure development, and cultural resources management



BIA TIMBER TEAM

The BIA Timber Team delivered a wide range of stewardship and revenue-focused forestry services throughout Fiscal Year 2026, maintaining consistent, high-quality support to Tribal Nations despite ongoing staffing shortages. From January through September, the Team partnered with 11 Tribes across seven states, providing timber sale layout and marking, cruising, continuous forest inventory (CFI), stand exams, regeneration surveys, silvicultural prescriptions, seedling planting, and GIS mapping. These efforts directly strengthened Tribal forest management planning, commercial timber goals, and habitat improvement initiatives.

FY 2026 Timber Team Field Accomplishments



The Team completed 139 continuous forest inventory plots, 25 stand examinations, 51 regeneration surveys, and 264 cruise plots. Approximately 2,391 acres were prepared for timber sales and thinning, advancing sustainable harvest objectives and forest resilience. Additional contributions included planting 350 swamp white oak seedlings for the Menominee Indian Tribe and preparing a prescription to enhance elk habitat for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

A major highlight was the preparation of 1,630 acres of timber sale layout and boundary marking for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation—the largest single project of the year. The Team also assisted the Hoh Tribe and Lower Elwha Tribal Community with their first timber sales in more than 50 years, marking significant progress in revitalizing long-dormant forest product programs and expanding long-term Tribal forestry capacity. Complementing field work, the Team provided essential remote GIS support by redrawing 58,291 acres of forest cover types for the Anadarko and Horton Agencies, substantially improving data accuracy for future planning.



Collectively, the Timber Team's FY 2026 accomplishments demonstrate its vital role in promoting Tribal forest stewardship, economic opportunity, and sustainable resource management. Demand for services continues to increase, and the Team is actively developing its FY 2027 schedule. The following section introduces the Timber Team's upcoming calendar for Fiscal Year 2027.



Collectively, the Timber Team's FY 2026 accomplishments demonstrate its vital role in promoting Tribal forest stewardship, economic opportunity, and sustainable resource management. Demand for services continues to increase, and the Team is actively developing its FY 2027 schedule. The following section introduces the Timber Team's upcoming calendar for Fiscal Year 2027.

We are still seeking proposals in case of cancellations and any federal/tribal staff that would like to work with the Timber Team on any upcoming assignment. To **find the project request form** and more information about the Timber Team please go to https://www.bia.gov/service/timber-team

Photo to the Left: Timber Team forester designating a harvest block corner tree on the Copper Creek Timber Sale for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

FY 2027 Schedule to date for the BIA Timber Team

Tribe	State	BIA Region	Activity	Dates
Hualapai Reservation	AZ	Western	Timber Sale Preparation	10/13 – 23/2026
Choctaw Nation	OK	Eastern Oklahoma	Timber Cruising	11/9 – 20/2026
Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	MN	Midwest	Timber Sale Preparation	11/30 – 12/11/26
Menominee Reservation	WI	Midwest	Timber Sale Preparation	1/19 – 29/2027
Hoh Tribe	WA	Northwest	Timber Sele Preparation	2/16 – 26/2027
Pawnee Agency	OK	Southern Pueblos	CFI	3/8 – 19/2027
Fort Apache	AZ	Western	Timber Cruising Training (FS Cruiser)	3/29 – 4/4/2027
50th Annual Intertribal Timber Council Symposium	AZ		San Carlos Host Tribe	4/5 – 9/2027
Fort Apache	AZ	Western	Timber Cruising & Salvage	4/26 – 5/7/2027
Spokane Reservation	WA	Northwest	Timber Sale Preparation	5/17 – 28/2027
White Earth Band of Chippewa Indians	MN	Midwest	Hold dates	6/13 – 25/2027
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	OR	Northwest	Hold dates	6/13 – 25/2027
Confederated Tribes & Bands of the Yakama Nation	WA	Northwest	Hold dates	6/13 – 25/2027
Metlakatla Indian Community (of the Annette Island Reserve	AAK	Northwest	Hold dates	7/19 – 30/2027
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	OR	Northwest	Hold dates	7/19 – 30/2027
Confederated Tribes & Bands of the Yakama Nation			Hold dates	7/19 – 30/2027
Suquamish Tribe of Port Madison Reservation	WA	Northwest	Stand Exams	8/16 – 27/2027
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw	OR	Northwest	Timber Sale Preparation & Perennially Surveys	9/13 – 24/2027

Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)

Forestry reported on two annual GPRA performance measures in early October 2026. Performance Measure 2437 was newly established for FY 2026 and designated as an Agency Priority Goal. In addition, DOF continues to track a retired performance measure related to timber harvest volume. Together, these three measures reflect the full timber production cycle, from preparing and offering timber for sale, to completing sales, and ultimately harvesting the resource.

- ***Performance Measure 2295*** – *Timber Sales Prepared and Offered*
  This measure tracks the annual volume of timber prepared and offered for sale or free use. In FY 2026, more than 360 million board feet of timber were prepared across Indian Country, representing 53 percent of the available harvest volume.
- ***Performance Measure 2437*** – *Percentage of Annual Timber Volume Sold*
  This measure tracks the proportion of the annual allowable timber volume that is successfully sold. In FY 2026, more than 261 million board feet of timber were sold.

Retired GPRA Goal

- ***Performance Measure 2097 (Retired)*** – *Percentage of Sustainable Harvest of Forest Biomass Utilized for Energy and Other Products*

  This retired measure tracked the percentage of harvested forest biomass used for energy production and other wood-based products, representing all wood harvested.

Together, these measures illustrate the BIA's continued commitment to supporting sustainable forest management across Indian Country and how these measures are impacted by staffing shortages and economic conditions. By tracking progress from the preparation and sale of timber through to the utilization of harvested materials, Forestry can better assess program performance, identify areas for improvement, and ensure that tribal forest resources are managed responsibly and efficiently.

Use of New BLM Categorical Exclusions (CEs)

BIA has authority to apply categorical exclusions under NEPA. Two new BLM forestry CEs expand the scope of forest management activities that may proceed without preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), provided that no extraordinary circumstances exist.

These CEs provide for:

- ***Forest and woodland density management:*** Allows modification of tree density on up to 5,000 acres through selective thinning, group-selection openings (up to 2 acres), slash disposal, underburning, and necessary replanting—subject to road-use limits (≤5 mi permanent, ≤2.5 mi/1,000 ac temporary) and extraordinary circumstances screening by the Responsible Official.
- ***Timber salvage harvest:*** Enables removal of dead/dying trees over up to 1,000 acres (or larger where >=3,000 acres affected, capped at 1/3 of disturbance or 5,000 ac), including associated yarding, burning, seeding, and minimal road construction—again subject to extraordinary circumstances review.

The expanded authorities enable faster implementation of density management treatments that strengthen forest resilience, reduce hazardous fuels, and support regeneration of desired species. They also allow more timely salvage operations to recover economic value from dead and dying trees, address safety hazards, and improve post-disturbance recovery while maintaining full NEPA compliance.

BLM Federal Register Notices:

- Density Management CE: FR Notice: Density Management Categorical Exclusion
- Salvage CE: FR Notice: Salvage Categorical Exclusion

TAAMS Training

Advanced process improvements in TAAMS Forestry, planning and scheduling Timber Sale Operations group meetings, attending TAAMS Change Management Board meetings, and submitting six change requests were completed in FY 2026. In addition, DOF completed User Acceptance Testing for four TAAMS releases, improving forestry processes, and provided in-house timber sale training and presales training sessions, with 4 out of 6 training courses delivered internally at a cost-saving to the federal taxpayer.

FY 2027 Upcoming TAAMS Training for Fall/Winter (available for registration in DOI Talent)

Class	Location	Dates	CGI In-house
Forestry Presale (Pre-requisite for other classes.)	MS Teams	November 18, 2026	In-house
Intro to Forestry	Fort Vancouver	December 8-10, 2026	CGI
Advanced Forestry	Fort Vancouver	January 26-28, 2027	CGI

Plot Weasel

Field testing continues for *Plot Weasel*, the new stand exam tool designed to make inventory data collection faster and more consistent. The mobile app works on both Android and Apple devices, letting foresters easily collect plot data, merge files, and choose species from a nationwide list. Its companion desktop program quickly turns that data into clean tables, graphs, volumes, and other key metrics. Plot Weasel has already been used with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and tested on the Navajo Nation, with broader deployment planned later this fall.

Regional Meeting Participation

Division Foresters joined a regional meeting with Tribal Forest Managers to provide updates on the Certified Silviculturist Position Task Book, handbook guidance, and NASP application requirements. The session helped clarify expectations and support foresters preparing for certification.

Application Suite

This year, a new suite of practical, non-SI field-to-office tools that streamline core inventory workflows was rolled out. These apps help foresters build databases, clean data, run verification summaries, and check CFI plots—cutting down on repetitive manual work and improving consistency across projects. The tools, including Project Pickle, TribeVibe, CFI DataClean, and CFI Field Check, are already speeding up processing and reducing errors, giving staff more time to focus on technical analysis and tribal support.

Spotlight: Advancing Forestry Through Tech & Partnership

DOF helped to advance modernization across agencies by delivering SI support to BLM and FWS, helping staff apply the right tools, automate BAER plan reviews, and strengthen secure prompt development and document summarization practices. Staff also showcased new SI-driven inventory efficiencies to the Department's SI Community, demonstrating practical modernization in action.

NASP Coordination

Nominations for the National Advanced Silviculture Program (NASP) Class 21 are due to the Division of Forestry by **December 4, 2026**. NASP provides the core continuing education required for silviculturist certification through four two-week university-hosted modules. Module dates have not yet been announced and will be shared when available.

Four BIA and Tribal foresters completed all four modules of NASP Class 19 this year, and four Tribal foresters from Class 20 finished Module 1 and are currently enrolled in Module 2. These cohorts continue to strengthen the pool of future certified silviculturists across Indian Country.

DOF worked with Regions, NASP participants, and partner agencies to evaluate the four national NASP modules and strengthen their alignment with on-the-ground silviculture needs. Feedback was compiled into a summary shared with the U.S. Forest Service to help refine future curriculum updates and ensure the program continues to prepare foresters for advanced silviculture roles.

Indian Forestry Database (InfoDat) Enhancements

InfoDat is getting a major usability upgrade for year-end reporting. The refreshed interface makes it easier to enter accomplishments, update the Catalog of Forest Acres, and submit funding requests. Also, a new trespass tracker module was added. The goal is to provide smoother data entry, fewer errors, and more consistent reporting nationwide.

Project Overview

Inventory work remained on schedule this year, with projects advancing efficiently while maintaining a high level of data quality. Following completion of the National Analysis Program, six projects were returned to Tribes to support Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) development. Newly developed data-processing tools have also streamlined the Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) workflow, helping projects move through review and analysis more quickly.

Across all Forest Management Inventory Program (FMIP) projects, inventory management and oversight are provided at the national level, while Regions and Tribes perform most field data collection and Forest Inventory and Analysis activities. This collaborative approach continues to support timely project completion and the delivery of reliable inventory data across Indian Country.

NASP MODULE 4: THE GLACIERS, THE SAND, AND THE FIRE

By: Casey Sigg

As my flight began descending into Marquette, MI for the last NASP module, I pressed my face to the window and took account of the surroundings coming into view. I saw large expanses of jack pine giving way to hardwoods, the footprint of a copper mine to the south, and knew the dark blue waters of Lake Superior lay to my north. This is the perspective students are expected to take at the last module of NASP, called “Landscape Ecology”.



Pinecone on a Jack Tree branch

The glacial origin topography of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula (UP) and rich history of forest ecology studies from the state’s universities became our venue for building the skills needed to gain this landscape-level perspective and ultimately harness it for silviculture decisions at varying scales of forest planning.

Michigan Technological University hosts the module at their Ford Forest. This 3,700-acre forest of northern hardwoods and outwash plain conifers have quite a history. The Ford Motor Company donated the land and associated village of Alberta in 1954. Alberta was meant to be a model community showcasing work/life balance centered around a sawmill with some of the lumber providing paneling on pre-WWII automobiles known as “Woodies”. Today it serves as a quaint educational campus for students and natural resource professionals. True to the Finnish heritage of the UP, one the buildings had a wood-fired sauna in the basement which became the spot to unwind after classwork.



NASP 19 Graduates from and/or serving Indian Country. Left to right: Michael Waukau – Menominee Tribal Enterprises, Casey Sigg – BIA, Chad Brown – Sante Fe National Forest, Raven Honga – Hualapai Tribe, Conner Ormond – Spokane Tribal Forestry

Moraines, geomorphic processes, aeolian deposits are terms most foresters may remember from college but are not at the forefront of our daily work. Re-integrating these landscape concepts began with several assigned readings. One paper that stuck with me had the subtitle, *"Geomorphic features of the earth's surface regulate the distribution of organisms and processes"*. Factoring this concept into the duties of a silviculturist is the core of the module. Our journey in this effort began with a lecture in "TEUI" meaning Terrestrial Ecological Unit Inventory which is a spatial classification system for landscape factors. Some folks questioned how this was applicable to their work, prompting one senior silviculturist sitting in on the module to pipe up and explain that most National Forest plans are dependent on this system.

