



Trust Land Resources • Resource Stewardship • Results that Matter

DEPUTY DIRECTOR MESSAGE

Greetings,

Our organization has undergone restructuring and expansion this calendar year to focus on high priority trust initiatives and the recruitment of new talent. Page 2 highlights these restructuring efforts. Our FY 2022 focus on collaboration to meet our organizations goals and multiple Tribal Consultation sessions fueled this redesign. We listened to and implemented changes to better respond to what our customers want.

This summer, in addition to serving as Acting Deputy Director-Trust Services I was selected for the new leadership role over the Directorate of Environmental and Natural Resources. This Senior Executive Service position is tasked with advancing the mission of the following Trust Service programs: Forestry, Wildland Fire, Natural Resources, Environmental Services & Cultural Resources Management. I will continue to perform both roles going forward.

A big focus for the remainder of FY 2023 will be on closing out BIL funded projects and planning for FY 2024. Thank you to all the Trust Staff. I am proud of what we were able to accomplish together.

Trina Locke
Acting Deputy Director

CONTACT INFORMATION

BIA, Office of Trust Services
1849 C Street, NW, MS-4620-MIB
Washington, DC 20240
Office: (202) 208-3615, Email: OTS@bia.gov
Website: <https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots>

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Trust Services Overview</i>	2
<i>Job Openings & Staff Changes</i>	3
<i>News You Can Use</i>	4-5
<i>Environmental Services & Cultural Resources Management</i>	6-8
<i>Forestry</i>	9-11
<i>Indian Energy Service Center</i>	12-14
<i>Land Titles & Records</i>	15
<i>Program Management & Coordination</i>	16-18
<i>Real Estate Services</i>	19-21
<i>Resource Integration & Services</i>	22
<i>Trust Land Consolidation</i>	23
<i>Water & Power</i>	25-34
<i>Wildland Fire Management</i>	35-40
<i>Workforce & Youth Development</i>	41
<i>Recognition of Length of Service</i>	42



Hopi Proverb
“One finger cannot lift a pebble.”

Trust Services Overview

FY 2023 Restructuring of Trust Services Divisions

The Deputy Bureau Director-Trust Services has traditionally exercised direct supervisory authority for all Trust Divisions (Divisions are underlined below). In FY2023, a decision was made to establish a Directorate of Environmental & Natural Resources (SES position) and a Special Assistant/Program Manager to divide up oversight. The new SES position, under the leadership of Trina Locke will oversee Forestry, Wildland Fire, Natural Resources, and Environmental & Cultural Resource Management. A Special Assistant or Program Manager will also be hired to manage administrative functions. This restructuring is expected to deliver excellent results for our stakeholders, partners, and tribes we serve.

Johnna Blackhair **Deputy Bureau Director-Trust Services**

Division of Energy and Minerals Development

- Renewable & Distributed Energy
- Fluid Minerals
- Solid Minerals
- Geotechnical Data Services
- National Indian Oil & Gas, Energy and Minerals System (NIOGEMS)
- Business Services

Division of Real Estate Services

- Realty Resource Services
- Realty Operations
- Realty Strike Team

Division of Trust Asset Ownership & Title

- Land Titles & Records
- Probate Services

Division of Trust Land Consolidation

- Analysis & Administration
- Acquisitions (Conveyance Management)
- Acquisitions (Data Quality & Integrity)

Division of Water & Power

- Safety of Dams
- Irrigation & Power
- Water Resources

Indian Energy Service Center

- Real Estate Services Support Team
- Real Estate Services Response Team
- Energy Service Center Strike Team

Trina Locke **Directorate of Environmental & Natural Resources**

Division of Environmental Services & Cultural Resources Management

- Cultural Resource management
- Environmental Management
- Tribal Climate Resilience

Division of Forestry

- Forest Management
- Forest Resource Planning
- Timber Strike Team

Division of Natural Resources

- Agriculture & Range
- Fish, Wildlife & Recreation

Division of Wildland Fire Management

- Fire Use & Fuels
- Aviation & Safety
- Planning
- Fire Operations
- Budget

Vacant **Program Manager - Special Assistant**

Division of Program Management & Coordination

Division of Resource Integration & Services

- Resource Solutions
- GeoData Examination & Validation
- Geospatial Support

Division of Workforce & Youth Development

- Workforce Planning & Development
- Young Indian Service Corps
- Pathways

JOB OPENINGS AND STAFFING CHANGES

Job Vacancies

Program	Closed	Position Title / Grade	Location
Water & Power	07-12-2023	Supy Civil Engineer, GS-0810-15	Remote/Lakewood, CO



Welcome New Employees in 2023

Program	Name	Title	Location
Wildland Fire Management	Cameron Paulk	Deputy BAER Coordinator	Billings, MT
Wildland Fire Management	Tyler Bureson	WUI/Fire Prevention Spec.	Miami, OK
Real Estate Services	Clement Cummins	Program Analyst	Crow Agency, MT
Trust Land Consolidation	Tonya Almaraz	Tribal Relations Advisor	Remote
Forestry	Albert Cayson	Forester (Timber Team)	Billings, MT
Forestry	Aree Bray	Forester (Timber Team)	Billings, MT
Forestry	Jesse Wooten	Forester	Durham, NC
Environmental Resources	John Mosley	Supy Natural Resource Spec.	Remote
Environmental Resources	Stephen Haskie	Staff Assistant	Albuquerque, NM
Environmental Resources	Rechanda Lee	Staff Curator (Museum)	Albuquerque, NM
Environmental Resources	Myles Lytle	Environ. Protection Specialist	Gallup, NM
Tribal Climate Resilience	Jennifer Robinette	TRC Coordinator	Remote
Tribal Climate Resilience	Elisha Flores	TRC Coordinator	Remote
Water & Power	Harold Peterson	FERC Coordinator	Remote
Water & Power	Kevin Smith	Civil Engineering	Remote

Best Wishes to Employees Departing Trust Services in 2023

Program	Name	Title	State	Reason
Wildland Fire Mgmt.	Michelle Moore	Medical Standards Spec.	Idaho	Retirement
Deputy Director	Rene Joseph	Administrative Specialist	DC	Transfer
Geospatial Services	Kristen Hatzfeld	GIS Specialist	Colorado	Personal
Real Estate Services	Jana Waters	Realty Specialist	Montana	Transfer
Energy & Minerals	Carol Leader Charge	Administrative Officer	Colorado	Personal

News You Can Use



BIA Trust Quarterly Newsletter

The Trust Quarterly Newsletter is produced collaboratively by the Trust Services Divisions under the direction of the Deputy Director-Trust Services. Your input and photos are appreciated. To find out more or to submit your ideas and suggestions for future issues, please email Dawn.selwyn@bia.gov or BIATrustQuarterly@bia.gov.



Please submit content for the October issue by September 18, 2023

Newsletters are available for viewing on BIA web site at <https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots>



Self-Service Updates to your Indian Affairs Online Profile

Check out <https://myaccount.fws.gov/> where you may update your Indian Affairs online profile (name, title, supervisor, address, phone, fax) and look up employees, and view or edit email groups. Supervisors may claim employee's they supervise. System updates may take up to two hours before visible in the system.

OTS Divisions Plan for the FY 2023 Year End Report

Content for the OTS Annual Accomplishment Report is due September 15, 2023. This will cover the activity period of October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023.

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

FY 2022 OTS Accomplishment Report

Trust Land Services • Resource Stewardship • Results that Matter

OCTOBER 2022

The FY 2022 Accomplishments Report will be posted on the Office of Trust Services website at <https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots>.

Recently Approved

2023 Tribal Consultation Sessions

The Office of Trust Services participates in DOI consultations with Tribal Nations to honor our nation-to-nation relationship, hear directly from Tribal leaders and DOI is committed to a process that addresses Tribal needs and ensures we respect and take input to heart.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Consultation on the Safeguard Tribal Object of Patrimony (STOP) Act Draft Regulations

Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 3 p.m. EST

Friday, August 18, 2023, at 8 a.m. MST

The STOP Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-258) aims to prevent the international export of cultural items prohibited from trafficking under the [Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act](#) (NAGPRA) and the Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA). Tribal input to be sought on the development of draft regulations for this Act. Five consultation sessions are planned and will be closed to the press and the public to protect confidential tribal information.

Consultation on Tribal Treaty Rights

Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 1 p.m. EST

The [White House Council on Native American Affairs](#) (WHCNAA) seeks Tribal leader guidance and recommendations on further efforts the Federal government could take to protect Tribal treaty rights, reserved rights, and similar rights.

A Climate Change, Tribal Homelands, and Treaties Committee within the WHCNA is comprised of a dozen federal departments and agencies. This Tribal Leader consultation is to seek guidance on framing questions for recommendations on Tribal treaty, reserved, and other similar rights from these 5 suggestions questions.

- What actions would you like to see the Administration take to improve the treatment of treaty, reserved, and other similar rights in federal agency decision making?
- Actions to further improve federal engagement with tribes?
- Specific federal reforms that could promote further respect and protection?
- Actions to further promote the federal protections of Sacred Sites, Indigenous Knowledge in federal agency decision-making, and co-stewardship with Tribes on federal lands
- Information on the Tribes idea of bolder executive action on the protection of rights in federal agency decision making. (What rights to include in such an action?)

