



Trust Land Resources • Resource Stewardship • Results that Matter

Message from the Acting Deputy Director

Greetings,

Fiscal Year 2022 was a busy year advancing several high priority initiatives in the areas of employee recruitment and internships. We updated policy guidance to reflect changes to regulations, and implementation of new TAAMS Modules and dashboards for project management.

White House initiatives included the Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation (BIL) providing the highest investment in Indian Affairs Trust Services Programs in years. OTS participated in Tribal consultation/listening sessions to ensure expenditure of the BIL funds targeted priorities important to the tribes we serve. Priority BIL projects included grants for Tribal climate resilience, abandoned wells, water settlements, irrigation, and dam rehabilitation projects

Our solution-oriented year of automation introduced new Fee to Trust and Probate modules and tracking systems in TAAMS accessible to field staff nationwide. Regulatory and business process changes were communicated to field staff and Tribes using virtual Teams training sessions. Our Spotlight section highlights the Navajo Region and programs. Enjoy the read and be sure to send comments to OTSTrustQuarterly@bia.gov.

Trina Locke
Acting Deputy Director-Trust Services



Contact Information

BIA, Office of Trust Services
1849 C Street, NW, MS-4620-MIB
Washington, DC 20240
Office: (202) 208-5831
Email: OTS@bia.gov
<https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots>

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Navajo Proverb

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children".

Who We Serve



Fancy Dancer and Badlands of South Dakota

Office of Trust Services

The BIA, OTS has offices nationwide, and assists Tribal governments and allottees in managing, protecting, and developing their trust lands and natural resources, which total 56 million surface acres and 60 million acres of subsurface mineral estates. OTS programs aid landowners in the stewardship of their cultural, spiritual, and traditional resources, and help Tribal governments create sustainable sources of revenue and jobs for their communities.

Federally Recognized Tribes

There are currently 574 Federally Recognized Tribes as of January 28, 2022. [Click here](#) for a list of Indian entities recognized by and eligible to receive services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs.

U.S. Domestic Sovereign Nations: Land Areas of Federally Recognized Tribes

Interactive map is available at <https://biamaps.doi.gov>



This map of “Indian Lands” gives the user the ability to zoom, change base maps, and identify tribal lands with the BIA Land Area Representation (LAR). The LAR depicts the external extent of Federal Indian reservations, land held in “trust” by the United States, “restricted fee” or “mixed ownership” tracts for federally recognized tribes and individual Indians.

Job Openings



BIA, Office of Trust Services Organization

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Office of Trust Services' (OTS), is committed to serving Tribal Communities and their members by ensuring the activities associated with management and protection of trust and restricted lands; natural resources; forestry and wildland fire management; irrigation, power and safety of dams; and real estate services are improving tribal government infrastructures and communities along with other components of long term sustainable economic development, to enhance the quality of life for their tribal members and protect and improve trust assets of American Indians, Indian tribes and Alaska Natives. There are 56 million acres of trust land and 45 million acres of land held by Native Alaskan state-chartered corporations. BIA has 12 Regional offices and 83 Agencies.

Upcoming, Currently Open or Recently Closed Vacancies

You may apply for OTS jobs online at <http://www.usajobs.com>

Program Area	Advertised	Location	Grade	Title
Tribal Climate Resilience	Closed 10/17/22	Remote	GS-0401-14	Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist
Environmental & Natural Resources	Closed 10/18/22	NM	SES	Director
Energy & Mineral Development	Closes 11/04/22	CO	GS-0340-15	Program Manager
Indian Energy Service Center	TBD	Remote	GS-0028-12	Environmental Protection Specialist
Real Estate Services	TBD	Remote	GS-034-7/9/11	Management or Program Analyst
Environmental Services	Closes 11/08/22	NM	GS-0028-13	Environmental Protection Specialist
Environmental Services	Closes 11/08/22	NM	GS-0340-11	Staff Assistant
Resources & Integration	TBD	Remote	GS-0340-14	Program Manager
Resources & Integration	TBD	Remote	GS-0901-13	Supervisory GIS Specialist
Water & Power	Close 11/08/22	Remote	GS-0401-14	Supervisory Agricultural Engineer
Water & Power	TBD	TBD	GS-0401-14	Program Manager, Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC)

Training Opportunities



OTS Land Management Certificate Program. *The Office of Trust Services (OTS) is offering a Land Management Certificate Program to enhance the skills and knowledge of BIA land professionals through a partnership with the Indian Land Tenure Foundation (ILTF). Participants will gain new skills while earning a 14.4 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) issued by the United Tribes Technical College. This is a \$1200 benefit to the employee (includes 12 online courses) paid by OTS. It is estimated the on-line self-study courses will take between 10 to 20 hours each focusing on Land Acquisition, Real Estate Principles and Practices, General Realty and Land Management and Planning. For more information contact Dawn Selwyn, Trust Officer at dawn.selwyn@bia.gov.*

Date: FY 2023

Time: 12 Courses online, self-study

Registration: DOI Talent for this self-study course "**IA-OTS-LandMgmt**"

Promoting Prosperity and Resiliency for Tribal Nations: White House Council on Native American Affairs (WHCNAA). *Office of Policy Analysis Seminar Series. The WHCNAA mobilizes over twenty Federal agencies to act as one inter-agency body to promote prosperity and resiliency for Tribal Nations. The WHCNAA is co-chaired by Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland and the Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council Ambassador Susan Rice. Discover how to break down bureaucratic siloes to improve delivery of services to Tribal Nations. Explore how the Federal Trust Responsibility to Tribes applies to all Departments and Agencies, and how the U.S. Government can better uphold that responsibility.*

Date: December 12, 2022

Time: 12:15 – 1:15 p.m. ET

Registration: DOI Talent to register and record completion.

Event: Click here on day of event [Microsoft Live Event](#)

Land Titles and Dispossession: Allotment on American Indian Reservations. *Office of Policy Analysis Seminar Series. Randall Akee, the chair of the American Indian Studies Inter-departmental program at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) an associate professor for the Department of Public Policy at UCLA's Luskin School of Public Affairs. Currently, he is on detail to the White House Council of Economic Advisors. Mr. Akee will examine two different Minnesota reservations over time: one that was allotted and another that was not allotted. He will discuss the dramatic reduction in home ownership and the increase in household size for households that were subjected to the land-title program as compared to those households that were not. Lastly, he will also document a noticeable effect on wage sector employment.*

Date: October 31, 2022 (online session taped and available).

Registration: DOI Talent to register and record completion

Event: Click here to view [Microsoft Recorded Event](#)

News You Can Use



Main Interior Building in Washington, DC, and flags of tribal nations



BIA Trust Quarterly Newsletter

Trust Quarterly Newsletters
Issues 1-6 can be viewed at
<https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots>

The Trust Quarterly Newsletter is produced collaboratively by the Trust Services Divisions under the direction of the Deputy Director



Please direct your ideas for future issues to

Dawn.selwyn@bia.gov or
BIATrustQuarterly@bia.gov. Your input and jpeg photos are appreciated!

OTS Newsletter Issue 8

Submit articles and photos on or before Friday, November 25, 2022

Special Veteran's Issue...Veteran Input Sought

Calling all Vets within our ranks to submit a bio and photos for a special Trust Quarterly issue to honor you and your service. Submit bios and photos by Friday, November 25, 2022, at Dawn.selwyn@bia.gov.



- Name, Title, Duty Station of Current Federal Employment
- Branch of Service, Rank, and deployment
- Position and brief description of your military duties
- Describe a memorable experience working within the BIA

BIA Photographs at National Archives

The National Archives holds about 18,000 photographs from the Bureau of Indian Affairs searchable by Tribal Nation, Topic, or State. If you would like to explore this valuable resource, go to <https://www.archives.gov/research/native-american/bia/photos>.



News You Can Use



Grant Programs support Economic Development in Indian Country

On November 3, 2022, the Indian Affairs Office of Economic Development announced grants under two programs that support economic development in Indian Country.

Native American Business Incubators Program \$2,926,924 was awarded to 10 Tribes and Tribal Organizations. These funds will be used to establish and operate business incubators that assist entrepreneurs by providing guidance and services like workspace, advice on how to access capital, business education, counseling, and mentorship opportunities to navigate obstacles in transforming their innovative ideas into operational businesses.

Native American Business Development Institute Feasibility Study Program \$1 million was awarded to 15 Tribes and Tribal Organizations to fund feasibility studies that evaluate the viability and risks of an economic development project, opportunity, enterprise or business, or the practicality of a technology the Tribe may choose to pursue. The studies are to be used to determine the likelihood of success for businesses in specific American Indian and Alaska Native communities. When performed by a reputable third party, an economic feasibility study also can be used to help persuade lenders and investors to provide financial backing. A study that concludes a project is worthwhile and financially sustainable can often fulfill many of the lenders or investor's due diligence requirements by answering questions about a project's chances of success, resulting in more rapid loan approval or better loan terms.