Classwork quickly turned into fieldwork as we were tasked with uncovering the "Ecosystem of Mystery" as our professor called it. We spilt into teams then were dropped off across different cover types in the Ford Forest with an assigned transect.

At each plot along the line inventory measurements were made as my crew battled flies in a black spruce swamp with our focus on what came out of the soil auger.

A soil core was dug several feet down to reveal the horizons and as we sifted the soil through our sweaty hands the real detective work began. Soil texture tells a lot about the landform processes. Throughout the northern Lake States, meltwater miles from the glacier formed outwash plains. Fine sediments such as silt and clay remain suspended in the water during this process and transported far away. As the braided outwash streams move water, heavy particles like sand are sorted out becoming deposited across the area. Sand is large enough we can see individual particles with our own eyes. Aggerated together sand particles do not have much surface area, meaning they lack the negative charge to hold large amounts of cations like calcium and magnesium.

We have all spent a day at the beach and noticed how quickly sand dries out. Thinking about these characteristics one was easily able to understand why jack pine dominates the outwash plains. Jack pine has an ecological niche of surviving on nutrient-poor sites that are dry enough to promote the frequent fires necessary for its regeneration.



Waterfall at Michigan Tech's Ford Forest

Michigan's Ford Forest

Back in the classroom each team presented on how they "solved" the mystery of why the patterns in forest vegetation and topography exist across the Ford Forest and how they were created by the physical processes of the glaciers. Professors poked holes in students' arguments and jokes were made, but the pieces started to come together on moving landscape ecology from a series of theories to an applied science we could use.

We also took a tour across the UP with an overnight trip to the town of Sault Ste. Marie. Here the class met with staff from the Hiwatha National Forest and natural resource department of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians to discuss some of their collaborative landscape initiatives. Meeting early one morning in the field as the sun rose, the iconic Kirkland's Warbler sang almost on cue as we were inspired to hear about the successful prescribed burns and trust built between Tribal and Forest Service staff.

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe has been able to use silviculture and burning to meet restoration goals. Traditional travel corridors between the Great Lakes are becoming reestablished, which is improving wildlife habitat and promoting the growth of plants important for medicinal purposes or food such as blueberries.

One professor kept the enthusiasm alive for detecting landscape patterns during all our field tours. Along with describing changes in landform, he would yell out, "Free Digging!" when coming across a road cutbank that exposed soil horizons. Clues to the process that structure the forest was always around us.



NASP student measuring a soil pit

It would not be a NASP module without group work and a final project. Module four concludes with presenting a comprehensive forest management plan of the Ford Forest via ArcGIS StoryMap instead of PowerPoint. Landscape processes must be defined and competing objectives balanced. The camaraderie of the eight weeks spent as a NASP class was felt during the presentations on the last day with plenty of humor and memorable talks. In the evening celebrating, each wondered how our careers and paths may cross in the coming years.

An assigned paper and associated lecture in this module titled, “Silviculture, Landscape Ecosystems, and the Iron Law of the Site” was the most poignant of my NASP experience and provided a north star moving forward. It was written by Burton Barnes, a deceased professor from the University of Michigan. You probably have a copy his forest ecology textbook from your undergraduate course sitting dusty on a shelf somewhere. In the paper, he calls on foresters to embrace the challenges of 21st century management by using a landscape ecology approach. Without it one is apt to fail at obeying the “Iron Law of Site” and see narrowly focused silviculture treatments falter as it conflicts with the ecological processes at play. Burton ends the paper by stating silviculturists need to, “lead the way by focusing on ecosystems rather than on the individual species and organisms that are parts of them”.

Forestry, like all professions, continues to change at a rapid pace with artificial intelligence. Promises of abundance in data and easy analytics abound. It seems like each year will be the one where every stand in a forest is inventoried using LiDAR. AI and remote sensing will no doubt be crucial to every silviculturist’s toolkit, but it remains incumbent on each one of us to deeply know the ecosystems we steward. Sometimes that may take digging a soil pit or a simple walk in the woods to give your prescription what it needs.

INDIAN ENERGY SERVICE CENTER



Mission

The mission of 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 and mineral development on Indian lands.

Multi-Bureau Service Center

The IESC is a multi-bureau collaboration between the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA), and the Office of Natural Resources and Revenue (ONRR).

Unleashing America's Energy

The IESC continues to support Executive Order 14154, Unleashing American Energy, through several projects:

- The Indian Mineral Development Act (IMDA) of 1982. Authorizes BIA to negotiate and manage leases for oil, gas, geothermal, and solid mineral development on trust or restricted Indian lands, ensuring compliance with legal, environmental, and economic standards.
- Well Permitting and Development. The IESC-BLM provides support to regions across Indian country in support of Permit to Drill (APD) as well as Sundry Notices and Well Completion Reports.
- Tribal Energy Resource Agreements (TERAs). Created under the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act of 2005 (as amended in 2017) strengthens Tribal sovereignty, promotes economic growth, and improves efficiency in energy development.
- CA Adjudication. A formal review and approval process for a Communitization Agreement (CA) - a legal document that allocates oil and gas royalties among multiple tracts within a defined CA unit, coordinated with the BLM and approved by the BIA.

Energy and Mineral Support Processing

The Indian Energy Service Center (IESC) provides energy and mineral related support processing to the Department of the Interior's (DOI) field level offices throughout its various offices and bureaus. Support functions that IESC provides to specific agencies include:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA): Energy and mineral leasing and agreement support.
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM): Well permit processing and engineering technical support.
- Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA): Beneficiary account maintenance and outreach.
- Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR): Energy and mineral revenue reporting.

Agencies may submit projects for consideration and initiation to the IESC with the approval of their agency managers or directors. Email requests to IESCRequest@bia.gov or submit Referral Form.




During the meeting, a cultural dance group from the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation delivered a traditional performance for attendees.

Fort Berthold's Federal Partners & MHA Nation Meeting

During the week of August 3, the IESC team traveled to New Town, North Dakota, to meet with regional agencies and the Tribe. The team also supported the BIA-initiated Fort Berthold allottee outreach session at the North Segment–Northern Lights Wellness Center. Both events were successful and received positive feedback from participants.



The photographs above were taken within the MHA Tribal Chambers, which features an open-plan teepee design with distinctive architectural detailing

The meeting featured a performance by the MHA Nation Cultural Dance Group, whose members from the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nations presented traditional dances, songs, and drumming. The Tribe also offered tours of several facilities, providing participants with insight into its significant advancements.

Tour of Major Capital Projects

Native Green Grow (NG2) represents the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation's sustainable greenhouse horticulture initiative, designed to advance food sovereignty through year-round fresh-produce production powered by captured natural gas from the Bakken oil fields, alongside other key facilities such as the MHA Emergency Operations Center.



During that week, the Tribe conducted tours highlighting its major capital projects and recent advancements.

Native Green Grow (NG2) represents the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation's sustainable greenhouse horticulture initiative











Outreach – Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Ute Mountain Ute Probate Event held on July 14-16, 2026, IESC-BTFA supported the Probate Outreach event.



Wilhemina Gray, BTFA Accounting Technician



"As a BIA subject matter expert, assisting allottees is a critical trust responsibility that ensures landowners receive accurate guidance, protection of their rights, and support in managing and developing their trust resources with integrity and transparency."

Karen Austin, Realty Specialist
BIA Outreach Representative
IESC-BIA

Allottee Outreach - Fort Berthold

During the week of August 4-5, 2026, the ISEC and Federal Partners supporting the Fort Berthold Allottee Outreach held at the beautiful North Segment – Northern Lights Wellness Center. providing technical assistance to an allotee by delivering key information on leasing, account updates, and oil and gas matters.



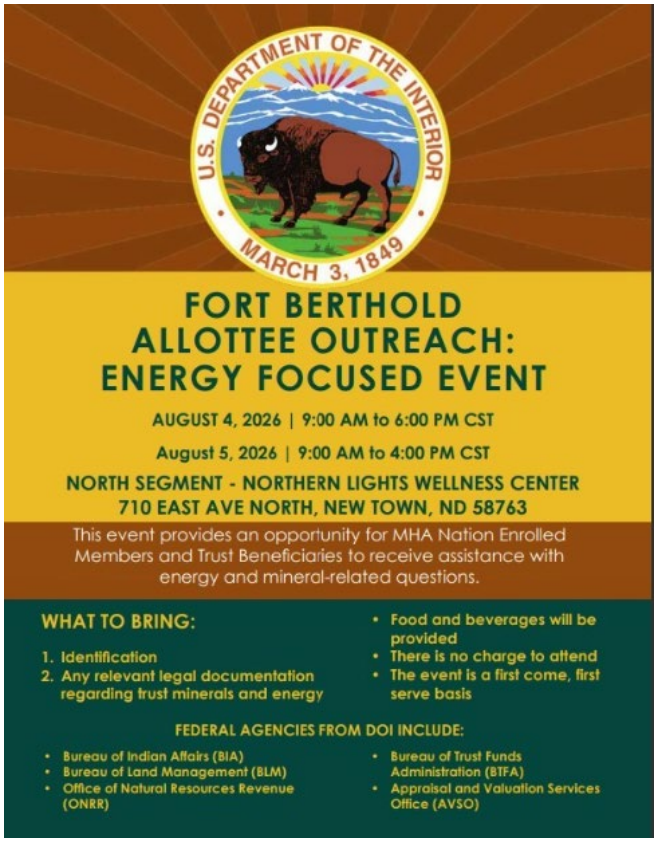
Carla Clark, Division Chief, DRES and Christina Varela, Realty Specialist DRES



Katrina Brown, BTFA Trust Accounts Administrator



Maggie Silvertooth, Indian Minerals Program Lead, Division of Minerals Evaluation – AVSO, supporting the Fort Berthold Outreach by providing appraisal and valuation services.







Pictured (L-R): Christopher Kostelecky, IESC-BLM Supervisory Petroleum Engineer (Acting), Marrin Hafner, Supervisory Land Law Examiner, Andrew Hamilton, Supervisory Petroleum Engineer, Edward Kraft, Field Manager, North Dakota Field Office



Pictured are Jicarilla Tribal representatives and federal agency officials. At the center is Jicarilla Apache Nation President Adrian Notsinneh, Johnna Blackhair, Deputy Bureau Director for Trust Services, and Ken Bellmard Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs are pictured to his right.

Energy Initiatives - Jicarilla Apache Nation

On September 1, 2026, representatives of the IESC, DEMD, and the Jicarilla Apache Nation met in Lakewood, CO.

The meeting provided the Nation with information on the Tribal Energy Resource Agreement (TERA) application process, contracting functions, TAAMS access, tribal code updates, and timelines for TERA submission.

Energy Initiatives - Ute Mountain Ute IMDA

On July 23, 2026, the IESC team, together with representatives from DEMD and OTS, traveled to Ute Mountain Ute to meet with the Tribe to provide IMDA assistance.



Michelle Morrison, IESC-BTFA Branch Chief, Jennifer Reinmann, Acting Branch Chief DEMD, Johnna Blackhair, Deputy Bureau Director-Trust Services

Farewell



Mitchell "Mitch" Hasbrouck

The IESC would like to bid a warm farewell to Mitchell "Mitch" Hasbrouck. Mitch, a petroleum engineer, who has been part of the IESC team for five years. Before joining us, he served eight years in the United States Air Force as a Fuel Management Officer, provided mission logistics support overseas in Turkey, and spent his final years as a Staff Officer for the Air Force Material Command (AFMC).

His federal service totals 13 years. In addition to his military and federal career, Mitch has worked over 17 years for oil and gas corporations as a petroleum engineer. Mitch holds a master's degree in computer science and has taught computer courses at several universities, including Georgia Southern University, Colorado Technical University, and Sam Houston State University. Mitch is looking forward to retiring and traveling with his wife, Cindy.

The IESC team extends its best wishes to him as he begins this next chapter of his life.

Communitization Agreement (CA) Strike Team

The IESC CA Strike Team was launched on July 13, 2026, under the leadership of Elizabeth Berndt. Its members are Karen Austin, LaWanda Gibson, Cassandra Gould, Brandon Larrabee, Laura Little Iron, and Debra Williams.

The team was established to address pending Fort Berthold CAs, accelerate CA processing, and reduce backlogs. As a group of subject-matter experts, the team has maintained operational continuity through coordinated reviews and facilitated the rapid resolution of outstanding issues. During its first month, the team reported substantial progress, advancing multiple actions toward approval.

To support the accurate entry of approved CAs into TAAMS, team members attended TAAMS Mineral Module Training on August 12-13. This refresher training strengthened data-entry accuracy and improved workflow alignment. In addition, the Strike Team has supported broader interagency efforts through coordination with the BLM on APD processing, permitting, rights-of-way alignment, and workflow improvements.

Federal Partners Meetings – Quarter 4

Federal Partner Charters	Meeting Dates
Southwest Region	July 8, 2026
Ft. Berthold (Feds Only)	July 30, 2026
Ft. Berthold with MHA Nation	August 3-4, 2026
Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas	August 11, 2026
Rocky Mountain Region	September 8, 2026



Cassandra Gould, BIA Realty Specialist representing BIA from IESC office, serves as a subject matter expert educating SOP attendees on the specific roles the BIA agency fulfills throughout mineral processing operations.

