



# PROMOTING EXCELLENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

*for The American public*

*The U.S. Congress*

*DOI and its stakeholders*

## OBJECTIVITY AND INDEPENDENCE

Objectivity and independence are the bedrock of our credibility. We gather facts, base our findings on evidence, and deliver conclusions with candor.

## INTEGRITY

Integrity builds trust. We emphasize ethics; treat people with dignity and respect; and are honest, reliable, and transparent.

## GETTING RESULTS

Our work provides decision makers with nonpartisan information so they can take corrective actions. When making recommendations to the DOI or looking inward, we strive for continuous improvement.

Contact us if you suspect waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in DOI programs or operations:

[www.doioig.gov](http://www.doioig.gov)

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) provides objective and independent oversight over all the Department of the Interior (DOI) bureaus and programs.

“The goal of oversight is not merely to make our government less wasteful and corrupt, but to build trust and confidence in our very system of government.”

—*The Art of the Watchdog*  
Daniel Feldman and David Eichenenthal

The OIG’s 5-year average return on investment was **\$20 : \$1**, according to a 2015 Brookings Institution report.

### DOI Bureaus and Select DOI Offices

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) • Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) • Bureau of Land Management (BLM) • Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) • Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) • Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) • Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) • National Park Service (NPS) • Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) • Office of the Secretary (OS) • Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, & Enforcement (OSMRE) • U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

## Our Reviews

### Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations

Our **audits, inspections, and evaluations** are proactive reviews of DOI programs and operations. Inclusion of a bureau in our reports does not necessarily indicate a higher rate of problems. For example, at the FWS' request we audit grants it makes to states under the Sportfish and Wildlife Restoration Program. Twelve of the 17 reports that included the FWS were grant audits.

The following were bureaus most included in OIG audit reports issued in fiscal year 2018. Many of our reports included findings about multiple bureaus.

<b>17</b>	<b>FWS</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>BIA</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>NPS</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>OS</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>BOR</b>

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### Investigations

One way we respond to allegations of wrongdoing by DOI employees or those doing business with the DOI is to open an investigation. **Investigations** may be criminal, civil, or administrative in nature. We post the results of our investigations, with few exceptions, to our website.

Investigations serve an important role not only in identifying wrongdoing, but also identifying when allegations are unfounded. **Twenty-seven percent** of completed investigations in fiscal year 2018 were of unfounded allegations.

The following bureaus were most included in OIG investigations completed in fiscal year 2018.

<b>30</b>	<b>NPS</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>BIA</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>BLM</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>BOR</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>FWS</b>

Frequent concerns in investigations we completed.

<b>41</b>	<b>Ethics</b>
<b>34</b>	<b>Contract &amp; Grant Fraud</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Energy</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Public Safety &amp; Security</b>

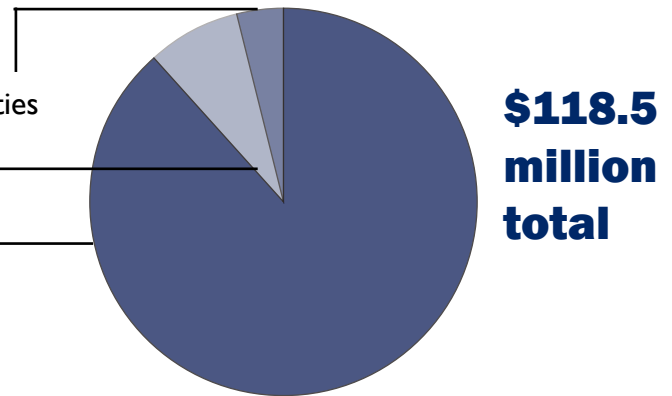
## Results In Numbers

### Monetary Impact

**\$4.4 million** in restitution, settlements and penalties

**\$9.4 million** in funds to be put to better use

**\$104.7 million** in questioned costs



### Non-Monetary Impact

**391**

Months served as jail time and probation

**60**

Hours of community service

**339**

Recommendations made by the OIG to the DOI

**227\***

OIG recommendations implemented by the DOI

\*This number includes recommendations made in prior years.

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### Transparency

**317 Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act requests we responded to.** We received 307 requests in fiscal year 2018. Requests responded to include ones that we received in 2017.

**120 Investigative work reported on our website.** These reports of investigations and investigative summaries cover 94 percent of investigations completed in fiscal year 2018. (This number includes 17 investigations completed in fiscal year 2018 but posted in a prior fiscal year.)