Native American Heritage Month: "Revitalizing Indigenous Connections"

The November 15, 2022, kick-off is from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. EST. The celebration will include welcome remarks from Secretary Haaland and a message from a special guest. Online viewing of the program will be limited to DOI employees via Microsoft Teams.



"Rock Your Mocs" event is scheduled for November 15, 2022.
NPS photo of beaded moccasins and Grand Canyon

News You Can Use



Employees are encouraged to “Rock Your Mocs” and show your pride by wearing any Tribal pieces or regalia to celebrate the day. If you wish to share photos of you or your colleagues for posting on IA social media, please send them to as-ia_opa@bia.gov.

\$45 Million Investment to Build Climate Resilience in Tribal Communities

On November 2, 2022, DOI announced a \$45 million investment in Tribal communities to address the disproportionate impacts of climate change. A total of 124 awards will support 76 Tribes and 8 Tribal organizations and directly support additional Tribes through cooperative planning and shared information and tools. A summary of awards by Tribe, title, funded amount, and project description is provided on the BIA Tribal Climate Resilience website.

“Indigenous communities are facing unique and intensifying climate-related challenges that pose an existential threat to Tribal economies, infrastructure, lives, and livelihoods, said Secretary Deb Haaland. “Though the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we are making an unprecedented investment in Indian Country to help ensure that Native communities will have clean air, drinkable water, fertile soil and an overall good quality of life for generations to come.”

Featured Artist Exhibition at DOI

The Southern Plains Indian Museum, administered by the Indian Arts and Crafts Board of the U.S. Department of the Interior, featured artist Eric Tippenconnic, an enrolled member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma.



[Featured artist](#) Eric Tippenconnic

As a self-taught painter, Eric credits both his father’s Comanche heritage and his mother’s Danish culture with sparking his interest in art at an early age. His artistic process begins with revisiting stories he was told as a child, reading historical documents, and examining photographs. The motion he depicts, along with his use of bright colors, represents the evolution of his Comanche cultures’ ability to adapt and thrive in the contemporary world. He hopes the viewer will understand that all American Indian tribes are living cultures that are continuously evolving.

Division of Forestry Management



Timber Team assists Umatilla Reservation with tree painting in snowy conditions

National Timber Team Accomplishments

In 2018 the Division of Forestry, through the support of BIA Leadership, stood up the Timber Team. The focus for the team is to support Tribes and BIA agencies with the implementation of forestry-related projects and to help accomplish forestry field work for Tribes.



Timber Team assisting the Coquille Tribe in cruising Douglas fir trees

In FY 2022, The Timber Team spent 30 weeks traveling and between driving and flying to locations, they traveled over 32,000 miles and successfully completed forestry work for Tribes throughout the nation. Sixteen Tribes received support that included:

- Over 3,500 acres prepared for timber management with an estimated volume of over 20 million board feet.
- Gathered timber cruise data on 778 plots.
- 120 stand exams measured.
- 169 continuous forest inventory plots remeasured.
- Mapped tribal forestlands using GIS on 132,000 acres.

These accomplishments don't come easy. The Team works in all types of field conditions including steep terrain, winter conditions, insect infested woods, and poison ivy just to name a few.

Division of Forestry Management



Timber Team touring the Rosebud Sioux Tribal mill in South Dakota

Fire Salvage Operations

The Timber Team helped many tribes across the country with priority taking place on fire salvage operations. Salvage operations took place in Montana, South Dakota, and Washington, where the team assisted local tribal foresters with layout, marking, and cruising. The team also got to tour several mills that made a priority to process the woody material before insects and disease targeted the integrity of the wood. Touring tribal facilities was an incredible learning experience for the Timber Team, and it was satisfying to see tribes work on salvage operations from start to finish.



Timber Team touring Vaagen Mill near Colville Reservation, WA

Seeking Proposals for 2023

The DOF is currently seeking proposals for calendar year 2023 and federal/tribal staff that would like to work with the Timber Team on any assignment this year. The Timber Team is already beginning to schedule trips for 2023. Trips include stand exams for the Chehalis Reservation in Washington, sale prep for the Yurok Tribe in northern California, and CFI installation for the Alabama Coushatta Tribe of southeastern Texas. The Timber Team has also begun working on a large-scale GIS cover type mapping project for the Southern Plains Region.

Timber Team has a new web page hosted on BIA.gov, complete with a project request form and information about the Timber Team. <https://www.bia.gov/service/timber-team>.

Tribal Climate Resilience



Mission

The purpose of the Branch of Tribal Climate Resilience is to enable preparedness and resilience across all Indian Affairs programs and for all federally recognized Tribal Nations and Alaska Native villages through technical and financial assistance, access to scientific resources, and educational opportunities.

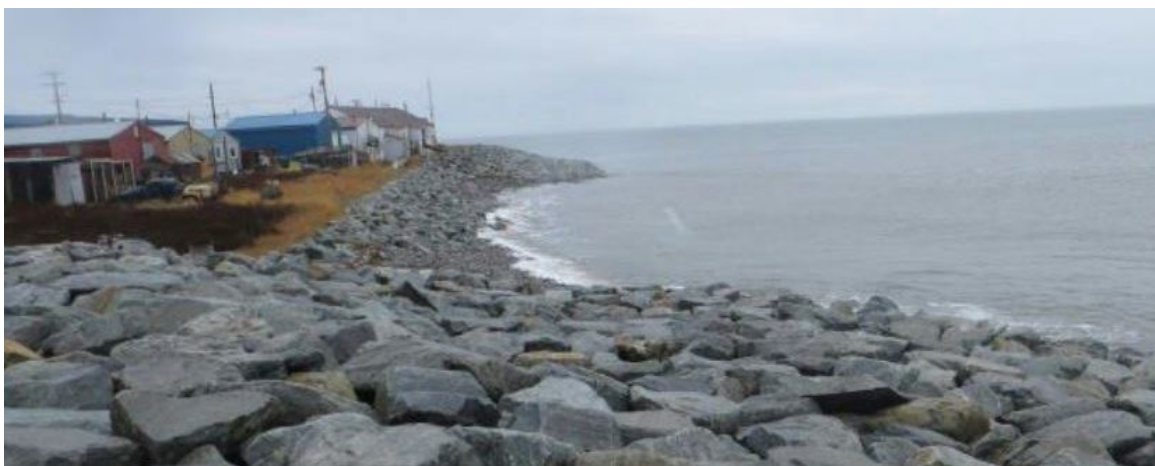
National Tribal and Indigenous Climate Conference (NTICC)

Every other year, the BIA Tribal Climate Resilience program partners with the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) Tribes and Climate Change Program to host the National Tribes and Indigenous Climate Conference (NTICC). This year, the hybrid event took place in St. Paul, Minnesota and online from August 29th to September 2, 2022.

During this conference, not only were climate issues discussed, but the impacts on native life were highlighted. With an emphasis on tradition, culture, and indigenous knowledge, attendees were offered a deeper understanding of how the climate crisis impacts native life. Creating these connections makes current and future projects hold more weight.

Community-Led Relocation Demonstration Projects through Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

TCR is leading demonstration pilot projects for three Alaska Native villages/communities and one Contiguous United States' lower 48 Tribal Nation. The total combined costs to fund these projects are expected to range from \$10-\$20 million. These funds will assist tribes who already have complete or near-complete project designs. By the end of the implementation, there will be lessons learned that other Tribes could benefit from when implementing their own plans.



Coastline eroding along Native Alaskan village

Tribal Climate Resilience



Annual Award Categories and Fund Distributed to 77 Tribes

This year, the Annual Awards have 12 funded Categories, within which 124 proposals from Federally recognized Tribal Nations and Alaska Native villages have been supported and funded. 77 tribes from Alaska and the Lower 48 states have been awarded over \$45M to support Relocation, Managed Retreat, or Protect-in-Place (RMP).