SOP Fluid Mineral Training

On July 28-29, the IESC hosted a SOP Fluid Minerals Training at Lakewood, Colorado. Employees attending the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Indian Fluid Minerals gained an understanding of the interdependent roles and responsibilities among DOI Bureaus and Offices involved in the development and operations of fluid minerals on Trust Lands across the United States. The course conveyed an outline of the roles and responsibilities of each agency with the primary focus on the interdependent responsibilities and handoffs between agencies for fluid mineral development (oil and gas) on Trust Lands.



Thomas Workman, Deputy Director ONRR (former Director NOC, BLM), provided the opening remarks for the SOP Training, setting the tone for a productive and informative session.

TAAMS Mineral Training

Trust Asset and Accounting Management System (TAAMS) is the DOI's integrated land management system. TAAMS is a contractor maintained, and contractor operated major applications. It is the system of record for title and land ownership data for land held in trust by the DOI for Tribes, American Indians, and 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, and Alaska Natives. For more information on upcoming training visit: DOI Talent | U.S. Department of the Interior

TAAMS Upcoming Training

- October 14-15, 2026 (virtual)
- November 17-18, 2026 (virtual)
- February 23-24, 2027 (virtual)

For more information on upcoming training visit: DOI TAAMS Training

Federal Partner Charters	Meeting Dates (Dates subject to change)	Scheduled Time MST
Navajo Federal Partners Meeting	October 13, 2026	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Fort Berthold (Feds Only)	December 10, 2026	1:00 - 4:00 PM
Fort Berthold with MHA Nation	December 15 & 16, 2026	8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
U&O Federal Partners Meeting	November 17, 2026	9:00 AM - 12:00PM
Southwest	January 5, 2027	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas	February 2, 2027	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Rocky Mountain Region	March 2, 2027	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Fort Berthold (Feds Only)	March 18, 2027	1:00 - 4:00 PM
Fort Berthold with MHA Nation	March 23-24, 2027	8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Navajo Federal Partners Meeting	April 6, 2027	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
U&O Federal Partners Meeting	May 4, 2027	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Fort Berthold (Feds Only)	June 3, 2027	1:00 - 4:00 PM
Fort Berthold with MHA Nation	June 8 & 9, 2026	8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Southwest	July 7, 2027	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas	August 3, 2027	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Rocky Mountain Region	September 7, 2027	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Fort Berthold (Feds Only)	September 23, 2027	1:00 - 4:00 PM
Fort Berthold with MHA Nation	September 28 & 29, 2027	8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Shout Out - Records & Equipment Cleanup

A "BIG" thank you to Velda Garcia, Karinda Granger, DRES team, and everyone else who assisted with the quick 2-day Building 54 records and equipment clean-up project during the Week of July 13, 2026!

Shout Out - Temporary Detail Assignments

- A "BIG" thank you to Winter Jojola-Talburt, detailed to Acting IESC Division Chief through July 25, 2026
- Congratulations to Christopher Kostelecky, detailed to Acting Supervisory Petroleum Engineer from May 31 – September 27, 2026
- Congratulations to Jack Savage, detailed to BLM Utah State Office from May 31 – September 27, 2026
- Congratulations to Elizabeth Berndt, detailed to IESC Strike Team Lead beginning July 13, 2026
- A "BIG" thank you to Christina Varela with DRES who is assisting IESC with BIA projects

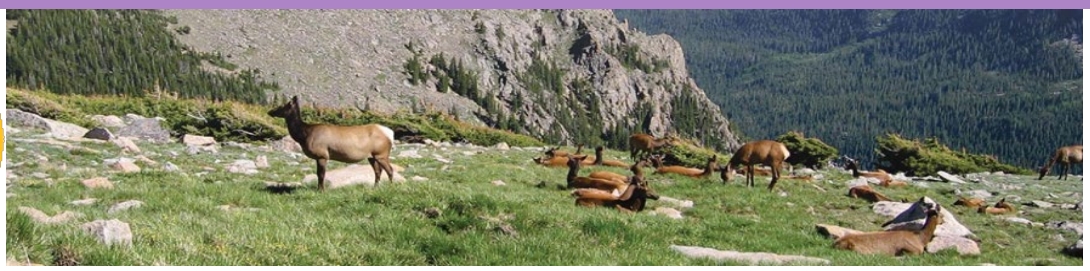
Shout Out – Software Enhancements

Single System Account Modification System (SAMS)

Great job Katrina Brown, who identified a BTFA software enhancement opportunity within SAMS. This enhancement provided a solution that created efficiency by reducing duplications, directly benefiting over 170 BTFA staff.

SOP Fluid Minerals Training:
Upcoming courses and registration can be found at https://doitalent.ibc.doi.gov

IESC Job Vacancies:
The IESC is currently recruiting for several positions. Please visit USA Jobs for the latest vacancy announcements, to create a job alert or get new jobs emailed to you. Information is available on this site USAJOBS Government Employment Site on how to filter jobs by agency or department.



Joint USDA/BIA Partnership Workshop

On July 28th and 30th, 2026, BIA participated in a first-of-its-kind virtual workshop for USDA and BIA employees to promote interagency coordination and understanding around agriculture in Indian Country. The Inter-tribal Agriculture Council facilitated the event with over 700 registered participants. BIA, IAC, and the Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) were able to support crucial steps in advancing the implementation of a 2019 Memorandum of Understanding (2019 MOU) between the USDA-FPAC (Farm Production and Conservation) and BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) aimed at improving both agencies' service delivery in Indian Country.

The 2019 MOU was intended to address the differences in "how the agencies are organized, staffed, and funded" that have created barriers to effective service delivery in Indian Country. Specifically, the MOU is a vehicle for the agencies to accomplish their "common objectives of communication, collaboration, cooperation, and consultation with agricultural producers, Indian landowners, and Indian tribes for the development, conservation, and sustainable use of natural resources on Indian lands." This MOU was extended in 2024 for five additional years.

The July "Streamlining Service Delivery for Tribal Lands: USDA–BIA Workshop" featured a dozen presentations covering topics ranging from introductory *Trust Lands 101* sessions to in-depth discussions of cross-agency data sharing, environmental compliance, and more.

During the 2-day workshop, agency leaders impressed upon participants the importance of this work. The joint training reflects the cooperating partner's commitment to turning Tribal priorities into meaningful action. By bringing federal partners together, IAC is helping address key issues raised by member Tribes during caucus discussions, including improving interagency coordination, increasing access to USDA programs and services, and strengthening communication between Tribal Nations and federal agencies.

The USDA/BIA Joint Workshop was a great success! We have had great reviews from participants, and our survey results (65 survey participants) were very promising:

- 73% of people reported an increase in familiarity with partner agencies' programs after completing this training (27% stayed the same, 0% decreased)
- Following the training, 97% of respondents reported being at least moderately familiar with partner agencies' programs, compared with 58% before the training.

The Bureau and its partners look forward to future work on working with the USDA-FPAC & BIA to support implementation of the MOU to better serve Tribal producers and Tribal Nations.

Website Refresh

DNR staff managed official webpages and work with OTS Trust Officers to better illustrate alignment with Trump Administration priorities. These webpages provide Tribes an opportunity to access important documents and materials such as Request for Proposals (RFPs) for each of the programs, regional contact information, secretarial orders pertaining to Endangered Species Act (ESA) for Tribes and Federal and Tribal co-management of lands. Through communication with Regional Managers, project photos and accomplishments were collected and are featured on our individual competitive and non-competitive program pages.

Use of Technology to Streamline Processes and Paperwork Reduction

Achieved demonstrable improvements in efficiency, productivity, and quality of work and government services, including significant reductions in cost and paperwork using our Smartsheet and OneDrive systems, funding databases as well as weekly and monthly coordination calls.

BRANCH OF AGRICULTURE & RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Ongoing TAAMS Rangeland Management Training

Offered for Range Staff throughout the year. Participants have attended and successfully passed the Range TAAMS training that was held in Albuquerque, NM on February 10-11, 2026, and August 18–19, 2026. The FY 2027 sessions will be announced with sessions beginning February 9-10, 2027.

Revising the Agriculture & Range Management Handbook

The Branch of Agriculture, in coordination with Regional Range staff, updated the 54 IAM Agriculture and Rangeland Management Handbook to implement technical guidance to BIA region, agency, and tribal Range staff. The 2021 Handbook version has been internally reviewed by the Region and Field Agency staff members. All comments were reviewed and the Handbook revision was completed in July 2026.

Coordination with UDSA Partners

USDA APHIS and BIA Office of Trust Services Branch of Agriculture are working toward renewal of the MOU Governing Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Management on BIA Managed Tribal Trust Lands. In 2016, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) formalized a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to coordinate the control of grasshopper and Mormon cricket outbreaks on lands under BIA jurisdiction. The MOU outlines a collaborative framework whereby APHIS provides technical survey and treatment services when outbreak levels pose ecological or economic threats, while BIA contributes by identifying sensitive areas, facilitating land access, and supporting the application of pest-control measures.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) greatly values its partnerships with Tribal Nations and communities. To keep Tribal Nations abreast of USDA news and updates, the APHIS Office of National Tribal Liaison partnered with Bureau of Indian Affairs Branch of Agriculture for a Tribal Nations-exclusive webinar on New World screwworm (NWS) held on July 20, 2026.

NWS is a serious pest of livestock, pets, and wildlife. USDA leads a coordinated One Health response to combat NWS, with BIA as a partnering agency as a point of contact and Liaison for Tribes.

Partners provided an overview of NWS, including:

- Biology and life cycle
- How to recognize clinical signs of myiasis (infection)
- Historical distribution and current outbreak
- Eradication tools and techniques, including surveillance, movement controls, sterile fly production, and dispersal
- How to report suspect cases
- USDA preparedness and NWS Response Playbook
- How to request outreach materials and information

Agriculture Leasing Regulations

25 CFR 162 Agriculture Leasing Regulations are still waiting for Department of Interior Solicitors to complete review. Pending review, Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs will discuss with Solicitors. Scheduling conflicts have made difficulties. Bi-weekly calls will take place into FY 2027 for any potential changes to the rule making.

Aligning the push with current priorities, the 25 CFR 162 Agriculture Leasing proposed rule is pending SOL review, now influenced by Secretarial Order 3421 requiring deregulatory offsets and Priorities such as Supporting the American Rancher, ensuring affordable beef for the American Consumer, and Advancing Regenerative Agriculture and Strengthening American Farm Resilience.

BRANCH OF FISHERIES, WILDLIFE & RECREATION

Participation at Native American Fish and Wildlife Society (NAFWS) Conferences

BFWR Central Office's Ryan Portalatin, Fish and Wildlife Resources Specialist, and Pacific Regional Biologist, Peter DeJongh, attended the NAFWS Southwest Regional Conference on August 17-20th in Tucson, AZ. The event theme was, Carrying the Wisdom Forward: Honoring Legacy and Innovation, and was co-hosted by the Tohono O'odham Nation. Conference activities included workshops focused on grant writing, Arc GIS Pro, wildlife health, terrestrial invasive species, and feral horse management. General session presentations provided attendees an opportunity to gain knowledge on regional wildlife management practices, federal partner updates, AI and emerging technologies in natural resources, New World screw worm, and conservation law enforcement training.



Ryan Portalatin providing a federal partner update at the NAFWS SW Regional Conference.

BFWR Central Office's Jordan Miteff, Natural Resources Specialist, attended the NAFWS Southeast Regional Conference on September 28-29th in Foley, AL. The event was co-hosted by the Poarch Creek Indians and brought together Tribal representatives, conservation professionals, and partners for learning, sharing, and connection.

Presentations highlighted Tribal conservation work across the region, including species vulnerability, invasive species management, Atlantic sturgeon and Osceola turkey conservation, endangered deer, and efforts to protect culturally significant river systems. Conference activities also included a guided field trip to Graham Creek Nature Preserve and a Wildlife Health Management Plan Workshop.



Jordan Miteff joined NAFWS staff and conference attendees on a guided tour of Graham Creek Nature Preserve.

Supporting Alaska Subsistence through the Tribal Management/Development Program

Awarded $1.9 million to 6 Alaska Intertribal organizations representing 138 Tribal communities, to support and expand projects in targeted areas across Alaska that involve Tribal cooperative management of fish and wildlife, to improve Tribal access to subsistence resources, and to also support IA's role in the Federal Subsistence Management Program in implementing Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act (ANILCA).

Impacting Tribal Youth initiatives in Natural Resources

$2.4 million provided to tribal youth programs throughout Indian Country that promote interest in pursuing career opportunities within the various areas of natural resources management.



Tribal youth assist Port Gamble DNR staff with removing invasive species to uncover native plants



Native poppies surrounded by invasive plants to be cleared by interns.



Community elders and DNR staff are joined by youth to work together to process and can a deer.

Accomplishments from the Northwest Region

Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe completed a youth project that was funded in 2024 and spanned three summer field seasons.



Port Gamble youth were introduced to hunting safety and training. Three interns took and passed Hunter Education and assisted with teaching other youth how to harvest and process a deer.

