



OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

ORGANIZATIONAL ASSESSMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

March 2026



CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS LIST	1
DOI Bureaus and Select DOI Offices	
Select OIG Offices	
A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL PERFORMING THE DUTIES OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL	2
ABOUT THE OIG	3
Our Mission and Values	
Resources	
OIG Strategy Map: Goals and Objectives for FY 2025	
OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES AND PRIORITIES	5
DOI's Portfolio	
OIG's FY 2025 Oversight Priorities	
PROMOTING POSITIVE CHANGE: FISCAL YEAR 2025 RESULTS.....	6
Strategic Goal: Promote Positive Change Through Prioritized and Timely Oversight	
ADDRESSING TOP PRIORITIES: HIGHLIGHTS OF EFFECTIVE OVERSIGHT	9
Taking Steps To Enable DOI To Manage Spending	
Promoting Accountability in DOI's Delivery of Core Services	
Recommending Changes To Help DOI Ensure Health and Safety	
Building Public Trust	
AWARD-WINNING WORK.....	11
Investigation Award for Excellence	
Audit Award for Excellence	
Inspection Award for Excellence	
FISCAL YEAR 2026 OVERSIGHT PORTFOLIO	12
Spending and Operations	
Core Services	
Public Trust	

ABBREVIATIONS LIST

DOI Bureaus and Select DOI Offices

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) • Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) • Bureau of Land Management (BLM) • Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) • National Park Service (NPS) • Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) • Office of the Secretary (OS) • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

Select OIG Offices

Office of Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations (AIE) • Office of Investigations (OI)



Petrified Forest National Park. Source: NPS

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL PERFORMING THE DUTIES OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

I am pleased to present the fiscal year (FY) 2025 Organizational Assessment for the U.S.

Department of the Interior (DOI) Office of Inspector General (OIG).
OIG promotes efficiency and effectiveness and prevents and detects fraud, waste, and abuse in DOI's programs and operations. As described throughout this report, our oversight during FY 2025 addressed some of DOI's most persistent challenges in its highest risk programs and operations. Our oversight work protected taxpayer resources, helped the Department and others hold bad actors accountable, and drove improvements at the Department by making actionable recommendations.

DOI has a wide-ranging portfolio. It manages 20 percent of the Nation's lands and receives hundreds of millions of visitors to national parks and other public lands every year. DOI spends billions of dollars on acquisitions and financial assistance to execute its mission, and it collects and disperses billions of dollars in revenue from energy production on public lands. It also seeks to fulfill the obligations of the United States to over 570 federally recognized Tribes.

In addition, we acknowledge that DOI initiated numerous organizational and policy changes in 2025 that influence all aspects of its operations. The pace and complexity of these large-scale organizational changes present both risks and opportunities, particularly given the breadth of DOI's portfolio. We will remain attentive to ways in which our oversight can help DOI mitigate risks and more effectively and efficiently achieve the goals intended by these changes.

OIG continues to focus its resources in the areas that present the greatest risks and the greatest opportunity for impact. We identify these areas in large part through our annual assessment of the



major management challenges facing the Department, and our oversight work specifically addresses those challenges. For example, we devoted substantial resources to contract and grant oversight, health and safety issues, and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funds. In addition to the specific areas identified as management challenges, we sought to enhance public trust in Government through ongoing attention to allegations of ethics violations and employee misconduct.

More specifically, our Office of Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations (AIE) issued 44 reports with 234 recommendations that, if implemented, will improve DOI's programs and operations. Further, DOI acted on 292 recommendations, enabling us to close them, including one of our three priority recommendations.

Our Office of Investigations (OI) closed 70 investigations. Its efforts resulted in 3 criminal convictions, 12 sentencing, and 17 debarments, promoting accountability and protecting taxpayer resources.

We obtained these results during a year in which our staff decreased by 20 percent. We remain committed to improving the DOI through oversight in high-risk areas and providing timely, high-quality work with relevant information and actionable recommendations. By doing so, we will continue to fulfill our statutory responsibility to help ensure that DOI's programs operate effectively and accomplish their goals of serving the American people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Brzymialkiewicz".

