



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Mr. G. Edward DeSeve  
Deputy Director, Management  
Office of Management and Budget  
Old Executive Office Building, Rm 349  
Washington, DC 20503

SEP 14 1998

Dear Mr. DeSeve:

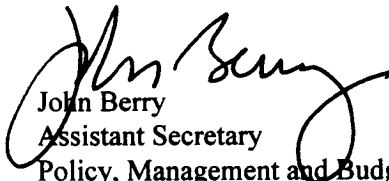
I am pleased to submit the Department of the Interior's 1998 Financial Management Status Report and Strategic Plan in support of the Chief Financial Officers (CFO) Act of 1990.

Over the past few years, we have made significant strides in improving accountability and financial management by improving customer service, streamlining organizations, reengineering business processes, and using technology to improve efficiency and the delivery of information. For Fiscal Year 1997, the Department received the first unqualified audit opinion by the Office of Inspector General on the Department's Consolidated Financial Statements. In addition, 9 of the 10 bureaus received unqualified audit opinions on their financial statements. While we are proud of our successes to date, we are aware of the need to further enhance and improve our operations and program performance in the future.

This plan outlines an aggressive agenda for the continued improvement of financial management within the Department. I have established three primary goals for management of the Department. First, I want to ensure that we are accountable to the public in the use of Federal resources provided to us by Congress. Second, I want to build a diverse Department that is as reflective of the strength and creativity of all America's people as the lands entrusted to us are of our Nation's beauty. Third, but not least, I want to create a quality workplace that will attract and retain the brightest workforce; a workforce that will accomplish our mission of stewardship, customer service and economic development with integrity and vigor. These goals are reflected in the financial management strategic plan. In addition, the plan is consistent with the goals, strategies and initiatives described in the June 1998 **Federal Financial Management Status Report and Five-Year Plan**, issued jointly by the Office of Management and Budget and the Government-wide CFO Council.

If you have any questions or would like additional clarification about the contents of this plan, please do not hesitate to call me on (202) 208-4203.

Sincerely,

  
John Berry  
Assistant Secretary  
Policy, Management and Budget and  
Chief Financial Officer

Enclosure

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