The Nez Perce Tribe completed another successful Internet Program with two groups of students for their 2025-2026 season. The High School class participated in various outdoor activities aimed at sparking their interest in different careers related to natural resources. The Boys and Girls Club, primarily fourth- and fifth graders, created artwork from plant materials collected in wetland and riparian areas. The abstract art was based on the importance of pollinators and salmon, as well as their connections to various natural resource fields.



Lapwai High School career day activities. Nez Perce GIS Analysts demonstrated the use of drones in natural resources.



Tribal Wastewater Managers discussed the various jobs within their program and gave students a tour of the facility.



Boys and Girls Club of the Nez Perce Tribe. (Left) Nez Perce Wetland Specialist leads students on the Lapwai Nature Trail to learn about wetland plant and pollinator species and collect materials for their art projects



Students working on their nature-inspired artwork.

Monthly communication with field staff and regional representatives

BFWR Central Office continues to host first-Friday-of-the-month MS Teams coordination calls with regional staff to provide program updates and technical assistance to the regions, agencies, and tribes.

Tracking Tribal Fish Hatchery Maintenance and Operations

Maintained and improved a database tracking tribal fish hatchery information, including fisheries production data for 22 hatchery operations tribes in the Midwest and Northwest Regions.

DNR: A Look Ahead

Update and streamline the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for all DNR competitive programs and release memos to the regions for dissemination to tribes.

Events, trainings, and site visits

Central Office and regional staff to attend NAFWS Pacific Regional Conference on October 20-22 in Lewiston, ID

DOI Talent *Creating Section 508-Compliant PDF Documents* training in January

DIVISION OF REAL ESTATE SERVICES

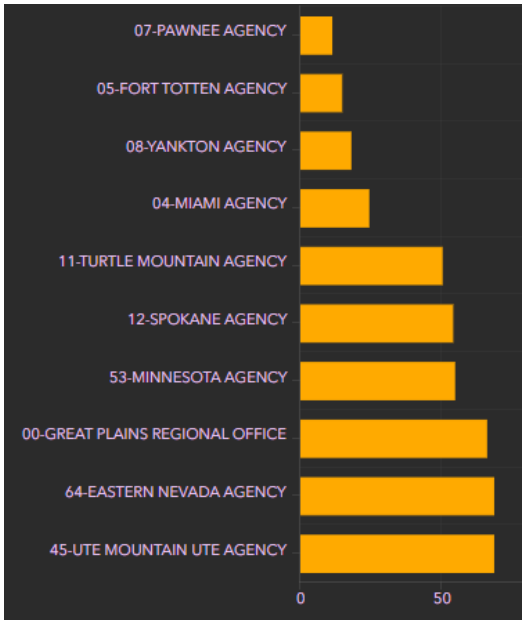


DRES supported the Indian Energy Service Center in August through an onsite outreach to the allottees on the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, also known as the Three affiliated Tribes, located on the Forth Berthold Indian Reservation in central North Dakota.

Trust and Restricted Land Conveyances

Preliminary A&D data clean-up efforts focused on addressing aged gift deed cases as part of estate planning initiatives and have been ongoing. Since the launch of the A&D Dashboard, staff have successfully closed aged gift deed cases, updated withdrawn or canceled cases to complete status and recorded overdue deeds. This progress reflects an ongoing clean-up effort supported by the Central Office, OTS-DRES.

Top ten Student Average BIA Controlled Timelines in Days



Agency highlights for exceptional progress:

Fee-to-Trust

It goes without saying all regions and agencies are recognized for their work and recent efforts at the following locations are to be highlighted for coordinating on Tribal updates and case processing:

- **Midwest Region** currently maintains 233 cases and continues to provide ongoing updates to maintain transparency and communication with the tribes.
- **Northwest Region** currently maintains 158 cases and continues to provide ongoing updates to maintain transparency and communication with tribes. In addition, they provide a current work step breakdown for their agencies to assist in case processing.
- **Great Plains Region** currently maintains 110 cases and continues to provide ongoing updates to maintain transparency and communication with the tribes. They are also assisting with the caseload at three of their agencies and are maintaining direct communication with those tribes.



Off-Reservation and Initial Land Fee-to-Trust Decisions

NPM-TRUS-49: Off-Reservation and Initial Land Fee-to-Trust Decisions

This memorandum implements an interim policy regarding the delegated authority for the review and approval of off-reservation fee-to-trust (FTT) acquisitions under 25 CFR 151.11 and for the approval of initial land acquisitions under 25 CFR 151.12.

This memorandum supersedes the delegations of authority as provided in section 1.7 (14) of 3 IAM 4: Delegations to the Deputy Bureau Director, Field Operations and to the Regional Organizational Levels, and Section 1.5 of 52 IAM 12: Processing Fee-to-Trust Applications, and its corresponding handbook, 52 IAM 12-H: Processing Fee-to-Trust Acquisitions and Reservation Proclamations Handbook.

The delegated authority to issue decisions on all requests for off-reservation FTT acquisitions remains with the Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs (AS-IA). This includes the authority to decide whether an off-reservation parcel complies with a mandatory acquisition authority, as well as the authority to decide requests for discretionary off-reservation FTT acquisitions, regardless of whether such requests are gaming-related or not.

DRES held two BIA and Tribal Contract/Compact staff virtual training sessions to go over the NPM and to provide guidance on submitting packages to AS-IA for Decision.

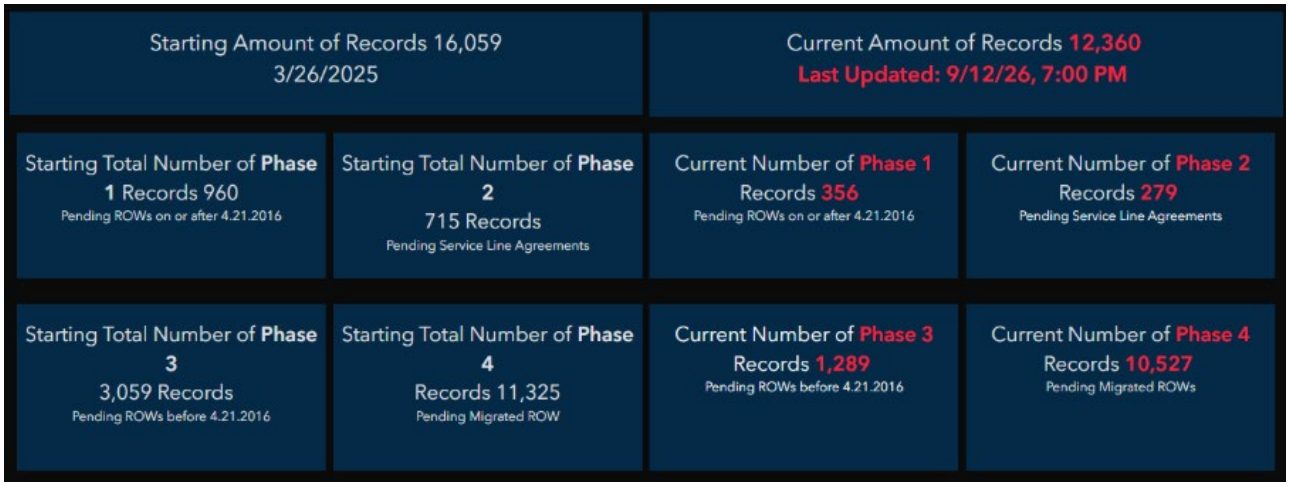
Reservation Proclamations

All proclamation request packages received for Fiscal Year 2026 have been deemed complete packages and were able to move along in the review process without needing to be returned for additional information. To date for calendar year 2026 DRES has reviewed 19 proclamation packages that were routed to AS-IA.

Rights-of-Way

TAAMS Right-of-Way Cleanup Project

As of March 26, 2025, TAAMS data showed over 16,059 “pending” ROWs. Many of these were approved on paper but not properly encoded in TAAMS, often due to data migration issues. To address this, DRES initiated a four-phase cleanup effort in March 2026. As of mid-September 2026, nearly 3,700 pending documents have been resolved. Clean-up continues, with the first three phases reduced by more than 61%, and contractor Montech assisted in reducing Phase 4 cases by nearly 800.



Modernizing TAAMS Business Rules

On February 27, 2026, updated business rules for the TAAMS Proposal and Right-of-Way modules were issued. These, along with NPM-TRUS-48 (September 3, 2025) and the Right-of-Way on Indian Lands Handbook (January 10, 2022), provide a comprehensive framework for the receipt, review, approval, processing, and TAAMS encoding of right-of-way applications.

DRES hosted a virtual brown bag session on March 17, 2026, to discuss these new business rules with regional and agency staff. The session included a slide deck overview and a Q&A, and both the updated rules and the session recording are available on the DRES SharePoint site.

TAAMS Enhancements

In conjunction with the updated business rules, DRES submitted several TAAMS change requests and conducted user acceptance testing. Enhancements include:

- Required fields in the Right-of-Way module for bonding, right-of-way description, and purpose
- A “Grantee” radio button to better identify grant recipients
- Additional status codes added in ROW proposal to show applications that are in the “Pre-Application” stage and applications deemed “Non-Consummated”
- Additional components and improvements for the Qlik search/query function

Reporting to Leadership

DRES continues weekly reporting to leadership, focusing on right-of-way applications received, approved, and pending across various timeframes. This process includes coordination with 12 regional offices, weekly certifications, and bi-weekly/monthly virtual check-ins to address field issues. As a result, pending right-of-way applications in FY 2026 were reduced from 360 to 118.

With assistance from DRIS, DRES implemented the Office of Trust Services Division of Real Estate Services Rights-of-Way Weekly report. This new dashboard is the beginning of a one stop platform of all weekly ROW metrics. It currently offers an automated submission process that allows regions to certify the number of ROW applications within their respective jurisdiction. This certification process replaced previous methods of manual submission. The dashboard impresses that ROWs are a priority and provides links to other helpful dashboards previously implemented to track clean-up and Broadband Projects. Two training sessions were conducted to introduce the field to the dashboard and the current uses it provides.

In April 2026, DRES began working with the field to reduce the number of outstanding ROWs in the TAAMS ROW module. Initially, DRES identified 348 unapproved ROWs. Through extensive collaboration, DRES worked with the field to reduce this number to 108. Many of these ROWs were approved on paper but not encoded to TAAMS. Others were deemed not consummated after intensive research. This initiative is a positive step in data integrity and helps provide a clearer picture for approved ROW applications that require BIA action.

Streamlining Broadband ROW Applications

Drafted an amendment to NPM-TRUS-48, *Streamlining the Rights-of-Way Application Processes for Broadband Infrastructure Projects Across Indian Trust and Restricted Land*. This amendment will include updated timeframes for ROW application review, approval, and recordation and will further streamline the application review and approval process laid out in the original NPM.

DRES ROW Referrals

DRES solicited referrals from the regions for assistance with ROW casework and assisted regions with broadband ROW application review.

Resources for BIA Staff and Applicants on ROWs

DRES updated the BIA Right-of-Way website to keep a current public facing view with available resources for applicants How to Apply for Right-of-Way | Indian Affairs.

DRES updated the Internal Division of Real Estate Services share point for BIA field staff to include links to relevant dashboards, past presentations, handbooks, business rules, IAMs, and CFRs.

Lockbox Coordination

DRES provides daily assistance to regional and field staff for timely processing and distribution of checks deposited into the lockbox. Biweekly calls with Regional Lockbox Liaisons address updates, processes, and a review of current check records. Weekly outstanding lockbox reports are sent to the liaisons and to BTFA to bring attention to outstanding checks. Individual regional and BTFA coordination is conducted weekly for updates on outstanding checks or checks with large amounts. Monthly BIA/BTFA and BIA/Suspense Deposit Team calls with the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) address outstanding lockbox issues and define processes for timely processing.

Processing Lockbox Metrics

- From October 1, 2025, to September 17, 2026, funds totaling $529,986,208.69 were received, processed, and distributed from TAAMS lockbox through coordinated efforts by BIA and BTFA.
- The Void/Paid file, used to mark invoices as paid or void in TAAMS via CGI, includes 393 checks totaling $19,983,679.76 marked as paid or voided through coordination of DRES, Lockbox Liaisons, and field staff.
- BIA and BTFA developed a process to address insufficient checks cashed by Treasury that require fund recoupment from the remitter (Debit Voucher) to credit back to Treasury. Since October 1, 2025, 72 Debit Vouchers totaling $1,011,089.81 have been recouped.

		Count and Totals for Outstanding Lock Box Checks by Region as of 10/1/2025							
		LOCK BOX CHECKS 3-30 DAYS		LOCK BOX CHECKS 31-90 DAYS		LOCK BOX CHECKS 91-180 DAYS OUTSTANDING		Totals	
		#	Balance	#	Balance	#	Balance	#	Balance
Alaska	Total							2	1,229.60
Eastern Oklahoma	Total	3	3,195.56					25	52,072.80
Great Plains	Total	3	263,293.76					10	356,146.90
Midwest	Total	3	11,725.92					3	11,725.92
Northwest	Total	3	372,782.72	1	2,800.00	1	40.50	20	797,530.16
Pacific	Total	8	539,519.36	2	1,000.89	1	134.52	49	779,080.33
Rocky Mountain	Total	34	16,628.49	7	6,503.50	10	70,256.98	57	103,718.54
Southern Plains	Total	2	11,288.50					6	11,839.72
Southwest	Total	1	17.28					1	17.28
Western	Total	3	15,838.33					5	16,658.03
Totals		**60**	**1,234,289.92**	**10**	**10,304.39**	**12**	**70,432.00**	178	2,130,019.28

Lockbox Handbook

DRES spent months drafting a first-of-its-kind lockbox handbook, collaborating with BTFA to outline processes that have never before been documented in handbook form. The draft Handbook was reviewed by RACA on August 21, 2026. DRES answered questions posed by RACA and the handbook is currently pending edits requested by BTFA.