FY 2022 Tribal Climate Resilience Awards

Award Categories	Supported Proposals	Funded Amount
Training & Workshops	10	\$1,327,057
Adaptation Planning	27	\$6,117,588
Travel Support for Adaptation Planning	12	\$163,342
Ocean & Coastal Management Planning	11	\$1,730,839
Travel Support for Ocean & Coastal Management	4	\$57,336
Capacity for Scoping Efforts	4	\$257,842
Relocation, Managed Retreat, or Protect-in-Place Planning	12	\$3,041,368
Internships	5	\$249,596
Youth Engagement	6	\$225,975
Implementation of Climate Adaptation Strategies	17	\$18,147,653
Implementation of Community Relocation, Managed Retreat, or Protect-in-Place Actions	6	\$12,706,418
Relocation, Managed Retreat, or Protect-in-Place (RMP) Coordinator (maximum request)	10	\$1,347,744
TOTAL	124	\$45,382,758

Indian Energy Service Center



Oil wells operating on the Fort Berthold Reservation and Solar Panels in open field

Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation (BIL), Orphaned and Abandoned Wells \$150 million earmarked for Tribes

The IESC in coordination with the Department and the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC) held Tribal Consultation sessions regarding the Tribal Orphaned Well Grant Program, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, (BIL) Section 40601 on Sept 27 & 29, 2022. IESC will be assisting OEPC with grant review and ongoing grant technical assistance for program development. The OEPC is the lead on this BIL activity. IESC will be collaborating on these future activities:

- Summarizing and review of Tribal comments from the Consultation Sessions with OEPC
- Tribal pre-grant information session(s)
- Tribal grant application processing
- Tribal Program development (capacity building)
- In lieu of Tribal projects (Contract services through BLM Indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity, IDIQ contract)
- Coordination of Direct Grants Awards to Tribes
- Support of reporting requirements of the BIL

Secretary of Interior, Deb Haaland had this to say about the topic, “Millions of Americans live within a mile of an orphaned oil or gas well. Now, funding to clean them up is on the way, so that communities no longer must live with these safety hazards and risks to public health in their backyards”. (Interview with nmpoliticalreport.com)

Existing Fluid Mineral Regulations

Currently, Departmental regulations in Sections 25, 30, and 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations guide BIA, ONRR, and BLM, respectively, to undertake regular fluid mineral development activities on Indian trust lands. Under this process, Indian lands regularly undergo advertised, competitive oil and gas lease sales, lease title maintenance and designation, oil and gas production well permitting, revenue collection and disbursement, and comprehensive valuation, accounting, compliance, and enforcement of these activities. The Department directly undertakes and, in most cases, directly administers much of this activity in helping Tribes and Individual Indian Owners develop these resources. And although regulations do provide for some limited renewable activities on Indian lands (25 C.F.R. §§ 162.501 – 162.599, 30 C.F.R. §§ 1280.300 – 1280.307), most clean energy activities on Indian lands are pursued through small-scale, voluntary efforts that are completed outside these regulatory authorities.

Indian Energy Service Center



Renewable Energy Accelerated Deployment Initiative (READI) for Indian Country (Clean Energy Initiative)

The IESC has established the work planning effort of supporting the Department's goal to further clean energy initiatives. Clean energy implementation on Indian lands entails recognizing the sovereign role played by Tribes and Individual Indian Owners as primary decision makers in developing trust resources and soliciting feedback from them upon which Departmental actions may be based. IESC aims to work with Departmental line officers through the Federal Partners meetings to present information and receive feedback from Tribes and Individuals on potential clean energy initiatives.

- BIA Regional Directors
- BIA Agency Superintendents
- BLM State Office Directors
- BLM Field Office Managers

In addition to the Federal Partners Meetings, input on clean energy may also be garnered from Indian trust beneficiaries through interaction with Tribal organizations and councils.

- National Congress of American Indians
- Outreach activities to Tribal communities and allottee associations
- Formal government-to-government Tribal consultation

Large-scale clean energy implementation mechanisms may be included as options, such as developing a comprehensive Departmental mechanism for clean energy implementation on Indian lands, like the one that presently exists for fluid mineral development.

Clean Energy Implementation Activities

Clean energy implementation on Indian lands could be expanded through a comprehensive process like that of fluid minerals on Indian lands, subject to the preferences of the sovereign Tribal and Individual Indian Owners. Expanding the clean energy focus may include establishing new regulatory provisions that provide for regularly advertised, competitive clean energy lease sales, lease title maintenance and designation, renewable facility energy permitting, revenue collection and disbursement, and comprehensive valuation, accounting, compliance, and enforcement of these activities.

Indian Energy Service Center



The IESC has identified a planning and work process that is aimed at presenting these types of clean energy development options to Tribal and Individual Indian Owners and receiving input through a structured and coordinated dialogue. These activities would then be translated into the comprehensive clean energy implementation activities described above and provided for in future regulatory updates and enhanced and fully staffed program activities.



Clean Energy Solar Array Project at Picuris Pueblo, NM

Multi-Agency Standard Operating Procedures Training

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. The SOP is a living document that can be adjusted to reflect the evolving needs of stakeholders. Regular reviews and coordinated updates with the impacted organizations throughout DOI improve the performance of interagency activities by eliminating procedural ambiguities, establishing clear responsibilities, and updating organizational references.

Course Name:	<i>Standard Operating Procedures Fluid Minerals – Indian</i>
Training Dates:	<i>December 13-14, 2022 (Tentative)</i>
Method:	<i>Virtual class</i>
Target Audience:	<i>Federal employees working with Indian Minerals</i>

Indian Energy Service Center



United States Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm and Office of Energy Director Wahleah Johns meeting with Tribes

IESC Participates in Tribal Clean Energy Summit

The Department of Energy, Tribal Clean Energy Summit was held on October 4-5, 2022, in Washington, DC. This two-day session included a tribal roundtable to discuss how tribes can use clean energy to enhance energy sovereignty, address climate issues, and build stronger economies.

Every two years, the U.S. DOE Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs invites tribal leaders and energy stakeholders to exchange ideas that promote energy infrastructure development for tribes and tribal communities. Tribal leaders have this opportunity to meet with a cross section of representatives from federal agencies, state governments, private industry, utilities, and academia to build networks, exchange ideas and explore cross-cutting and cost-effective solutions to national energy interests.

Staff from both the IESC and Division of Energy Minerals and Development office met with Clean Energy industry representatives and Tribal officials attending the event.



IESC staff attended the Summit (L to R): Jennifer Reimann, Supervisory Civil Engineer, Albert (Dale) Bond, Acting DEMD Director, Michelle Morrison, Acting IESC Director, Amanda Garrison, Supervisory Minerals Revenue Specialist

Indian Energy Service Center



Upcoming Federal Partner's Meeting

Federal Partner meetings have been scheduled for the Fiscal Year. Fort Berthold meetings are tentatively scheduled for late November to early December with dates to be set soon.

Federal Partner Charters	Meeting Dates	Scheduled Time (Mountain Standard)
Navajo	October 20, 2022	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Uintah & Ouray (U&O)	November 3, 2022	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Fort Berthold (Feds Only)	Nov or Dec 2022	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Fort Berthold with MHA Nation	Nov or Dec 2022	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Southwest	January 10, 2023	8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas	February 7, 2023	8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Rocky Mountain Region	March 9, 2023	8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.



The Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation business meeting. The Tribe experienced huge increases in oil production and generates increased royalty revenues for the tribal government and individual Indian landowners.

Indian Energy Service Center



IESC Welcomes Two New Staff Members

Ms. Katrina Brown, Trust Accounts Administrator (TAA) comes to IESC from the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA), Field Operations. She has served IIM Account Holders and Tribal leaders in Field Operations for over 14 years and has worked with the Colorado River, Fort Yuma, Salt River, and Pima Agencies in Arizona for the past two and half years. She also worked in Field Operations for the Choctaw, Chickasaw Nations, and the Shawnee Field Office in Oklahoma.

Ms. Brown has a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from University of Central Oklahoma and is a proud member of the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma. In her free time, she enjoys reading, billiards, spending time on and in the water and recently discovered side-by-side riding in the



Jami Russell, Land Law Examiner, Engineering Services Branch. Jami shared a photo with her three granddaughters

Ms. Jami Russell, Land Law Examiner (LLE) comes to IESC from the BLM Oklahoma Field Office (OKFO) where she worked in the oil and gas program 15 years as a Production Accountability Tech and LLE. The OKFO has an extensive work with Indian minerals; she worked alongside two BIA Regional Offices and three BIA Agencies. She brings a wealth of knowledge and enjoys the puzzles and challenges these oil and gas cases can m



Katrina Brown, Trust Accounts Administrator
Beneficiary Services Branch

Division of Real Estate Services



Standing Rock Reservation lands in North Dakota

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 monitoring of real property operations.

Fee-to-Trust Acquisitions total 25,060 Acres

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. A Departmental goal is Strengthening the government-to-government relationship with sovereign Tribal Nations and 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. 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.

On October 14, 2022, the BIA met the AS-IA's nationwide goal of issuing 230 Acceptance of Conveyance (AOC) documents before the end of the calendar year. Acceptance of Conveyance documents formalize the transfer a land title to the United States of America to be held in trust status for the benefit of an individual Indian or federally recognized Tribe. The 230 AOC documents total approximately 25,060 acres acquired into trust status. A big congratulations to the DRES Team and to all the BIA field offices nationwide for helping to attain this goal!