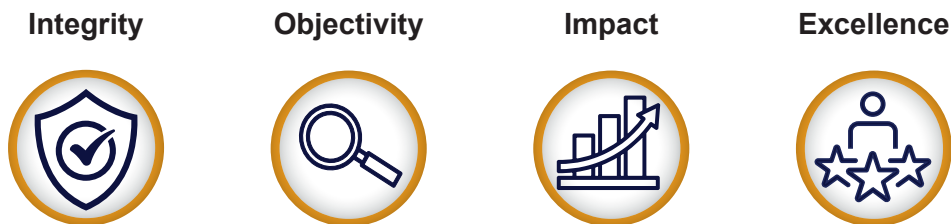
Caryl N. Brzymialkiewicz, Ph.D.
Deputy Inspector General Performing
the Duties of the Inspector General

ABOUT THE OIG

Our Mission and Values

The Inspector General Act of 1978 authorized and established our office as an independent and objective unit within DOI to ensure accountability. We conduct fair, objective and neutral audits, inspections, evaluations, investigations, and reviews and report our findings to DOI officials and Congress. Our mission is to promote economy and efficiency and to prevent and detect waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in DOI's programs and operations. We carry out this mission in accordance with our values of integrity, objectivity, impact, and excellence.

Our Core Values

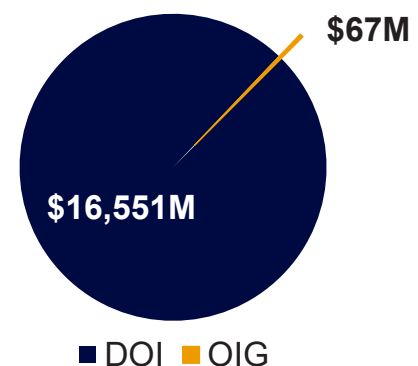


The **Office of Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations** issues reports that measure DOI programs and operations against objective criteria to determine efficiency and effectiveness. In addition to work that is selected based on our assessment of the highest risks facing the Department, AIE also conducts specific statutorily required projects, including financial statement audits and certain cybersecurity work. Its work results in actionable recommendations to DOI that lead to meaningful improvements. The **Office of Investigations** investigates allegations of criminal, civil, and administrative misconduct involving DOI employees, contractors, grantees, and programs. OI's investigations can result in criminal prosecutions, fines, civil monetary penalties, administrative sanctions, and personnel actions. OI coordinates with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and other law enforcement partners as appropriate.