NEWSLETTER DISCLAIMER

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Trust Services, strives to make the information within this newsletter as timely and accurate as possible; however, makes no claims, promises, or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the content, and expressly disclaims liability for errors or omissions in the content of the newsletter.

Reference in this newsletter to any specific commercial product, process, or service, or the use of any trade firm or corporation is for the information and convenience of the public, and does not constitute endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the Department of the Interior.

Division of Environmental Services & Cultural Resources Management (DESCRM)



BRANCH OF TRIBAL CLIMATE RESILIENCE

DESCRM Welcomes a New Employee

John Mosley (pictured below) is the new Branch Chief for Tribal Climate Resilience and started April 2023. He is an enrolled member of the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe of Nevada and also has tribal affiliation with the Oglala Sioux Tribe, Mono Lake Paiute, Walker River Paiute, and Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes.



John Mosley
Branch Chief
Tribal Climate Resilience

He joins the Tribal Climate Resilience team from the Pacific Region where he has served as the Regional Geospatial Coordinator since 2014. John brings a wealth of tribal climate resilience experience to this Branch leadership position and has served as TCR's partner and contact in the Pacific Region for the last seven years. John's expertise with tribal climate resilience, BIA tribal funding awards, together with his approach to building strong teams and supporting staff will bring tremendous value to TCR.

Climate and Drought Workshops for Tribal Nations

May 24 El Reno, Oklahoma
May 25 Bixby, Oklahoma

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's, [Southern Plains Climate Hub](#) (Hub) and BIA came together to host two workshops for Tribal Nations. The objective of the meetings was to provide information to Tribal members and their governments on how climate is increasing drought frequency and the need for drought preparedness. Sessions were interactive allowing for intertribal discussion and networking.

The structure of each workshop was based on input from the Tribal nations' themselves. Workshops offered participants the opportunity to network and share ideas with other agencies and tribes. Participant feedback indicates the sessions were a great success.



Representative from 15 Oklahoma Tribes participated in the Climate and Drought Workshops

Agenda for May 24th Workshop

A diverse lineup of speakers presented on the following topics:

- Writing climate adaptation plans related to a drought plan
- Vulnerability assessments presented by April Taylor, [South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center](#) (SC-CASC)
- Strategies for grazing livestock during droughts by Dr. Laura Goodman, Oklahoma State University (OSU)
- Harvesting rainwater by Jacob Shaffer, [USDA Climate Hub](#)
- Soil health and its ability to combat a changing climate
- Overview of government programs available to Tribal nations



Workshop held at the Darlington Agriculture Campus of the Redlands Community College in El Reno, Oklahoma

Rain barrels were provided to a few lucky participants to take home and use as part of their own personal drought mitigation plan at the conclusion of the workshops.



Photo from the [Euchee Butterfly Farm](#) and site of Bixby, Oklahoma workshop

Agenda for May 25th Workshop

This workshop was held at the Euchee Butterfly Farm, [Tribal Alliance for Pollinators](#) in Bixby, Oklahoma. Presentations included topics from May 24 and the following:

- U.S. [Drought Monitoring Tools](#) by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Work by Tribal Governments on Water Planning in southeastern Oklahoma

Kansas Workshop in Planning Stages

Additional meetings are being planned later in the year in Kansas including a Tribe hosting training on the US Department of Agriculture's, [Tribal Soil Climate Analysis Network](#) (TSCAN).

"We are very happy with the results of the first outreach workshop. We hope this is the start...and we can find more ways to help distribute scientific and practical information on climate issues to Tribal Governments and Tribal members."

Sheena Schemm
Regional Tribal Climate
Resilience Specialist

MUSEUM PROGRAM



Super Pueblo #1 by Fritz Scholder, 1968, 73" H x 83" W oil on canvas on loan to Smithsonian from the BIA Museum Collection

Smithsonian Returns Artwork to BIA

BIA had a loan returned to our collection from the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. Fritz's "Super Pueblo" was on display at the Smithsonian and is now back at the U.S DOI, Main Interior Building Headquarters.

BIA Museum Exhibit available Online

Click here to view more art by [Fritz Scholder](#) (1937-2005). Staff Curator: Shannon Stiles. Museum Program Manager: Annie Pardo. Hosted by Google Arts & Culture.

Fritz was an enrolled Luiseño tribal member, and his artwork has been heralded as among some of the finest in Native American art. His diverse body of work draws inspiration from the abstract expressionism, surrealism, and pop art movements, and the inclusion of Indian themes.

Featured works include *Slate #2* (1964), *Butterfly #10* (1967), *Butterfly #30* (1967), *Indian with a Blanket* (1967), *Three Navajos and a Dog* (1968), *Super Pueblo #1* (1968), *Indian with Rattle* (1969), and *Indian with Puppy* (c. 1970).

Gift Giving

The BIA Museum Program seeks to continue to honor the spirit in which Tribal gifts were given and those who gave these gifts to Bureau of Indian Affairs employees. BIA Museum staff catalogue, manage, and display these permanent museum collection items throughout our facilities nationwide to educate staff and visitor about Native American and Alaska Native cultures.



Gift given to Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn, March 16, 2015, during the Tanana Chiefs Conference 2015 Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska



Gift given to Assistant Secretary-Kevin Washburn from the Chairman of the Spokane Tribe, December 2012



Gift given to Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Ada Deer, January 1993 Fritz Scholder, 1968, 73" H x 83" W oil on canvas on loan to Smithsonian from BIA Collection



Forester implementing a project and Silviculturist Field Visit with Interdisciplinary Team

SILVICULTURAL SYSTEMS

Article 1: Forester and Silviculturist – What's the difference?

Article contributed by Tom Lowell, Branch of Forest Inventory & Planning (FIP)

Using correct nomenclature is important in Forestry. From time to time the question of "What is the difference between a Forester and Silviculturist?" comes up. Internet searches produce unsatisfying results as to the difference. Investigation of Forestry and Silvicultural textbooks do not provide a full explanation either. Not even Helm's "The Dictionary of Forestry" helps much in answering this question. Helms has a very short definition for "Forester" but none for "Silviculturist". So...what's the difference?

There is some consensus that Silviculturists are a subset of Foresters. It is akin to saying that "All Jungles are Forests, but not all Forests are Jungles." Jungles are a subset of Forests. Likewise, Silviculturists are a subset of Foresters. But what is the difference in what Foresters and Silviculturists "do"? There seems to be some degree of consensus in professional forestry circles as to what the difference is between the two critical Forestry positions.

Foresters usually begin their careers fresh out of college. Foresters are the project implementors. They are "hands-on" in all aspects in implementing a project plan; from reconnaissance to ground truth the plan through pre-sale and administration and then on to reforestation and future forest development work.

Silviculturists are drawn from the ranks of journey-level Foresters. This is important as they use their Forester experience to help guide Interdisciplinary Teams during a project's effects analysis, that is required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), so that the preferred decision results in a project plan that: 1) meets the management goals of a forest plan and 2) is a feasible project plan that can be successfully implemented.

Position Qualifications

Currently, to qualify as a Forester in the Bureau of Indian Affairs you need a degree in Forestry. To qualify as a Silviculturist in the BIA you need a degree in Forestry and are encouraged to attend the [National Advanced Silviculture Program](#) (NASP).

Indian Affairs Manual Update

Currently [53 IAM Chapter 9 – Silviculture](#) is being re-written. It is anticipated that definitions for both Forester and Silviculturist as well as requirements for both will be developed. Stay tuned for that.

Future Article

In the next offering from "Silvicultural Systems" we will be discussing the differences between even-aged and uneven-aged silvicultural systems.



Damage to a tree caused by an Emerald Ash Borer

FOREST HEALTH

BIA Partners with the US Forest Service on Forest Health

The U.S. Forest Service (FS) and Bureau of Indian Affairs Department of Forestry (DOF) team up each year to combat forest health issues throughout Indian Country. The FS accepts annual proposals for projects and relies on BIA to rank each proposal prior to award determinations.

Although the FS and BIA lands do not have the same boundaries it is important that we work together to address the potential introduction of foreign organisms and/or disease that could affect either federal landowner. When tribes or BIA agencies detect issues, they reach out to adjacent FS personnel to obtain a formal entomologist report. There are numerous tribes and agencies that have a relatively small land base and hiring of an entomologist is not feasible. The best practice is to consult the FS to determine the infestation or outbreak type and severity.

There are a few tribes that have had a large variety of diseases and/or insect infestations so they have written their own forest health plan and developed staff to write effective treatment plans.

Menominee Forest Health Program

The Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin is one of the tribes that has hired and trained individuals to author their own forest health plan and implement necessary projects.

Currently, the Tribe has a single forester and two technicians on staff. The necessity for forest health treatments exceeds their ability to hire enough employees. Fortunately, the FS has continued to fund tribal salaries when projects are selected.

