

Summary: Theft of Funds from the Petrified Forest National Park

Report Date: January 31, 2018

OIG investigated discrepancies identified after the National Park Service (NPS) conducted an electronic audit of the fee collection software at the Petrified Forest National Park (PEFO), located in eastern Arizona, which compared cash collected at the park with cash deposits made into the bank.

Our investigation determined that from approximately 2010 through March 2016, Sharon Baldwin, Supervisory Visitor Use Assistant, exploited vulnerabilities in the NPS remittance process at PEFO and stole approximately \$313,000 in fees collected at the park. Baldwin pled guilty in Federal court in AZ to violating Title 18 U.S.C. § 641, theft of Government money, and was sentenced to one year and one day in prison and ordered to pay \$313,000 in restitution to PEFO.

We also found that the PEFO staff who assisted Baldwin with the cash counts were never formally trained on the NPS remittance process and relied on the training given to them by Baldwin, which contributed to Baldwin's scheme remaining undetected for several years.

This is a summary of a report of investigation that we provided to the Acting Director of the National Park Service.

