

# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

2016



Assistant Secretary - Policy Management and Budget  
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance  
Washington, DC 20240

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## Introduction

This progress report highlights many of the programs and activities that Department of the Interior (DOI) engaged in throughout Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 that support the spirit and intent of Executive Order 12898. This report describes several ways that DOI has been implementing the goals of the DOI Environmental Justice Strategic Plan within the scope of its mission, and areas of jurisdiction and special expertise.

DOI's 2016 Annual Implementation Report and related environmental justice information will be publically available on the DOI's environmental justice website at:

<https://www.doi.gov/oepec/resources/environmental-justice>.

DOI looks forward to collaborating with federal, tribal, and local governments, as well as all interested parties and stakeholders as we continue to implement and integrate environmental justice into our programs and policies.

### *Environmental Justice History*

#### *What is Environmental Justice?*

Environmental justice (EJ) refers to meeting the needs of underserved communities by reducing disparate environmental burdens, removing barriers to participation in decision making, and increasing access to environmental benefits that help make all communities safe, vibrant, and healthy places to live and work.

In 1994, Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations*, (<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/pdf/12898.pdf>), set forth the responsibility of Federal agencies to “make achieving environmental justice part of their missions by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States and its territories and possessions, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands.”

In addition, the Executive Order called for the creation of the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (EJ IWG). The EJ IWG is comprised of the DOI and 16 other Federal agencies plus White House staff to fact find, receive public comments, and conduct inquiries concerning environmental justice. The roles of the EJ IWG are to guide, support and enhance federal environmental justice and community-based activities. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the convener of the EJ IWG. The EJ IWG has established committees to develop guidance and support the following topic areas: goods movement, civil rights, strategic planning and implementation, rural communities, regional committees, the

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and Native American peoples, and public participation. The EJ IWG website is located on an EPA website at: <http://www3.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/interagency/>.

During 2016, the DOI continued to work to incorporate the provisions of EO 12898 within the scope of its overall mission. The DOI also continued to be an active member in the EJ IWG and participates in its collaborative efforts to support healthy and economically viable minority, low-income, and tribal communities.

### ***DOI's Mission***

Protecting America's Great Outdoors and Powering Our Future.

“The U.S. Department of the Interior protects America's natural resources and heritage, honors our cultures and tribal communities, and supplies the energy to power our future.”

### ***DOI's Environmental Justice Vision Statement***

“To provide outstanding management of the natural and cultural resources entrusted to us in a manner that is sustainable, equitable, accessible, and inclusive of all populations.”

### ***DOI's Organization***

The DOI is comprised of several offices within the Office of the Secretary and ten bureaus, each with a unique mission - Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Park Service (NPS), Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The DOI employs approximately 70,000 dedicated and skilled employees to carry out its mission and roles and responsibilities.

### ***About this Annual Progress Report***

This document serves as the DOI's Annual Implementation Report document the DOI's actions that meet the intent of Executive Order 12898 and the DOI Environmental Justice Strategic Plan. This report highlights several of the programs, policies, activities, and collaborative efforts the DOI engaged in during FY2016. These programs, policies, and activities are not all inclusive of the DOI's efforts to implement environmental justice but show DOI's ongoing commitment and progress toward the integration of environmental justice into all applicable programs, policies, and activities.

The 2016 annual report includes only a snapshot of the work that is being conducted among the 10 bureaus and the more than 70,000 employees of the DOI that involves environmental justice communities. If you have questions on what additional work a bureau is doing, please reach out to us at the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (Cheryl Kelly –

[cheryl\\_kelly@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cheryl_kelly@ios.doi.gov) or 202-208-7565) or a list of bureaus Environmental Justice coordinators can be found below.

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPLEMENTATION AT DOI

The DOI Environmental Justice Working Group (DOI EJWG) is chaired by the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC), under the senior leadership of the Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget and includes representatives from each of the DOI bureaus as well as the Department’s Office of Civil Rights.

Agency	EJ Coordinator	Contact information
Reclamation	Cathy Cunningham	ccunningham@usbr.gov 303-445-2875
BLM	Hilary Zarin	hzarin@blm.gov 202-912-7259
BOEM	Keely Hite	keely.hite@boem.gov 703-787-1103
FWS	Kim Lambert	kim_lambert@fws.gov 703-358-2554
USGS	Monique Fordham	mfordham@usgs.gov 703-648-4437
Office of Civil Rights	Sloan Farrell	sloan_farrell@ios.doi.gov 202-208-3455
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Each of DOI’s bureaus has a Primary Environmental Justice Coordinator who works directly with OEPC in carrying out the DOI’s environmental justice activities. The Primary Environmental Justice Coordinator is the bureau or office staff person typically at the headquarters level whose duties and tasks include helping to integrate environmental justice throughout their particular bureau or office. Duties may also include carrying out day-to-day environmental justice tasks, internal and external coordination, public outreach, public contact, and acting as the liaison with their field level and regional offices. Each bureau has regional and field level offices that assist in local and regional environmental justice initiatives.

This working group collaborates with OEPC in implementing the provisions of Executive Order 12898 throughout the DOI. The DOI EJWG participates in both internal and external collaborative environmental justice efforts. The DOI EJWG informs DOI management and staff as well as the public about DOI’s activities that support environmental justice.

## *Environmental Justice Strategies*

Executive Order 12898 directs Federal agencies to prepare a strategic plan on environmental justice. In response, in 1995, the DOI established a committee comprised of representatives from each of the DOI's bureaus to develop the 1995 DOI Environmental Justice Strategic Plan (1995 EJ Plan). The 1995 EJ Plan was adopted and integrated into DOI policy which increased the visibility of environmental justice throughout the Department.

In August 2011, the DOI joined with other Federal agency members in the signing of the *Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Justice and Executive Order 12898* (2011 MOU). This MOU reaffirmed the Federal government's commitment to environmental justice. The MOU calls on each Federal agency to review and update existing environmental justice strategic plans as applicable and appropriate. At that time, the DOI published a 2012-2017 Environmental Strategic Plan to meet the MOU provision to update agency strategic plans.

The DOI's 2012-2017 EJ Strategic Plan set forth five major goals to guide the DOI in its pursuit of environmental justice:

- Ensure responsible officials are aware of the provisions of EO 12898 and are able to identify and amend programs, policies, and activities under their purview that may have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority, low-income, or tribal populations;
- Ensure minority, low-income, and tribal populations are provided with the opportunity to engage in meaningful involvement in the Department's decision making processes;
- The Department will, on its own or in collaboration with partners, identify and address environmental impacts that may result in disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority, low-income, or tribal populations;
- Use existing grant programs, training, and educational opportunities as available to aid and empower minority, low-income, and tribal populations in their efforts to build and sustain environmentally and economically sound communities; and
- Integrate the DOI's environmental justice strategies with its Title VI of the Civil Rights Act enforcement responsibilities to improve efficiencies while preserving the integrity of Title VI and environmental justice activities.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE STRATEGY REVIEWS/UPDATES**

In 2015, DOI began the process to update the DOI 2012-2017 Environmental Justice Strategic Plan in accordance to the 2011 Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Justice and the Executive Order 12898. Updates to agencies' environmental justice strategic plans are periodically conducted to increase interagency cooperation, public participation, and

opportunities for minority, low-income, American Indian and Alaska Native Communities, and Tribal governments. OEPC worked with the DOI EJWG to develop the update.

The draft update went out for public comment in April 2016. During the comment period, the Department received input from 20 commenters, through letters and emails, concerning a range of topics pertaining to the clarification of existing goals, objectives, and terms, as well as suggestions for additional objectives in support of the Environmental Justice Strategic Plan's five overarching goals. Comments were generally supportive of the Department's update efforts. The OEPC, in collaboration with the Bureau and Offices, created a response document that evaluates and responded to comments received during the public comment period.

The Department's updated Environmental Justice Strategic Plan builds off of the existing environmental strategic plan and will guide the Department's actions regarding environmental justice communities. Highlights of the update to the Environmental Justice Strategic Plan include: retention of the five goals; new examples of how the Department is meeting those goals; updates to the objectives and strategies to meet the goals; and the replacement of the performance measures with an action plan. The action plan includes deliverables that the Department will undertake in 2016-2020 such as: the evaluation of issuing an Environmental Justice Departmental Manual Chapter; the updating of Departmental guidance (ECM 95-3) on how to incorporate environmental justice into the National Environmental Policy Act process; and the creation of Bureau-level action plans.

The updated DOI Environmental Justice Strategic Plan and the 2016 – 2020 Action Plan can be found at the DOI's environmental justice website:

<https://www.doi.gov/oepec/resources/environmental-justice>.

## **IMPLEMENTING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE STRATEGY GOALS**

This section highlights work that DOI and its bureaus and offices are doing that meets the five goals outlined in the DOI Environmental Justice Strategic Plan. Projects and activities are discussed under each of the five goals.

**Goal 1: Ensure responsible officials are aware of the provisions of EO 12898 and are able to identify and amend programs, policies, and activities under their purview that may have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority, low-income, or tribal populations.**

### *DOI - Environmental Justice Coordinators*

Since 2011, all relevant offices and bureaus have identified Environmental Justice Coordinators at the headquarters and regional levels that are available to answer questions from the public and to provide assistance to DOI employees.