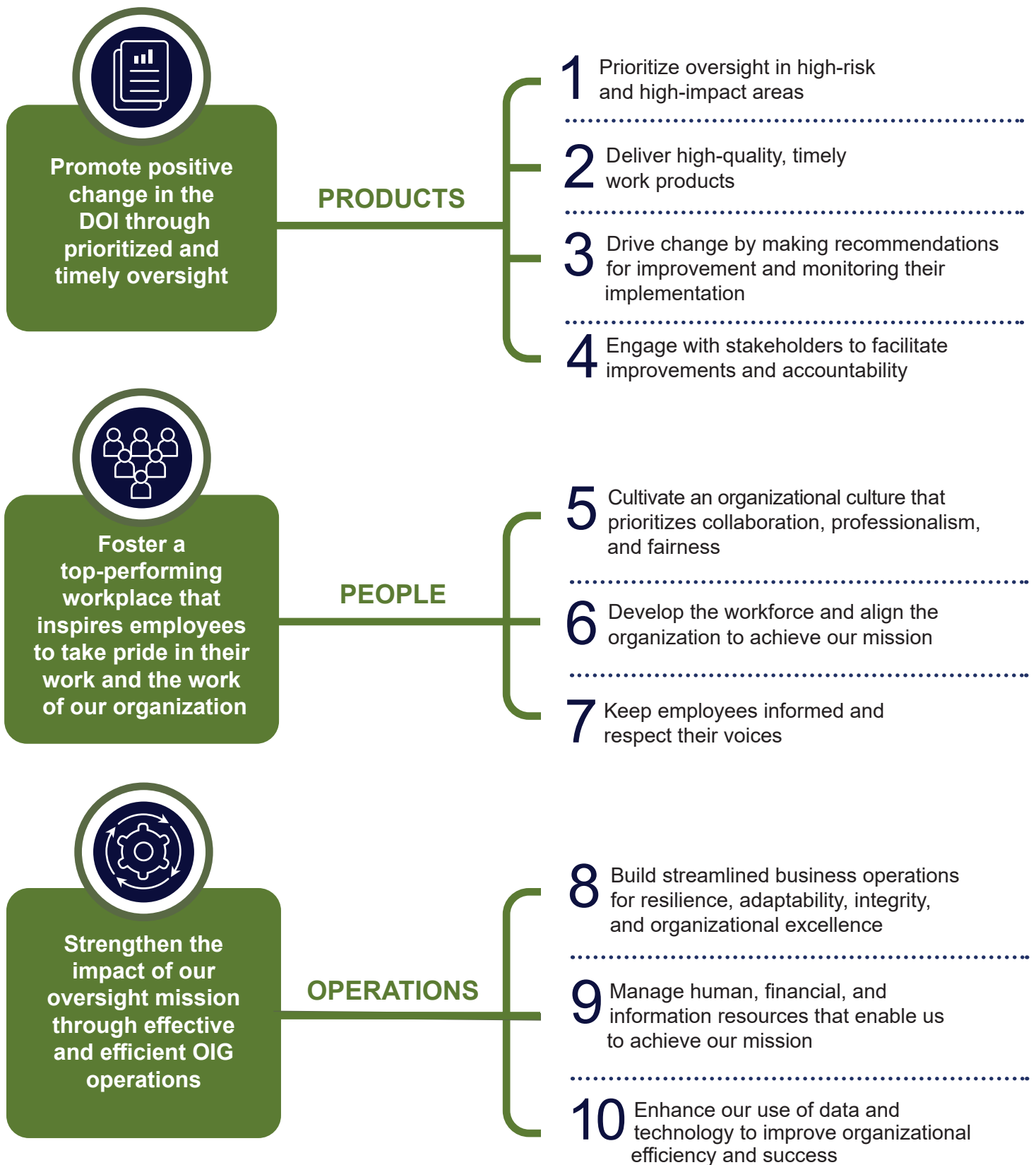
Resources

DOI's programs and operations have a significant public impact, and we strive to conduct oversight that will help improve them. With a small fraction of DOI's resources (see Figure 1) and a workforce that has decreased by 20 percent since January 2025, we must carefully and deliberately prioritize our oversight work. We use a risk-based approach to focus our resources. Our strategic plan sets forth the specific goals and objectives that guide us in meeting our statutory obligations and in setting overall priorities (see the "OIG Strategy Map" on the next page).

Figure 1: OIG's FY 2025 Base Appropriation Was 0.40% of DOI's



OIG Strategy Map: Goals and Objectives for FY 2025¹

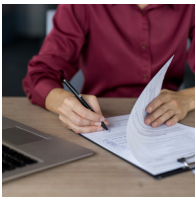


¹ The strategy map above is from the DOI OIG Strategic Plan for 2022-2026, which provided the framework for our oversight during FY 2025. The Strategic Plan was updated in October 2025 and covers the period FY 2026 through FY 2030.

OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES AND PRIORITIES

The OIG has a broad mandate to oversee DOI's expansive portfolio. To identify oversight priorities that maximize the value of our work to the Department, Congress, and the public, we take a risk-based approach that aligns with our strategic goal to promote positive change. This approach considers our FY 2024 assessment of DOI's major management challenges (managing spending, delivering core services, and ensuring health and safety), our FY 2025 oversight plan, and our overarching responsibility to build public trust in Government by promoting accountability in the Federal workforce. The oversight priorities we identified for FY 2025 are outlined below. However, we remained flexible throughout the year so we could also address emerging threats, new vulnerabilities, and unanticipated but significant issues requiring oversight.

DOI's Portfolio



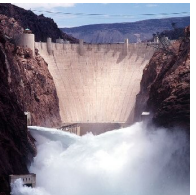
Contracts and Grants

- 43,467 awards administered
- Worth approximately \$18.9 billion in FY 2025



Land Management

- 480 million acres of public land
- 56 million acres of Indian Trust lands



Water and Power Management

- Water supplied to 17 Western States
- Second largest hydroelectric power producer in the United States



Energy Leases

- Equal to 18 percent of U.S. energy production
- \$14.9 billion in energy revenue collected in FY 2025



Tribal Trust

- Fulfills U.S. obligations to more than 570 federally recognized Tribes

OIG's FY 2025 Oversight Priorities



Spending

- Infrastructure Spending
- Contracts and Grants/Financial Management
- Deferred Maintenance



Core Services

- Water and Power Management
- Energy
- Responsibility to Native Americans
- Cybersecurity
- Data Quality



Health and Safety

- Law Enforcement and Public Safety
- Wildfire Management
- Climate Change Response



Public Trust

- Employee Misconduct
- Ethics Violations

PROMOTING POSITIVE CHANGE: FISCAL YEAR 2025 RESULTS

FY 2025 was a productive year for our office. We issued more reports and closed more investigations than the prior year, while continuing to focus on high-risk, high-impact issues and making our own operations more efficient. We made actionable recommendations to DOI, investigative referrals to DOJ, and identified \$38,581,661 in questioned costs and defrauded and uncollected funds.²