Treatment Required

There are numerous insects, fungi and other invasive species that compete with native vegetation on Menominee tribal lands. The following list is a non-exclusive list of fungi, diseases and insects that require treatment to minimize effects on native plant species and culturally sensitive species:

- Black locust
- Garlic mustard
- Honeysuckle
- Norway maple
- Siberian elm
- Buckthorn
- Japanese barberry
- Burning bush
- Oak wilt
- Heterobasidion Root Disease (HRD), commonly referred to as root rot
- Beech bark disease
- Emerald ash borer

Many of these infestations are not contained by property boundaries so it makes sense to take a landscape approach to treatment and include additional resources.



Funding for Invasive Species Treatment

Because most national forests are Forest Service lands, Congress appropriates funds to the FS accounts for distribution. Several factors determine which projects are funded. A major factor is the likelihood of the invasive species moving to adjacent lands. For example, if an invasive insect is treated on FS lands how likely are they to move to adjacent properties and vice versa?

Emerald Ash Borer impact on Ash Trees

The emerald ash borer was first discovered in the United States in the early 2000's. Since then, the borers have killed over 100 million ash trees. This has been a devastating course, and this affects federal, state, tribal and private property.

How does the Emerald Ash Borer Affect Trees?

The larval stage is the most detrimental to the well-being of the Ash tree. Larvae feed on the inner bark of the ash tree and cause a disruption of the tree's ability to efficiently transport water and nutrients. After several years, the tree effectively starves. Mortality of untreated ash trees is nearly 100%.



Fallen Ash trees destroyed by the Emerald Ash Borer

Ash Trees Importance to Tribes

There are a few tribes in the northeast who have felt this particularly hard because ash is a culturally important species. The natives have used ash to make baskets for thousands of years. Of the ash available, it is hard to find wood suitable for weaving baskets. Only one in one hundred trees has suitable material.



Native Ash baskets, Citizen Potawatomi Nation

The devastation of untreated ash trees is felt more by tribes and their members because they utilize forest products for culturally significant items and/or ceremonies. Forest health issues are an increasingly important problem as more foreign plants, animals, insects, fungi, and pathogens are introduced to the United States with little or no natural defense mechanisms to provide the proper balance.

The forest health problems are here to stay until we find solutions that are scientifically and socially acceptable. BIA, the US Forest Service and Tribes continue to make a joint effort to fight current forest health issues and identify new issues as they arise.



Abandoned oil well

IESC Welcomes New Talent

Julia M. (Julie) Moss holds an M.A. degree from Antioch University and holds a certification as a CDBG Administrator through the State of Oklahoma Department of Commerce. She is a member of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians of Oklahoma.



Julia M. (Julie) Moss
Grants Management Specialist

She most recently was a Grants Evaluation Specialist with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Southern Plains Office of Native American Programs in the Oklahoma City Field Office. She has 30+ years of experience as a grant writer and Tribal planner for several Indian tribes specializing in construction and infrastructure projects. She formerly served as the Federal Grants Specialist for Neighbors Building Neighborhoods, Inc., in Muskogee, OK; as the Tribal planner and Grant Writer for the Muskogee (Creek) Nation - including serving as Chair of their Master Plan Committee and P.I. for their Green Team.

She served as the Federal Programs Director for the United Band of Keetoowah Band of Cherokees and has taught a Grant Writing course at the Creek Tribal College for 17 years as an Adjunct Instructor. She's married with two grown children, several grandchildren and enjoys reading, and community events.

Orphan Wells Program Office (OWPO)-BIL

The OWPO and the IESC conduct weekly coordination meetings regarding the program. The first round of grants (\$50 million) will be awarded under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation to Tribes for plugging and remediation of orphaned wells on Tribal lands.

"In lieu of grant" awards are being administered by the IESC utilizing the Bureau of Land Management Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract. Additional Tribal consultation sessions are being planned with the OWPO and IESC.

Technical Assistance Available to Tribes

IESC has assisted OWPO in technical reviews of current Tribal Orphan well grant applications. Tribes who may need help with FY 2023 or future grant submissions may contact the IESC for technical assistance.

Contact Us

Email: IndianEnergyServiceCenter@bia.gov

Office: (720) 595-2000

Hours: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. MDT, Monday-Friday

Renewable Energy Accelerated Development Initiative (READI)



IESC collaborated with DEMD to develop a proactive process within the Department that supports Tribes and Individual Indian owners to significantly increase the pace of renewable energy development on Indian lands. IESC steps to accomplish this goal include:

- Initiated a professional services contract (April 2023- November 30, 2023)
- Established an executive technical work group (TWG) with first meeting on June 8, 2023, in Lakewood, CO
- August and September Tribal Outreach Sessions planned to solicit tribal input (includes 6 hybrid and 1 virtual meeting)
- A draft literature report is in the process of being finalized

The contract deliverable is a comprehensive recommendations report answering these questions.

- What are Tribes' needs from the BIA to proactively promote Tribal renewable energy development?
- What should the BIA do to address Tribal needs for renewable energy development?

In FY 2024 the final recommendations report will be implemented.

TAAMS Mineral Leasing Training

July 18 – 20, 2023 8:00 AM–4:30 PM MST

Virtual training is provided by CGI and a Realty Specialist from the Indian Energy Service Center. The WebEx virtual class targets BIA and Tribal Contract and Compact Staff. Future training and overview session will be posted at <https://www.bia.gov/bia/iesc>

Multi-Agency Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Fluid Minerals – Indian Training



54 Federal employees who work with Indian Minerals attended the March virtual session held March 28-29, 2023

August 1-2, 2023, Lakewood, CO

The Onshore Energy and Mineral Lease Management Interagency Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) establishes policies for government agency collaboration for energy and mineral leasing on federal and Indian trust land. The SOP establishes common standards and methods for creating efficient and effective working relationships between government agencies to achieve the DOI goal of accurate energy and minerals accountability for onshore federal and Indian lands.

Regular reviews and coordinated updates with DOI stakeholder organizations improve interagency performance by eliminating procedural ambiguities, establishing clear responsibilities, and updating organizational references.

IESC MEETING SCHEDULE



IESC regularly collaborates with multiple Federal agencies to accomplish its mission

Executive Management Group (EMG) Meetings

December 2023 Albuquerque, NM

The EMG provides the IESC Director with a broader scope of expertise, technical assistance, and advocacy. EMG provides guidance on navigation of multi-agency aspects of strategic planning and may assist in prioritizing future projects.

The EMG is comprised of the following leaders or their delegate:

- BIA Director
- ONRR Director
- BLM Assistant Director for Energy, Mineral & Realty Management
- BTFA Director

Indian Energy and Minerals Steering Committee (IEMSC) Meetings

December 2023 Albuquerque, NM

The Indian Energy and Minerals Steering Committee (IEMSC) is comprised of senior level management representatives with direct responsibility for managing Indian energy and mineral resources and revenue management. This includes:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development
- Office of Surface Mining
- Office of Natural Resources Revenue
- Bureau of Trust Funds Administration
- Office of Minerals Evaluation

Federal Partnership Charter Meetings

The purpose of a Federal Partnership team is to serve as a Department of the Interior inter-bureau/office forum for Indian energy and mineral resource development, royalty management coordination, and information exchange at the local office level. The departmental bureaus and offices represented on the Partnership team operate under the Federal trust responsibility to Federally recognized Indian Tribes, Indian allottees, and Alaska Natives.

Fort Berthold Federal Partners with MHA Nation Meeting
June 28, 2023 (8:30 AM to 4:00 PM)

Southwest Region
July 11, 2023 (9:00 AM to 12 PM)

OK, TX, KS Region
August 8, 2023 (8:30 AM to 12 PM)

Rocky Mountain Region
September 14, 2023 (8:30 AM to 11:30 AM)

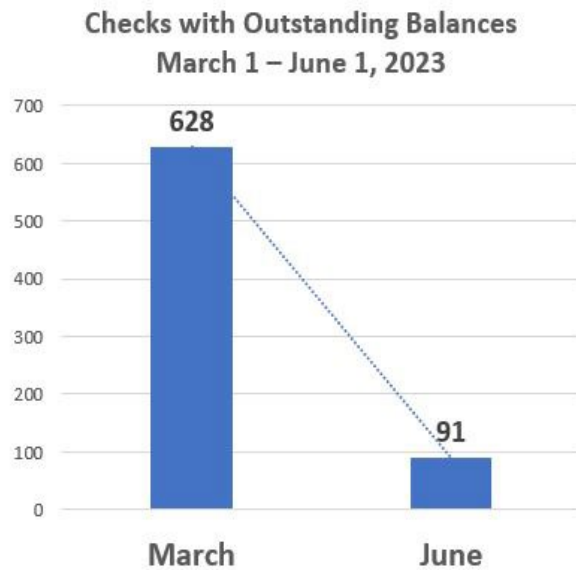
Division of Land Titles & Records Office (LTRO)



Lockbox Phase III

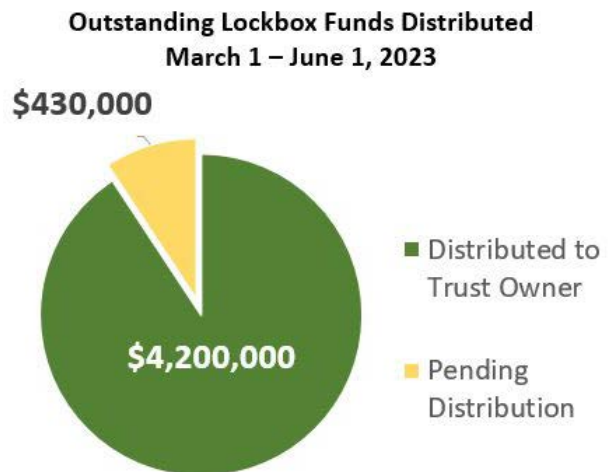
This project kicked off on March 1, 2023. The goal of this project is to clean up outstanding lockbox checks with unallocated balances.