Real Estate Services Training Webpage

The DRES's created a "Real Estate Services Training" webpage, which contains training videos for the National Policy Memorandum (NPM-TRUS-44) Streamlining the Rights-of-Way (ROW) and Business Lease Application Process for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Telecommunication, and Renewable Energy Projects." This national policy memorandum removed regulatory barriers and standardized the rights-of-way (ROWs) and business leasing application process for infrastructure, broadband and renewable energy projects funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Division of Real Estate Services



Training videos are posted and available to BIA and Tribal Contract/Compact Staff, Tribes, and Individual beneficiaries to review to learn processes and help answer questions. The DRES will continue to post additional trainings and overview sessions as they are conducted. The Real Estate Services Training page can be found at <https://www.bia.gov/services/real-estate-training>.

The training webpage also includes Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Home Ownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act) Tribal Overview Sessions from July 2022.

TAAMS Trainings

TAAMS trainings were conducted during this quarter for Acquisitions & Disposals, Fee-to-Trust, Business Leasing, Rights-of-Way, and Lockbox and Invoicing. Training is provided by CGI and a Realty Specialist from the Division attends as a subject matter expert.

FY 2023 Scheduled TAAMS Training

TAAMS Training	Dates
TAAMS Overview	November 1-3, 2022
Qlik (Ad-Hoc / Inquiry)	November 8, 2022
Acquisition & Disposal	November 15-17, 2022
Qlik (Ad-Hoc / Inquiry)	November 22, 2022
Lockbox & Invoicing	November 29-December 1, 2022
TAAMS Overview	December 6-8, 2022



FY 2022 Training has been held virtually via MS Teams

Division of Real Estate Services



FY 2022 Approved HEARTH Act Tribal Leasing Regulations

The Ordinance for the Nisqually Indian Tribe was approved in under the 120-day statutory timeframe which is the first ever for HEARTH. This brings the total number of HEARTH Act cases approved in FY 2022 to twenty-two (22). You may view all 2013-2022 approved HEARTH Act regulations on the BIA Trust Services website at <https://www.bia.gov/service/HEARTH-Act/approved-regulations>.

Tribe	Leasing Regulation	Date Approved
Pascua Yaqui Tribe of AZ	Residential	October 26, 2021
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians	Business	October 26, 2021
Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation	Business	October 29, 2021
Tule River Indian Tribe	Agriculture, Business, Residential, Wind Energy, Wind Solar	December 16, 2021
Pascua Yaqui Tribe of AZ	Solar & Renewable Energy	December 22, 2021
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of OK	Agriculture, Business	December 22, 2021
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	Business	December 22, 2021
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo	Agriculture, Wind Energy, Wind Solar	January 21, 2022
Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of OR	Business, Public, Recreational, Religious, Residential	January 24, 2022
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of OK	Residential	January 24, 2022
Northern Cheyenne Tribe	Business, Solar, Wind	January 24, 2022
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho	Business	February 1, 2022
Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians	Agriculture, Business, Residential, Wind Energy, Wind Solar	February 7, 2022
Table Mountain Rancheria	Business	February 11, 2022
Pala Band of Mission Indians	Business	March 25, 2022
Pechanga Band of Indians	Residential	March 25, 2022
Karuk Tribe	Agriculture, Business, Residential	March 25, 2022
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	Business, Residential	April 1, 2022
Northfork Rancheria of Mono Indians	Business	April 19, 2022
Pala Band of Mission Indians	Business	April 19, 2022
Nisqually Indian Tribe	Business	August 30, 2022
Pueblo of Laguna	Business	September 7, 2022

Division of Real Estate Services



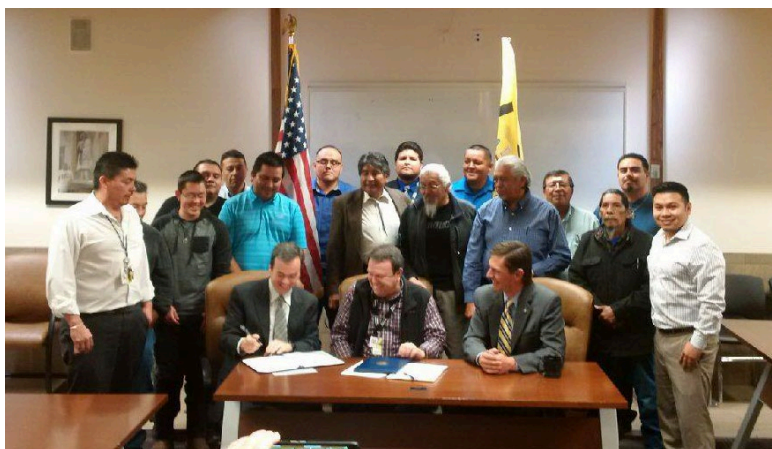
HEARTH Act Overview Training for Tribes

The Division of Real Estate Services coordinates the process of approving Tribal leasing regulations under the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act). Under the HEARTH Act, once Tribes' governing Tribal leasing regulations are submitted to and approved by the Secretary of the Interior, they are authorized to negotiate and enter into surface leases under their approved HEARTH Act regulations without further approval from the Department of the Interior.

In FY 2022, the HEARTH Team conducted three Tribal Overview trainings and more sessions are being planned for FY 2023. Training dates will be announced on the BIA HEARTH Act web site at <https://www.bia.gov/service/hearth-leasing>.

FY 2022 and FY 2023 HEARTH Act Training

Training	Dates
HEARTH Act Overview	July 5-6, 2022
HEARTH Act Overview	August 7, 2022
HEARTH Act Overview for Tribes	October 27, 2022
FY 2023 HEARTH Act	TBD



HEARTH Act signing ceremony for approval of tribal leasing regulations for the Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo in New Mexico

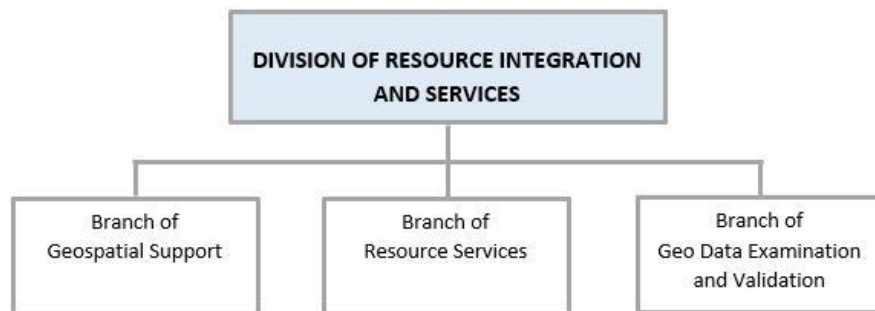
Division of Resource Integration and Services



Geotechnical advice using maps of Osage Reservation created by BIA GIS

Mission

The Division of Resource Integration is being developed to facilitate the modernization of data resources communication and interface to promote collaboration amongst programs and improve workflows through the Bureau in support of mission objectives.



Branch Functions

The Division of Resource Integration and Services support includes oversight of three separate branches.

- The Branch of **Geospatial Support** oversees AWS Enterprise platform, ESRI software administration and training, and GIS Helpdesk support.
- The Branch of **Resource Services** coordinates and manages OTS data for reporting and System Helpdesk Services.
- The Branch of **Geo Data Examination and Validation** provides the data/mapping digitization of Fee-to-Trust (FTT), Rights of Way (ROW) and Parcelization for nationwide geospatial dataset into the AWS enterprise.

Trust Representative Tract Viewer Webapp Pilot

A Tract viewer pilot was deployed across the Rocky Mountain and Pacific Regions for BIA and Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA) employees. The Pilot allows BIA and BTFA staff to provide comments and review the product prior to the release for Tribes and Federal Agencies.

Policy and Guidance

The Division will establish Indian Affairs Manual (IAM) Part 56 on Geospatial and other IAMs needed to provide executive leadership support, catalyze a cultural transformation in how the BIA approaches data management, for BIA to effectively use data standards when collecting and managing data. This includes development of Data Management Handbooks.