\$38,581,661
in questioned,
defrauded, and
uncollected
funds identified

Source: Shutterstock

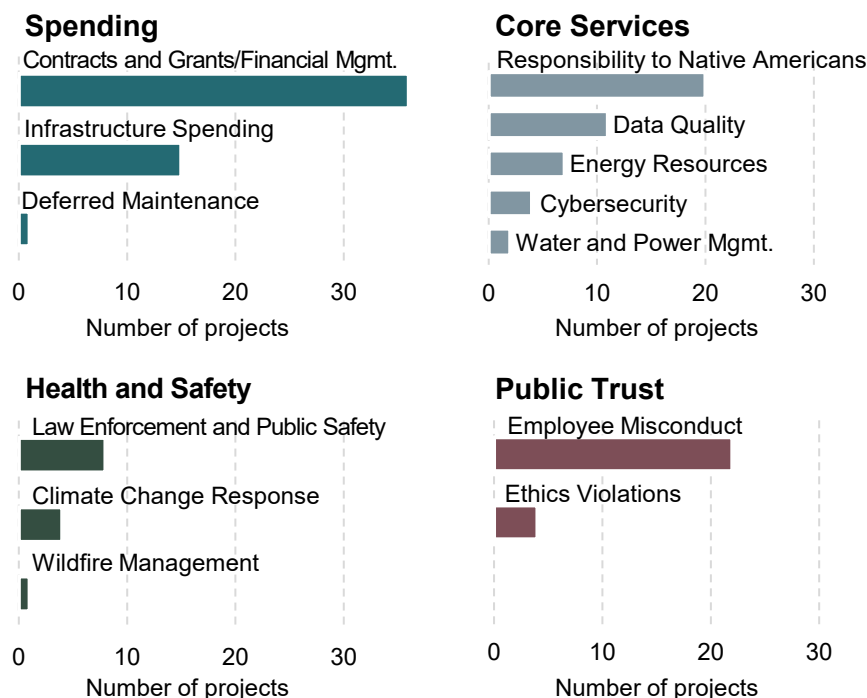
Strategic Goal: Promote Positive Change Through Prioritized and Timely Oversight

We achieved significant results from our work to prevent, detect, and investigate fraud, waste, and abuse on high-priority issues. Our oversight allowed us to provide important information to both DOI officials and Congress and helped improve DOI by making actionable recommendations. In addition, by working with DOJ on civil and criminal cases, we helped hold wrongdoers accountable and recovered taxpayer dollars. Our work was guided by the four strategic objectives that support our goal to promote positive change.

1. We prioritized oversight in high-risk and high-impact areas.

We focused on areas that we determined pose a high risk to DOI's programs and operations and directed our efforts toward improvements that will lead to the greatest impact. Contracts and grants/financial management, employee misconduct, and responsibility to Native Americans were the top three oversight priorities addressed by our reports and investigations (see Figure 2). Many reports and investigations (referred to as projects in the figure) addressed multiple priorities. For example, contract and grant oversight frequently overlapped with infrastructure spending in our audits, inspections, and evaluations.

**Figure 2: Issues Addressed by Our Work
Aligned With Our Oversight Priorities**



² Questioned cost means an amount, expended or received from a Federal award, that in the auditor's judgment is noncompliant or suspected noncompliant with Federal statutes, regulations, or the terms and conditions of the Federal award; at the time of the audit, lacked adequate documentation to support compliance; or appeared unreasonable and did not reflect the actions a prudent person would take in the circumstances. Defrauded funds are obtained through willful misrepresentation. Uncollected funds are owed to the Government but were not paid.

2. We delivered high-quality, timely work products.

This year, we issued more reports and closed more investigations than we did last year, providing clear, accessible information to stakeholders, including DOI officials and employees, Congress, the public, and the law enforcement community. Specifically, AIE issued 44 reports and OI closed 70 investigations³ while meeting professional standards and guidelines for quality. In FY 2025, AIE received a rating of “pass” (the highest rating possible) on its peer review of the inspection and evaluation organization’s compliance with its system of quality control. Likewise, an investigative peer review found OI in compliance with the relevant standards and the applicable Attorney General Guidelines.



3. We drove change by making recommendations for improvement and monitoring their implementation, and we actively supported criminal prosecutions and civil actions.

To enable action, we made 234 recommendations in our reports that, if implemented, will improve DOI’s programs and operations. During FY 2025, DOI implemented 292 recommendations, some of which were made in prior years, including a 2023 recommendation that we identified as one of our three most important recommendations. These reports also identified \$12,112,306 in questioned costs. In addition, our investigations helped hold wrongdoers accountable. They resulted in successful criminal prosecutions, fines, civil monetary penalties, administrative sanctions, and personnel actions.