Lockbox Training

- DRES, in coordination with the Suspense Deposit Team, held Suspense Deposit System (SDS) Processing training on January 21, 2026, for BIA staff on non-trust funds and the SDS.
- DRES, in coordination with the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) Accounts Receivable, held Collection Officer training on January 6, 2026, on collections received on site and submission to the TAAMS Trust Lockbox.

Lockbox Change Requests

- TCMB approved a DRES change request to the Match IIM function, also known as the Match to One feature, in TAAMS. This update allows information entered in Match IIM fields to automatically transfer over to ITSQv2. Currently, BIA staff must request that BTFA update blank transactions with payment details manually in ITSQv2.
- TCMB approved a DRES change request to add Invoice due date to the Invoice query in TAAMS. This allows BIA staff to filter information by outstanding/near due dates to billed items 45 days prior to their due date.

Lockbox Dashboard

- DRES established the Void/Paid Dashboard and with the assistance of DRIS added weekly lockbox metrics. This merged dashboard will be the basis for a Lockbox Dashboard, with resources available to show BIA staff Lockbox metrics as well as other resources relating to lockbox to assist in daily processing.

Count and Totals for Outstanding Lock Box Checks by Region as of 9/9/2026

		LOCK BOX CHECKS 48 HOURS OUTSTANDING		LOCK BOX CHECKS 3-30 DAYS OUTSTANDING		LOCK BOX CHECKS 31-90 DAYS OUTSTANDING		Totals	
		#	Balance	#	Balance	#	Balance	#	Balance
Alaska	⊞Total	1	200.00	11	21,897.71			12	22,097.71
Eastern Oklahoma	⊞Total	29	79,608.58	15	2,063.89			44	81,672.47
Great Plains	⊞Total	9	109,589.39	3	1,186.42	3	3,669.54	15	114,445.35
Midwest	⊞Total			1	5,019.86			1	5,019.86
Northwest	⊞Total	21	161,244.56	13	78,274.48			34	239,519.04
Pacific	⊞Total	32	28,069.34	4	141,170.65			36	169,239.99
Rocky Mountain	⊞Total	20	395,896.57	5	6,127.28			25	402,023.85
Southern Plains	⊞Total			1	3,060.00			1	3,060.00
Western	⊞Total	1	19,434.88	18	35,326.14			19	54,761.02
Totals		**113**	**794,043.32**	**71**	**294,126.43**	**3**	**3,669.54**	187	1,091,839.29

- Outstanding Lockbox Viewer outlines categories of outstanding checks. Below shows the viewer as of 10/1/2025 vs 9/1/2026.

Referral and Regional Assistance

DRES coordinated with BTFA and BIA Regions/Agencies to resolve 17 checks where the accounting string was missing, totaling $135,930.24.

DRES reviewed 223 transactions on the Southern Plains SDS report at the region's request.

- 61 checks have been disbursed totaling $430,894.95 (Project Ongoing).

DIVISION OF RESOURCE INTEGRATION AND SERVICES



DRIS wrapped up the final quarter of 2026 with a plethora of successes from each of the three branches. Moreover, the combined branches made strides across several fronts where talents and contributions converge from each branch. Most notable, the Division of Real Estate Services (DRES) and Indian Energy Service Center (IESC), and permitting groups now have a growing repertoire of reports and dashboard links that leverage geospatial as well as tabular and graphical dashboards that have greatly expanded the visibility into key Real Estate, Energy, and Permitting functions.

Data reports and counts are extracted from TAAMS and uploaded into STAT, which enables consistent gathering, analysis, and reporting of performance metrics, some of which contribute not only to GPRA goals but also apply to remediation of GAO findings. Geospatial specialists from BOGS and GDEV branches perform mapping and land analysis activities alongside Regional Geospatial Coordinators, which greatly enables visualization of land parcels and tracts versus tabular, numeric oriented representations.

BRANCH OF RESOURCES SOLUTIONS (BRS)

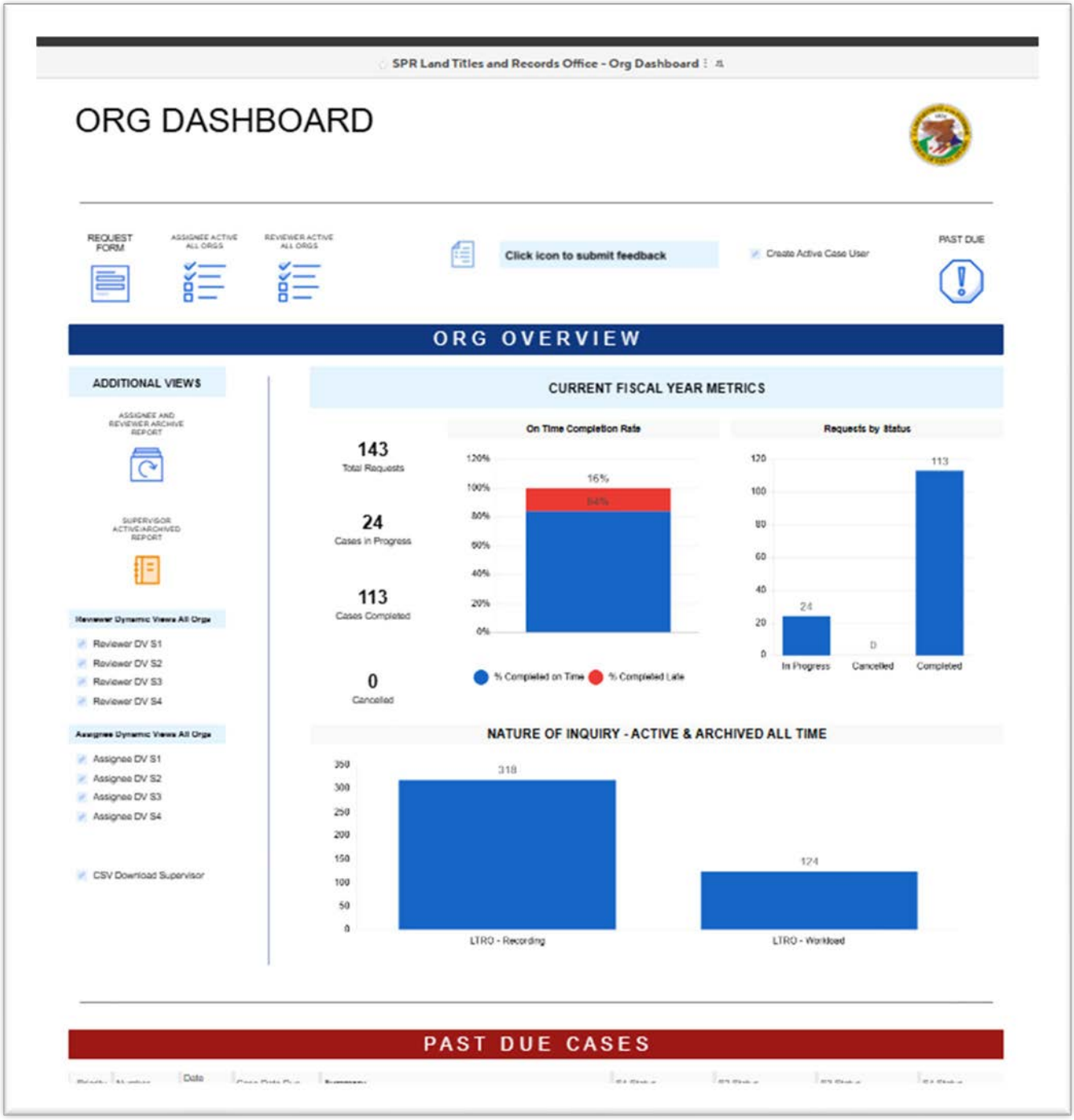
Completion of TAPS in STAT

An outstanding accomplishment by the BRS team in conjunction with the Southern Plains Acting DRD is the successful User Acceptance Testing and Pilot rollout of TAPS in STAT this past quarter, which replaces the legacy TAPS in Oracle system.

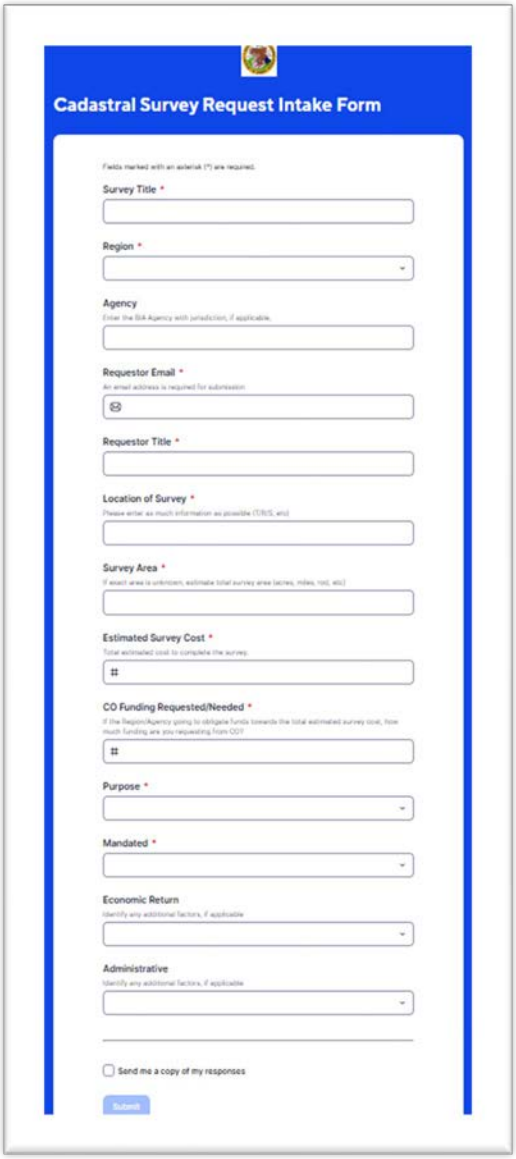
The original TAPS system was considered an essential mechanism for LTRO management and staff in field agency offices to effectively accept, track, and complete assignments as well as identify when a particular case may have stalled or gotten dropped as some workflows involve a significant degree of dependencies across organizational boundaries.

When TAPS was envisioned and built in the early years of this century, the concept of flexible workflow tracking was still very new, and the system was considered innovative. Although the BIA Director approved deployment across the entire BIA enterprise, the COVID-19 pandemic derailed plans and resulting staff/skill shortages made the platform fall behind.

The new TAPS in STAT tool is in the final pilot stage across two Regions with additional Regions and offices to follow. It overcomes shortcomings of the original TAPS and integrates with email and other Office 365 functions and features a flexible service request framework rather than hardcoded transaction pathways.