The checks within the project include all outstanding checks prior to March 1, 2023. At the beginning of this project there were 628 checks with a balance of over \$4.2 million dollars.



Distributed a total of 537 checks totaling over \$4.2 million dollars to the trust owners as of June 1, 2023. A total of 91 checks totaling over \$430,000 remain to distribute.

As of June 2023 (3 months into the project) 85% of the cleanup has been completed.



Title Defect Project

This project began in October 2022 and is geared towards cleaning up active title defect encumbrances appearing on title status reports.

The Regional LTROs were tasked with reviewing the defects provided to them by a TAAMS query to discover if they had been corrected or if they were still valid. The LTRO then provided the spreadsheets to their Agencies and requested correction documents for where needed.

Agencies are then responsible to create and return correction to their respective LTRO's for examination, encoding, and recording, and to expire the title defect encumbrance removing it from title.

Division of Program Management & Coordination (DPMC)



The American Indian Records Repository is an underground facility in Lenexa, Kansas

Transition to Electronic Records

Approve Operational Plan

The Office of Trust Services (OTS) is excited to announce the Electronic Records Management Program (ERMP) *Operational Plan* (OP) has been approved by both OTS and Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA) leadership to begin transitioning our paper records to electronic format.

Pilot Project

The next step in this transition is to establish an Indian Affairs comprehensive Electronic Records Management Plan (ERMP) module pilot. The pilot is scheduled for the fourth quarter of FY 2023 (July 1 – September 30, 2023) at the Fort Berthold Agency.



ERMP Module Pilot at Fort Berthold Agency planned for July 1 – September 30, 2023

Transition Partners

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

NARA issued current guidance, [NARA M-23-07](#), requiring government agencies to transition to an electronic or “paperless” environment in support of electronic records by June 30, 2024.



Paper records stored at NARA

Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA) Role in Transition

The BTFA in collaboration with the Office of Trust Services has developed an Electronic Records Management Plan-Operations Plan (ERMP-OP). The plan includes key aspects of the [NARA Digital Preservation Framework](#).

The BTFA process will align the digital preservation framework with its Native American fiduciary responsibilities to ensure electronic record consistency and compliance with NARA guidelines.

Role of the Operations Plan (OP)

The ERMP-OP is to promote a transparent and supportive customer experience. Implementation will take place through a phased approach to support the record

- Capture
- Digitization
- Storage
- Maintenance, and
- Retrieval of both electronic and digital records

This plan will service Indian fiduciary trust government partners, our DOI customers (American Indians and Alaska Natives) and the public.

What are the ERMP-OP Priorities?



- Identify and prioritize field sites
- Inventory and ship boxed records to the American Indian Records Repository (AIRR) for digitization and storage
- Provide education and training on Electronic Records Management
- Update Records Management Policies and Procedures
- Stand up a modernized Electronic Records Management Program
- Identify and map Electronic Information System (EIS) records

What is the Target Completion Date?

The level of effort to capture the volume of field-based records, both boxed and loose, and to transition them to a modernized Electronic Records Management Program is expected to take up to ten years (2023 – 2033).



Electronic Records Phased Approach

Phase 1 – On Site Assessment Report & Shipping Paper Records

On-site assessments will be coordinated with the regional of Central Office BIA Senior leadership official. An evaluation/assessment report will be prepared outlining site requirements taking into consideration the following factors:

- Number of “loose” records
- Condition of boxed records meaning those already prepared for transfer to the American Indian Records Repository (AIRR)
- Level of compliance with existing policies and procedures
- Level of digitization complexity based on condition of paper records
- Amount of document preparation required

This phase includes shipping inventoried field site boxed records to the AIRR. AIRR staff will then certify documents, prepare, and digitize records for inclusion in the BTFA’s Electronic Information System (EIS) Records Gateway Library.

Table – Phase 1 Anticipated Records Workflow

Input	Records Workflow Description	Output
LCT Team Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify type & number of onsite boxed and "loose" records Creates site assessment report Recommends personnel, length of project, special requirements 	Assessment Report
Records Information Management Supervisor (RIMS) – one per region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review & approve LCT Site Assessment Report Identifies File & Inventory Records Site Team (FIRST) Lead and staff Sets timeline for site project implementation 	FIRST Final
Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA) & OTS Coordinate Shipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify applicable shipping entity BTFA coordinate pick up & delivery of boxed records to the American Indian Records Repository (AIRR) or to an approved federal records center/site location 	Delivery AIRR
Digitization of Records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIRR accepts records as storage is available Begins process of digitizing records Provides access to electronic records through Gateway Library 	Gateway Library

Phase 2 – Beginner & Advanced Records Training

The Records Information Management Specialist (RIMS) staff will provide beginner and advanced training for employees and contractors on the transformation from a traditional records management program to one which is electronic.

Training on lifting print and file, reporting mission processes associated with these efforts where the management of paper remains a required business need. Training will incorporate access to the electronic records library "Gateway" as well as user and customer specific training.

Phase 3 – Identifying Scope of Existing Records

Trust Services will coordinate this phase with the following partners to identify records within the various systems:

- Indian Affairs (IA), Data Office team members
- BTFA, Office of Enterprise Business Services (EBS)
- BTFA, Data Governance Board (DGB)
- Field mission staff

Phase 3 will begin by aligning similar records/information and data to reduce information redundancy (i.e., Single Source of Truth or (SSoT)). This will be performed using Subject Matter Experts (SME) and associated team members with expertise in records management, business process reengineering, database, and data engineering to identify electronic records for and through the BTFA SSoT.

Other objectives will leverage software development Application Program Interfaces (API) a software intermediary that allows to applications to talk to each other. APIs are an accessible way to extract and share data within and across organizations. Once identified, those records will be accessible from the BTFA electronic records system "Gateway" and will serve as the sole IA Electronic Records Management solution.

OTS will empower IA programs to modernize and streamline information processes. Together the BTFA, Office of Trust Records (OTR) and IA staff will successfully implement the ERMP overall goal...to better serve the Indian people.

Division of Real Estate Services (DRES)



Mission

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

Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Prioritized Fee-to-Trust Transactions

The Department of the Interior plays a central role in how the United States stewards its public, federal and trust lands, and honors our nation-to-nation relationship with Tribes. Interior is taking bold actions desperately needed to ensure Tribal communities' benefit from an aggressive and whole-of-government response.

Departmental goals include:

- Strengthening the government-to-government relationship with sovereign Tribal Nations
- Restoration of Tribal Homelands and Communities

BIA understands that Tribal sovereignty and self-governance, as well as honoring the federal trust responsibility to Tribal Nations, must be the cornerstones of federal Indian policy.

To that end, the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs (AS-IA's) established the prioritization of nationwide Fee to Trust (FTT) land acquisitions, also called "land into trust". FTT acquisitions are the transfer of land title to the United States of America to be held in trust for the benefit of an individual Indian or Federally Recognized Tribe. Taking land into trust is one of the most important functions of the BIA.

Collaboration

DRES has been involved with several collaborative efforts along with other federal agencies on new initiatives and discussions:

- Updated [Indian Affairs Handbooks](#) (Fee-to-Trust, Excess Lands, and Residential Leases)
- Issuance of draft updated regulations for [25 CFR Part 151](#), and [25 CFR Part 162](#) Agriculture
- Participation in Broadband Permitting Collaboration discussions
- Streamlining Federal Processes
- Cadastral Surveys
- Audio Visual Production

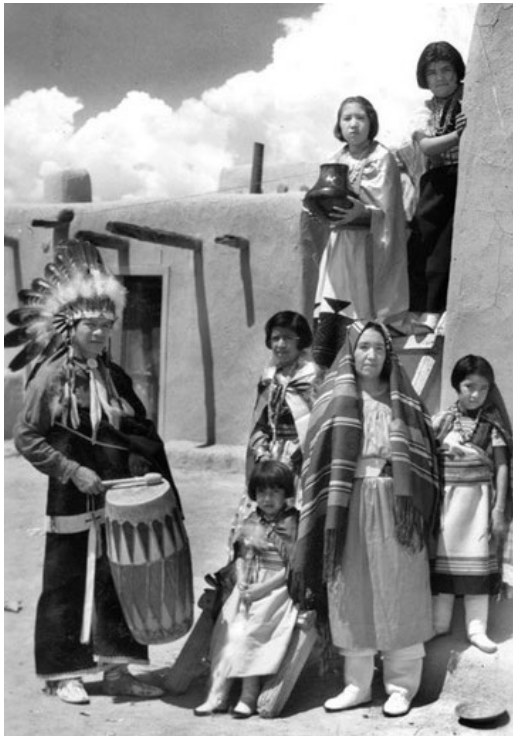
Acquisition of land in trust is essential to Tribal self-determination, self-sufficiency, and self-sustainability. Tribes are sovereign governments and trust lands are a primary focus of Tribal authority.