Our Recommendations for Improvements Prompted DOI Action

234 Recommendations Made

292 Recommendations Implemented⁴

Our Reports Identified Over \$12.1 Million in Questioned Costs

\$6,173,478 Unallowable

\$5,938,828 Unsupportable

Our Investigations Helped Hold Wrongdoers Accountable and Resulted in Criminal Prosecutions and Penalties

13 Criminal Indictments or Informations

3 Criminal Convictions

12 Criminal Sentencings

308 months
of jail time

312 months
of probation

\$1,102,403 Criminal Restitutions

\$25,100 Criminal Fines

\$1,900 Criminal Special Assessments

Investigations Also Resulted in Civil and Administrative Actions to Safeguard Taxpayer Dollars

4 Civil Referrals

24 Referrals for Administrative Remedies

17 Debarments

\$300,000 Civil Settlements

\$25,000,253 Royalties Recovered

\$39,699 Bill for Collection Issued

³ Includes investigations opened in prior years.

⁴ Includes recommendations made in prior years.

4. We engaged with stakeholders to facilitate improvements and accountability.

We conduct outreach and fraud-awareness training for DOI employees and entities receiving DOI funds about actions they can take to prevent wrongdoing in their operations, red flags to look for, and what to do if they see them. In FY 2025, we conducted more than 100 outreach events and fraud-awareness training sessions that were attended by over 1,500 people. Because our office serves as the Government comptroller of Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and we have oversight responsibilities related to the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia, our training and outreach extended to these areas.

In addition, we met regularly with Department officials and employees about the recommendations that we made, communicating frequently and clearly to ensure they were aware of the top priorities for action. We saw positive results, including action on certain longstanding and significant recommendations. In total, we closed 292 recommendations in FY 2025 based on documentation from DOI.

Facilitating Accountability and Building Capacity

Representatives from AIE and OI participate in the Association of Pacific Islands Public Auditors (APIPA). Participating improves our ability to provide oversight and helps build the capacity of auditors and investigators from the Pacific islands. At APIPA's 2025 conference, we met with leaders from the islands' public audit offices and provided training in basic and advanced investigative skills to conference attendees.



Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Source: Shutterstock

ADDRESSING TOP PRIORITIES: HIGHLIGHTS OF EFFECTIVE OVERSIGHT

Our findings on several of the management challenges facing DOI highlight the importance of effective oversight. By identifying opportunities for improvement, our recommendations, when implemented, will help DOI make meaningful changes in its programs and operations. Further, our investigations of fraud and employee misconduct promote accountability by those who use and manage DOI's resources.

→ Taking Steps To Enable DOI To Manage Spending

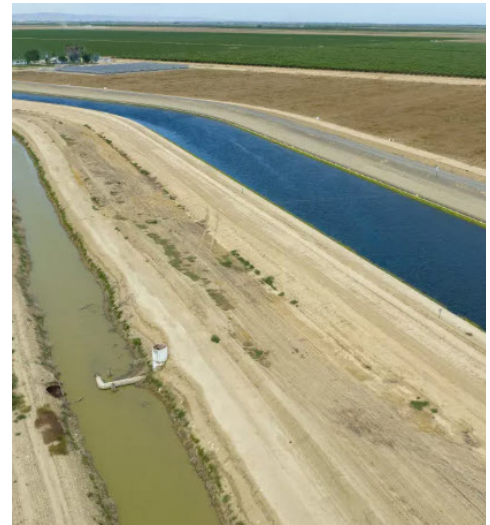
- **Contracts and Grants/Financial Management: Oversight of Infrastructure Spending.** In FY 2025, we conducted 36 projects related to contracts, grants, and financial management: 21 by AIE and 15 by OI. Infrastructure spending was a particular focus of these efforts. For example, eight of AIE's nine infrastructure reports addressed issues with contracts and grants. Our reviews included the Orphaned Wells Program Office (OWPO), which will award \$4.7 billion in contracts and grants to States and Tribes to clean up legacy pollution. In our reports, we identified opportunities for OWPO and the States to improve the program's administration and strengthen their contract and grant oversight, and DOI took action on some specific recommendations. For example, as recommended in our evaluation of the OWPO and our inspection of Kansas's orphaned well grant performance (Report Nos. [2023-INF-025](#) and [2024-ISP-018](#)), OWPO clarified the guidance for grantees on the program's monitoring and reporting requirements and updated its frequently asked questions. OWPO also implemented our recommendation to develop new policies and processes for its reviews of the grantees' quarterly technical and financial reports and adopted a risk-based approach for conducting project site visits. These recommendations promote proper financial and performance oversight, which can help DOI ensure that contractors and grantees spend the funds appropriately and use them to accomplish the awards' goals, reducing the risk of fraud, waste, or abuse.
- **Deferred Maintenance: Implementation of Priority Recommendation To Improve Accuracy of Cost Estimates.** Our work (Report No. [2020-CR-066](#)) found that DOI faces challenges accurately and reliably estimating the cost of deferred maintenance due to weaknesses in the underlying data. By acting on our recommendation to develop and implement policies and procedures that provide guidance for appropriately estimating the cost of maintenance projects, DOI is taking steps to improve the accuracy of its project costs, which were estimated to exceed \$20 billion at the time of the report. NPS manages some of the Nation's most treasured resources and irreplaceable cultural and historical sites, scenic byways, and monuments. However, it has struggled to keep up with its growing maintenance needs, and its self-identified deferred maintenance has nearly doubled since FY 2016, despite its number of assets remaining relatively unchanged. Delayed or deferred maintenance can affect visitor experiences at parks due to a wide range of effects, including building or bridge closures, trail limitations, and facility disrepair. In addition, deferring maintenance may result in significantly higher maintenance and operating costs or, in some cases, premature asset replacement.