TAPS in STAT Dashboard for Southern Plains LTRO



Cadastral Survey Request Intake form in STAT

Cadastral Survey Request Intake

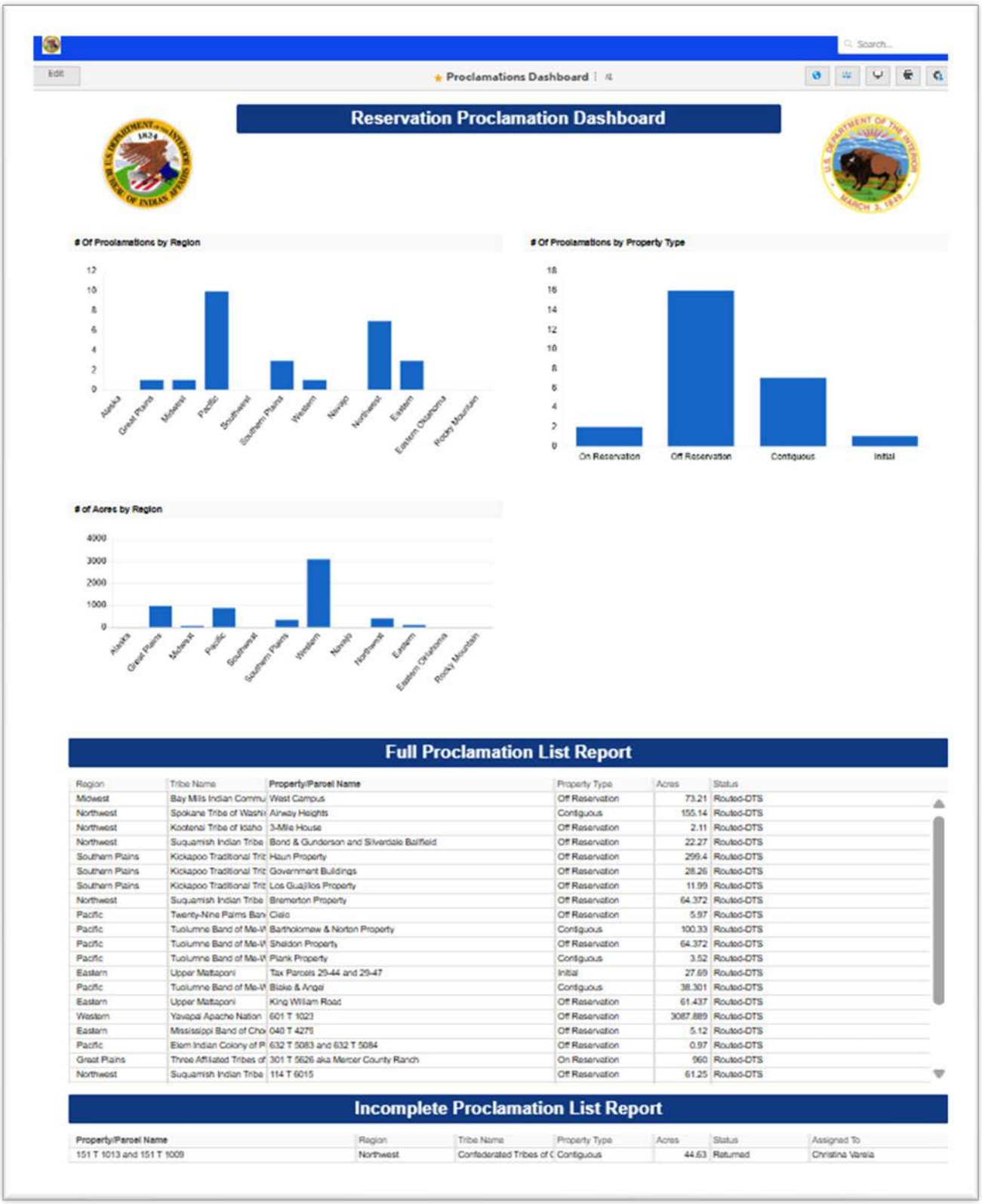
Given the current challenges of coordination of survey requests and scopes of work, reviews, cost estimating, and approvals, the Cadastral Survey Request Intake form and backend tracking sheets in STAT have been developed and deployed as a first step towards modernization from a dated, manual process that involved substantial cross-bureau dependencies. Since the process has been described as a dual mechanism between BIA and BLM, the goal is to reduce the complications of coordinating and executing survey activities. The DRES team serves as the primary creators of the tool set and has expanded their skills in STAT as evidenced by the building of a revamped intake process with minimal assistance.

Proclamation Tracker/Dashboard Project

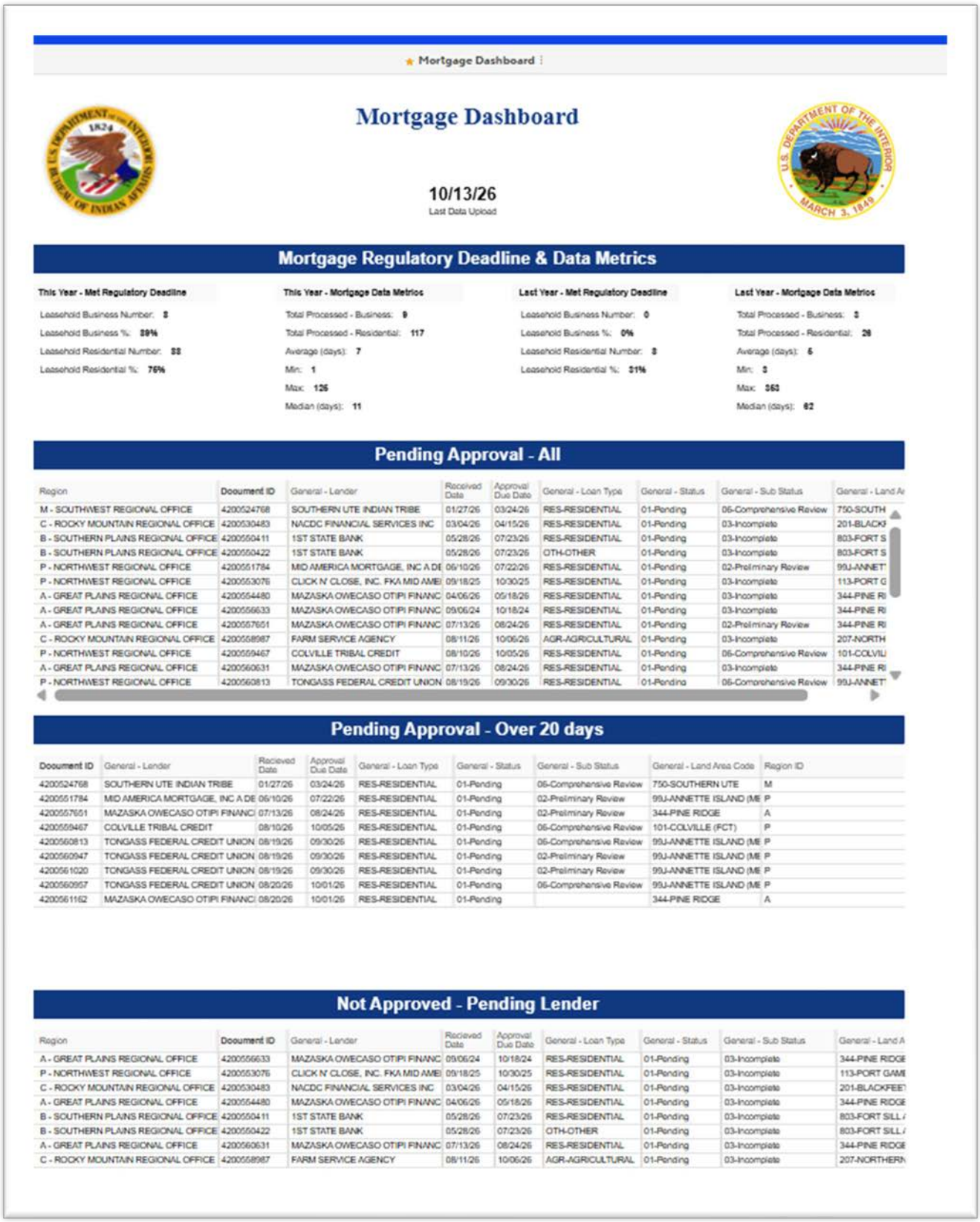
The Proclamation Tracker and Dashboard project was initiated in late July and is already considered complete in just a few months' elapsed time. The tool was primarily designed and built by DRES System Analysts with only minimal assistance from the BRS team, which is a positive testimony to the ability of business unit staff to gain enough skill to build meaningful tools in a self-sufficient manner. The DRES team has determined that virtually all of the proclamation request packages for FY2026 have been deemed complete packages able to move along in the review process without needing to be returned for additional information.

Mortgage Dashboard Project

Complementing the new TAAMS Mortgage module, development of the mortgage dashboard in STAT is underway to enhance transparency and reporting for stakeholders. The team is incorporating data exports from TAAMS into STAT, enabling automated weekly updates and robust metrics— including processing times, quarterly and annual trends, and compliance tracking under the Homeownership Act. This effort will unify a near real-time dashboard with the Mortgage Weekly Report pdf that has been manually produced, reducing effort, improving information integrity, and assisting in resolving instances when case files might fall between the cracks.



Proclamation Tracker and Dashboard in STAT



Mortgage Dashboard Metrics and Cases Highlighted Throughout the Workflow

DIVISION OF TRUST ASSET OWNERSHIP AND TITLE



Mission Statement

The Division of Trust Asset Ownership and Title (DTAOT) is committed to safeguarding trust asset ownership through the accurate maintenance of title records, the efficient administration of probate services, and the responsible stewardship of trust information to ensure the integrity, continuity, and lawful transfer of trust assets for the benefit of Indian landowners, heirs, beneficiaries, and future generations.

Upcoming TAAMS Training Opportunities

TAAMS Title Training

This two-day course provides an overview of the TAAMS Title related modules, including Conveyance, Legal and Title Tract functions. It also reviews the process Land Title and Records Offices (LTROs) use to updated title and ownership records.

Scheduled dates: November 2-3, 2026, and January 12-13, 2027

TAAMS Overview Training

This two-day course introduces the TAAMS modules and is an excellent starting point for user who are new to the system.

Scheduled dates: December 2-3, 2026

TAAMS QLIK Training

This half-day session is intended for current TAAMS users and provides an overview of extracting data from TAAMS.

Scheduled dates: November 4, 2026, and January 13, 2027.

BRANCH OF LAND TITLES AND RECORDS (LTRO)

Understanding Title Status Reports (TSRs)

What is a Title Status Report (TSR)?

A Title Status Report (TSR) is an official title document prepared by a Land Titles and Records Office (LTRO) that identifies the current ownership of trust or restricted land and documents interests, encumbrances, and other matters affecting title. LTROs maintain the official records of title and certify ownership information for trust and restricted lands.

Why is TSR important?

A TSR serves as the record of ownership for trust and restricted lands. Accurate title information is essential to protecting trust assets, maintaining the integrity of land ownership records, and supporting the federal trust responsibility. TSRs provide the verified ownership information necessary for effective trust asset management and administration.

BRANCH OF PROBATE SERVICES

Did you know?

Timely submission of death certificates and supporting documentation helps ensure probate cases are processed as efficiently as possible and supports the accuracy of trust land ownership records.

To report a death, individuals should contact the BIA agency serving the Tribe in which the decedent was enrolled. If the appropriate agency is unknown, a death may be reported to any BIA agency, which will coordinate with the agency having jurisdiction over the decedent's probate case.

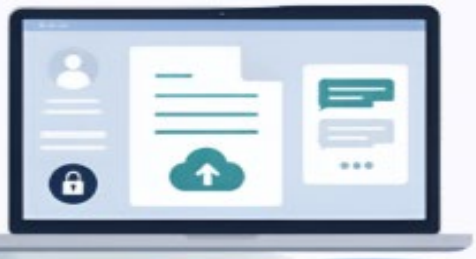
ENATIVETRUST ELECTRONIC PROBATE SYSTEM

EPS- FAMILY PORTAL FOR TRUST PROBATES

First-ever public-facing portal for Indian Country probate.

HTTPS://ENATIVETRUST.INDIANAFFAIRS.GOV

The EPS Family Portal makes probate easier, faster, and more transparent for families in Indian Country. Thank you for letting us serve you.



SECURE. PRIVATE. TRUSTED.

Your information is protected every step of the way.

1. WHAT YOU CAN DO IN THE FAMILY PORTAL

- report a death (Family or Non-Family paths)
- upload documents (death certificates, birth certificates, wills, tribal documents, and any other required document)
- provide family and heir information
- track a probate case
- communicate directly with your assigned probate specialist via secure in-portal chat

2. HOW TO ACCESS THE PORTAL

- go to the eNative - EPS Family Portal homepage
- sign in using Login.gov
- create an account, or
- continue as guest
- review and accept the Terms of Use
- begin reporting or tracking

3. REPORTING A DEATH

- Family Path (8 Steps)
  - provides opportunities to upload documents
  - provides opportunities to enter family history information
- Non-Family Path (3 Steps)
  - to quickly report a death of a family member

4. TRACKING A CASE

- in the family portal, a person has access to an informational dashboard
- an interested party can request to track a case
- the BIA probate specialist will approve or deny the tracking request

5. COMMUNICATION WITH PROBATE SPECIALISTS

- use the My Case tab to view all connected cases
- open the chat box, and
- send messages directly to the assigned probate specialist

6. WHY THE FAMILY PORTAL MATTERS

- eliminates long waits for mail-based family history forms
- ensures documents are uploaded securely and quickly
- provides transparency with real-time case progress
- helps families stay connected and reduces repeated phone calls

GET STARTED TODAY

Visit the EPS Family Portal homepage to report a death or track your case.

LOGIN.GOV

MUST HAVE A LOGIN.GOV ACCOUNT TO ACCESS EPS: HTTPS://SECURE.LOGIN.GOV/

SAFE. SECURE. BUILT FOR INDIAN COUNTRY.

HTTPS://ENATIVETRUST.INDIANAFFAIRS.GOV

Your family. Your legacy. Our commitment.

Individuals may also contact the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration's (BTFA) Trust Beneficiary Call Center by calling (888) 678-6836 or emailing tbccmail@btfa.gov.

To improve accessibility and streamline the probate process individuals can now also report a death and submit death certificates through the Electronic Probate System (EPS) Family Portal.

Electronic Probate System (EPS)

The Electronic Probate System (EPS) Family Portal, EPS Family Portal, provides family members of deceased landowners with a convenient way to participate in the probate

Through the portal, users can:

- Submit notifications of a landowner's death
- Upload supporting documents for existing probate cases, including death certificates, birth certificates, wills, tribal documents, and other required records.
- Track the status of an existing probate case.
- Communicate directly with Probate Specialists regarding case-related questions and updates.

The Family Portal offers a secure and efficient way for families to submit information, monitor case progress, and stay informed throughout the probate process.



