

Summary: BLM State Office Director Violated Federal Regulations and DOI Policy

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The OIG investigated allegations that Andrew Archuleta, Director of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Wyoming State Office and a member of the Senior Executive Service, may have violated the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch, 5 C.F.R. part 2635 (Standards of Ethical Conduct), when he accepted a gift of dinner and drinks at a Cheyenne, Wyoming, steakhouse from the owner of a commercial sign manufacturing company (Company Owner). We also assessed whether Archuleta violated the Standards of Ethical Conduct by requesting or encouraging his subordinate executive assistant to make air travel arrangements for Archuleta's girlfriend to accompany him on an official trip to Phoenix, Arizona. We further investigated whether Archuleta's use of a Government rental vehicle for personal purposes on his trip to Phoenix, Arizona, violated U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) policy or the Federal Travel Regulation. Finally, we examined whether Archuleta violated DOI policy by driving his girlfriend in a Government owned vehicle (GOV) when she was not conducting official business.

We found that Archuleta violated the Standards of Ethical Conduct when he accepted a gift of dinner and drinks from the Company Owner, a prohibited source as defined by the ethics rules. We also concluded that Archuleta misused his subordinate's time in violation of the Standards of Ethical Conduct when he requested or encouraged his executive assistant to use her official time to make air travel arrangements for his girlfriend to accompany him on official travel. In addition, we determined that Archuleta misused a Government rental vehicle in violation of DOI policy when he allowed his girlfriend to drive the rental vehicle and that he violated the Federal Travel Regulation when he used the Government rental car for personal purposes. Finally, we found that Archuleta violated DOI policy when he drove his girlfriend to and from Buffalo, Wyoming, in a GOV because she was neither a Federal employee nor conducting official Government business there.

This is a summary of an investigative report we issued to the Acting Director of BLM.