Secretary of the Interior signs approves 100th HEARTH Act Ordinance

Two tribes recently received Secretarial approval for their HEARTH Act leasing Ordinances:

- Pala Band of Mission Indians (business and residential) approved on May 2, 2023
- Pueblo of Santa Clara (business and residential) approved on May 24, 2023

The Ordinance for the Pueblo of Santa Clara was the 100th Secretarial approval for the HEARTH Act and was a major milestone. This brings the total number of HEARTH Act cases approved in FY2023 to eight.



Santa Clara Pueblo Indians, source [Online Archive of California](#)

HEARTH Act Training

The National Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Home Ownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act) Team conducted on April 12, 2023, HEARTH Act Training for BIA Field Staff, and on May 3, 2023, HEARTH Act Overview Training for Tribes.

Future courses are posted on the Real Estate Services Training web page at:

<https://www.bia.gov/service/real-estate-training>

BIA Training Webpage

The DRES's created the [Real Estate Services Training](#) webpage, which contains the following videos:

[Revised National Policy Memorandum \(NPM\) TRUS-44 A1](#)

Streamlining Broadband Infrastructure for Right-of-Ways and Business Lease Application Process for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Telecommunication, and Renewable Energy Projects

[HEARTH Act Tribal Overview](#)

Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Home Ownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act) Tribal Overview Sessions recorded in July 2022

The training site is available to BIA employees, Tribal Contract or Compact Staff, other Tribal employees, and Individual beneficiaries. Training provides stakeholders a review of process changes and answers to common questions. DRES will continue to post additional trainings and overview sessions as they are conducted.

TAAMS Trainings

Conducted multiple Trust Asset and Accounting Management System (TAAMS) training focused on Acquisitions & Disposals, Fee-to-Trust, Business Leasing, Rights-of-Way, and Lockbox and Invoicing for existing BIA employees. The sessions are co-taught by CGI and a Central Office Realty Specialist serving as subject matter expert to respond to student inquiries.

Broadband

On April 18, 2023, DRES issued [National Policy Memorandum \(NPM-TRUS-44 A1\)](#) "Streamlining the Rights-of-Way and Business Lease Application Processes for Federally Funded Tribal Broadband Infrastructure Projects – Amendment 1". This memorandum establishes BIA policy for the efficient and effective processing of ROW and Business Lease applications for telecommunications projects.

In May and June 2022, two training webinars for BIA, Tribes, federal partners, and industry were hosted by the Department of Interior, the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, and the BIA Central Office Division of Real Estate Services.

DRES prepared technical guidance for BIA Regions on legal complexities in a variety of broadband rights-of-way situations.

Smart Sheets

Implemented a new HEARTH Act Application Tracking System (HAATS) on-line application tool for submission and tracking of Tribal HEARTH Act Regulations and Excess Real Property Transfers tracking of Notice of Availability (NOA).

Right-of-Way

The Biden-Harris Permitting Action Plan which established a federal environment review and permitting process for rights of way. The goal is to have an increase efficiency by having data accessible through early cross agency coordination for appropriate reviews, to reduce barriers and establish clear timeline goals. In response, DRES is drafting an internal implementation plan.

Prepared for congressional testimony outlining realty transactions barriers for tribes accessing funds from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

Lockbox

What is a lockbox?

Lockbox banking is a service provided by banks to companies for receipt of payment from customers. Under the service, the payments made by customers are directed to a special post office box instead of going to the company. The bank goes to the box, retrieves the payments, processes them, and deposits the funds directly into the company's bank account.

Lockbox Project Status

A national Lockbox project kicked off March 1, 2023, set a goal to clean up outstanding lockbox checks prior to March 1 with unallocated balances. At project start there were 628 checks with a balance of over \$4.2 million dollars. To date, 537 checks totaling over \$4.2 million dollars have been distributed to the trust owners.

The current project status has 91 checks pending distribution with a value totaling over \$430,000.

Division of Resource Integration & Services (DRIS)



BRANCH OF GEOSPATIAL SERVICES

The Branch of Geospatial Support (BOGS) oversees the AWS Enterprise platform, ESRIS software administration and training and GIS helpdesk support. BOGS as established cooperative relationships with US Geological Services (USGS) and Mississippi State University for geospatial training and continues to support Indian Affairs programs by providing geospatial services for data, reporting, and collaboration.

Cloud Based AWS ArcGIS Enterprise Portal

BOGS continues to work towards implementation of the cloud-based AWS ArcGIS Enterprise Portal on GeoPlatform with the goal of having a full production environment by mid-July 2023.

Land Description Review and Validation (LDEV)

The Branch of Geodata Evaluation and Validation (GDEV) continues its work processing Fee to Trust (FTT) Land Description Review and Validation (LDEVs) to support the restoring of Tribal homelands.

The GDEV team will participate in a Parcel Fabric Workshop with Esri to develop a methodology for modernizing the mapping of Indian Country in a way that allows for better workflow management and increased collaboration.

Pilot Right of Way Mapping Project

GDEV completed a pilot ROW mapping project that will provide a way forward with digitizing ROW information.

BRANCH OF RESOURCE SOLUTIONS (BRS)

The Branch of Resource Services (BRS) coordinates and manages Office of Trust Services data for reporting and System Helpdesk Services.



Authority to Operate BIA-STAT System

The Branch of Resource Solutions (BRS) continues to work towards obtaining an authority to operate (ATO) for the BIA-STAT system built on a cloud-based instance of Smartsheet.gov.

This system will provide a suite of tools to help modernize workflows through built in automation, tracking, and reporting with the goal of reducing redundancy, fostering collaborative relationships between divisions, and increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of Trust program services.

Division of Trust Land Consolidation (DTLC)



Contact Us

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Division of Trust Land Consolidation
2021 4th Ave North
Billings, MT 59101

Office: (406) 247-7913
8:30 am–4:30 pm MST
Monday-Friday

Website

<https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots/dtlic>

New Employee



Tonya Almaraz
Tribal Relations Advisor

Mission

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

Division of Trust Land Consolidation Welcomes Three New Employees

[Tonya Almaraz](#) is a member of the Navajo Nation is from Page, Arizona, recently hired as a Tribal Relations Advisor in May 2023. Her role is developing, maintaining, and supporting productive government-to-government Tribal relationships. In the land consolidation efforts, she coordinates with other DOI Bureaus and offices. Ensure proper communications among all stakeholders. Prior to coming to BIA, Ms. Almaraz was a Realty Specialist for the Indian Health Service (IHS), Office of Environmental Health and Engineering Services, Division of Facilities Operations in Rockville, MD since 2019.

Her federal career began in 2008, at Western Region in Phoenix, Arizona, as an Office Automation Clerk assisting the Branches of Housing and Tribal Government program with the [Western Shoshone Land Claim](#). In 2011, she was promoted to Program Analyst for the Branch of Probate & Estate Services. December 2013 to January 2019, she started work with the BIA Central Office, Division of Real Estate Services in Washing DC, as a Management and Program Analyst including six months as a Program Analyst (Liaison) for the Division of Land Titles and Records office for the Land Buy Back Program.

Ms. Almaraz is a graduate of Arizona State University and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Justice Studies with a minor in Political Science. She also has a Master of Legal Studies in Indigenous Peoples Law from the University of Oklahoma, College of Law. Ms. Almaraz enjoys spending time with her family, including her two grandchildren, traveling, watching comedy shows, hiking, sewing, beading, and joining her Reading Is Medicine (virtual) Book club.

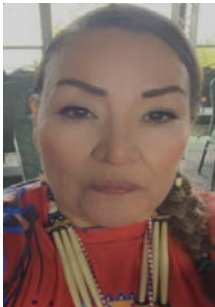
New Employees



Kylie Dust
Realty Clerk

Kylie Dust joined the Division of Trust Land Consolidation in August of 2020, and is duty stationed in Billings Montana. Kylie is from Pryor, MT, and is a member of the Crow Tribe. She received her degree in Business Administration from Montana State University Billings in May of 2018. New to BIA, Kylie came onboard during the Global Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic when all staff were max teleworking. As a result, she received her orientation and training virtually through Microsoft Teams and excels in her Realty duties.

Prior to joining the Division of Trust Land Consolidation, she worked several years for the Contracts and Grants program for the Crow Tribe, also working in Human Resources, Enrollment and Senior Citizens departments for the Crow Tribe. She has 3 children aged 4, 12 and 13. Her hobbies include horseback riding, reading, dancing Crow Style, and playing volleyball and basketball.



Marie Many Wounds
Realty Clerk

Mary Many Wounds joined the Division of Trust Land Consolidation in March of 2020. She is proud to be a full blood (Ihunktowa Dakota and Hunkpapa Lakota) member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (SRST). She reported to BIA for her first week of work and was almost immediately sent home to a maximum telework schedule due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Global pandemic.