Division of Resource Integration and Services



Migration of portal (on prim) to Amazon Web Services (AWS) Geo platform Enterprise portal

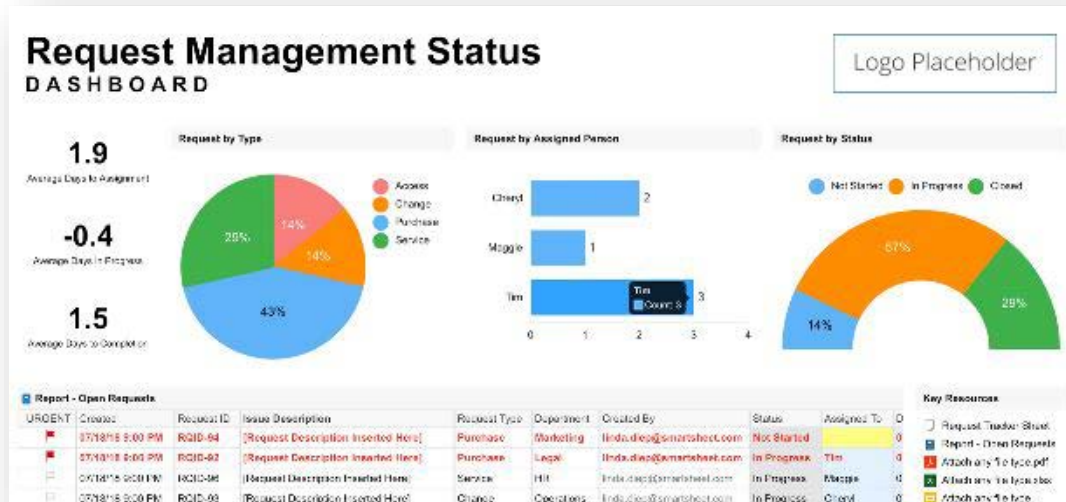
Migration of data from Prim to AWS will allow for non-PIV cardholders to access Tract Viewer WebMap and additional Trust Web maps and data. The Geo Platform business model emphasizes a partner network of providers, including Federal agencies and their partners in State, local, regional, and tribal governments, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, industry, and citizens.

Partners provide geospatial assets including data, services, applications, and infrastructure to the Geo Platform. In return, partners receive hosting capacity, technical support, and exposure of services to the broader community. By participating in the Geo Platform, the BIA fulfills its responsibility for the [Geospatial Data Act of 2018](#), Circular A-16, DATA Act 2014 and supports the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Strategic Plan 2021-2024.

Smartsheets

The Division has acquired a Software as a Service called [Smartsheet Gov](#) renamed for internal use Solution Trust Asset Tracker (STAT) to design, program, and facilitate implementation of a solutions platform in the form of dashboards, insights, and reporting for program decision support tools. STAT will support program planning and quality improvement initiatives for Indian Affairs' Trust Service Programs.

Sample Smartsheet representing data in both spreadsheets and graphs



Division of Resource Integration and Services



The Solution Trust Asset Tracker will be used to convey information by presenting location-based analytic using intuitive and interactive data visualization to organize program funding and plans. The STAT will help make decisions, visualize trends, create reports, and monitor status in real-time. Oversee data standardization, management, and accessibility.

Smartsheet Software as a Service (SaaS) has been acquired and will be deployed to support project tracking applications

- High Altitude Aviation Training Site (HAATS)
- Mortgage Tracker
- Cadastral Survey Contracts
- Fire Human Resource applications
- GIS Helpdesk
- Fee to Trust Land Description Evaluation and Validation
- Replace the TAPS Legacy application

Data Management

Data management is the practice of collecting, organizing, protecting, and storing an organization's data so it can be analyzed for business decisions. As organizations create and consume data at unprecedented rates, data management solutions become essential for making sense of the vast quantities of data.

Trust Data Governance Board (Board)

Establish a Board to provide authority for planning, guiding, and monitoring data management activities BIA Trust-wide, including creating policy and oversight to ensure accountability of data asset quality and assurance, data security, and the effective stewardship of data as a strategic Trust resource. The Board will be guided by the Associate Chief Data Officer (ACDO), establish the Trust Data Management Vision and Strategy to articulate how Trust data will be rigorous, discoverable, documented, accessible and secure.

The Division will ensure the Office of Trust is implementing the [OMB Circular A-130](#) "Managing Information as a Strategic Resource". The policy represents the shift from viewing security and privacy requirements as compliance exercises to understanding security and privacy as crucial elements of a comprehensive, strategic, and continuous risk-based program at Federal agencies.

Division of Water & Power



Four Horns Dam during Construction of Coffier Dam

FY 2023 Water Resources Technician Program

The Branch of Water Resources has re-established BIA Water Resources Technician Program to begin in Fiscal Year 2023. The Water Resources Technician Training Program also known as the Native American Water Corps is designed to provide technical knowledge for high school graduates, college under-graduates and possibly college graduates to gain opportunities, and to explore career goals in the water-based sciences with their tribal government, and/or, possible federal water resources positions throughout the country. This program provides native students

- An introduction to water resource management-based principles
- Practical and technical skills
- An understanding of the fundamental theories and practices related to basic surface water, groundwater, and water quality topics

Our long-term goal is to build and strengthen the capacity of participating federal government agencies and tribes to find qualified tribal personnel to fill entry level positions and/or to stimulate the students to pursue further education in the pursuit of water-based sciences that will produce future water resources leaders.

The Play-Learn-Serve work goals of the Department of Interior (DOI) is being incorporated into the Native American Water Corps program by providing the hands-on internships with tribal or government agency mentors to keep the students interested in water resources and to stimulate creative thought to help benefit participating organizations which provides mentoring to the Native Interns.



Student Training, University of Arizona

Division of Water & Power



Cooperative Agreement

The water resources program currently entered into a Cooperative Agreement with [Conservation Legacy](#), a Non-Profit AmeriCorps organization to administer 21 Students for a 26-week paid internship and to work with mentors from tribal and governmental agencies throughout the country. The mission is Conservation legacy engages future leaders who protect, restore, and enhance our nation's lands through community-based service.



Aeon Winter Albert, Hopi Ancestral Lands Crew

"Through my season, I was challenged not only physically, but mentally and spiritually as well. Having the opportunity to travel to different sites around AZ and UT allowed me to understand the people who came before us, and to learn about other species that call the southwest their home." - Aeon Winter Albert

Seeking Federal Partnerships

We are currently seeking partnerships from sister agencies, other federal departments, tribes, and possibly state municipalities to grow the Native American Water Corps to provide greater opportunity for native youth. This is a necessary program and can be a pathway for students and tribes to increase their capabilities to serve as informed and prudent managers of water-based sciences necessary for sustainability of Indian trust lands.

Division of Wildland Fire Management



Tribal Fire Forestry Student Summit attendees learn about mechanical treatments Navajo tribal members are completing at the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) in northern AZ ponderosa pine forest

Tribal Students Learn about Careers in Wildland Fire and Forestry Management

This month, national wildland fire management staff, in addition to Forestry and Pathways staff, attended the Tribal Forestry Student Summit "Investing in the Future of Tribal Forest Resources Management & Resources Management," hosted by Northern Arizona University (NAU) and the Intertribal Timber Council.



Aaron Baldwin, BIA Fire Director, speaking at Northern Arizona University Tribal Forestry Student Summit on fire management career opportunities.

Tribal students participated in the summit virtually and in-person on the NAU campus in Flagstaff, Arizona. Aaron Baldwin, BIA Fire Director, spoke with students about the vast and growing career opportunities within wildland fire management. Additionally, students heard from BIA Chief Forester Pete Wakeland and the BIA Pathways program about career and internship opportunities for their disciplines. This was a great opportunity to hear about student career interests and see those students within forestry who have wildland fire management experience with their Tribes and local BIA agencies.

Division of Wildland Fire Management



Anthony Polk's family members, Fort Yuma community members and fire staff show their support for all fallen firefighters in observance of Light the Night for Fallen Firefighters

Remembering Fallen Firefighters

October 2-9, the National Interagency Fire Center and agencies across the nation participated in [Light the Night for Fallen Firefighters](#) and [Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters](#). In recognition of Light the Night, agencies, fire departments, individuals and landmarks lit their buildings and homes with red lights for the week. On October 7, Jacqueline Martin, deputy fire director, led the bell ringing among agency representatives at the National Interagency Fire Center in recognition of all fallen wildland firefighters. Agency representatives ring the bell in recognition of all fallen firefighters for Bells Across America at the National Interagency Fire Center.



Pictured (L to R): Shane Crutcher, National Park Service Structural Fire Branch Chief, Meagan Conry, Bureau of Land Management Deputy Fire Director, Shawn Nagle, National Park Service Acting Branch Chief of Wildland Fire, Sara Fisher, U.S. Forest Service Deputy Director of Aviation and Operations, Shane McDonald, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Deputy Chief Fire Operations, and Jacqueline Martin, Bureau of Indian Affairs Deputy Fire Director

BIA Fort Yuma Agency held a night to recognize fallen wildland firefighter Anthony Polk among all fallen firefighters in observance of Light the Night. Polk's family members, community members and wildland fire management staff attended the memorial and lit the night with red lights.

Division of Wildland Fire Management



Alabama-Coushatta Wildland Fire Program Director Gesse Bullock accepts the Big Thicket Association's R.E. Jackson Conservation Award October 8, in Beaumont, TX on behalf of the Alabama-Coushatta Wildland Fire Program

Alabama Coushatta Fire Management Program Receives Conservation Award

On October 8, the Alabama-Coushatta Wildland Fire Management Team received the Big Thicket Association's R.E. Jackson Conservation Award at its annual board meeting held at Collier's Ferry Park in Beaumont, Texas. The Alabama-Coushatta are stewards of their lands, using effective land management practices to enhance nature.