**63 Audit work reported on our website.** These 63 reports and summaries include various products from our audits, inspections, and evaluations unit. They cover 100 percent of audit-related reviews completed in fiscal year 2018.

### Prevention

**24 Suspension and debarment actions the OIG recommended to the DOI.** See spotlight on suspension and debarment on page 5.

**41 Outreach briefings the OIG delivered to DOI employees and contractors to deter wrongdoing and mismanagement.** These briefings reached about 1014 individuals.

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## Results In the News

Citation Companies Agree To Pay \$2.25 Million To Settle Civil False Claims Act Allegations

*Department of Justice Press Release, December 19, 2017*

**\$2.25 million**

Value of civil settlement. "The obligation to properly pay Federal mineral royalties is essential to the responsible development of oil and gas from public lands."

-Ron Gonzales, DOI OIG

Interior Report: Federal Program To Address Idle Oil and Gas Wells Needs Fixing

*Casper Star Tribune, January 29, 2018*

**4,546**

Number of idle wells reported by the BLM in fiscal year 2013.

**4,618**

Number of idle wells reported by the BLM as of August 2016.

NPS Official Requested Thousands in Upgrades for Park Housing Unit He Planned to Rent Out

*The Hill, February 7, 2018*

**\$32,000**

Value of the upgrades the NPS official requested. At the time of our report, the senior official had decided not to move into the unit and the NPS had delayed the renovations.

U.S. Natural Gas Royalty Case Results in \$600,000 settlement

*U.S. News and World Report, June 8, 2018*

**\$600,000**

Amount the Great Western Drilling Company (GWD) underpaid its royalty obligations to the ONRR. For more than 6 years, they inappropriately deducted certain costs incurred from its royalty obligations to the ONRR.

Crow Tribe Can't Account for \$14.5 Million in Grant Dollars, According to Audit

*Billings Gazette, June 25, 2018*

**\$14.5 million**

Amount of costs claimed by the Crow tribe that we questioned. Neither the contractor the tribe hired nor the BIA could provide documentation supporting expenses claimed under the agreement between BIA and the tribe.

NPS Punts Decision on Zinke's Free Wolf Trap Tickets

*E&E News, September 27, 2018*

**\$43,000**

Value of the free tickets that the Wolf Trap Foundation for the performing arts provides annually to the Secretary, which raises ethical concerns. The DOI continues to review the matter.

# Spotlight on: Administrative Remedies

## WHAT ARE ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES?

Administrative remedies are actions the Federal Government can take to protect taxpayer dollars from wrongdoers and seriously poor performers. Suspended or debarred businesses and individuals are prohibited from obtaining new Federal Government contracts and certain subcontracts and non-procurement transactions, such as cooperative agreements, grants, and leases. The Federal Government uses suspension and debarment to protect taxpayer dollars, not to punish wrongdoing. The Government can also enter into an administrative agreement in lieu of suspension or debarment, which permits a contractor with enhanced ethical and compliance programs and procedures to obtain awards, allowing American jobs to be preserved.

## BENEFITS

### Protect taxpayer dollars.

Administrative remedies prevent certain entities from doing new business with the Government.

### Help all Federal agencies.

An entity that is ineligible to do business with the DOI is also ineligible to do business with other Federal Government agencies.

### Ensure Government integrity.

Administrative remedies protect the integrity of Government programs by helping to ensure only honest, ethical, and responsible persons and companies receive Federal funds.

### Deter Wrongdoing.

Suspension and debarment can have devastating consequences for those whose businesses depend on Federal awards. Consequences include ruined businesses, damage to reputations, and loss of revenue. Desire to avoid these consequences deters wrongdoing.

Administrative remedies are used when parties have engaged in criminal or serious improper conduct that leads to questions about the parties' integrity, ethics, or competence. Such conduct may include fraud, bribery, making false statements or claims, failure to pay subcontractors, and other offenses indicating lack of business integrity or honesty.

## OIG

recommends suspension and debarment actions to DOI's Suspending and Debarring official.

## ALL

Administrative remedy recommendations made by the OIG in fiscal year 2018 resulted in action taken by the DOI.

## \$1.2 million

in payments to tribal officials were concealed by a scheme to skim public funds from the Chippewa Cree Tribe. The OIG referred 3 debarments to the DOI in April 2018. All 3 were debarred.