→ Promoting Accountability in DOI's Delivery of Core Services

- **Energy: Prosecuting Oil and Gas Fraud.** Following an investigation by our Energy Investigations Unit, an oil and gas company owner who leased Federal and Tribal land for energy production was successfully prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for fraud (see [DOJ Press Release](#)). The leases required the owner to submit monthly Oil Gas Operations Reports and royalty payments to ONRR based on the amount and value of oil and gas produced. However, her false and missing filings, and the associated penalties, resulted in a loss of over \$3.55 million for the Tribes and the Federal Government. She was ordered to pay full restitution to the Jicarilla Apache Nation and the Navajo Nation for lost royalties. She was also fined \$20,000 and sentenced to time-served and three years of supervised release. Following a recommendation from our Administrative Remedies Division, the Department's Suspension and Debarment Official debarred the oil and gas company owner and her associated companies, excluding them from participation in Federal contracts, grants, loans, and other assistance programs for a 10-year period.

→ **Water and Power Management and Financial Management: Conspiracy to Illegally Divert Water Successfully Prosecuted.**

In a joint investigation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service, we substantiated allegations that the management and staff of the Panoche Water and Drainage Districts (Panoche) conspired to illegally divert water from State of California and BOR waterways (see Report No. [24-0745](#)). Panoche profited by selling the stolen water to farmers, customers, and members of its Board of Directors. The illegal diversions occurred from approximately 1992 to April 2015, when they were detected by a BOR contractor. BOR estimated that over 42 billion gallons of water, valued at over \$25 million, were stolen from this unmetered site for more than 23 years. In 2021, the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Eastern District of California Civil Division entered into a civil settlement with Panoche, resulting in payments of \$7,462,808 to BOR for the unauthorized diversion and \$798,653 to the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority for damages. In 2022, Panoche's general manager was indicted on felony counts of Conspiracy, Theft of Government Property, and Filing a False Tax Return. He pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy and one count of filing a false tax return and was sentenced on September 30, 2024, to five years of probation, six months of supervised release/home detention, and a \$10,000 fine.



Delta-Mendota Canal. Source: *Los Angeles Times*

→ **Recommending Changes To Help DOI Ensure Health and Safety**

- **Wildfire Management and Infrastructure Spending: Action Taken to Improve Management and Oversight of IIJA-funded Fuels Management.** The IIJA provides \$848 million to DOI for planning and implementing fuels management on federally managed land identified as having “very high” wildfire hazard potential. Fuels management includes restoration treatments on 10 million acres in the wildland-urban interface or in areas where sources of public drinking water are at high risk of wildfire. DOI's Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) oversees the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the fuels management program and its projects for DOI's four bureaus with wildland firefighting duties: BIA, BLM, FWS, and NPS. Our audit found that OWF did not efficiently manage the funds and that the bureaus did not always expend the funds in accordance with the IIJA or ensure that there was adequate support for all expenditures (Report No. [2023-CR-009](#)). Our findings prompted BLM, FWS, and NPS to improve their management and oversight of the funding by implementing multiple recommendations before and soon after we issued our final report. These included recommendations for FWS to document that its regional offices addressed Fuels Management Allocation and Accountability System weaknesses and placed fuels treatments in high hazard risk areas in accordance with the IIJA and that NPS develop and implement a process to ensure it monitors and reports on the progress of all IIJA-funded projects in accordance with NPS policy and Federal regulations.