- BIA: The EJ Coordinators are located in each of the 12 BIA Regional Offices and are the Regional NEPA Coordinators. Currently, BIA has 12 Regional Office Coordinators and one primary EJ Coordinator located in Washington, DC.
- BLM: The BLM is organized into 12 State Offices. In 2016, all BLM State Offices had formally designated an EJ Coordinator.
- BOEM: BOEM has an EJ Coordinator within each of its three regions - the Alaska, Gulf of Mexico, and Pacific Regions, and the Office of Renewable Energy Programs, as well as a primary EJ Coordinator in the Office of Environmental Programs at the BOEM Headquarters in Sterling, Virginia.
- Reclamation: Reclamation manages environmental justice related responsibilities primarily at the regional level. The Civil Rights Division, located in Denver, Colorado, processes Title VI public civil rights complaints. The Environmental Compliance Division, located in Denver, Colorado and the Native American Affairs Office, located in Washington, D.C., have environmental justice policy and coordination responsibilities.
- OSMRE: OSMRE headquarters located in Washington DC; OSMRE also has three Regional offices – the Appalachian, (Pittsburgh), Mid-Continent (Alton, IL), and Western (Denver) Regional offices. The Regional offices are comprised of field and area offices. The EJ function (and OSMRE EJ Coordinator) is managed out of the Headquarters Office in Washington, DC and is located in the Program Support Directorate, Division of Regulatory Support. Each of the three regions has designated a Regional EJ Coordinator.
- FWS: The full-time EJ Coordinator is located at the Headquarters in Falls Church, VA, in FWS's External Affairs Office. The FWS has eight regions. Each region has identified a staff member as an EJ contact.
- USGS: The EJ Coordinator is the National Tribal Liaison located in the Office of Tribal Relations-Office of Science Quality and Integrity at USGS Headquarters, Reston, VA.
- NPS: The NPS's EJ Coordinator is located in the Washington DC, Headquarters office. The NPS has seven regions; each region has identified staff as an EJ contact.
- OCR: The Office of Civil Rights includes a representative on the DOI's EJWG. Including the representative, three employees within the OCR, work on environmental justice issues.
- OEPC: The DOI Environmental Justice Coordinator is located in the headquarters of the Department of the Interior in Washington DC.

A directory of DOI's EJ Coordinators with contact information is maintained and made available on DOI's EJ web site at: <https://www.doi.gov/oepec/resources/environmental-justice>.

*OEPC – Promising Practices for Environmental Justice Methodologies in National Environmental Policy Act Reviews Report Livestream Event*

On July 21, 2016, OEPC hosted a livestream event for DOI employees to present the newly issued Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Committee’s Promising Practices for Environmental Justice Methodologies in National Environmental Policy Act Reviews Report. The presentation provided an overview of the NEPA Committee’s efforts to promote effective, efficient, and consistent approaches to Agencies addressing environmental justice in their NEPA process through the recently released “Promising Practices” Report. The document provides an in-depth collection of principles and practices for considering and addressing environmental justice issues in the NEPA process. BLM also participated in the event and provided information on the tools BLM uses to evaluate environmental justice in their NEPA documents.

The Promising Practices Report can be found at:  
[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-08/documents/nepa\\_promising\\_practices\\_document\\_2016.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-08/documents/nepa_promising_practices_document_2016.pdf).

*OEPC - ECM 16 -2: Nomination Guidance for Central Hazardous Materials Fund funding*

In 2016, OEPC provided guidance to the bureaus and offices for the nomination of projects for Central Hazardous Materials Fund funding. As a requirement of the nomination process, all CHF projects must undergo a screening to identify any potentially affected environmental justice communities and requires that each project manager complete the Department’s online *Introduction to Environmental Justice* training.

*FWS – Training and Employee notifications*

FWS continues to support volunteers and FWS non-profit Friends organizations through on-site training, mentoring, workshops and awards. These programs offered volunteers and visitors new and meaningful opportunities to contribute data that can help FWS understand the impacts and consequences of changing weather patterns on refuges and adjacent landscapes.

At headquarters, FWS posts environmental justice announcements on employee notification monitors and publishes articles in InsideFWS.

*BLM - Training for Employees*

BLM’s Socioeconomic Program designed and implemented two webinars in FY16 on environmental justice. These webinars were created to raise awareness of the provisions of Executive Order 12898, provide consistency in environmental justice analyses across the BLM, and enhance the quality of environmental justice analyses in NEPA documents at BLM. Each webinar was widely attended by over 50 land use planners, NEPA specialists, and field managers. Participants gained a thorough understanding of land use planning and NEPA, learned how to identify minority, low-income, and tribal populations, learned about disproportionate

impacts, how to mitigate as necessary, and how to document environmental justice in the administrative record.

#### *BLM - Environmental Justice guidance*

BLM's Socioeconomic Program drafted an Environmental Justice "Frequently Asked Questions" document, which builds on the content of the webinar series. The document provides step by step instructions and examples from the field. The document will serve as a valuable resource for responsible officials, program staff, and contractors. The document has undergone extensive review by field offices, environmental justice experts, and the Department's Office of the Solicitor, and is expected to be released in 2017.

#### *NPS – Bureau guidance*

In 2016, the NPS issued Director's Order 100. *Resource Stewardship for the 21st Century*. The Order reaffirms that resource stewardship is a preeminent duty of the NPS. The NPS defines resource stewardship as both an ethic of active responsibility to pass on the parks unimpaired to future generations as well as the application of the necessary expertise to meet this duty. This ethic and application of expertise extends to NPS programs and NPS participation in partnerships as well.

Director's Order 12 (DO-12) and its accompanying handbook set forth the policies and procedures by which the NPS meets its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. DO-12 describes the NEPA-related roles and responsibilities of NPS staff and highlights the key instructions, requirements, and policies related to NEPA planning and compliance. The DO-12 Handbook serves as the "how-to manual" for NPS NEPA planning and compliance as well as environmental justice review and considerations.

**Goal 2: Ensure minority, low-income, and tribal populations are provided with the opportunity to engage in meaningful involvement in the Department's decision making processes.**

#### *Reclamation – Collaboration with the Navajo Nation on water supplies for farms*

The DOI Deputy Secretary, the Reclamation Commissioner, and senior Navajo Nation officials met at the Navajo Shiprock Chapter House and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) intended to evaluate emergency contingency water supplies for Navajo farms in northern New Mexico. This planning effort will identify critical system components and emergency water supplies in case the San Juan River is temporarily deemed unfit for irrigation in the future.

Reclamation is working with the Navajo Nation on a study to identify alternative contingency water supplies and operations plans. The effort will include development of parameters for the scope of study, identification of issues and factors to be considered in the evaluation of alternatives, and evaluation of selected alternatives to determine the most practical and attainable solutions. The MOU builds on years of cooperation between the Navajo Nation and DOI to

evaluate alternatives to offset impacts to farmers and crops in the event of water supply shortages and other emergencies.

The MOU reaffirms and reinforces commitments initially made in 2000, when Reclamation and the Navajo Nation signed an MOU to establish a long-term partnership in support of the Navajo Nation’s efforts to develop and protect its water resources. In November 2015, in the spirit of that partnership, Reclamation received a request from the three Navajo Nation Chapter Farm Boards that rely on irrigation water from the Hogback Canal to support a study to find and evaluate options for a secondary water source for the canal, in case water quality in the San Juan River again falls below acceptable standards.

*BIA – Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act*

BIA undertakes multiple National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents a year for actions BIA conducts on behalf of federally recognized tribes and their tribal members. Federally recognized tribes and tribal members are provided the opportunity to participate in BIA decision-making processes through consultations and the opportunity to be a cooperating agency for the document. A list of 2016 projects for which an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was needed is compiled from an internal database maintained by the BIA NEPA Coordinator. There were eight EISs that were in process in FY2016. Federally recognized tribes were invited to be cooperating agencies in all of them, while not all tribes accepted.

<b>EIS Subject</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Cooperating Agencies</b>
Aiya Solar Farm	Moapa Band of Paiute Indians	Moapa Band of Paiute Indians Bureau of Land Management Environmental Protection Agency U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Fee to trust land transfer to expand facilities adjacent to casino	Seminole Tribe of Florida	Seminole Tribe of Florida City of Coconut Creek Broward County Florida
Fee to trust land transfer for new casino	Pokagon Band of Potawatomi	US Environmental Protection Agency US Army Corp of Engineers
Fort Mojave Solar Farm	Fort Mojave Indian Tribe	Fort Mojave Indian Tribe Bureau of Land Management Bureau of Reclamation Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Protection Agency State of Nevada Clark County, Nevada
Fee to trust for new casino	Tule River Tribe	Tule River Tribe U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Federal Aviation Administration City of Porterville Tulare County, California

Fee to trust for new casino	Wilton Rancheria	Wilton Rancheria (Tribe) City of Galt City of Elk Grove Sacramento County US Environmental Protection Agency
Integrated Resource Management Plan	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation	US Environmental Protection Agency
Fee to trust land transfer for new casino	Redding Rancheria	Redding Rancheria (Tribe) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Shasta County, California

*FWS – Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program*

FWS works collaboratively with community leaders, tribes, non-governmental organizations, local landowners and other partners to ensure meaningful engagement with stakeholders. The Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program is a voluntary, citizen- and community-based stewardship program for fish and wildlife conservation on private lands. Technical and financial assistance was provided to tribes, private landowners and others in conservation and restoration of fish and wildlife resources for the benefit of Federal trust species. These efforts help conserve the outdoors and addressed conservation challenges like habitat fragmentation. Bringing together people with a common interest in conservation and diverse skills allowed for the leveraging of unique expertise and experience and made the projects stronger in all 50 States and the U.S. Territories. FWS worked through partnerships with landowners and others on conservation of habitat across broad landscapes.