"This recognition is a direct reflection of what can be accomplished with the support of our Tribal and BIA leadership. I am extremely excited about this award, but I know there is plenty of room for advancement and growth within our program," said Gesse Bullock. "Our FY23 looks to be another busy year for this program, and we would appreciate the continued support from our BIA leadership to continue the good work being fostered here at the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe."

The program received the award for its active efforts to preserve and adopt best practices in conservation for the long leaf pine forest management program included planting over 200 acres of longleaf seedling and using prescribed fire. The Tribe's control burn program, funded by the BIA, was highlighted as one of the best practices in the preservation of long leaf pine tree acreage. The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe considers the long leaf pine tree as a significant source of cultural identity for its Tribal members.



Planting long leaf pine seedlings and Alabama Coushatta Wildland Fire Team

Spotlight on the Navajo Region



Monument Valley on the Arizona-Utah border

Logistics of Service

The BIA Navajo Region is in Gallup, NM. This Region includes staff located at five BIA agencies servicing one Tribe in a four-state geographic area.

Trust Branches in the Region

Programs at the Regional level are more hands on when it comes to working with the Tribe.

Branch Chiefs work closely with the Region/agency offices to respond to services for the Navajo Nation in the following program areas:

- Engineering and Safety of Dams
- Environmental and Cultural Resources
- Geospatial Services
- Forestry
- Natural Resources
- Probate
- Real Estate Services
- Water Resources
- Wildland Fire Management

NAVAJO Region

The Navajo Region is unique in that it provides services only to the Navajo Nation and its members due to their substantial population and large land base covering the states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah

Who We Are...Who We Serve

5 BIA Agencies
1 Federally recognized Tribe
10.6 million acres
Service area: AZ, CO, NM, and UT

Regional Trust Point of Contact

Angela Arviso
Deputy Regional Director
BIA, Navajo Regional Office
301 West Hill Street, Gallup, NM 87301
Email: Angela.arviso@bia.gov

Map of Regional Office Service Area



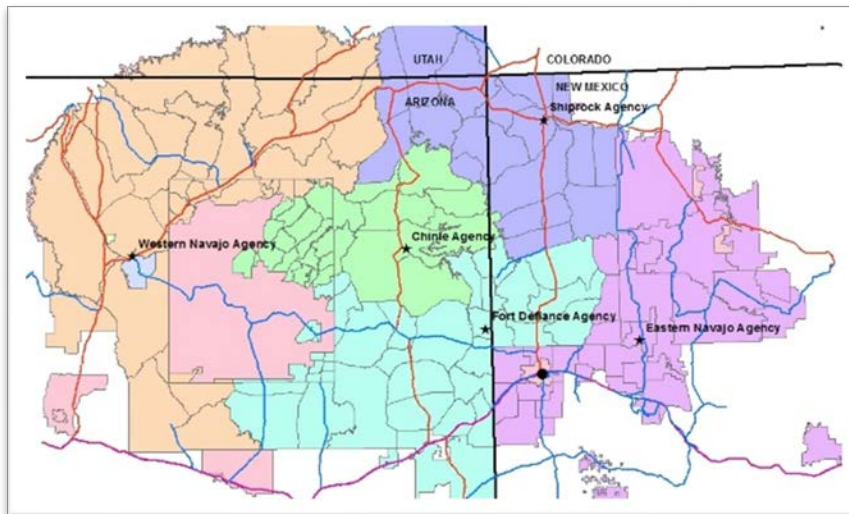
Spotlight on the Navajo Region



Five Agencies

The Navajo Region is comprised of five (5) agencies. Agency program staff report directly to their respective Regional Office Branch Chief, under the Deputy Regional Director, except for the Eastern Navajo Agency. Staff at the Eastern Navajo Agency report to the Superintendent. The Agencies primarily focus on the following program areas: Natural Resources, Real Estate Services and Probate & Estate Services.

Map of BIA Navajo Agency land area covered



Navajo Nation Chapters

A Chapter is the most local form of government on the Navajo Nation. Each of the 5 BIA agencies has assigned Chapters with their own Chapter house. Chapters are semi-self-autonomous, being able to decide most matters which concern their own chapter. Typically, they meet in a Chapter house where they can express their opinions to their Navajo Nation Council Delegate. Currently there are 24 delegates who represent the 110 chapter. The Ramah Navajo Chapter is serviced by the Southwest Region and not included in Chapter number in this table. Population source: 2010 U.S. Census

Navajo Chapters, Population and Land Matters

Agency	Location	Chapters	Population	Acres	Grazing Permittees
Chinle	Chinle, AZ	14	27,823	1,363,423	1,461
E. Navajo	Crownpoint, NM	31	33,216	1,039,210	1,637
Ft. Defiance	Ft. Defiance, AZ	27	43,138	3,211,317	3,845
Shiprock	Shiprock, NM	19	31,145	2,725,186	1,693
W. Navajo	Tuba City, AZ	18	36,737	2,359,122	1,160
TOTALS		109	172,059	10,698,258	9,796

Spotlight on Navajo Region Deputy



Angela M. Arviso BIOGRAPHY

Angela Arviso is a Navajo of the Haltsooi (Meadow People) and Tó'aheedliinii (Water Flows Together) Clans. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Arizona State University and began her career in the BIA, Rocky Mountain Region, Branch of Engineering. She has worked at the Southwest Region, Division of Transportation and while there served on several temporary details to the following positions: Acting Superintendent at Southern Pueblos, Northern Pueblos, and the Ute Mountain Ute Agencies before serving as Acting Deputy Regional Director, Indian Services within the Southwest Region.

Interview

Ms. Arviso joined the Trust leadership team as a Deputy Regional Director in October 2021 and was recently interviewed about her experiences.

What was your first government job?

Civil Engineer, BIA Rocky Mountain Region, Branch of Engineering.

Which Trust duties were a surprise?

The Branch of Natural Resources and the services provided: land use permits; grazing committees and permits; tall counts; range management units; noxious and invasive weeds; sheep units, land management districts; carrying capacity; farm board; etc. Everything to do with Mother Earth and her surroundings. A different realm.

What do you do for fun?

I enjoy traveling and biking. My recent trips included Arizona, Alaska, Washington, and Southern California. I take great joy in riding my Harley and target shooting.

What was your greatest challenge in FY 2022?

Beginning a new position as Deputy Regional Director while on maximum telework during this pandemic and transition from Southwest regions' 25 Tribes to Navajo Region's one Tribe.

What is your favorite Trust Program?

I don't have a favorite and enjoy all the Navajo Region's branches. Each program is unique in their own way and the programs band together as a team, when needed, in carrying out the BIA's Trust responsibilities.

Share a positive work memory

Our team of eight (8) and one Awarding Official at Southwest Region, Transportation and Self-Determination Divisions obligated 100% of \$10M in Tribal Transportation Program (TTP), and construction, transportation, planning, safety, and bridge funds one (1) month prior to FY year end.

How would you like others to remember your time as a Deputy?

That I got things done through building partnership and teamwork.

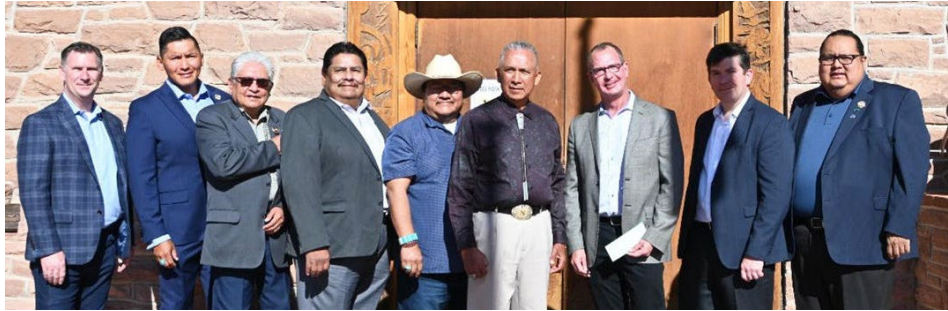
What advice would you give others who would like to be a Deputy?

If the opportunity arises take it.

Who is your mentor in BIA?

Mr. Gregory Mehojah, Regional Director, Navajo Region. I like his leadership style and value is trust and support. I am continuously learning from him.