→ **Building Public Trust**

- **Investigating Employee Misconduct:** Our investigation (Report No. [24-0463](#)) found that a former Supervisory Procurement Analyst violated ethics regulations, DOI policy, and Federal law. The analyst failed to disclose personal business activities during security screenings and on two mandatory financial disclosure forms; used government property and official time to conduct personal business activities; and certified to being in regular work status with the DOI while also serving on active-duty military orders, resulting in the improper receipt of both military and DOI pay.

AWARD-WINNING WORK

Our staff received multiple awards from the broader oversight community. These awards are a notable recognition of the quality and significance of our work.

Investigation Award for Excellence: BulletProof-It

One of our special agents was recognized, along with other agents across the OIG and law enforcement community, for his contributions to the BulletProof-It investigation team, which assisted DOJ in its prosecution of a contractor who sold low-quality ballistics equipment produced in China to the U.S. military and Federal law enforcement agencies. The contractor lied about where the equipment was made and its compliance with product safety and performance standards, including in proposals for U.S. Government contracts. He was sentenced to 12 months in Federal prison and three years supervised release for knowingly and intentionally marketing and selling this equipment to dozens of domestic law enforcement agencies and the U.S. military.

Audit Award for Excellence: Federal Oil and Gas Bankruptcies

This audit (Report No. 2023-CR-003) identified systemic weaknesses across four DOI bureaus' management of financial risk from bankrupt oil and gas leaseholders. Our report found that bankruptcy proof-of-claim amounts were inconsistently tracked, and post-bankruptcy obligations—such as unrecovered rents, royalties, and decommissioning liabilities—were poorly documented. In some instances, decommissioning liabilities exceeded \$8 billion, with significant risk that taxpayers would ultimately bear this cost. Seventeen of the report's 21 recommendations have been implemented and are expected to strengthen internal controls, improve bankruptcy oversight, and safeguard billions in taxpayer resources.

Inspection Award for Excellence: Indian Schools Health and Safety

The Indian Schools Inspection Team received an award for excellence in recognition of their exemplary efforts to identify BIE's highest risk schools and evaluate whether the most serious health and safety deficiencies are being corrected (Report Nos. 2023-ISP-040 and 2024-ISP-014). This outstanding, high-impact work resulted in 19 recommendations that highlighted the need for BIE action to ensure students and staff learn and work in a safe and healthy environment. If implemented, these recommendations are expected to improve the schools' overall condition, better prepare the schools for emergencies, ensure facilities are secure, and help the schools recruit and retain staff.



On the left, a roof in disrepair at a BIE school, and, on the right, roofing material on the ground near the building. Source: OIG

FISCAL YEAR 2026 OVERSIGHT PORTFOLIO

To identify our oversight priorities for FY 2026, we applied a risk-based approach that was informed by the goals in our updated [Strategic Plan](#), our FY 2025 work on [DOI's top management challenges](#), and the U.S. Government Accountability Office's High Risk List and relevant work. We also considered DOI priorities and initiatives and areas of identified congressional interest. These priorities are reflected in our FY 2026 [Oversight Plan](#) for AIE and our commitment to build public trust by investigating allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, or misconduct. We will continue to monitor emerging issues that might need to be addressed throughout the year and add them to the portfolio as appropriate.

