

Who We Are and What We Do

Established on March 3, 1849, the Department of the Interior has evolved to become the Nation's principal Federal conservation agency (*Figure 1-1*). Today, more than 70,000 Interior employees and 180,000 volunteers (*Figure 1-2*) at more than 2,400 locations manage many of the Nation's special natural, cultural, and historic places; conserve lands and waters; protect cultural legacies; and keep the Nation's history alive. We fulfill America's trust responsibilities to native people 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 as well as disaster preparedness and response.

Each of our eight bureaus—the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Minerals Management Service (MMS), the National Park Service (NPS), the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)—has specific responsibilities for discharging our mission (*Figure 1-3*). 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 (PLE) and Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC)—support key Interior operations and help our bureaus carry out Interior's mission.



The first Interior building, 1852-1917. The building, located on F and 8th Streets, NW, Washington, D.C., today houses the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. For more on the history of the Department of the Interior, see the report, "The Department of Everything Else: Highlights of Interior's History" on-line at http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/utley-mackintosh/index.htm.

FIGURE 1-1

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

FIGURE 1-2

Interior's Workforce (Full-Time Equivalents)

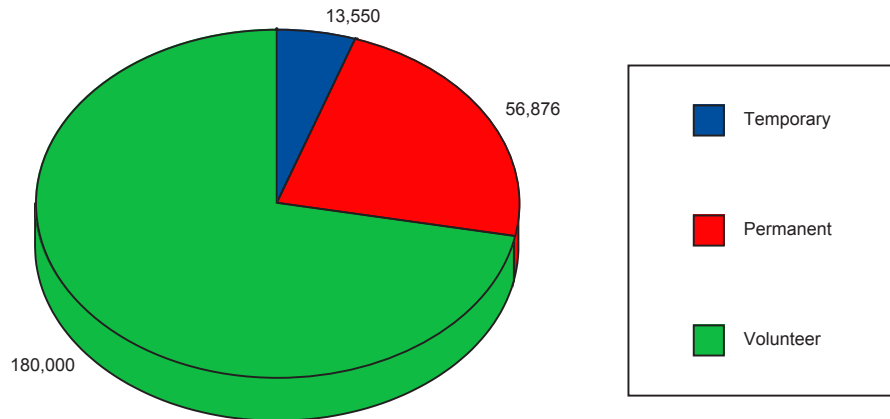


FIGURE 1-3

Bureau Missions

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

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

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE (MMS)

Mission: 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.

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING (OSM)

Mission: 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.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION (BOR)

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

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)

Mission: 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)

Mission: Conserve, protect, and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS)

Mission: 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 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 INDIAN AFFAIRS (BIA)

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

This page
intentionally
left
blank