Navajo Region, Real Estate Services



Members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council and representatives from Arcadian Infracom

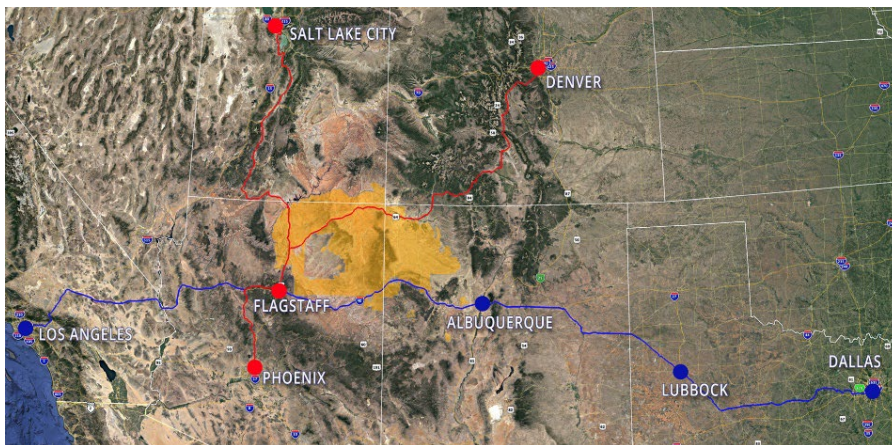
Arcadian Infracom Right-of-Way

Arcadian Infracom, a fiber infrastructure company building diverse, lower latency long-haul fiber routes connecting major data center markets, has signed an agreement for the purchase of multiple fiber pairs along its Phoenix to Salt Lake City route by a well-established broadband provider. Working with the Real Estate Services team Arcadian has received the required easement from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to construct its first backbone fiber route through the heart of the Navajo Nation.

Running along Highway 89 between Flagstaff and Page, Arizona, this project will stretch the global internet backbone through the Navajo Nation and other rural communities as Arcadian creates a diverse, more direct fiber connection between Phoenix and Salt Lake City.

Navajo Arcadian Fiber Project Route

The Navajo Arcadian Fiber Project, established in 2018 by Navajo legislation and expanded through 2020 legislation, will provide a long-term, sustainable fiber backhaul solution for communities along the fiber route. This scaled fiber backhaul connectivity is essential to enable distance learning, telemedicine, remote working capabilities, and other 21st century economic development opportunities for the people in these rural communities.



The BIA easement is the culmination of a 3+ year, highly collaborative process with the Navajo Nation and the Department of the Interior's BIA to build a major long haul fiber route through Indian country, rather than bypassing these communities as has happened in the past. Arcadian is well positioned with shovel-ready projects that align with the tens of billions of dollars that individual states and the US government are providing to solve the rural and tribal broadband access problem.

Navajo Region, Real Estate Services



Abandoned Uranium Mine on the Navajo Reservation

Abandoned Uranium Mines

Many Navajo people worked in and near the mines, often living and raising families near the mines and mills where ore was processed. Since 2008, federal agencies have collaborated to address uranium contamination on the Navajo Nation.

Working with BIA RES staff, EPA is obtaining contact information for allottees affected by the abandoned sites in accordance with the Communications Plan to reach out regarding the cleanup alternatives that are being considered for sites. EPA has prepared the map below of abandoned Uranium Mines on or near the Navajo Nation.



Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) photo of location of the Eunice Becenti Uranium Mine on the Navajo Reservation. Uranium was mined here from 1953-1959.

There are 523 mine claims, consisting of 509 mine sites and 1,265 mine features such as waste piles and mine openings. From 1944 to 1986, nearly 30 million tons of uranium ore were extracted from the Navajo Nation for development of atomic weapons and nuclear power. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Web map identifies Abandoned Uranium Mines on or within one mile of the Navajo Nation.

See interactive EPA map at <https://geopub.epa.gov/NavajoNationAUM/>

Navajo Region, Real Estate Services



Mission

The Branch of Probate and Estate Services (BPES) prepares cases for individual Indians that hold trust assets by completing the family history of the decedent and compiling all documents required by the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA). The majority of family research work is in conjunction with the Navajo Nation Vital Records Office.

Communication with Clients in Navajo Language

BPES staff has provided technical assistance to Indian allotment interest holders, so they have a better understanding of what they have holdings in and what it means to them. Staff assist clients in the office, in the field doing home visits, over the phone, and through email.

Many of the activities and interactions were conducted in the Navajo language so clients may utilize the information for estate planning. These activities greatly benefit the Navajo Nation for land use planning related to consents for infrastructure and commercial projects that involve Indian allotments.



Useful Phrases in Navajo

English	Diné Bizaad (Navajo)
Hello	Yá'át'ééh
Good morning	Yá'át'ééh abíní
My name is...	Shí éí ... yinishyé
Do you speak Navajo?	Diné bizaad'ish dinits'a'?
Please	T'aa shoodi

Historical photo c.1915 of a Silversmith at the Navajo Nation Fair and common Navajo phrase in English and Navajo.

Navajo Region, Irrigation and Power



San Juan Irrigation Projects

The San Juan River Navajo Irrigation Projects consist of the Fruitland-Cambridge Irrigation Project and the Hogback-Cudei Irrigation Project, both located on the Navajo Nation near Shiprock, New Mexico. Shiprock, New Mexico is located within the Navajo and Canyon lands of the Colorado Plateau at the boundary of the Four Corner's Platform and the Hogback monocline.

Fruitland-Cambridge Irrigation Project

In 2011, Congress authorized \$7.7M to the Secretary of Interior for the rehabilitation of the Fruitland-Cambridge (F-C) Irrigation Project. The F-C Irrigation Project is defined as all irrigation infrastructure served by Fruitland Canal. It is located along the Fruitland Canal where it diverts water from the San Juan River on the Eastern boundary of the Navajo Nation where it begins near Farmington, New Mexico and extends just past the Hogback monocline and ends at the Cambridge portion of the project. The Fruitland Canal extends 22 miles long and serves 3,335 acres in Upper Fruitland, Nenahnezad, and the San Juan Chapters. The canal includes both concrete lined and unlined sections. It also has two major siphons and a long tunnel. The F-C Irrigation Project consist of four projects: Fruitland Diversion, Fruitland Canal Slope Stabilization, Bitsui Siphon, and Yellowman Siphon.



Three Bitsui Siphon Construction photos

Fruitland Diversion is a canal headwork replacement construction project to also include a fish weir. This project is schedule is to start in Fall 2023. Bitsui Siphon, a design-build project where it involves demolition of the existing pipeline and replacing with 775 feet HDPE pipe, as well as a new trash rack screen. This project is complete. Figure 1 shows the construction of this project. The Yellowman Siphon project replaces 2,414 feet of steel pipe and install an automated trash screen. This project was completed this year. Lastly, the Fruitland Canal Slope Stabilization, a design project to stabilize the collapsed canal embankment slope of the Fruitland Canal, is complete.

Navajo Region, Irrigation and Power



Hogback-Cudei Irrigation Project

The Hogback-Cudei (H-C) Irrigation Project is defined as all irrigation infrastructure served by the Hogback Canal. The Hogback Canal diverts water from the San Juan River at the Hogback monocline at the Navajo Nation boundary just south of US Highway 64. The Hogback Canal is 26 miles long, located on the northern bank of the San Juan River, where it diverts from the San Juan River at the Hogback Diversion. This canal serves 8,830 acres.



Hogback Canal is both concrete lined and unlined and serves approximately 135 miles of lateral canals

Hogback Canal consist of a fish weir barrier, a pump station, nine mainline siphons, and two lateral siphons. The H-C Irrigation Project consist of five projects: Helium Lateral, Hogback Canal Steel Siphons, Eagle Nest Siphon Cleaning and Inlet Safety, Canal Lining Rehabilitation-Baker Wash Phase, and Lateral Conversion Projects. The first project, Helium Lateral Siphon is a project replacing an existing 40-ft steel pipeline with HDPE. This project is completed. The second, Hogback Canal Steel Siphons. This project replaces the old, elevated steel siphons and flume along the Hogback Canal and Helium Lateral. The third, Eagle Nest Siphon Cleaning and Inlet Safety cleans Eagle Nest Siphon and installs safety features on both the inlet and outlet of the siphon. The fourth project is the Canal Lining Rehabilitation.

This project is to rehabilitate the concrete lining in the Hogback Canal. The last project, Lateral Conversion is a project to purchase pipe material as a cost-shared project with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to complete the Colorado River Salinity Program Habitat Replacement (CRSPHR) Project. This project is complete.

Both San Juan Irrigation Projects are progressively moving forward to complete to meet their deadline, December 31, 2024. The COVID-19 pandemic played a major role in delaying some projects. Despite the delay, the Navajo Nation successfully complete three projects for the Fruitland-Cambridge Irrigation where it now serves the Navajo communities in delivering water to the farmland. The Navajo Nation and BIA Navajo Region continues to work together to strive forward to complete all projects by the deadline of December 31, 2024.