Ms. Many Wounds earned an associate degree from Haskell University in Lawrence, Kansas and following graduation worked for the SRST land committee from 1996 to 2014. Her BIA employment began in 2016 as an Administrative Assistant for the Navajo Indian Irrigation Program in Farmington NM. After a transferring to the WR Agency she returned to the Great Plains Region, Land Buy Back Program in 2020 serving as a Realty Clerk.

She is proud of her parent's Sungsapa (father) and Oniyapiwin (mother) who raised her in Sioux cultural ways of a mobile people. Growing up her most memorable experiences included dancing at age 4 across Canada and the United States. Her hobbies include dancing, quilt work, beadwork and sewing.

Division of Water & Power (DWP)



BRANCH OF IRRIGATION & POWER

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

BIA Irrigation and Power projects are operated and maintained under the direction of the BIA, Office of Field Operations by:

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

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

BIA Irrigation Program

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

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

National Irrigation Information Management System (NIIMS)

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



Power substation at the Pueblo of Acoma, New Mexico, close up of the coaxial cable (the most common transmission line) and operational transmission lines on the Gila River Reservation

BIA Power Program

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

- *Power generating facilities* – a facility designed to produce electric energy from another form of energy.
- *Power substations* – part of an electrical generation, transmission, and distribution system transforming voltage from high to low, or the reverse.
- *Electrical switching stations* – a substation without transformers and operating at a single voltage level.
- *Transmission lines* – a specialized cable or other structure designed to conduct electromagnetic waves in a contained manner.
- *Distribution lines and related infrastructure* – A line or system 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

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

The BIL allocates funding over a five-year period to address long overdue improvements and antiquated infrastructure in major need of repair.

2023 Critical BIL Funded Projects

Project	State
Colorado River Indian Irrigation Project	AZ
Colorado River Indian Irrigation Project (Power Utility)	AZ
Wapato Irrigation Project	WA
Fort Peck Irrigation Project	MT
San Carlos Irrigation Project (Power Division)	AZ
Mission Valley Power	MT
Fort Belknap Irrigation Project	MT
Fort Hall Indian Irrigation Project	ID

BIP, FLATHEAD INDIAN IRRIGATION PROJECT

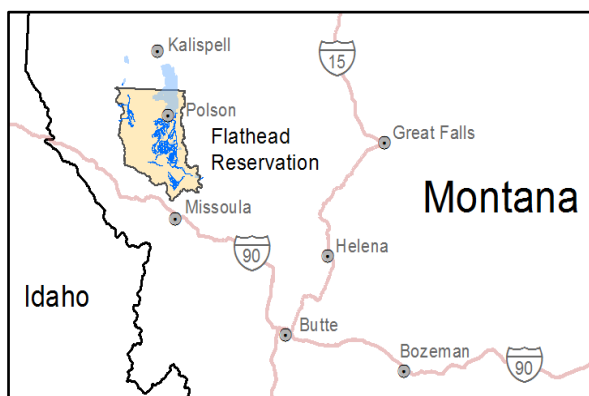


Dan Lozar, Irrigation Engineer, BIA Northwest Region, Jocko K Canal Diversion Dam and Headworks before restoration

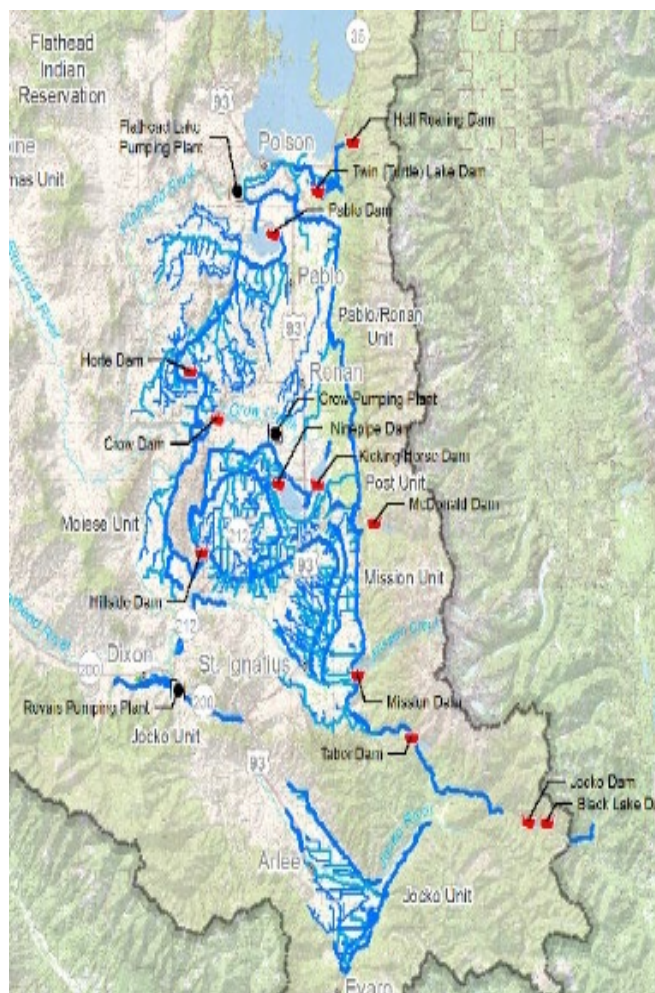
Flathead Indian Irrigation Project (1908)

The Flathead Indian Irrigation Project (FIIP) construction started in 1908. The FIIP covers approximately 130,000 acres and contains:

- 324 miles of canals
- 286 miles of laterals
- 298 miles of sub laterals
- 3 pumping plants
- 1 pump station
- 16 storage dams
- 27 diversion dams, and
- 9 fish screens



Map of the Flathead Reservation boundaries



Flathead Dams and Canals identified on reservation map



Jocko Canal after Restoration

Jocko Canal originally constructed in Mid-1880s

The Jocko K Canal diversion dam and headworks was constructed in the mid-1880's, predating the Flathead Indian Irrigation Project (FIIP). It is a key element that supplies water to over 5,000 irrigated acres.



Jacko K Canal Diversion Dam & headworks reconstruction began in September 2022

High Priority Project Designation

This dam has been identified as a high priority project providing improved safety for staff, operational efficiencies, and fisheries management and protection to support genetic integrity of the native west slope cutthroat trout, and to provide safe and effective upstream and downstream passage for the federally listed bull trout (pictured below).



West Slope Cutthroat Trout



Bull Trout photo from [USGS.gov](https://www.usgs.gov)

BIP, WIND RIVER IRRIGATION PROJECT



Wind River Irrigation Project reconstruction, 41A-3-6 Long Crested Weir Inlet/Drop off construction in progress

Wind River Irrigation Project

Tribal Contract for 4 of 9 Irrigation Units

The Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes, through their Tribal Water Engineers Office (TWE), performs the operation and maintenance (O&M) on 4 of the 9 irrigation units that make up the Wind River Irrigation Project.

TWE performs the construction portion of the Program under P.L. 93-638 Subpart J contracts. This includes:

- Design
- Specifications
- bid package
- construction
- inspection during construction

TWE hires engineering consultants to

- Design
- Prepare bid documents
- Perform the construction bid process oversight/inspection during construction

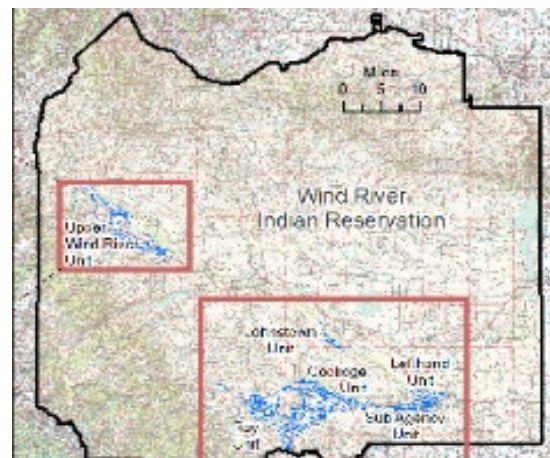
Grants & Cooperative Agreements (5 of 9 Units)

The O&M performed on the remaining 5 irrigation units are done through various Grants or Cooperative Agreements with the water users in those irrigation units.

Project Location



Location of Wind River Reservation



Location of Wind River Irrigation Project on reservation map

Tribe Completes two Wind River Irrigation Construction Projects

Addition photos of construction project in-progress. 2022 completed project on previous page.



Completed 14B-44 Construction on Point of Diversion



41A-3-6 Long Crested Weir Inlet/Drop off in progress



Completed 41A-3-6 Long Crested Weir Inlet/Drop

BIP, COLORADO RIVER AGENCY – ELECTRICAL SERVICES (CRA-ES)



Colorado River Agency – Electrical Services, Headgate Rock Power Repairs

Colorado River Agency – Electrical Services, Hydropower Generation

Headgate Dam Construction (1935 – 1941)

CRA-ES provides power for the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation. In 1935, the construction of Headgate Rock Dam was authorized under the [River and Harbors Act \(49 Stat. 1040\)](#); and the dam was completed in 1941. Construction of the power plant started in 1984 and finished in 1991.