*FWS – Tribal Policy*

In 2016, FWS adopted new measures to strengthen the FWS’s 20-year old policy guiding government-to-government relations between tribes and FWS. Sixteen tribes worked with FWS representatives for more than two years to create the revised policy. Tribal representation included members from the: Cherokee Nation, Chugach Regional Resources Commission, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Gros Ventre and Assiniboine of Fort Belknap, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Native Village of Emmonak, Navajo Nation, Oglala Sioux Tribe, Penobscot Indian Nation, Quinault Indian Nation, San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians, and Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

The revised policy guides broader, more open and collaborative dialogue and working relations between FWS and federally recognized tribes and Native Alaskans. The updated policy is designed to sustain effective partnerships that are crucial to meeting FWS’s and tribes’ joint responsibilities as stewards of the nation's natural and cultural resources.

The revised policy provides a consistent, yet flexible national framework that encourages efficient and creative ways to maximize tribal resource conservation through improved federal-

tribal working relationships. It puts stronger emphasis on co-management and collaborative management of natural and cultural resources; places added emphasis on implementation and accountability; promotes building tribal capacity, the use of tribal knowledge in the FWS's decision-making, improved FWS and tribal training and education; and enhances collaborative Service-tribal law enforcement efforts where possible.

#### *BLM – Use of Clear Reference Documents to Environmental Justice Communities*

To maximize participation and transparency, BLM Alaska's Arctic Office began creating user-friendly spreadsheets of all the permitted projects in the NPR-A and distributing them twice annually to a large email list of North Slope residents and at all public meetings. The spreadsheets (e.g. 2016 BLM Permitted Projects in the NPR-A) organize permitted activities by type, are color-coded, and provide information on who and when an activity is being conducted. Additional columns explain if the activity is being done by fixed-wing aircraft or by helicopter, and provide the make and tail number of the aircraft when possible and the number of take offs and landings anticipated. Other columns explain fuel storage and base camp details. This spreadsheet allows environmental justice communities to better understand from one easy-to-reference document the entirety of the BLM permitted activities for a given year and make more relevant recommendations on project-specific stipulations.

#### *DOI: Re-Establishing Government-to-Government Relationship with Native Hawaiian Community*

In 2016, the DOI finalized the administrative procedure and criteria that the Secretary of the Interior would apply if the Native Hawaiian community forms a unified government that then seeks a formal government-to-government relationship with the United States. Under the regulation, the Native Hawaiian community — not the Federal government — would decide whether to reorganize a Native Hawaiian government, what form that government would take, and whether it would seek a government-to-government relationship with the United States.

The Native Hawaiian community has not had a formal government since the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1893. In 1993, Congress enacted the Apology Resolution, which offered an apology to Native Hawaiians on behalf of the United States for its role in the overthrow and committed the Federal government to a process of reconciliation. As part of that reconciliation process, the DOI and Department of Justice jointly issued a report in 2000 identifying as its lead recommendation the need to foster self-determination for Native Hawaiians under Federal law.

#### *BLM - National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Subsistence Advisory Panel*

The National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) Subsistence Advisory Panel (SAP) is an important advisory body to the BLM that helps insure the least amount of impact from oil exploration and development and other permitted activities to subsistence hunting, fishing, and the lifestyles of the indigenous Iñupiat. Representatives of tribal governments in NPR-A communities met two to three times in FY16 to consult with lessees/permittees on the timing, siting, and methods of proposed operations, including review of scientific research projects in the NPR-A. SAP meetings are public and provide residents of remote NPR-A communities with

opportunities to get informed on activities in their areas, to publicly discuss disproportionate impacts, and to identify and suggest methods to mitigate adverse effects on their minority, low-income, and tribal populations.

Benefits for BLM include constant engagement with tribal representatives from whom BLM managers learn about local subsistence and socioeconomic conditions and concerns. As a result of the meetings, BLM employees are familiar with individual residents and learn how to present land management plans and permitted projects in terms that the public can understand. The SAP meetings are also a significant benefit to researchers who attend and present, where they make contacts for local logistical help for their projects, gather traditional and local knowledge about their research subjects, and gain experience presenting often highly scientific projects to the general public. The benefits of the meetings extend beyond those present because summaries of the meetings are widely shared through a large email list that includes many North Slope residents, researchers, industry contacts, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The NPR-A Working Group is an advisory body to the BLM made up of the elected leaders of North Slope Borough regional entities (the North Slope Borough, Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation) and the Mayor of each incorporated city, the President of each village Tribal Government, and the President of each village Native ANCSA corporation in the NSB. The NPR-A Working Group consults directly with the BLM on large-scale land management decisions in the NPR-A to provide a forum for ongoing meaningful and regular input regarding the implementation of the 2013 NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS), including oil and gas leasing, land use conflicts, and infrastructure projects supporting onshore and offshore oil and gas development such as production facilities and pipelines. The Working Group also serves as a forum to collect additional scientific information and traditional ecological knowledge about wildlife and its habitat and to inform potential boundary adjustments to special areas. The Working Group holds at least one in-person meeting each year and monthly teleconferences.

#### *BLM – Working relationship with the Native Village of Nuiqsut Tribal Council*

BLM's Arctic Office and Native Village of Nuiqsut Tribal Council have developed a solid working relationship as the BLM developed Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements (SEIS) for two oil development projects, Greater Mooses Tooth 1 and Greater Mooses Tooth 2. The Council is participating as a cooperating agency for the SEIS for Greater Mooses Tooth 2 as it did for Greater Mooses Tooth 1, developing alternatives and discussing issues with BLM and all other cooperating agencies on monthly teleconferences. In addition, the Council and BLM Arctic Office conduct regular (monthly or more frequent) government-to-government consultation (by teleconference or face-to-face) to discuss Greater Mooses Tooth 2 and a broad range of concerns related to nearby oil development. The environmental justice analysis in the Greater Mooses Tooth 2 SEIS will identify potentially high and disproportionate effects based on a thorough understanding of the potential impacts to subsistence and sociocultural systems gained through this close cooperation with the tribal council.

### *BLM – Working with Team Naturaleza*

BLM continued working with the non-profit organization Team Naturaleza to introduce local Hispanic/Latino residents in Washington State to BLM-managed lands and learn more about what types of opportunities would be desirable. In 2016, Team Naturaleza worked with the Environment for the Americas, using Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest funding and the FWS's Directorate Fellows Assistant Program to hire two interns who conducted multiple outreach efforts and field trips for Hispanic/Latino residents.

For these efforts, both BLM staff and Team Naturaleza received 2016 State Director Awards for furthering the strategic planning goal on Diversity and Inclusion. "We provide an environment where employees of all backgrounds can realize their aspirations. The Team Naturaleza partnership is a perfect example of working towards this goal, embracing other cultures and breaking down barriers to getting people outside," BLM said. This partnership also provides the BLM with a built-in method for informing Hispanic/Latino residents about upcoming plans and projects and providing opportunities for participation, facilitated by the increased levels of trust and social capital being developed.

### *BLM – Restoration of tribal lands*

In BLM's Eastern States office, the Northeastern States District is coordinating with the BIA, the State of Minnesota, and the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians to return approximately 60,000 acres of tribal lands ceded in trust to the United States and restored by the Secretarial Order of Restoration dated Feb. 22, 1945 under the authority of Sections 3 and 7 of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. Several meetings were held in 2016 with the Red Lake Band and the State of Minnesota addressing broad issues related to land restoration, including confirmation of the list of lands being restored to the Band.

### *BLM – Collaboration with the Lac du Flambeau Tribe*

BLM's Eastern States, Northeastern States District has an MOU that allows for cooperative management of a BLM-administered tract in northern Wisconsin between the BLM and Lac du Flambeau Band. The MOU allows the Lac du Flambeau to collect rice as they have for several centuries while cooperatively managing the area with the BLM. Ethnographic research shows that members of the Band have been collecting wild rice for over 200 years, using the adjacent Case family property to access the tract for the last 80 years. The tract has been determined by the BLM to be a National Register Eligible Traditional Cultural Property.

### *BLM – Working with the Bois Forte Band Heritage Center*

BLM Eastern States provides the Bois Forte Heritage Center (BFHC) \$10,000 yearly to the BFHC to monitor archeological sites on BLM managed islands in Lake Vermilion, northern Minnesota. The BFHC staff visits the sites twice a year, once both before and after the summer season, to monitor any damage to the sites caused by erosion, looting, and recreational use. The Tribe takes an active role in the management of archeological sites in their ancestral territory



while allowing the BLM to carry out their duties for the monitoring and protection of cultural resources. The agreement also provides a stipend to any volunteers who assist the BFHC in monitoring the island. The BFHC staff takes elders and tribal youth to the islands during monitoring.