## 433

Actions recommended by the OIG to the DOI since 2008.

### Unauthorized use of charge card

The OIG recommended a former FWS biologist be debarred for making unauthorized personal purchases on his Government charge card. The DOI debarred him in April 2018.

### San Bruno explosion

Pacific Gas and Electric Company signed an interim administrative agreement in 2016 for the DOI to review its compliance and ethics program after a gas pipeline burst, resulting in deaths and home damage. Monitoring continues.

## POSSIBLE PATH TO SUSPENSION OR DEBARMENT

Entity is indicted for **wrongdoing**, or sufficient evidence is gathered to indicate wrongdoing or seriously poor performance.

**The OIG recommends an entity be suspended** from doing Government business, pending the outcome of an investigation.

If excluded, the entity is listed on [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov).

The DOI **debars the** entity, generally, for a 3-year period. Alternatively, the Government may require the entity to take remedial actions to prevent recurrence, and monitor entity under an administrative agreement.

# Budget

## OIG relative to DOI

	Employees	Budget
<b>DOI</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>\$14.6 billion</b>
<b>OIG</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>\$0.05 billion</b>

## 1 : 280 Employee Ratio

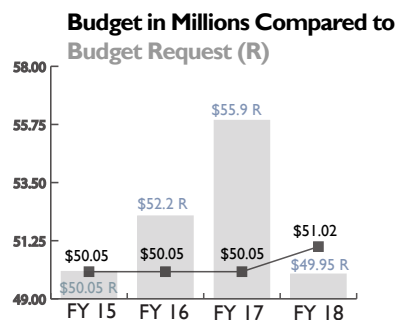
The OIG has about 1 employee to oversee every 280 DOI employees.

For comparison (using FY 2016 numbers, the latest available data):

1:162 Department of Agriculture's ratio  
1: 67 Environmental Protection Agency's ratio  
1: 20 National Science Foundation's ratio

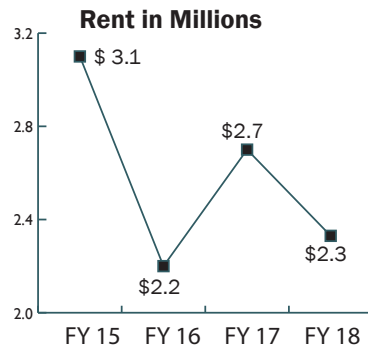
Only Treasury, Veteran's Affairs, and the Department of Justice have higher ratios than DOI.

## OIG Appropriations and Staffing



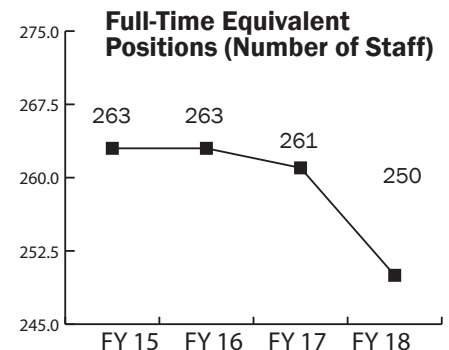
### THE OIG ANNUAL APPROPRIATION

has trended flat or increased slightly.



### COST REDUCTIONS

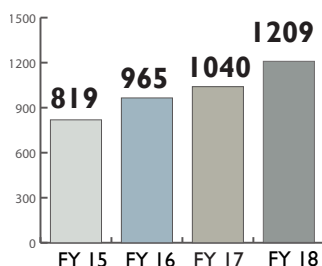
include office closures and consolidations.



### STAFF NUMBERS

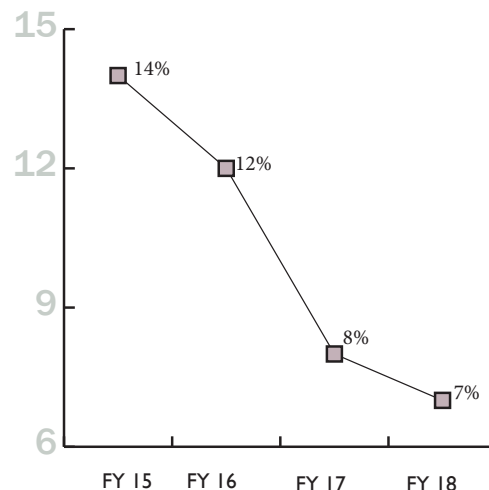
dropped in FY 2018. Per staff costs rise with mandated raises.