Native Dancers in Sisseton, SD

DIVISION OF TRUST LAND CONSOLIDATION



Mission

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



The Great Plains

About the Division of Trust Land Consolidation (DTLC)

The Division of Trust Land Consolidation works with individual Indian landowners who choose to voluntarily sell their fractional land interests at fair market value. By bringing these interests back under Tribal ownership, DTLC helps address the long-standing challenge of land fractionation – where reservation lands are divided into many small ownership shares held by numerous individuals. Through these purchases from willing sellers, DTLC restores land to Tribal trust ownership, reduces fragmentation, and supports stronger, more effective land management. Fractionation affects roughly 150 reservations across Indian Country, with more than 100,000 fractionated tracts containing nearly 2.4 million ownership interests – representing the equivalent of over 5.6 million acres.

DTLC's efforts strengthen Tribal sovereignty by increasing Tribal control over reservation lands. Consolidated land allows Tribes to plan more effectively for economic development, conservation, cultural initiatives, and other community priorities. Headquartered within the BIA, Office of Trust Services, the DTLC operates out of the Rocky Mountain Region in Billings, Montana, and the Great Plains Region in Aberdeen, South Dakota. The program works closely with Tribal governments and landowners to support these essential land consolidation initiatives.

DTLC website provides key information about the history of the fractionation problem and Indian land consolidation efforts by the Federal government, as well as resources for the individual Indian landowners and Tribes. DTLC has shared the website link at every available opportunity, including during Tribal Consultation sessions.

DTLC was established within the BIA of Trust Services (OTS) when the land Buy-Back program for Tribal Nations concluded in November 2022. Under the current delegated authority 3 IAM 11, DTLC has led the Interior Department's fractional interest acquisition program in trust or restricted lands only, supported through annual appropriations rather than a mandatory land consolidation fund.

DTLC adheres to the following practices:

- Streamlined, standardized, and automated process and procedures for acquiring fractional land interest, specifically designed to minimize associated administrative costs.
- Efficient and cost-effective appraisal methods for obtaining timely fair market values on large numbers of properties.
- Close coordination and collaboration with participating Tribes.



Blue Mountain, Umatilla Indian Reservation

Who we Serve

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



Native Tribes of South Dakota

What Offer Types are available to Tribes?

- **Trust Land Consolidation**, appropriated funding to purchasing fractional land interests from willing sellers.
- **Tribally Funded Offers** uses its automated valuation and acquisition process and tribal funds for payments to willing sellers.

Pine Ridge Research Project

Realty staff continue to conduct a comprehensive review of the Land Buy Back Program offer sets for Pine Ridge. This process includes verifying that payments were accurately issued to participants who elected to convey their interests under the Program. This work spans an Offer Set to over 16,500 Indian Landowners. To date, no discrepancies or improper lease payments have been identified. Ten offer sets have been fully reviewed, and staff will advance with the examination of the remaining sets.



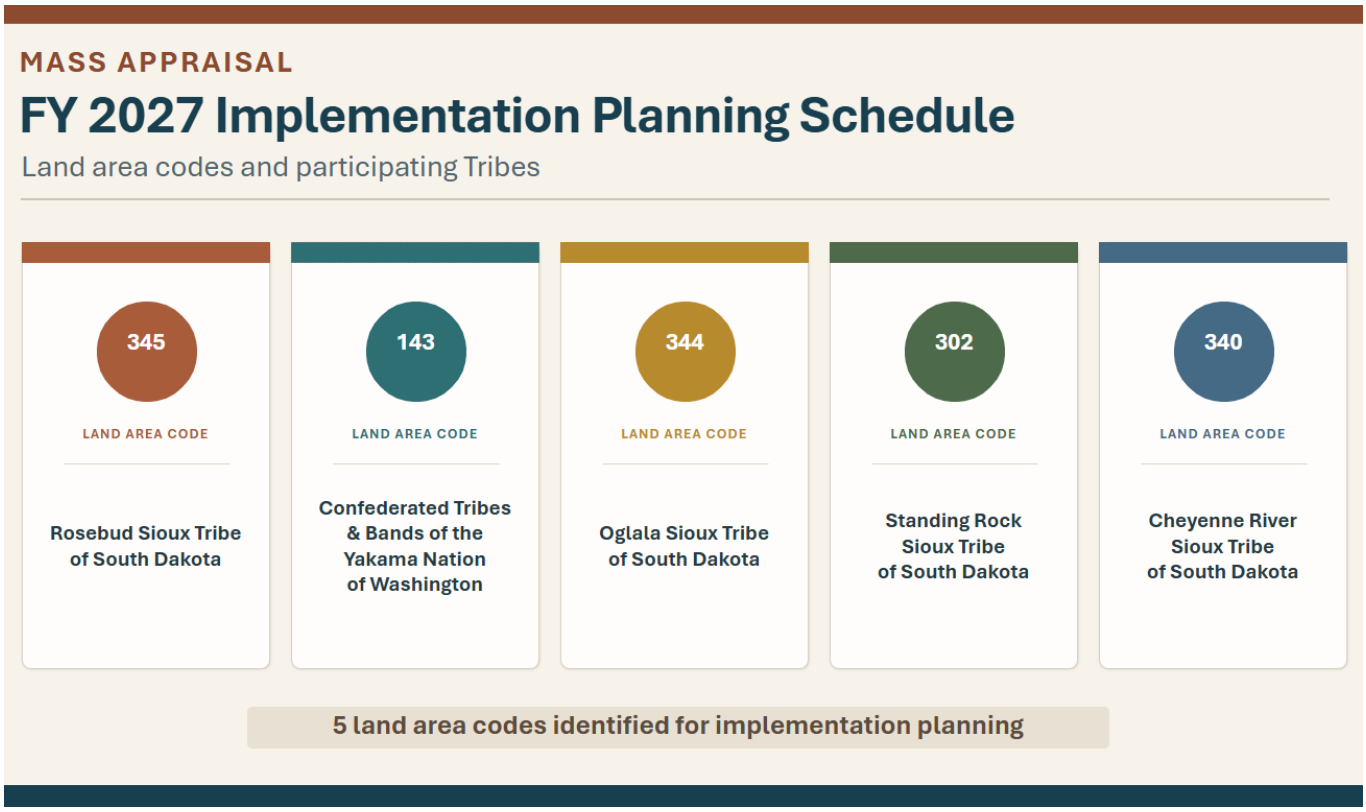
FY 2027 Mass Appraisal Implementation Schedule

The Appraisal and Valuation Services Office (AVSO) have received the tentative FY 2027 implementation schedule for land consolidation mass appraisals.

Land Area codes and participating Tribes are listed in the chart below:

Interested in Participating as a Willing Seller?

Landowners are encouraged to contact their local Bureau of Trust Funds Administrator (BTFA) or the Trust Beneficiary Call Center at 1-888-678-6836, to indicate interest and ensure their contract information is up to date.



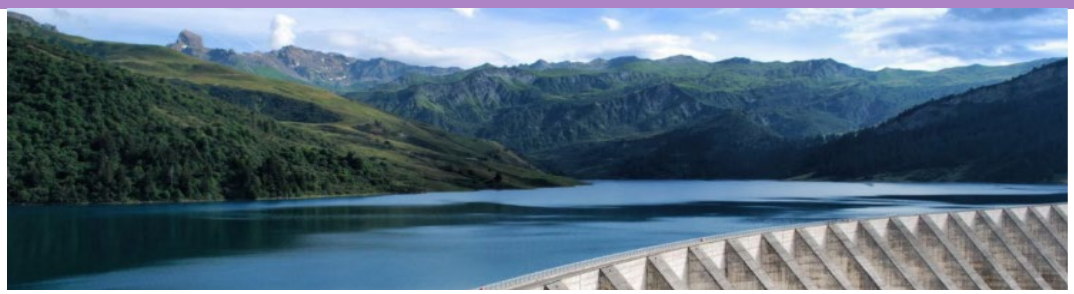
Contact Us

BILLLINGS, MONTANA
BIA, Office of Trust Service
Division of Land Consolidation
2021 4th Avenue North, Billings, MT 59101
Phone: (406) 247-7913

ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA
BIA, Office of Trust Services
Division of Land Consolidation
115 4th Ave SE, Aberdeen, SD 57401
Phone: (605) 226-7636

ONLINE
Learn more about the Division of Trust Land Consolidation
www.bia.gov/ots/dtlc

DIVISION OF WATER AND POWER



Mission

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Branch of Irrigation and Power (BIP) principally support two multi-project programs. 1) BIA Irrigation Program and 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 Regions by:

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

BRANCH OF IRRIGATION AND POWER

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-effective manner.

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

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.

- Blackfeet Irrigation Project - MT
- Colorado River Indian Irrigation Project - AZ
- Crow Irrigation Project - MT
- Duck Valley Irrigation Project – ID/NV
- Flathead Indian Irrigation Project - MT
- Fort Belknap Irrigation Project - MT
- Fort Hall Irrigation Project - ID
- Fort Peck Irrigation Project - MT
- Fort Yuma Irrigation Project – AZ/CA
- Pine River Irrigation Project - CO
- Sand Carlos Indian works
- San Carlos Irrigation Project - AZ
- Uintah Indian Irrigation Project - UT
- Walker River Irrigation Project - NV
- Wapato Irrigation Project Office - WA
- Wind River Irrigation Project - WY

National Irrigation Information Management System (NIIMS)

Supporting BIA Irrigation Operations Across Indian Country

NIIMS is a billing, collection, debt management, and rate-setting system that supports BIA Irrigation Operation & Maintenance (O&M) assessments across 16 irrigation projects in Indian Country.



HOW NIIMS WORKS

LANDOWNERS & WATER USERS
Irrigation water customers across Indian Country

NIIMS
National Irrigation Information Management System

BILLING
Generate and manage irrigation O&M assessments and bills

COLLECTIONS
Record and apply payments through multiple methods (electronic, check, money order)

DEBT MANAGEMENT
Track delinquent accounts and manage referrals to U.S. Treasury

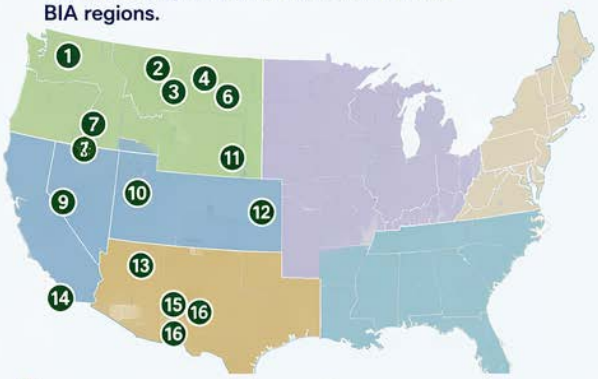
RATE SETTING
Support budget development and rate-setting to fund irrigation O&M

SUPPORTS BIA IRRIGATION OPERATION & MAINTENANCE (O&M) ASSESSMENTS
Ensuring sustainable funding for irrigation project operations

SERVING INDIAN COUNTRY

16 IRRIGATION PROJECTS ACROSS INDIAN COUNTRY

NIIMS supports billing and O&M assessments for 16 BIA irrigation projects located in five BIA regions.



1. Wapato Irrigation Project Office - WA
2. Blackfeet Irrigation Project - MT
3. Flathead Indian Irrigation Project - MT
4. Fort Belknap Irrigation Project - MT
5. Fort Peck Irrigation Project - MT
6. Crow Irrigation Project - MT
7. Fort Hall Irrigation Project - ID
8. Duck Valley Irrigation Project – ID/NV
9. Walker River Irrigation Project - NV
10. Uintah Indian Irrigation Project - UT
11. Wind River Irrigation Project - WY
12. Pine River Irrigation Project - CO
13. Colorado River Indian Irrigation Project - AZ
14. Fort Yuma Irrigation Project – AZ/CA
15. San Carlos Indian works - AZ
16. San Carlos Irrigation Project - AZ

Northwest Region · Southwest Region · Western Region · Midwest Region · Eastern Region

SUPPORTING TRIBAL COMMUNITIES AND AGRICULTURE

Reliable revenue collection and financial management help ensure water is delivered and infrastructure is maintained—supporting agriculture, food security, and Tribal economic development.

OUR IMPACT

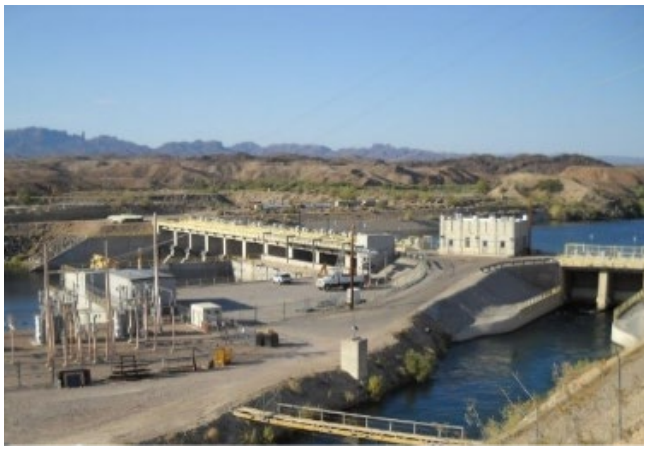
NIIMS provides the primary revenue source for the operation and maintenance of BIA irrigation projects—delivering water, strengthening infrastructure, and supporting Tribal communities and the next generation.

