

# WHO WE ARE AND HOW WE SERVE

Interior's legacy spans more than 150 years. It was established March 3, 1849, on the last day of the Thirtieth Congress and on the eve of Zachary Taylor's inauguration as the 12th President of the United States. Sometimes dubbed the "Department of Everything Else," the Department of the Interior has evolved to become the Nation's principal Federal conservation agency. Today, about 73,000 Interior employees (or 69,000 full-time equivalents) and 200,000 volunteers (or 4,600 full-time equivalents) manage the protection and enjoyment of many of the Nation's special natural, cultural, and historic places (see Figure 1-3). We conserve habitats, species, lands, and waters. We

FIGURE 1-1

## Interior's Mission in 1849

In 1849, the Interior Department had a wide and diverse range of responsibilities entrusted to it, including:

- the construction of Washington, D.C.'s water system;
- the colonization of freed slaves in Haiti;
- exploration of western wilderness;
- oversight of the District of Columbia jail;
- regulation of territorial governments;
- management of hospitals and universities;
- management of public parks; and
- the basic responsibilities for Indians, public lands, patents, and pensions.

In one way or another, all of these had to do with the internal development of the Nation or the welfare of its people—hence the name, Department of the Interior.



FIGURE 1-2

**Interior's Mission, Vision, and Key Business Principles**



**Mission**

The U.S. Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities.

**Vision**

Communication, consultation, and cooperation—all in the service of conservation.

**Key Business Principles**

- Value
- Accountability
- Modernization
- Integration

fulfill America's trust responsibilities to native peoples and affiliated island communities. We supply water and hydropower to most of the western United States, as well as provide responsible access to much of the Nation's energy resources. Our scientists provide the data needed to enhance our understanding of the natural world and to inform decisions related to natural resource conservation and sustainable development, as well as disaster preparedness and response.

Each of our eight bureaus has discrete responsibilities for discharging our mission (Figure 1-5, Bureau missions). Departmental offices, including those specifically mentioned in this report—the Offices of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST), Insular Affairs (OIA), Inspector General (OIG), Law Enforcement and Security (OLES) and Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC)—support critical Interior operations and help our bureaus carry out our stewardship charge.

FIGURE 1-3

**Interior's 2006 Workforce (in Full Time Equivalents)**

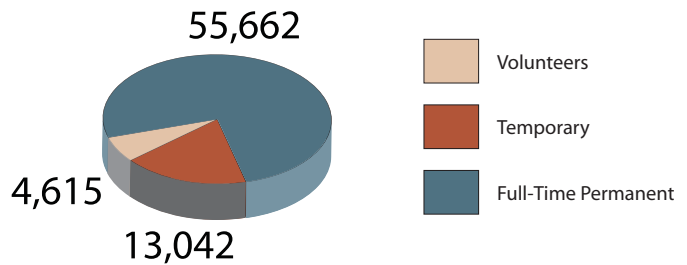


FIGURE 1-4

**Did You Know....**

Many other Federal agencies have their roots with the Department of the Interior

- When Interior was formed in 1849, it was called the Home Department and included organizations that now reside within the **Departments of State, Defense, Treasury, Commerce, and Veterans Affairs.**
- In 1869, the Bureau of Education was placed under the Department of the Interior. Later, it was transferred to the **Department of Health, Education and Welfare.**
- Interior's Bureau of Labor was established in 1884, becoming the **Department of Labor** in 1888.

**FIGURE 1-5**  
**Bureau Missions**



### Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

Manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.



### Minerals Management Service (MMS)

The Minerals Management Service manages the mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf and Federal and Indian mineral revenues to enhance public and trust benefit, promote responsible use and realize fair value.



### Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

Fulfill its trust responsibilities and promote self-determination on behalf of Tribal governments, American Indians, and Alaska Natives.



### U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

Provide the Nation with reliable, unbiased information to describe and understand the earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life.



### Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

Working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife and plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.



### National Park Service (NPS)

Preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.



### Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



### Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

Ensure that coal mines are operated in a manner that protects citizens and the environment during mining and assures that the land is restored to beneficial use following mining, and mitigate the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mine lands.