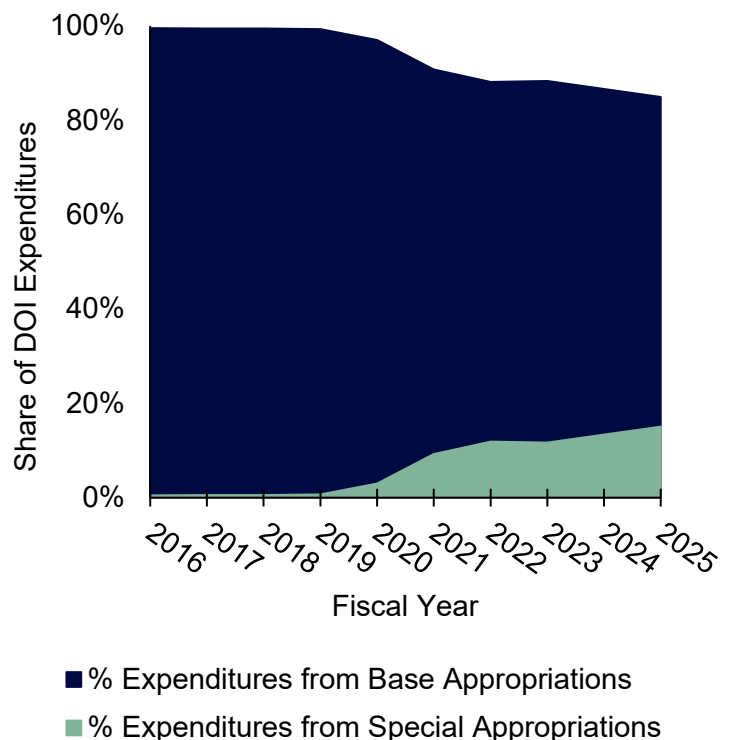
→ Spending and Operations

→ **Supplemental Spending:** Because special appropriations have funded a growing share of DOI's expenditures (see Figure 3), we anticipate continuing a series of audits and inspections focused on DOI and grantee fraud risk management practices for these supplemental funds. We will also initiate oversight of newly established programs that use special appropriations and conduct program risk assessments, reviews, and investigations to help prevent fraud, waste, and abuse of these funds.

→ **Contracts and Financial Assistance Oversight/Financial Management:** DOI obligated approximately \$18.9 billion in contracts, grants, and financial assistance during FY 2025 and is responsible for ensuring that the recipients are spending funds properly and that adequate controls are in place to prevent and detect fraudulent diversion of funds. Because our prior work has identified significant risks and challenges in this area, we anticipate initiating an inspection series on grantees' oversight of subrecipients and contractors.

→ **Cybersecurity:** According to the Federal IT Portfolio Dashboard, DOI spent almost \$2 billion in FY 2025 on its portfolio of IT assets. Our work has described ongoing challenges and the importance of implementing an enterprise cybersecurity program that balances compliance, cost, and risk while enabling bureaus to meet their diverse missions. We plan to launch two cybersecurity focused inspection series in FY 2026: one on IT system security controls and the other on individual IT system penetration testing.

Figure 3: Special Appropriations Have Funded a Growing Share of DOI's Expenditures



→ Core Services

- **Natural Resources and Energy Management:** Our prior work suggests that DOI will continue to face challenges ensuring that the public receives a fair return for the resources that are extracted from Federal lands and waters, especially in light of recent executive actions aimed at increasing domestic energy and timber production. We will continue to identify programmatic vulnerabilities in DOI's energy, mineral, and water programs; investigate criminal, civil, and administrative violations; and take actions to help hold violators accountable.
- **Responsibility to Native Americans:** In FY 2024, we started an inspection series related to Indian schools. Our work has identified multiple challenges in this area and includes reports describing BIA's difficulty in effectively managing deferred maintenance of BIE school facilities despite longstanding concerns regarding their poor condition. Because our prior work demonstrated that safety and health issues persist, we are continuing these Indian school inspections. We will also provide oversight of BIA's management of IIJA funds for the health and safety of Tribal members.
- **Wildfire Management:** DOI faces ongoing challenges in this area, including in maintaining and recruiting a firefighting workforce, managing ecosystems to reduce fuels, and responding to active wildfires. A proposed consolidation of DOI and U.S. Department of Agriculture wildland fire programs is intended to streamline the Federal Government's wildfire prevention and response, strengthen wildfire mitigation, and improve coordination with non-Federal partners. This initiative also presents potential challenges with the integration of organizations with currently disparate staff, technologies, and budgets. Our anticipated oversight work on wildfire management will take the proposed consolidation into account as appropriate.

→ Public Trust

- **Ethics Violations:** Public service is a public trust requiring employees to place the Constitution, laws, and ethical principles above private gain. We will assess and examine allegations of wrongdoing involving senior DOI officials.
- **Employee Misconduct:** To help prevent wrongdoing, we will continue to assess allegations of employee misconduct associated with fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement of DOI financial resources. We will also review allegations of misconduct by law enforcement supervisory personnel and felony criminal misconduct or domestic abuse by DOI law enforcement officers.



Prescribed burn on BLM land. Source: DOI/Neal Herbert

OIG CONTACT INFORMATION



OFFICE OF **INSPECTOR GENERAL** U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

1849 C St., NW
Mail Stop 4428
Washington, DC 20240

<https://www.doioig.gov>

Phone: 202-208-5745
Fax: 202-219-3856