#### *BOEM – Collaboration with Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 Corporations*

The BOEM Alaska Region expanded its efforts to increase the number of Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) Corporations – both Regional and Village –to more fully participate and engage with BOEM. The Region has been actively developing several levels of new tribal relations training that have potential transportability. BOEM’s Tribal Relations Working Group (the Tribal Liaison for each region and the headquarters) are engaged with further developing such training courses.

#### *BOEM – Outreach for the Pacific Renewable Energy Program*

Regional personnel conducted targeted outreach to California tribes to engage them in the decision making processes for the Pacific Renewable Energy Program. California tribal engagement includes non-federally recognized Tribes as well as federally recognized Tribes. Regional personnel also conducted outreach to known Native Hawaiian organizations in Oahu, who were identified with input from local NGOs, state agencies, and federal liaisons.

#### *BOEM – Outreach to communities beyond the NEPA process*

The Gulf of Mexico Region conducts numerous types of outreach to ensure that minority, low-income and tribal populations are provided with the opportunity to engage meaningfully in the BOEM decision making processes. The GOMR conducts such outreach that goes beyond NEPA. For example, meetings have been held with the Vietnamese fisherfolk community in Mississippi and provided Vietnamese translations of BOEM’s NEPA documents to foster communication and encourage meaningful involvement.

**Goal 3: The Department will, on its own or in collaboration with partners, identify and address environmental impacts that may result in disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority, low-income, or tribal populations.**

#### *FWS - Ecological Services*

In coordination with our partners, FWS continues to prepare for oil spills and hazardous materials releases, to minimize impacts and work with communities to restore natural resources injured during spills and releases. Yearly, FWS mechanically thins and uses controlled burning of woody vegetation to improve forest health and reduce threats of wildlife to communities. Recognizing the long-term importance of forest health, the ultimate goal is to protect the surrounding communities from devastating wildfires.

### *USGS – Evaluation of Contaminants*

The USGS Washington Water Science Center works with the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians in northwestern Washington to assess emerging contaminants possibly associated with wastewater effluent from the Cities of Arlington and Stanwood. There is concern of possible chronic effects on fish and wildlife from low-level environmental exposure to emerging contaminants and with mixtures of these compounds. There is now substantial evidence that some of these compounds impact the endocrine systems of fish and wildlife, influencing hormonal and reproductive functions. Sampling from 2008 to the present identified a variety of low-level pollutants in surface waters, but the study did not allow for source contribution of the detected contaminants. This cooperative study will identify the type and magnitude of emerging contaminants present in small and large surface waters of the Stillaguamish River watershed and provide insight to their biological activity in locally-collected fish. A follow-up study will assess the risk these contaminants pose to humans through fish consumption.

### *BLM - Resource Management Plans of Western Oregon*

On August 5, 2016, the BLM signed the Records of Decision for the Resource Management Plans/EIS (RMP/EIS) of Western Oregon, charting future management for 2.5 million acres of BLM-managed lands. Out of 19 counties in the Planning Area, six counties were identified as environmental justice populations based on their low-income status. Of these six, four were determined to be subject to disproportionate, negative effects due to estimated decreases in employment under one alternative and two counties, Coos and Curry, were identified as subject to disproportionate, negative effects under four alternatives, including the Proposed RMP.

One option for addressing the impacts to Coos and Curry Counties was avoidance. The Draft RMP/EIS explored two alternatives (Alternative C and the No Action alternative) that would avoid the identified environmental justice impacts; however, these alternatives did not meet the purpose and need compared to the Proposed RMP. There was also scientific uncertainty associated with prediction of socioeconomic effects because social and economic systems are very dynamic rather than static; people and communities can respond to change in a number of ways. The analyses also demonstrated that many variables aside from BLM management would likely have greater effects on low-income populations in the affected counties.

For these reasons, the BLM decided to implement a targeted monitoring program to assess environmental justice effects as the RMP is implemented. The BLM will already be measuring the level and type of timber harvest, payments to counties, and changes in resource conditions. However, these measurements would not show the BLM and the communities how low-income populations are being affected. The monitoring, to be developed collaboratively with the plan cooperators and members of the environmental justice populations, will identify and track appropriate indicators of social and economic conditions.

The results of the monitoring will enable the BLM and its partners to identify environmental justice impacts that have not been mitigated through the RMPs as implemented or by other means, pointing the way toward potential mitigation actions. The BLM is not allocating a

specified amount of money toward mitigation of environmental justice impacts at this time, but is committed to the monitoring effort, an open discussion of the results, and addressing environmental justice effects that can be attributed to actions taken under the Proposed RMP.

*Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) – Coordinating Committee on Invasive Species*

On December 06, 2016, the Department and island Governors signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) committing to help prevent, eradicate, and control invasive species as well as to protect and restore natural and cultural resources from the effects of invasive species in the U.S. territories.

"The American Samoa Government commends the DOI-Insular Affairs Office for taking this initiative in helping the US Pacific Territories deal with the problem of invasive species," said American Samoa Governor Lolo Moliga. "American Samoa, like all island nations, is particularly vulnerable to invasive species because it is small, isolated, and has native species that are naive and vulnerable to invasive species. Invasive species are a threat to our ecosystem, economy, food security, and the people of American Samoa. Therefore this initiative by DOI-Insular Affairs is welcome because it will support the Territory in developing a legal framework to deal with invasive species, and identify priority actions to prevent future introductions and manage current invasive species through the American Samoa Invasive Species Action Plan."

Island ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to invasive species because they tend to host a large number of endemic or native species that have evolved in the absence of large predator populations. The invasive species that have already been intentionally and unintentionally introduced in the U.S. territories in the Pacific and the Caribbean are causing species extinction and irreparable damage to natural and cultural resources. If unchecked, invasive species can cost billions of dollars in damage, including the indirect cost of lost revenue to the tourism industry in the territories. Proactive measures to prevent, eradicate, and control invasive species are critically needed in these jurisdictions.

Efforts of the U.S. Territories Invasive Species Coordinating Committee (USTISCC) will include helping to identify or establish programs to institutionalize the initiative; improve biosecurity capacities, including pathway management; develop early detection and rapid response systems as well as joint programs for the eradication and control of species of priority concern; and share best practices, scientific and technical information, personnel, and other resources necessary to facilitate prevention, eradication, and control of invasive species, as well as species recovery and habitat restoration in the U.S. territories.

**Goal 4: Use existing grant programs, training, and educational opportunities as available to aid and empower minority, low-income, and tribal populations in their efforts to build and sustain environmentally and economically sound communities.**

*OSMRE – VISTA*

Focused on addressing economic, social, and environmental challenges, the OSMRE/VISTA

program aims to build sustainable capacity in communities impacted by pre-regulatory coal mining practices. The OSMRE/VISTA Team supports non-profit, community associations, and other agencies that work with state programs, federal agencies and others to engage their communities in identifying reclamation challenges, develop partnerships to implement solutions, directly engage youth in the environment, and address related watershed/community reclamation projects. OSMRE/VISTA Members focus on building the capacity of organizations that fight to foster economic development, reclaim abandoned lands, restore degraded ecosystems and waterways impacted by pre-regulatory mining, and otherwise assist low-income communities. By the nature of projects conducted by OSMRE/VISTAs, the scope falls within the realm of environmental justice and related issues.

VISTA Members leverage community support and build volunteer networks to drive projects in resource-scarce regions. Voluntary watershed and other community improvement organizations help develop and implement environmental resource conservation and important community reclamation strategies throughout rural coal country and mining communities. Strategies for developing alternative economic revenue include diversifying local economies (e.g. eco-tourism, recreational centers), working with other State and Federal agencies on job training, increasing access to affordable internet and energy, and developing projects to address environmental and water degradation. OSMRE/VISTA Members live and serve in the nation's poorest areas, creating and expanding programs designed to bring individuals and communities out of poverty.

During FY2016, OSMRE/VISTA Members received over \$875,000 in grant funding for programs addressing economic development, healthy food access, and environmental restoration. Furthermore, OSMRE/VISTA Members leveraged 4,200 volunteers serving 18,600 hours and reached over 12,500 K-12 students.

#### *ONHR - Native Hawaiian Community Guide*

In 2016, the Office of Native Hawaiian Relations (ONHR) released the Native Hawaiian Community guide. The guide identifies Federal program and grant opportunities in health, housing, education, and labor for which members of the Native Hawaiian Community and Native Hawaiian organizations may apply. The guide was developed in partnership with Papa Ola Lōkahi, the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA), and the Native Hawaiian Education Council. The guide can be accessed at: <https://www.doi.gov/hawaiian/programs>.

#### *Reclamation – Drought-related projects*

Reclamation's Upper Colorado (UC) Region worked on building two drought-related water supply wells for the Alamo Band of Navajo Indians. The wells were needed due to the ongoing, severe drought in New Mexico.