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 for each project, including:

- Power generation facilities – facilities designed to produce electric energy from another form of energy.
- Power substation – 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 – lines 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***



Transmission breaker at Coolidge Substation, AZ



Power Generation Facility at Headgate Rock Dam, AZ/CA border



MVP Substation, MT



2026 National Irrigation Meeting, ITRC, CA – Irrigation Project Presentation

Irrigation System Operator Training

BIA, Branch of Irrigation and Power hosted the Irrigation System Operator (ISO) Training in February 2026 at California Polytechnic State University's Irrigation Training and Research Center (ITRC). This training brought BIA staff across the irrigation program together for classroom, site visits, and hands on training focused on water measurement, irrigation structures, and practical considerations for irrigation deliveries. Attendees also attended the World Ag Expo in Tulare, CA and toured Tulare Irrigation District facilities to observe irrigation practices and recent capital improvement projects administered and funded by the irrigation district.

2026 National Power Meeting

Branch of Irrigation and Power hosted the 2026 National Power Meeting in August 2026 at Mission Valley Power in Pablo, MT. The meeting brought BIA staff across the Power program, Office of the Solicitor, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, and leadership together, in person and remotely, to address program policy, direction, challenges, and key issues affecting the program. In-person attendees also visited several Mission Valley Power facilities and heard about the accomplishments of the program under the longstanding P.L. 93-638 contract.



2026 National Irrigation Meeting, ITRC, CA – Water Measurement Short Course



2026 ISO Training, ITRC, CA – Water Measurement Field Training

2026 National Irrigation Meeting

BIA, Branch of Irrigation and Power hosted the 2026 National Irrigation Meeting in February 2026 at California Polytechnic State University's Irrigation Training and Research Center (ITRC).

The meeting brought BIA staff across the Irrigation Program together, in person and remotely, to address program policy, accomplishments, challenges and key issues affecting the program. In-person attendees also received a tour of ITRC's facilities and a short-course in water measurement.



2026 ISO Training, ITRC, CA – Water Measurement Classroom Training



2026 National Power Meeting at Mission Valley Power, Pablo, MT



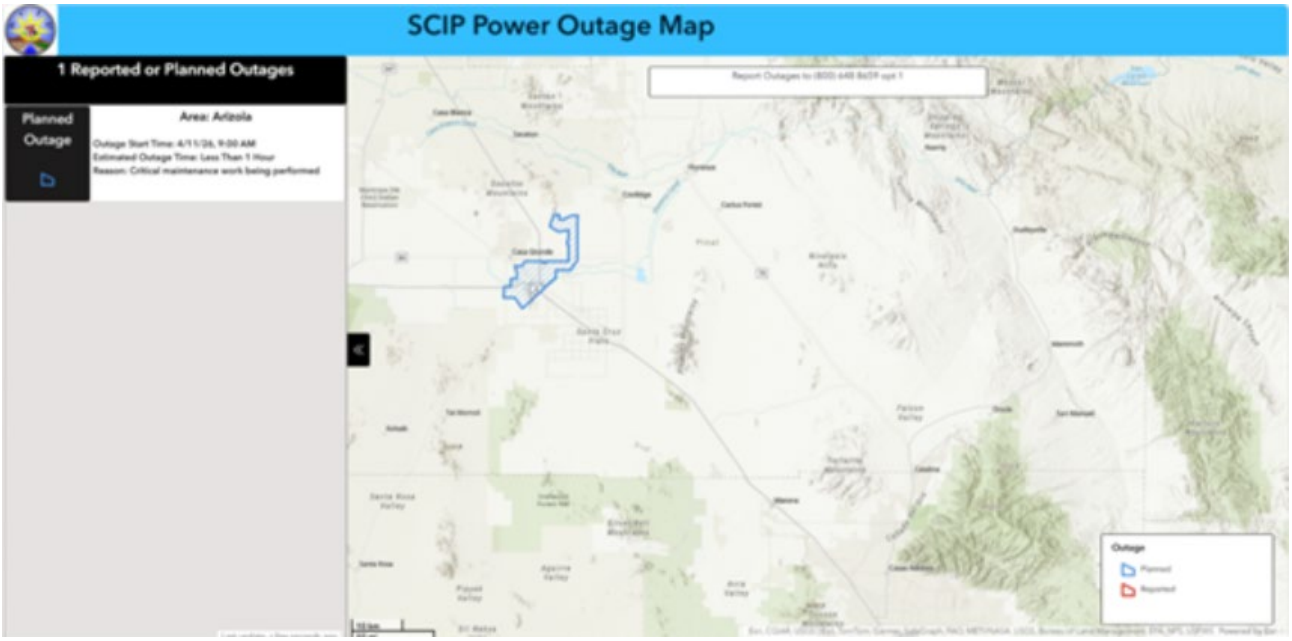
2026 National Power Meeting at Mission Valley Power, Pablo, MT – Field visit



2026 National Power Meeting at Mission Valley Power, Pablo, MT – Field visit

Public Power Outage Map Live for San Carlos

The BIP GIS team has been working with the Western Region and San Carlos Irrigation and Project (SCIP) on providing improved visibility and communication to SCIP power customers in central Arizona. This spring the SCIP Power Outage Map was made publicly available, with a link added on SCIP's BIA public-facing website San Carlos Irrigation Project | Indian Affairs. The map provides the ability to communicate planned and unplanned outages to SCIP power customers in real time. Future enhancements are being considered to improve outage detection and customer reporting options. This outage map is a follow up to the Colorado River Agency-Electrical Services Outage Map released this past Winter.



SCIP Power Outage Map – (Simulated outage for display purposes).

Wapato Irrigation Project - Drop 1 Pumping Plant Water Screens (Safety Upgrade)



Construction Team of the Drop 1 Facility

National Irrigation Information Management System (NIIMS)

BIP staff completed a major NIIMS data quality initiative to ensure accurate taxpayer identification numbers (TIN) for irrigation O&M billing and compliance. The effort entailed a review of more than 43,000 customer accounts to detect and correct invalid TIN formats, incomplete entries, and numbering anomalies. In parallel, social security numbers and employer identification numbers were standardized to meet U.S. Treasury and 25 CFR 171 requirements, advancing NIIMS' readiness for US Department of the Treasury referral processes.

Recognizing resource constraints in irrigation project field offices, the initiative also delivered 813 "Request for Customer Information" letters to customers with missing TINs. Alongside cross system validation, corrections to invalid begin and end dates across leases, accounts, and land records were completed, and training materials were developed to standardize customer/account creation. Collectively, these actions improve system reliability, reduce billing errors, and ensure consistent application of federal data rules across NIIMS.

In conjunction with the on-going Drop 1 Pumping Plant Rehabilitation analysis, BIP prioritized and recently completed a safety enhancement project to address manual debris screening activities. For many past irrigation seasons, Project personnel continually hand raked vegetative debris from stationary screens twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days a week, to prevent debris damage to the pumping plant hydro turbines.

Commencing in the fall of 2025 and finishing in 2026, BIP engineers assisted the Project and Northwest Region with construction management. RJS Construction, Inc. served as the general contractor based out of Yakima, WA and Jacobs (Architect/Engineer - designer or record) provided construction support services. The project was funded with A1128 program dollars.

This safety upgrade included installing automated mechanical debris screening to eliminate unsafe conditions of hand raking manual labor. This efficiency upgrade now allows Project personnel to focus on other operations and maintenance duties and provides continuous protection of the Drop 1 pumping plant facility.

Six (6) new automated mechanical water screens, weighing approximately six (6) tons each, were installed at the forebay of the Drop 1 Pumping Plant. The screens are powered by electricity and include a programmable logic controller for a wide range of operating conditions.



Before and after images of the Drop 1 Facility with the addition of new automated debris screening



The screens also include an automated spray-wash system to prevent debris clogging the new screens, followed by a debris conveyor and collection area. Site lighting upgrades, new fencing, additional safety signing, and a warning buoy floatation system were also installed as part of this project. Prior to completion, performance testing, personnel training, and Operations and Maintenance manuals were required as final deliverables.



New automated debris screens in action



Safety buoy system at the Drop 1 Facility.

Wapato Diversion Dam Rehabilitation Project – General Physical Modeling



West Diversion in 1:26 Scale



West Diversion Dam December 2025

Key Messages

- Rehabilitation of the diversion dam and headgate system is critical to improve safety, ensure irrigation water delivery, and enhance fish passage through the river system.
- Physical modeling will be crucial in deciding which rehabilitation alternative to pursue. This can change project costs by hundreds of millions of dollars.
- Physical modeling of the system is key to understanding the hydraulics of the river and diversion. Dam and gate design elements can be tested before the first shovel full of dirt is moved, thus reducing BIA and YN future risk.

Background

The Wapato Diversion Dam located on the Yakima River has been the primary source of water for the Wapato Irrigation Project's 125,000 acres of high value crops since 1913. Over its lifetime, the diversion dam and appurtenant structures have been modified to facilitate irrigation diversion and fish passage.

These improvements addressed some issues, but the project is currently facing significant safety, fish passage, and water diversion challenges.

The Wapato Diversion Dam Rehabilitation Project is an effort by the BIA, YN, BOR, and other state and federal stakeholders to address the documented safety, diversion and fish passage issues. The complexity of the engineering effort required the team to procure the services of specialized A/E engineering firms. For the past four years, the engineering team has been developing multiple dam rehabilitation alternatives that meet complex and sometimes conflicting project requirements.

Two rehabilitation alternatives have been advanced out of the preliminary feasibility and value engineering effort. Due to the difference in configuration, degree of complexity, and high implementation cost of the rehabilitation alternatives the team concluded additional hydraulic evaluation methods needed to be employed.



Headgate Section Model with Live Fish



General Physical Model Witness Test

In 2026, the project team worked through the sectional modeling of existing and proposed headgate system. This modeling, which employed both live and sensor fish, provided important insight into how diversion rates and river stages affected the survival of fish passing through the gate system.

The findings are currently being used to assess and develop alternative gate systems that reduces adverse hydraulics which contribute to fish mortality.

The project team has also been working to develop a large-scale physical model of the river system adjacent to the Wapato Diversion Dam. The focus of this model is to observe and measure various hydraulic parameters across multiple low water and flood scenarios. The exiting conditions and the two proposed rehabilitation alternatives will be built into the model so hydrologic, hydraulic, sedimentation, and operational comparisons can be developed.

In July 2026, the first of the general physical model scenarios was run. The existing conditions model, the one that represents the current infrastructure, was installed and multiple low water and flood scenarios run.

Sediments of various sizes and density were introduced so accumulation patterns could be observed. Dowls and other analogous objects were introduced to simulate the large woody debris common to the Yakima River system. All these variables were integrated so the project team could verify that the model performed in the same way as the actual river and diversion dam system.

Initial results from the model were very accurate. Woody debris developed into matted structures commonly seen during flood events. Sediment accumulated in the model in the same locations that the project operators struggle to keep clear. Modeled flood flows activated side channels at rates commensurate with those seen in the December 2025 flood.

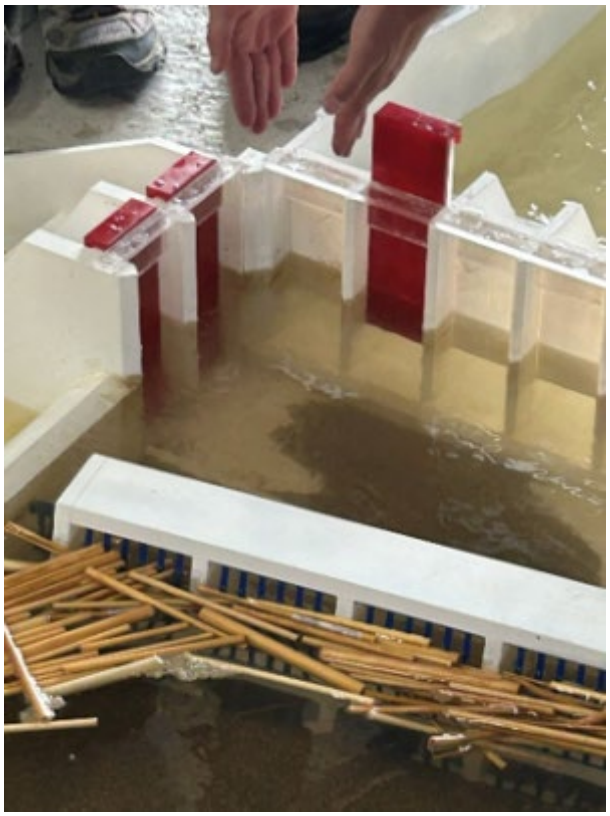


Wood Debris Accumulation

There were also many observations that were unexpected. One of particular note was how the tip of the existing island causes an upstream flow divergence and scour vs. deposition along the right bank of the island. This finding will be very important as the A/E contractor develops the design for the fishway Alternative 1.

The project team will continue working on physical modeling of the system throughout 2027. The next step is to begin building the model for Alternative 1 and developing the preliminary design for Alternative 2.

The date collected from each of the alternative model runs will be crucial in determining which alternative best fits the needs of the BIA and Yakama Nation.



Trash Rack and Headgate



Model Observation at Large Flood Simulation