## Complaints



### COMPLAINTS TO THE OIG

have been increasing, with little accompanying budget to hire more investigative and audit staff.



### % OF COMPLAINTS THE OIG INVESTIGATED

**50 %**

Decrease in percent of complaints we opened as an investigation since FY 2016 due to increased complaints and reduced staff numbers.



## Looking Ahead

### Select Fiscal Year 2019 Priorities and Projects

#### Outreach

We contracted with a production company to develop a video that captures our outreach messages to the DOI and recipients of DOI funds. With limited human resources, we cannot always deliver in person our three-part message: there is a lot at stake when wrongdoing and mismanagement occur in the DOI; DOI employees are the first line of defense and their actions matter; DOI employees have a right and responsibility to report wrongdoing to OIG and to cooperate with us on our reviews. The video will enable us to deliver this message consistently to a broader audience in the DOI.

#### Standardization

In fiscal year 2018, we updated the policies in our Inspector General Manual. In fiscal year 2019, we will continue this process, incorporating updates to the U.S. Government Accountability Office's *Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards* (also known as the "yellow book") and documenting changes to our Office of Investigations standardized processes, changes in expectations, and timelines. Standard and clearly documented policies help to ensure consistency, quality, and clarity in expectations.

#### Training

The OIG believes that living up to our core value of integrity requires treating others with dignity and respect. In fiscal year 2018, the DOI released the results of a workplace conduct survey that it administered Departmentwide. Just 14 percent of OIG respondents said they experienced harassment in the past year, compared to the DOI's 35 percent of reported harassment. We would like to improve. To clarify expectations about workplace conduct, and to educate employees about how to handle harassment, the OIG developed a 2-day training about the OIG's new workplace conduct policy. All OIG employees will receive this training in fiscal year 2019.

#### Budget and Planning

Over 90 percent of our budget in recent years has gone to staffing, rent, and other largely uncontrollable costs. The allocation of our budget, combined with uncertain appropriations, makes it difficult to plan for such necessary operations as hiring, contract purchases, and how many program areas to focus on. Because the work we do results in returning money to the U.S. Treasury for every dollar we spend, we seek to maintain a workforce that can fulfill our mission with available resources and eliminate the possibility of a reduction in force. We will continue to develop work planning processes so our employees can focus on high value work.

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## 2018 Organizational Measures

Measure	Offices	Fully Successful Target	Fully Successful Met
Percentage of products for which referencing was completed within 7 business days deadline as approved by Chief of Staff (COS).	AIE	85 – 89%	✓
Number of [unit / OIG] AARs completed according to the AAR policy and posted to the AAR website with the next step section	AIE OI OM COS	10-13 each unit 32-35 COS	✓ (all units)
Percentage completion of AIE products for which a report was issued according to the OIG guidelines within 85 days from the submission of a draft report to HQ for approval.	AIE	71 – 75%	✓
[Unit / OIG] Leadership Approval Rating selected questions measured by the 2018 Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (percentage positive)	AIE OGC OI OM COS	65 – 69% 77 – 82% 41 – 49% 68 – 74% 55 – 59%	✓ (all units)
Fairness Index score for [unit / OIG] as measured by the 2018 Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (percentage positive)	AIE OGC OI OM COS	56 – 59% 72 – 77% 56 – 59% 54 – 57% 51 – 54%	✓ (all units)
Percentage of cases that were approved by the Deputy IG and posted, in summary or redacted form, on the OIG website within 35 days or less of closure (non-administrative cases) or administrative completion (administrative).	OGC OI COS	70 – 79% (OGC, OI) 50 – 64% (COS)	✓
Percentage of FOIA requests fully responded to within 40 working days or less of starting the case, following DOJ guidelines of first-in, first-out, during the fiscal year, excluding voluminous requests.	OGC	78 – 84%	✓
Percentage of complaints that were reviewed and acted upon within 30 calendar days of receipt according to OI policy.	OI	79 – 84%	✓
Project plan to standardize the planning and execution of OM products developed and approved by COS by target date.	OM	Approved between 6/20 – 7/15, 2018	✓
Percentage of Special Agents and Investigators trained in Report Development who displayed improved understanding of the report development concepts after completed the training as demonstrated by obtaining a score of 90% or more in the post training test.	OI	80 – 84%	✓