Reclamation's Mid-Pacific (MP) Region funded several drought-related projects in FY 2016. This region partnered with the Indian Health Services to improve drinking water supplies and reliability for the Tule River Tribe with the installation of new groundwater wells. The MP Region also helped the Quartz Valley Indian Tribe and Karuk Tribe by installing groundwater

monitoring wells to study re-charge and groundwater levels. Data collected are used to better manage groundwater resources. In 2016, the MP Region, in conjunction with several other agencies, both state and federal, helped the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians stabilize the West Fork of the Russian River, which was threatening 11 homes above the river and blocking salmon migration. The river has changed its usual course due to drought and invasive plants.

Reclamation awarded cost-shared grants under the WaterSMART Drought Response Program in FY16 for drought contingency plans and drought resiliency projects, including:

- The City of Gallup, New Mexico will use \$35,000 in WaterSMART funding, plus \$35,000 in cost-share contributed by the City, to partner with local and state governmental agencies to create a regional drought contingency plan for a community of about 20,000 people including numerous disadvantaged communities throughout McKinley County, and the Zuni and Navajo Reservations. The area that Gallup serves has a history of chronic poverty and more than 40 percent of Navajo households rely on water hauling to meet daily water needs.
- Reclamation awarded \$50,000 in cost-shared funding to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation, located in southeastern Idaho for a drought resiliency project. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes will develop a regional “RiverWare” model to integrate tribal and non-tribal water rights information with regional water supply and demand information to support drought planning efforts. Across Reclamation, Basin Studies and West-Wide Climate Risk Assessments help vulnerable communities prepare for expected on-going drought conditions.

#### *Reclamation - Native American Affairs Technical Assistance Program*

Reclamation’s Native American Affairs Technical Assistance Program (NAA TAP) provides assistance to Indian Tribes and tribal organizations. The NAA TAP is intended to establish cooperative working relationships, and ensure that tribes have an opportunity to participate fully in the Reclamation Program as they develop, manage, and protect their water and related resources. The program supports a broad range of activities, such as water needs assessments, improved water management studies, and water quality data collection and assessments. Through this program, Reclamation works with tribes to understand their individual water resource needs, and develops plans to help meet these needs through collaborative partnerships. Each of Reclamation’s regions participates in the NAA TAP.

#### *Reclamation - Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project*

Reclamation awarded a contract for construction of Reach 12B, a feature of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, totaling \$3.6 million, for the construction of a pipeline, located eight miles north of Gallup, New Mexico, in McKinley County, to convey treated water. Construction of the Reach 12B pipeline is expected to take nine months to complete. Reach 12B, located on the San Juan Lateral of the project, consists of a 36-inch-diameter pipeline extending approximately 1.7

miles from Tohlokai Pumping Plant, a project feature currently under construction, to Reach 13, another project feature currently being completed by the City of Gallup.

When the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project is completed in 2024, the San Juan Lateral, including Reach 12B, will convey treated project water to Navajo communities as well as to the City of Gallup. In the interim, Reach 12B will provide a key connection that will enable the Navajo Nation to deliver non-project water from groundwater wells owned by the Nation on the Navajo Reservation to Navajo communities in the surrounding area, meeting critical and immediate water needs in those communities.

Project participants, in addition to the Navajo Nation, include the Jicarilla Apache Nation and the city of Gallup, in conjunction with Reclamation, the state of New Mexico, BIA, and the Indian Health Service. The Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project is the cornerstone of Navajo Nation Water Rights Settlement Agreement.

#### *FWS – Minorities in Agriculture and Natural Resources Related Science partnership*

FWS and Oregon State University (OSU) hosted a symposium for minorities to explore careers in natural resource management under the Minorities in Agriculture and Natural Resources Related Science (MANNRS) partnership. Students gained valuable employment tips to include information on internships and Presidential Management Fellowship opportunities with FWS and other DOI agencies. FWS also awarded a five-year, \$35,000 grant to OSU to support student chapters of MANNRS and the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science. FWS also sponsored 10 students from Colleges of Forestry and Agriculture Science through a \$1,500 scholarship.

#### *OIA – Technical and Maintenance Assistance Programs*

In 2016, OIA provided grant assistance to the Government of Guam and non-profit organizations. The various Technical Assistance Program grants, including one Maintenance Assistance Program grant, awarded were as follow:

Guam Self-Determination Community Educational Outreach Program – \$300,000 to the Commission on Decolonization to implement a comprehensive community educational outreach program in preparation for a planned 2018 plebiscite.

Boat Ramp Feasibility Study – \$260,000 for the Guam Economic Development Authority to conduct a feasibility study that will look at possible boat ramp locations to better provide emergency response on the eastern shore of Guam, to assure the quality of life and enhance public safety throughout the island. Such access would also create economic development opportunities by allowing easier public access that would ultimately benefit Guam’s tourism and recreation industry.

Guam Preservation Trust for the Pacific Preservation Project – \$ 126,473 to develop and conduct a series of natural and cultural resource preservation trainings throughout the Pacific, to give

communities and stakeholders the tools necessary to preserve these resources, historic sites, and cultural heritage from the threatening effects of climate change.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guam for the Leadership Collaborative Project - \$66,321 for the second year of this successful initiative that focuses on capacity building of nonprofit organizations to better serve the constituents of Guam. With trainings, curriculum and program enhancements and volunteer developments, especially in regards to domestic violence, poverty, and disenfranchisement, the staff and volunteers of these organizations will be better equipped to aid both the indigenous and Micronesian populations on island.

Maintenance Assistance Program awarded to Guam Department of Corrections for an Assessment and Master Plan Project –\$250,000 for a comprehensive facilities assessment and plan. Currently operating at 274% above its rated capacity, the Department of Corrections will conduct an assessment of its facilities and prepare a master plan to accommodate improvement and future growth.

American Samoa Constitutional and Political Status Review – \$300,000 to the Office of Samoan Affairs to establish the American Samoa Constitutional and Political Status Review Office. This Office will liaise, advise, and collaborate with the Legislature of American Samoa on amendments to the Constitution of American Samoa and serve as a capacity building initiative focused on exploring possible political status with a full measure of self-governance and educating the community on these options.

Improving Capacity to Respond to Emerging Mosquito-Borne Disease – \$217,004 to the Department of Health to provide the equipment to remove and mitigate accumulated mosquito breeding sites in the community, such as tires, scrap vehicles and metals, and provide vector-borne disease prevention training to the community. Located in the tropics, American Samoa has seen threats from numerous arboviruses such as lymphatic filariasis, more commonly known as elephantiasis, dengue, chikungunya and more recently Zika.

Gastroenterology Procedures Training – \$140, 312 to LBJ Tropical Medical Center to improve the clinical capability of its staff by engaging the services of the gastroenterology team to consult on on-island trainings in necessary medical and surgical gastroenterology procedures, and sending LBJ Tropical Medical Center surgeons and technicians to the Straub Clinic and Hospital, a recognized training facility in Honolulu, where they can observe a high volume of these specialized procedures and techniques, which will be used at LBJ. This project will culminate in the evaluation of the skills and proficiencies of the participants.

Certified Ophthalmic Assistants Training – \$34,750 to LBJ Tropical Medical Center for the training of technicians and certification as Certified Ophthalmic Assistants, to improve the efficiency and quality of practice at the LBJ Tropical Medical Center Eye Clinic, so that they may better serve the increasing patient load in a changing, technology-driven health care environment.

Well Operator Professional Certification Training – \$124,500 to ASPA to provide the necessary

training to operate and maintain the drilling equipment and other new technologies required to develop American Samoa's limited water resources. This program will help ASPA's drillers qualify for EPA regulatory required certification and will allow the trained drillers to use these new skills to develop geothermal wells, a necessary component of ASPA's geothermal efforts.

Capacity Building and Educational Awareness of Self-Determination - \$250,000 to the University of the Virgin Islands to establish an Office of Self-Determination and Constitutional Development. The office will work with the Centennial Commemoration Commission and other stakeholders across the territory to address the issue of self-determination. Major duties and responsibilities include political status and constitutional education; research and development; mass public education; and complementing activities of the Centennial Commemoration Commission.

Hospital Roof Rehabilitation - \$100,000 to the Juan F. Luis Hospital to help support complete renovation and replacement of the hospital roof infrastructure.

Utility Crane Truck - \$169,000 to the U.S. Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority for a 17-ton crane truck to enable the utility maintenance team to transport pipes of different sizes, remove and replace existing waterline in trenches with new waterlines, and transport equipment to and from the construction site.

*Reclamation: Cooperative Agreement with the "Catch a Special Thrill for Kids (C.A.S.T.) Foundation."*

Since 1991, Reclamation, through the Cooperative Agreement with the C.A.S.T. Catch a Special Thrill) for Kids Foundation, has hosted multiple fishing events each year on its reservoirs. The purpose is to provide a fishing opportunity to children with disabilities and/or disadvantages.

The most important aspect of these events is to make quality outdoor recreation on Reclamation reservoirs accessible to all. At each event, children receive a rod/reel, a tackle box, a T-shirt, an award with their photo in it, and other prizes. They spend the morning fishing with local anglers who volunteer their time, use of their boats and their fishing expertise with the participants. After fishing, volunteers serve a free picnic lunch to participants, parents and volunteers. The event concludes with the Award Ceremony where each child receives a plaque containing their photo. These outdoor recreational opportunities have benefited thousands of children and their families since 1991.