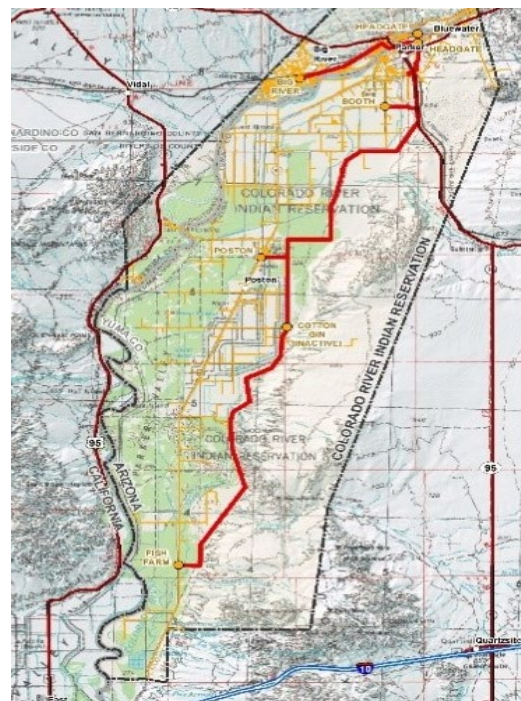
Transferred to BIA in 1997

Operations and maintenance (O&M) and facility ownership (power plant, switchyard and transmission line) were transferred to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) on May 20, 1997.

BIL Funds for Upgrades and Rehabilitation

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding is being used to augment funding from 3,800 residential and 400 commercial utility rate payers to upgrade and rehabilitate the Headgate Rock Dam's three major generating units, which will allow CRA to generate up to 22.5 megawatts (MW) of electricity.

Project Location



Map of electrical service area

BIP, UINTAH INDIAN IRRIGATION PROJECT



Gray Mountain Canal, Shephard's Check new structure in operation

Uintah Indian Irrigation Project

The Project consists of 23 individual canal systems and one off-stream 5,785-acre foot reservoir (Midview Reservoir). The 23 systems include:

- 651 miles of canals and ditches
- 15 diversions from rivers
- 4,447 irrigation structures

The BIA provides direction and oversight of the Uintah Indian Irrigation Project Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Company, which contracts out both construction and O&M work.

Shephard's Check

The Shephard's Check on Gray Mountain Canal was a standard, old-style check with large timbers that presented a safety hazard for workers. In early 2023 a Long-Crested Weir was constructed to replace the old structure. This design provides simple and robust upstream water level control and modern safety standards.

Project Location



Location of Irrigation Project on reservation state and reservation map



Shephard's Check prior to new construction



Shephard's Check under construction



Bench Canal, Bottle Hollow Splitter new construction in operation

Uintah Indian Irrigation Project

Bottle Hollow Splitter on the Bench Canal

This project was completed May 2022 to provide improved safety, water level control in Bench Canal, flow measurement and re-regulation.

The result is better service to the remainder of Bench Canal and prevention of lower canal flooding by diverting excess flow in the canal to Bottle Hollow Reservoir for storage.



Bottle Hollow Check prior to rehabilitation



Bottle Hollow Splitter under Construction

BIA IRRIGATION SAFETY GUIDE



Safety Guide

The BIA Branch of Irrigation and Power recently completed the BIA *Irrigation Safety Guide*. The purpose of the Guide is to assist irrigation field staff in maintaining a safe work environment and focuses on irrigation-related duties such as:

- Pulling flashboards
- Operating canal gates
- Chemical exposure

Disclaimer: The *Irrigation Safety Guide* is not a regulatory document. The [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) (OSHA), DOI, and [BIA's Safety and Health Handbook for Field Operations](#) (SHHFO, 2004) describe the rules and regulations.

The Irrigation Safety Guide was created because protecting and keeping our irrigation staff safe is our highest priority.

Division of Wildland Fire Management (DWFM)



National Wildland Firefighter Day Takes Place July 2

National Wildland Firefighter Day (NWFFD) is designed to recognize the hard work and devotion of all wildland firefighters and support personnel who are the backbone of the wildland fire community. These men and women work to save lives, property, infrastructure, and precious natural and cultural resources every year, and we are incredibly thankful for their professional skills and efforts.

In light of [NWFFD](#), the National Interagency Fire Center hosted a news conference on Tuesday, June 27, to recognize the interagency efforts required from all participating Departments, Agencies and Tribes to provide wildland fire response for the United States and our partnering nations.

Current National Statistics



12 Total
New Large Fires

64 Incidents
Total Large Fires



311,669 Acres
Burned in Large Fires

Last updated: Monday, July 31, 2023, 9:04 AM MDT by the National Interagency Fire Center



GRANITE MOUNTAIN HOTSHOTS 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF YARNELL FIRE



Pictured to the left: A child viewing the Granite Mountain Hotshots Cemetery Memorial in the Arizona Pioneers Home Cemetery in Prescott, AZ. Pictured to the right: The bell that tolled 19 times to recognize the fallen hotshots at the two memorial services.

Memorial Services Honor Granite Mountain Hotshots in 10th Anniversary of Yarnell Fire

June 30 marks the first day of the national annual week of remembrance, and this year, marked the 10th anniversary of the Yarnell Hill Fire, which tragically took the lives of 19 of the 20 Granite Mountain Hotshot crewmembers. In 2013, BIA Pima and Salt River Agencies Fire Management Officer Koreena Manthei served as operations section chief for the incident management team that coordinated the memorial services for the Prescott-based hotshot crew and backfill of positions for the day, at the request of the Prescott Fire Department. Two separate memorial services took place in Prescott, a short drive from the 8,400-acre incident location near Yarnell, Arizona.

On the morning of June 30, family members of the fallen crewmembers gathered at the Granite Mountain Hotshots Cemetery Memorial in the Arizona Pioneers Home Cemetery for a private memorial service. At this service for family members, individuals close to the families, including 16-year-old Ryder Ashcraft, son of Granite Mountain Hotshot Andrew Ashcraft who was killed in the fire, sole surviving crewmember, Brendan McDonough, and former Prescott Fire Chief Dan Fraijo, spoke in honor of the 10th anniversary of the tragic event.

Children of the late crewmembers were presented with belt buckles imprinted with the 2013 Granite Mountain Hotshots insignia.

Public Memorial Service

In the afternoon, a public memorial service was held at the Yavapai County Courthouse where hundreds of people attended the event where Brendan McDonough started the service by reading the Hotshot Prayer.

Ryder Ashcraft spoke in front of a photo of his late father, followed by scheduled dignitaries including Governor Katie Hobbs, State Forester Thomas Torres, Prescott Mayor Phil Goode, and Prescott Fire Chief Holger Durre.

City of Prescott Mayor Phil Goode formally proclaimed June 30 as Granite Mountain Hotshots Day "to honor and remember the fallen heroes and honor their memory for their families and the community.

Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs, who also attended the public event, previously ordered flags at all state buildings to be lowered to half-staff from sunrise to sunset in honor of the sacrifice of the Granite Mountain Hotshots.

“Ten years ago, our lives forever changed when 19 men selflessly answered the call to protect the people of Yarnell and Peoples Valley. With each year that passes, our admiration for the Granite Mountain Hotshots endures and their memory will forever live on.”

Katie Hobbs
Arizona State Governor

At both events, a 250-person honor guard comprised of fire departments around the state presented the posting of colors with the Central Arizona Fire Honor Guard Pipes and Drums chapter. The services ended with 19 bell tolls recognizing the 19 fallen hotshots. [Click here to read more.](#)



Pictured left to right: BIA Western Region employees Region Fire Management Officer Carlos Nosie, Jr., Acting Regional Director Joelynn Ashley, Assistant Fire Management Officer Leander Real Bird, Forester Melvin Hunt, Jr., and BIA Pima and Salt River Agencies Fire Management Officer Koreena Manthei

National Week of Remembrance (June 30-July 6)

The National Week of Remembrance not only honors those who have tragically died battling wildfires, but provides an opportunity to remember, reflect and learn from the tragic incidents that have taken the lives of wildland firefighters.



Photo credit: Arizona State Parks

19 Granite Mountain Hotshot crewmembers lost in the Yarnell Hill Fire on June 30, 2013

- Andrew Ashcraft**, age 29
- Robert Caldwell**, age 23
- Travis Carter**, age 31
- Dustin Deford**, Age 24
- Christopher MacKenzie**, age 30
- Eric Marsh**, age 43
- Grant McKee**, age 21
- Sean Misner**, age 26
- Scott Norris**, age 28
- Wade Parker**, age 22
- John Percin**, age 24
- Anthony Rose**, age 23
- Jesse Steed**, age 36
- Joe Thurston**, age 32
- Travis Turbyfill**, age 27
- William Warneke**, age 25
- Clayton Whitted**, age 28
- Kevin Woyjeck**, age 21
- Garret Zuppiger**, age 27

BIA HOSTS MEDICAL INCIDENT TRAINING

BIA Hosts Medical Incident Technician Training for Wildland Firefighters



Training participants provide medical incident response to a wildland firefighter who has experienced a traumatic brain injury in a practice simulation.