Navajo Region, Safety of Dams



Navajo Nation - Safety of Dams Projects

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Safety of Dams (SOD) program was established under the Indian Dams Safety Act of 1994, Public Law No. 103-302 (25 U.S.C. § 3801 et seq.). Its mission is to reduce the potential loss of human life and property damage caused by dam failure by making dams as safe as practically possible on Indian lands on a long-term basis to protect the people, property, resources, and the environment. The dams on Indian reservations form a significant part of water resources and trust assets.

Dam safety activities include but are not limited to: (1) risk management and risk reduction; (2) emergency management, including Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) and Early Warning Systems (EWS); (3) inspections and evaluations; (4) maintenance and repairs; and (5) security.

The SOD program manages its portfolio of dams using a risk-informed approach. The primary emphasis is on protecting downstream residents from undue risks by correcting dam structures that are deemed high-risk for failure, utilizing a risk-informed decision process. The Navajo Nation dams classified High or Significant Hazard in the BIA inventory were constructed for irrigation, livestock, flood control, recreational purposes, etc.

Navajo Nation Dams Identified as High or Significant Hazard

Name of Dam	Location (City, State)
Asaayi Dam	Crystal, NM
Blue Canyon Dam	Ft. Defiance, NM
Captain Tom Dam	Newcomb, NM
Charley Day Springs Dam	Tuba City, AZ
Cutter Dam	Bloomfield, NM
Ganado Dam	Ganado, AZ
Many Farms Dam	Many Farms, AZ
Red Lake Dam	Navajo, NM
Round Rock Dam	Navajo, NM
Todacheene Dam	Crystal, NM
To'hajiilee Dam	To'hajiilee, NM
Tsaile Dam	Tsaile, AZ
Wheatfields Dam	Wheatfields, AZ
Window Rock Dam	Window Rock, AZ

Navajo Region, Safety of Dams



The Navajo Nation Safety of Dams (NNSOD) Public Law 93-638 contract program under the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources within the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources administers the Navajo Nation dam daily operation, maintenance, and repair program, performs dam monitoring services, and operates the Early Warning System to ensure that they are in satisfactory condition.

Charley Day Spring Dam

One of the Navajo Nation dams Charley Day Spring has undergone rehabilitation upgrade in 2021 and 2022. Another dam To'hajiilee started the rehabilitation construction in 2022 with completion targeted for early 2023. Charley Day Spring Dam is located on the Colorado Plateau in north central Arizona. This portion of Arizona, from the Grand Canyon to the Four Corners area, is called Great Basin Desert or Navajoan Desert.



Charley Day Spring Dam is an isolated dam located on the northeast side of Tuba City, AZ on the Navajo Indian Reservation, approximately 80 miles north of Flagstaff, AZ

Specific information concerning the original design and construction of Charley Day Spring Dam were not available; however, it is believed that the homogeneous earth-filled embankment dam was built in 1940. The dam had no spillway, and its outlet works had been abandoned and was inoperable. The original Charley Day Spring Dam was approximately 15 feet (ft) high, with a crest length of 700 ft with a maximum reservoir of 3.5 acres and normal pool capacity is about 13.5 acre-ft.

The original Charley Day Spring Dam had no means of sufficiently and safely holding and/or passing flood flows. The original dam embankment consisted of fine sand with silt and was viewed to be highly erodible with no erosion protection measures incorporated.

Navajo Region, Safety of Dams



The Charley Springs Dam was susceptible to failure by overtopping and erosion in response to a large storm event. Homes or apartments were and still located approximately 30 feet (ft) from the downstream toe of the dam. The homes and apartment complex could all be damaged or destroyed, depending on the discharge. There are also a school and an athletic field below the dam. Other nearby schools were also likely to experience shallow flooding if a dam failure were to occur. Dam rehabilitation construction work included the following elements:

- Excavation, removal, and disposal of existing structures and items.
- Clearing and grubbing construction areas of vegetation and rubbish including tree removal.
- Stripping and stockpiling of topsoil from construction areas.
- Removing water from work areas and controlling water to prevent flow of water into work areas.
- Preserving existing utilities and fencing.
- Excavating material from dam embankment.
- Excavation for structures.
- Excavation and grading of spillway channel.
- Placing and compacting embankment materials.
- Furnishing and installing geotextile.
- Furnishing and placing rock riprap.
- Furnishing and installing survey monuments.
- Furnishing and placing crushed stone pathways.
- Furnishing and placing colored gravel on downstream face of embankment. Grading, reclamation, seeding, and establishing vegetation of areas disturbed by construction.
- Constructing shaped concrete spillway drop structures.

The Charley Day Springs Dam rehabilitation contractor, Sealaska Constructors, LLC, mobilized on October 11, 2021. The construction was completed in May of 2022 with a final inspection being done May 25, 2022.

Navajo Region, Branch of Safety of Dams



To'hajiilee Dam

There was also no specific information on the original design if any and construction of To'hajiilee Dam which was built on Indian Allotment Land. The dam is considered a non-engineered homogeneous earth fill dam located on an unnamed tributary of Canada de los Apaches about 35 miles west of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The original dam had no spillway, and its outlet works had been abandoned and was inoperable. The structural height is about 17 ft with an embankment length of about 490 ft and reservoir capacity of approximately 200 acre-feet. The To'hajiilee Dam was deemed to have high risk of failure during high during flood events which would have resulted in overtopping failure or seepage related failure. The dam was breached prior to the commencement of rehabilitation work with an open-cut trapezoidal section.



The To'hajiilee Dam was deemed to have high risk of failure during high flood events which would have resulted in overtopping failure or seepage related to failure

The To'hajiilee Dam rehabilitation construction work includes the following elements:

- Sand filter and gravel drain
- Embankment placement and slope protection
- Toe drain, crest survey monuments, and piezometer
- Outlet works, spillway control structures, and spillway improvements
- Abandonment of existing breach and disposal or reuse of breach materials
- Relocation of Early Warning System (EWS) building

The construction Notice to Proceed was issued to the contractor ARS Aleut Construction, LLC on done August 1, 2022, with the period of performance for 270 days. The Contractor site mobilization was September 6, 2022.

Human Resources



Time to Schedule Use or Lose Leave

Employees may carry forward no more than 30 days (240 hours) of leave into the new calendar year. The last date to schedule accrued leave over the 240 hours, or “use or lose” leave is Friday, November 18, 2022.



Combined Federal Campaign Deadline is January 14, 2023

Overseen by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), the Combined Federal Campaign is the official workplace giving campaign for federal employees. Since its inception, the CFC has raised more than \$8.6 billion for charities and people in need. The U.S. Department of interior has set a target of \$400,00 in contributions to the Combined Federal Campaign by January 15, 2023. To learn more about the CFC or to submit a pledge see <https://givecfc.org> or contact Jennifer Stevenson, at pmb_cfc@ios.doi.gov.

- Click here to search for and view approved [charity videos](#).
- The Online Giving System (<https://www.cfcgiving.opm.gov>) offers a simple way to give and volunteer.

Federal Employee Health Benefit (FEHB) Open Season ends December 12, 2022

This is the time of year to ensure that you have the right health, dental or vision insurance coverage for you and your family. It is also time to consider the money you can save on your out-of-pocket medical and dependent care expenses for the upcoming year. For more benefits information, please see the OPM website at <https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/open-season/>.

Most FEHB plans will see benefit and rate changes for 2023. The Office of Personnel Management has set up a web site for employees to Check your Health plan for possible dropouts, addition of options or expansions to geographic coverage areas. If you are impacted by a dropout by your health plan

- You will have an opportunity to change plans during this Open Season
- If you don't act, by law your enrollment will be **automatically changed to the lowest-cost national plan**.

Human Resources



Flexible Spending Accounts (HCFSA) do not Automatically Renew

The FSA is an easy way to save money on items and services you already buy (Doctor visits and other medical expenses, prescriptions filled, dental care, preventative and restorative, vision care, orthodontia). A Health Care FSA is a pre-tax benefit account that's used to pay for eligible medical, dental, and vision care expenses that are not covered by your healthcare plan or elsewhere.

You decide how much to contribute based on how much you plan to spend in the upcoming year. Since the money allotted to your HCFSA is not subject to payroll taxes, you save an average of 30% on your eligible health care expenses. Use this [savings calculator](#) to find out how much you can save. You can only enroll during the Federal Health Benefits Open Season, your new hire election period, or if you experience a [Qualified Life Event](#) (QLE).

\$63M Settlement over OPM Database Breach

On October 14, 2022, a federal judge finalized the Office of Personnel Management's settlement agreement with current and former federal employees, and federal job applicants, impacted by the 2015 data breach 2015. (Claim deadline is December 23, 2022). You may submit a claim at <https://opmdatabreach.com>. The law firm Girard Sharp, representing plaintiffs in the lawsuit, said in June the settlement will provide a minimum payment of \$700 for individuals who suffered a financial loss (even a minor expense) due to the hack.



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