Showing the catch of the day at Reclamation's Angostura Reservoir in South Dakota.



### *Reclamation – New Melones Lake Heritage Day*

On April 30, 2016, Reclamation celebrated the New Melones Lake’s second annual Heritage Day. The celebration highlighted the Native American Me-Wuk peoples of Tuolumne and Calaveras counties and their history, culture and traditions. Reclamation strives to preserve historical heritage landscapes for future generations to discover.

The festivities included a traditional blessing and demonstrations of beadwork and jewelry making, basket weaving, flint knapping and acorn preparation. A special presentation of traditional native dancing by the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuks was provided. Representatives of the Tuolumne Me-Wuk’s Four Seasons Native Plant Nursery were present, and the Tuolumne County Master Gardeners were onsite to answer questions and give away native seeds.

### *BIA – Tribal Energy Development Capability Program, the Energy and Mineral Development Program, and the Economic Development Feasibility Study Program*

BIA made available approximately \$9.1 million in grants to federally recognized Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, Alaska Native regional or village corporations, authorized tribal organizations, and Tribal Energy Resource Development Organization through the Tribal Energy Development Capability Program (TEDC), the Energy and Mineral Development Program (EMDP), and the Economic Development Feasibility Study Program.

Tribal Energy Development Capability (TEDC) Program: \$1.5 million - These awards complement the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership (HEARTH) Act (25 U.S.C. § 415), which restores the authority of tribes to develop and implement tribal laws governing the leasing of tribal surface trust lands for business and other purposes. The funds under this program enable eligible recipients to take advantage of the opportunity for self-determination afforded by the HEARTH Act by building capacity through the establishment of organizational structure(s) and/or business entity structure(s) capable of engaging in commercial energy development or management activities. The awards will also support tribal development or enhancement of key regulatory activities, assisting tribes which seek to enter into Tribal Energy Resource Agreements (TERAs) pursuant to Title V, Section 503 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58). TERAs are agreements between tribes and the Secretary of the Interior that allow a tribe to enter into leases, business agreements, and rights-of-way for energy resource development on tribal lands without further review and approval by the Secretary.

Energy and Mineral Development Program (EMDP): \$7.0 million - These awards were for projects that assess, evaluate, or otherwise promote the processing, use, or development of energy and mineral resources on Indian lands, particularly feasibility studies of community-scale energy development projects that promote local economic benefits and stronger tribal economies.

Economic Development Feasibility Study Program: \$650,000 - These awards were for feasibility studies that evaluate the viability of an economic development project, opportunity, enterprise, or business, or the practicality of a technology a tribe may choose to pursue. Feasibility studies may be used to determine the likelihood of success for businesses in specific American Indian and

Alaska Native communities.

*FWS - Saginaw African Cultural Festival*

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge took part in the 48th Annual Saginaw African Cultural Festival. The festival took place August 12-14th, 2016. The Saginaw African Cultural Festival is one of the oldest running African Festivals throughout America. This historic gathering engages members across all communities.

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge engaged by providing information about the Green Point Environmental Learning Center.

Like the festival, the Center is located within the City of Saginaw, an urban setting a few miles or blocks from more than 40,000 residents. Refuge staff also led appealing conversations about recreational opportunities on the refuge and its upcoming open house weekend. Pelts and interactive touch bags added thrills as visitors of all ages tried to guess what object or specimens were inside. A few thousand people attended this festival over the weekend.



The FWS booth at the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Saginaw African Cultural Festival

A few thousand people attended this festival over the weekend.



African Dancers at the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Saginaw African Cultural Festival

*USGS – Education for the San Carlos Apache Tribe on Vegetation*

The USGS Western Geographic Science Center has been working with members of the San Carlos Apache Tribe in Arizona to better understand how drought has influenced the response of multiple vegetation types present on the landscape. This project used remote sensing imagery to investigate short- and long-term vegetation responses to water availability, particularly focusing on the drought sensitivity of different vegetation types. Many of these vegetation types have

significant ecological, economic, and cultural value for the Tribe, and this recently completed research can inform future monitoring efforts and management practices on the reservation.

### *FWS - Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships*

The Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships assisted local non-profit organizations and municipalities by reaching urban communities on lands that the Service does not own or govern. Activities varied depending on the partners and helped local groups get involve in recreational programs; assisted partners with environmental education for underserved youth; continued urban youth education in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and helped developed culturally-inclusive partnerships that benefitted the health and wellness of the communities. Eighty percent of the U.S. population lives in urban communities. By actively seeking to connect with these communities, the goal is to develop the next generation of leaders, anglers, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts.

### John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge

Many environmental barriers and challenges face residents in southwest Philadelphia, including wide boulevards and train tracks that isolate neighborhoods from natural areas, significant flooding concerns, and demand for industrial expansion. Through close coordination with Audubon Pennsylvania and community groups such as the Eastwick Friends and Neighbors Coalition, City Lights Network, Southwest Community Development Corporation (CDC), Empowered CDC, and others, FWS has been working with several partners to close the gap between the area's communities and green spaces to contribute to building a healthy, connected environment. Recent successes include year-round youth employment programs, environmental education in public schools and working with neighbors to restore community gardens.

To build on that collaborative work, the FWS announced that it would invest \$1 million annually at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in southwest Philadelphia, to continue engaging urban communities and youth in conservation and outdoor recreation at the refuge and nearby areas such as Cobbs Creek and Bartram's Garden.



Students from Pepper Middle School, Longstreth Elementary and Norwood Elementary in Philadelphia bird watch on Tinicum Marsh at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in Pennsylvania.

“Protecting open space and the outdoors supports thousands of jobs and generates more than half a billion dollars in economic activity in Pennsylvania alone each year,” said U.S. Congressman Patrick

Meehan. “This investment into the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge will help more young

people and families in our region benefit from all the refuge has to offer. It means more opportunities for our communities to benefit from the refuge and more opportunities to educate young people about the importance of conserving and preserving our natural heritage.”

John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1972, and is central to the Philadelphia Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership, which received federal recognition in October 2015. The partnership works to educate and engage youth about their outdoor environment through science, outdoor exploration and jobs; engage people to promote sustainable environmental and economic communities; and connect residents to natural areas by providing easy and safe access to outdoor spaces.

### Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

FWS provided Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge with \$1 million in additional annual funding to engage urban communities and youth in conservation and outdoor recreation. The Refuge, located in Albuquerque’s South Valley, is only five miles from downtown and has been working with partners and community members to create a shared vision for opportunities to connect the Refuge with families and youth through conservation, culture, and community.

FWS recognizes that with increased urbanization, our youth may lose their connection to the natural world. In response, FWS created the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program that helps national wildlife refuges create partnerships and reach out to urban communities to provide new opportunities for them to learn about and take part in wildlife habitat conservation.

“There is so much opportunity at Valle de Oro to help New Mexico kids discover the incredible natural heritage of our state right in their backyard, while supporting vital river and habitat conservation,” said U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich. “I am proud to stand with the community in Albuquerque’s South Valley and secure resources to turn this 570-acre oasis into a place filled with educational and recreational opportunities.”

The Refuge was established in 2012 and is already engaging the local community through conservation, environmental education, special events, environmental justice, and partnerships embracing the importance of this cultural landscape to both people and wildlife.

“Valle de Oro Refuge is bringing a sense of pride into our neighborhood. We have a great community here that has sometimes been overlooked because of all the industry surrounding us,” stated Sara Carrillo, Principal at Mountain View Elementary School in Albuquerque’s South Valley. “We have very few opportunities for safe play and exploration outside. Mountain View used to be a farming community, and Valle de Oro is helping us get reconnected with the land and our heritage. It is giving our families a safe place to connect with nature, spend time together, be healthy, and reconnect with our history.”

### *OIA – Capital Improvement Program*

In 2016, OIA provided more than \$9.5 million in grant funding to American Samoa through the OIA’s Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Program. The Capital Improvement Project grants awarded were as follows:

Tug Boats - \$1,750,000 for the overhaul of hull and machinery on two of three tug boats belonging to the Department of Port Administration which serve the Pago Pago Harbor. The tugboats are vital to serving the long liners, cruise liners and other vessels arriving in the territory. This project complements prior-year funding for repairs to the shipyard and dry-docking services at Satala and complies with Coast Guard safety recommendations, while also extending life expectancy of the vessels.

Ofu Wharf - \$200,000 to design improvements to the Ofu Wharf to properly accommodate the M/V Sili and the new ferry boat that is currently under construction. The Ofu Wharf is the only wharf that serves both Ofu and Olosega islands and requires improvements to enhance its capacity to service larger vessels; upgrade docking and transferring of essential cargo and vehicles; and provide it with improved sources of electrical power, lighting and water.

Port Drainage Improvements - \$40,000 to fix drainage problems at the Pago Pago Port container yard where rain runoff is ponding and greatly affecting stevedoring port operations and facilities. The improvements will allow for safer port operations and satisfy both U.S. EPA and American Samoa EPA requirements to avoid adverse runoff effects on the coastal environment.