Emergency Scenario

You're a wildland firefighter in a remote area with rough terrain and come across one of your crew members who has fallen from a ravine and landed on their back. They are alert but don't seem to know where they are. They broke a leg in the fall and incurred a deep laceration. What do you do?

Medical Incident Technician training for wildland firefighters provides the knowledge to identify and treat minor medical incidents, but also the skills and leadership confidence to stabilize, transport and request medical support for an individual who is experiencing a major medical incident.

All wildland firefighters adhere to dangerous and arduous work environments in vastly different weather and terrain depending on where they are and what time of year. Dehydration, acute hypothermia, altitude sickness and other minor medical incidents can happen on the job, and although rare, there can also be injuries such as dislocations, traumatic brain injuries, massive blood loss, and broken bones.

In late May, wildland fire responders including helitack staff, smokejumpers, fire engine operators and technicians attended a 40-hour Medical Incident Technician (MIT) training at the Jim Hall Foothills Learning Center Boise, Idaho, to gain the skills necessary to help their fellow crew members in an emergency. [Click here to read more.](#)



Medical Incident Technician Training Class, May 2023, Jim Hall Foothills Learning Center in Boise, Idaho

BIA NORTHWEST REGION STANDS UP HONOR GUARD



BIA Northwest Region Honor Guard pictured left to right: Joel Adams, Kalispel Tribe; Darron Williams, NW Region AFMO; Kevin Small, Pacific Region; Whitney Malatare, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes; Farell Aleck, Yakama Tribe; and Karl Moshon, Shoshone Bannock Tribes. Darren Williams led efforts to establish the NW Region Honor Guard.

BIA Northwest Region Stands Up Honor Guard

In May, the BIA Northwest Region (NWR) Honor Guard responded to their first assignment in Boise, Idaho, to support the Wildland Firefighter Foundation for their annual family day, which recognizes the families of fallen wildland firefighters. The NWR Honor Guard represents the highest ideals of honor, professionalism, and dignity when serving the family, agency, fire community, friends, and co-workers of those who have died in the line of duty.

The primary mission of the NWR Honor Guard is to serve at the funeral and memorial services of BIA NWR fire and aviation employees who have died in the line of duty. This includes fire and aviation personnel who are contracted by the BIA and Tribal fire program staff. When a BIA contracted resource fatality occurs the wellness coordinator/national honor guard liaison will contact the contracted resources local unit to inquire whether BIA NWR Honor Guard services may be needed. Secondary missions for the NWR Honor Guard include serving at the funerals and memorial services of non-BIA fire personnel who have died in the line of duty. The BIA NWR Honor Guard may also attend annual state and national fallen firefighter memorial services.

“As a wildland firefighter, I want to honor and recognize the efforts of those firefighters that have died in the line of duty. I want to manifest to their family, co-workers, and friends that the leadership and service their loved one provided will not be forgotten.”

Darren Williams
Fire Management Officer
BIA Northwest Region

For support inquiries, contact the NWR Honor Guard liaison, BIA Northwest Region Deputy Regional Trust Director Bodie Shaw at bodie.shaw@bia.gov.

WILDLAND FIRE WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES



BIA Division of Wildland Fire Management Welcomes Two New Employees



Gregory "Tyler" Burleson
*Wild Urban Interface /
Fire Prevention Specialist
Eastern Oklahoma Region*

Gregory "Tyler" Burleson is a member of the Cherokee Nation and has a mixed background of higher education and professional experience to contribute to his preparedness for taking on the Wild Urban Interface/Fire Prevention Specialist position for the Eastern Oklahoma Region (vice the late Pat McDowell).

Tyler has a Bachelor of Science degree in Rangeland Management and Fire Ecology in addition to a graduate certificate in the National Environmental Policy Act. Most recently, he held the position of fire management specialist focusing on Reserved Treaty Rights Lands coordination for the Eastern Oklahoma Region. When asked about what he looks forward to most in his new position, he said, "I am really looking forward to learning more about the Prevention Program along with assisting, collaborating, and learning from the regions and staff. I would also like to grow as a leader and help in developing the next generation!" Tyler's duty station is in Miami, OK.



Cameron Paulk
*Deputy Post-Wildfire
Recovery Coordinator*

Cameron Paulk is a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation and most recently joined the Division of Wildland Fire Management as the Deputy Post-Wildfire Recovery Coordinator (vice Juliette Jeanne).

Cameron holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science and Natural Resources and has 11 years of experience as a forester within the BIA. He is also a Student Career Experience Program and BIA Pathways Program graduate!

Cameron's experience as a Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team member comes from the Rocky Mountain and Great Plains regions, where the positions he held helped him gain interest in the BAER program at the national level. Cameron looks forward to working with other coordinators, BIA employees and Tribes across the nation. His duty station is in Billings, MT.

Division of Workforce & Youth Development (DWYD)



Rangeland management intern Tristen Herman takes grass measurement for grazing, and student trainee Alyssa Samoy visits forestry seeding nursery.

Branch of Workforce Development

The Branch of Workforce Development is responsible to serve as the project coordinator directing and managing all OPM activities.

The Branch uses the results of OPM analysis and related information obtained to devise and implement strategies to fill gaps. The focus of the competency plan is to identify and implement Bureau wide training programs for each Trust occupational series.

This Branch also support OTS marketing and recruitment activities for the 15 Central Office Divisions and the Trust positions within the 12 supporting Regional Offices.



BIA Pathways Internship Program

The BIA Pathways Internship Program works collaboratively with Student Trainees to design meaningful internship experiences that complement the students personal and professional goals. BIA offers several core program areas that prepare students for entry-level positions in their chosen field, and allows them to build more individualized paths.

Pathway Forestry intern in Action



Student Trainee Tiyapo Farow learning to operate heavy machinery for timber management.

Recognition of Length of Service



Celebrated Employees

Trust Team members, congratulations on achieving your 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30-year anniversary with us! We know you have worked hard for this accomplishment, and we truly appreciate your dedication. You are an important member of our team, and your abilities and on-going contributions are vital to the success of our mission. Thank you for all you do and please accept our good wishes on your 2023 career milestone.

5 Years of Service

Tyler Baha, *Program Specialist, Workforce Planning & Development*

Carly Dyer, *Program Specialist, Workforce Planning & Development*

Kari Fleury, *Realty Clerk, Trust Land Consolidation*

Heath Steward, *Forester, Division of Forestry*

Shaina Tallas, *Regional Climate Specialist, Tribal Climate Resilience*

Jessica Wilson, *Budget Analyst, Wildland Fire Management*

10 Years of Service

Rodney Eisenbraun, *Division Chief, Water & Power*

Delores Herman, *Civil Engineer, Division of Water & Power*

Cedar Wolf, *Audiovisual Production Specialist, Office of the Deputy Director*

15 Years of Service

Tonya Almaraz, *Tribal Relations Advisor, Trust Land Consolidation*

Weston Cain, *Program Specialist, Workforce Planning & Development*

Christopher Clopper, *Senior Dam Safety Engineer, Division of Water & Power*

Stacie Holmes, *Forester (Program Analysis), Division of Forest Management*

15 Years of Service (Continued)

Tammy Jacobs, *Geologist, Division of Energy & Mineral Development*

Winter Jojola-Talbur, *Deputy Division Chief, Energy & Mineral Development*

Rechanda Lee, *Staff Museum Curator, Division of Environmental & Cultural Resource Mgmt.*

Christina Mokhtarzadeh, *Branch Chief, Water Resources, Division of Water & Power*

Ashley Roubideaux, *Budget Analyst, Program Management & Coordination*

E. Samuel Stegeman, *Civil Engineer, Division of Water & Power*

Morgan Thompson, *Fire Program Liaison, Division of Wildland Fire*

Christine Torrez, *Program Analyst, Division of Probate*

20 Years of Service

Lorna Babby, *Division Chief, Trust Land Consolidation*

Naomi Corbine, *Management Analyst, Division of Real Estate Services*

Adrian Grayshield, *Natural Resource Specialist, Wildland Fire Management*

Amber Green, *Management Analyst, Division of Trust Land Consolidation*

Trina Locke, *Acting Deputy Director-Trust/Directorate of Environmental & Natural Resources*

Emilda Lynch, *Supervisory Equipment Specialist, Wildland Fire Management*

Deborah Mielke, *Realty Specialist, Trust Land Consolidation*

Stephen Singleton, *Forester, Branch of Forest Resources & Planning, Division of Forestry*

Kevin B. Smith, *Civil Engineer, Division of Water & Power*

25 Years of Service

Michael J. Black, *Fire Training Development Specialist, Division of Wildland Fire Management*

Lillian Gallego, *Program Analyst, Division of Probate Services*

Michelle Moore, *Interagency Medical Standards Specialist, Division of Wildland Fire Mgmt.*

Olivia Lucero-Nelson, *Administrative Assistant, Division of Wildland Fire Management*

30 Years of Service

Kevin Weaver, *Prevention/Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Specialist, Wildland Fire Mgmt.*