

Summary: Investigation of Allegation That FWS Officials Committed Perjury

Report Date: March 3, 2015

OIG investigated an allegation that a regional director and deputy regional director in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) had committed perjury in sworn statements related to a Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) hearing in May 2014.

The complainant, previously an FWS manager, said that in retaliation for a scientific integrity complaint he filed with our office, he was sent on an open-ended detail to a southwestern FWS field office. He then filed a complaint with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel charging that the detail assignment was retaliatory. The MSPB hearing was part of proceedings for this complaint.

The perjury allegation that we investigated was related to statements the regional director and deputy regional director made in a pre-hearing submission and deposition testimony regarding the length of the detail to the southwestern FWS field office; their statements indicated that it was a 60-day detail whereas the complainant asserted that he had been given no end date. The allegation also charged that the regional director falsely testified that no one from OIG had ever contacted him regarding the OIG complaint.

Based on interviews and our examination of emails, deposition transcripts, pre-hearing submission documents, and personnel records, the allegation of perjury was not substantiated. We provided the results of our investigation to the FWS Director for informational purposes. We did not require a response.

This is a summary of an investigative report that was issued internally to the U.S. Department of the Interior. This summary was posted to the web on April 20, 2015.