FAA Matching Funds - \$350,000 to provide the required local match for federal funding from the Federal Aviation Administration for airport improvements and maintenance. The FAA awards American Samoa between \$9 – 11 million per year for continued improvements to the airports.

School Buses – \$600,000 to acquire up to six new school buses to alleviate current overloading; improve scheduling of maintenance; and provide safer transportation for students.

Samoana High School - \$1,204,700 for the construction of a new two-story building with ten classrooms, customized band room, and applied tech workshop area.

Aua Elementary School - \$300,000 for the construction of a pre-fabricated metal building to serve as a covered recreational area and assembly area for students. The scope of work includes demolition of deteriorated existing classroom building and additional perimeter fencing with retaining wall along stream at back of school, landscaping and other related work.

Insular ABC's Initiative - \$1,000,000 to implement maintenance and repairs to public schools as established in a MOU entered into by the OIA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and American Samoa to address critical structural repairs affecting health and safety.

LBJ Tropical Medical Center Labor, Delivery, and Operating Room - \$1,700,000 for the renovation of the existing Labor, Delivery, and Operating Room Suite to meet health and life safety standards as required by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The total project is estimated to cost \$14 million.

Microfiltration Plant - \$250,000 for the purchase of microfiltration equipment for the American Samoa Power Authority to return the plant to full operation. The proposed water improvements

meet three phases identified in the American Samoa CIP Five Year Plan to improve water distribution through fire hydrants; meet the growing demands of the public with additional water resources; and prevent contamination of water source used by the public.

Heavy Equipment - \$500,000 for the purchase of a backhoe, two dump trucks, and a sweeper to provide road maintenance by the Department of Public Works.

Disaster Matching Funds - \$1,000,000 to the Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management to provide a local match to federal funding received under Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Program.

CIP Administrative Office - \$95,050 to support the operations of the CIP Administrative Office. The CIP office works closely with the Governor, the Local OIA field office, and the American Samoa Departments and Agencies to ensure increased project progress with all awarded projects.

Maintenance Set-Aside - \$475,250 for the implementation of a long-term preventative maintenance program for all CIP-funded infrastructure projects in American Samoa.

#### *NPS - Latino Heritage Internship Program*

The NPS partnered with Environment for the Americas (EFTA) and Hispanic Access Foundation (HAF) to create the NPS' first Latino focused youth employment program; the Latino Heritage Internship Program (LHIP). This program was modelled after the successful HBCUI and Mosaics in Science Programs and provided internship opportunities to 46 undergraduate and graduate students attending primarily Hispanic Serving Institution at 45 NPS sites across the country. LHIP positions include the fields of archeology, historic preservation, interpretation and education, community outreach, and other fields that intersect with environmental justice.

#### *BLM - Fire Mitigation and Forest Health Workshop*

BLM, along with the Pepperwood Preserve, held a workshop to discuss the latest science, strategies, and projects addressing wildfire mitigation, forest health and resiliency planning in chaparral and forested landscapes for the Mayacamas to Berryessa Coast Range Region in California. The goal was to create a bridge from science to practice in managing ecosystems. Local property owners, tribal representatives, land managers and scientists built new connections and context that will help facilitate adaptation actions in the area. The group provided a consensus-based understanding of fundamental opportunities and constraints on fire mitigation, response, and recovery, shared lessons learned from landscape managers, and identified the science most valuable for immediate application.

#### *USGS – National Tribal Climate Boot Camp*

In June 2016, the Northwest Climate Science Center held the National Tribal Climate Boot Camp, which brought together early-career professionals from among the member Tribes of the

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and the United South and Eastern Tribes for a week-long educational experience to learn about climate-related impacts, with a specific focus on issues connected to tribal needs and concerns.

### *USGS – Drought Planning*

Scientists at the North Central Climate Science Center worked as a part of a collaborative project to help the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes at the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming prepare for drought. In addition to drought planning, this project is preparing a technical assessment of drought risk and providing training for managers on drought and climate science.

The South Central Climate Science Center partnered with the Chickasaw Nation and University of Oklahoma to project future streamflow and runoff in the Red River basin using the best available data and tools. The Chickasaw Nation is utilizing this information and has partnered with the Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to continue their efforts for water planning and preparation for future droughts.

### *OIA – Coral Reef Initiative*

In 2016, OIA provided \$1,094,205 in grant assistance threats to coral reefs in the U.S. territories and freely associated states. Coral Reef Initiative grants awarded were as follows:

Micronesia Conservation Trust (Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia) - \$130,000 to support development of a robust model for sea-level rise projections as part of a mangrove vulnerability assessment on Pohnpei. Healthy fringing mangrove forests provide timber, fuelwood, nursery and fish habitats, as well as filter coastal waters and protect coastal areas from rising seas and erosion. Results from this work will have application across the Pacific. Funds will also support the highly successful Micronesia Challenge Young Champions initiative that will provide five interns with one-year internships at natural resource management and non-governmental agencies across Micronesia. The interns will work to share lessons learned, promote efficiency of conservation efforts, and conduct outreach and information-sharing locally, regionally, internationally, and online.

Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, CNMI) - \$73,040 to conduct summer youth environmental stewardship programs on Tinian and Rota and provide regional coordination and capacity building opportunities for CNMI's coral reef managers. Funds will also be used to assess the resilience of seagrass ecosystems on Saipan and to incorporate three-dimensional modeling of reef structural changes into CNMI's long-term coral reef monitoring program.

The Nature Conservancy (Seattle, Washington) - \$31,490 to The Nature Conservancy's Reef Resilience Project to support development of a new online tool to help coral reef managers "climate proof" their coral reef projects and programs. The Corals & Climate Adaptation Planning Design Tool will instruct users on the science of coral acclimation and potential

adaptation and how the tool can be used to support climate-smart planning and management. Reef managers in the U.S. Insular Areas and around the world will be able to use the tool.

Coral Reef Advisory Group (American Samoa) - \$123,710 to incorporate climate change adaptation principles into efforts to reduce land-based sources of pollution using the Corals & Climate Adaptation Planning Design Tool being developed jointly by The Nature Conservancy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Office of Insular Affairs. Funds will also support collaboration between scientists and managers in the islands to increase the extent to which resilience and vulnerability are included in management planning, and to raise awareness among reef stakeholders for resilience-based management to reduce vulnerability to climate change.

Bureau of Statistics and Planning (Guam) - \$105,600 to raise awareness of island residents about the importance of Guam's coral reef resources to tourism, recreation, fisheries, and protection. Funds will be used to help educational outreach to primary, secondary, and post-secondary students on the effects of climate change and how to minimize negative impacts on coral reefs. Funding also will be used to work with local villages in the Manell-Geus watershed to reduce sediment run-off onto adjacent coral reefs by promoting habitat restoration through fire hazard reduction and eradication of invasive species such as bamboo. The grant also funds opportunities to coordinate with others in the region and nationally on issues related to protection and management of coral reefs.

Department of Planning and Natural Resources (U.S. Virgin Islands) - \$131,000 to enhance the effectiveness of local coral reef planning efforts; to create "stewards of the reef" through targeted marine experience and education of local high school students; and to integrate "ocean acidification sentinel" sites into the islands' territorial coral reef monitoring program.

College of the Marshall Islands (Republic of the Marshall Islands) - \$124,963 to develop technical guidelines for assessing the state of the coastline and historic shoreline position and identifying erosion prone areas in support of coastal protection efforts by the Marshall Islands Environmental Protection Agency and Public Works Department. While initial efforts target Majuro, long-term benefits will extend to Ebeye and the outer islands. This project will utilize the GIS database and remote sensing capabilities for conservation and protection of coral reefs in the Marshall Islands that were developed, in part, with previous Office of Insular Affairs funding.

International Society for Reef Studies (Hawaii) - \$40,000 to support the Leaders' Summit that will be convened as part of the 13<sup>th</sup> International Coral Reef Symposium in June 2016 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The Summit will bring regional leaders together with scientists and government representatives to address the need for improving the science-to-policy bridge.

The Nature Conservancy (Santa Cruz, California) - \$89,821 to support a project demonstrating the role coral reefs play as effective first-line defenses in protecting coastlines from flooding. The project will identify when, where and how coral reefs provide the most significant flood reduction benefits both socially and economically under current and future climate change



scenarios in American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Coral reefs provide a natural protective defense that is often not as rigorously evaluated as seawalls and other “grey infrastructure” which may not be cost effective and can have negative impacts on coastal ecosystems.

Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) - \$66,481 to support the successful Tasi-Watch Program which has been training recent high school graduates to become community conservation rangers since 2010. The word *tasi* in Chamorro means ocean.

Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography; Nova Southeastern University (Florida) - \$200,000 to support Year 2 of the National Coral Reef Management Assistantship Program for the U.S. territories. The program helps fill current capacity gaps as well as build longer-term capacity by placing qualified young professionals in jurisdictions where their education and work experience meet specific needs.

#### *USGS – Capacity Building*

The South Central Climate Science Center (CSC) is actively involved in many capacity building activities. The South Central CSC developed a tribal engagement strategy and has provided several different types of training for tribal members.

#### *USGS – Hydrologic Extremes*

The USGS Hydrologic Extremes project has established a research site in cooperation with the Navajo Nation Tolani Lake Chapter. Experimental work will be done to mitigate sand and dust storms that are affecting the community. USGS worked over the summer with area youth that were hired by local Navajo communities to develop collaborative plans that include re-introduction of native and culturally important plants and developing wind erosion buffers in addition to deploying instrumentation that will measure changes to soil moisture and wind erosion and sediment transport.

#### *USGS – Impacts to Foods, Cultural Sites, and Community Health*

USGS has constructed a coastal model to evaluate the impending impacts of sea-level rise, storm surge and waves to Coast Salish First Foods, Cultural Sites, and Tribal Community Health with the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and Skagit River System Cooperative. Every 6 hours, the model forecasts impending coastal storm water levels, wave heights, and flooding extent and model skill was validated well with field surveys of high water and debris lines that caused severe damage to infrastructure, homes and important habitats across the Swinomish Reservation during the March 10, 2016 gale, which re-defined the 100-yr coastal storm event for much of northern Puget Sound. The model is being used to simulate impacts to salmon, shellfish and their habitats projected with the interaction of sea-level rise, coastal storms, waves, stream flooding, sediment transport and groundwater through the year 2100 to inform the Swinomish Climate Adaptation Plan and identify opportunities to enhance resilience of habitats and cultural sites that

support community health.

#### *BLM - Bi-State Sage-Grouse Traditional Ecological Summit – Tribal Outreach*

BLM California's Bishop Field Office and Bi-State Sage-grouse Executive Oversight Committee collaborated with the Nevada Indian Commission, BIA and tribal representatives to host a Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Summit focused on TEK and science management practices. The Summit included issues in pinyon-juniper and sagebrush ecosystems within the range of Bi-State sage-grouse. With approximately 200 attendees, 11 local Tribes were represented, as well as Tribes outside the area. A Native youth panel discussion revealed a tribal generation dedicated to keeping cultural traditions flourishing and protecting indigenous plants and wildlife.

#### *FWS – Native American Tribal Grants*

In 2016, FWS awarded nearly 5 million in Tribal Wildlife Grants to Native American and Alaska Native tribes in 16 states. The grants enabled tribes to develop increased management capacity, improve and enhance relationships with conservation partners, address cultural and environmental priorities and help train the next generation of conservationists by engaging tribal students in fisheries, wildlife and related fields of study. For example, funding has gone to help the Red Lake and White Earth Bands of Chippewa Indians reestablish the once abundant and culturally important lake sturgeon for the first time in 60 years.

#### *BLM – Working with Conservation Corps*

The Los Angeles Conservation Corps and BLM-California partner to provide at-risk youth, 18-24, with opportunities for job skills training, education and work experience. Corps members work on fire fuel reduction, trail building and maintenance, habitat restoration and erosion control. For many participants, it is the first time they are in a non-urban environment and working with individuals from different backgrounds. Participants receive a stipend, develop self-esteem and gain skills that may lead to self-sufficiency and a newfound love of nature.

#### *BLM – Working with the Student Conservation Association*

Through a partnership with the Student Conservation Association (SCA), who actively recruit from environmental justice populations, BLM provides opportunities for the SCA volunteers to be involved in a variety of projects. Self-sufficient crews camp on-site and move seasonally between higher and lower elevations to accomplish work.

#### *NPS - ¡Vamos Verde! A Latino Youth Urban Conservation Coalition Program*

The ¡Vamos Verde! A Latino Youth Urban Conservation Coalition Program engaged 40 high school Latino youth in an eight week summer program that combined conservation service work, education, and recreation opportunities. SCA, developed conservation work projects at designated NPS sites (within New York and Albuquerque, New Mexico) that included

conservation education, environmental awareness, and cultural/recreation activities. This program used a service-learning model that employs multiple levels of activity to engage diverse and economically disadvantaged youth and encourage their development.

#### *BLM – Atwell Island Project*

The Atwell Island Project (AIP) provided funding for science teachers to administer an environmental education and work program during the summer to improve educational opportunities for underprivileged Hispanic students through an agreement with the Alpaugh Unified School District. This program allows hands on experience to introduce youth to careers in natural resources, motivating and encouraging them to pursue higher education and possibly careers with BLM. AIP has also employed minority students through various youth organizations such as the César Chávez Foundations' Farmworker Institute for Education & Leadership Development. Through this partnership, BLM-Atwell Island Project fostered an environment to connect underprivileged rural and urban Hispanic youth with the land.

#### *BLM – Working with Inmates*

BLM worked with the State of California to provide hazardous fuels reduction, trail maintenance and construction, ecosystem maintenance and forest and rangeland restoration projects as well as fire suppression activities throughout the state. Using cooperative agreements, BLM is able to utilize minimum security prison inmate crews who perform this work on BLM land. During the projects, inmates learn about the animals, plants and environment they are working in. Inmates tend to be from underserved or disadvantaged groups but as a result of the program can perform meaningful work, garner job experience, receive a small stipend, an education on the natural environment, and view firsthand the effects of wildland fires.

The Sacramento County Sheriff's Department continued a program in which Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center inmates gathered gentle wild horses from BLM-managed public lands. They train the horses for riding, making the animals more desirable for adopters. The inmates, many from minority or economically disadvantaged groups, are instructed and supervised by a horse trainer. The program is able to house up to 200 wild horses and may also provide holding space for wild horses awaiting public adoption. Inmates learn new vocational and life skills and experience therapeutic benefits from training and caring for wild horses. BLM is better able to complete its mission of managing wild horse populations as more excess wild horses can be adopted.

#### *BLM – Outdoor Summit for Youth*

BLM-California hosted the 4th Annual Outdoor Summit for Youth to strengthen and expand partnerships with youth organizations and other partners that educate, engage, and employ underserved youth from diverse communities and backgrounds. Partner organizations included more than 20 state and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations. The summit expanded the horizons of California's youth to include the outdoors and natural resources. With 325 participants and more than 50 organizations that support California youth, participants

included youth from the Generation Green Program, a natural resources program that targets underserved youth in California, and six high schools from Hispanic serving school districts.

#### *BLM – Working with local tribes and communities*

The Southeastern States District presents to local schools and youth groups, gives presentations to local community groups throughout the year and sponsors local Tribal performers for a local outreach program that occurs in October each year. The District also works with state, local agencies and Tribes on educational outreach programs throughout the year. Through this effort, youth and underserved populations have opportunities to learn about natural and cultural resources, career opportunities, and environmental and outdoor opportunities. The District builds goodwill with those local Tribes and the local communities that attend the events by enhancing understanding of the natural and cultural resource treasures on the public lands as well as ongoing efforts to preserve those resources on private lands.

#### *BLM – Root Day*

Each spring, generations of Native Americans from the Spokane, Coeur d'Alene, and Kalispel tribes gather together to celebrate the return and harvest of the first edible roots. These roots, particularly biscuitroot and bitterroot, are considered staples of the traditional diets of Columbia Plateau peoples. Although today's harvest is largely ceremonial, the gathering is a time for tribal elders to teach the youth about traditional activities and to integrate the Salish language into their learning. Root Day, as it is called today, is a cultural education event for Native youth hosted by the BLM Spokane District near the Twin Lakes and Lakeview Ranch recreation sites in Lincoln County, Washington for more than two decades. Approximately 450 people, almost 80% of them under 18, come to the event from schools, organizations serving at-risk Native youth, tribal language, culture, and natural resource programs, BLM Spokane, and other organizations to harvest the roots. The roots are presented to tribal elders for use in the Spokane Tribe's Culture Week which is focused on teaching tribal youth about their history, language, culture, and traditions.

#### *NPS – Outdoor Recreation in Legacy Partnership Program*

In 2016, NPS offered \$15 Million in Grants for Outdoor Recreation in Cities for the development of outdoor recreation spaces in urban areas which are matched with local partnerships to create safe outdoor recreation places for people, especially young people, in neighborhoods of America's cities. The NPS Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP) competitive grants are made available through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and are just the second round of such grants.

The grants ranged from \$250,000 to \$750,000 each, and planning grants up to \$75,000. Projects must have matching funds and partners. Outside of the planning grants, funding for eligible projects can be used to acquire and/or develop land to create new, or reinvigorate existing, public parks and other outdoor recreation spaces in neighborhoods that are underserved or lack such opportunities. A pilot planning grant program mini-competition, which funds special studies to

help guide park and recreation investment to where it is needed most in urbanized areas, was also announced.

The ORLP grants complement the existing NPS LWCF State and Local Assistance Program in targeting national priorities to create new opportunities for outdoor play as well as development or enhancement of outdoor recreation partnerships in cities. Selected projects showcase how partners at all levels can work collaboratively to leverage investment and support close-to-home recreation opportunities that will connect youth to public lands. Since its establishment in 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has conserved land in every state and supported tens of thousands of state and local projects.

### *NPS – Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps*

The NPS Youth Programs Division partners with Conservation Legacy to manage the Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps (ALCC). This program targets Native American youth living on tribal lands near NPS sites for conservation crew and employment opportunities. An additional objective of this program is to develop cultural enrichment and community development programs and projects for the youth participants in the areas of traditional farming, hiking, and oral histories. The FY 16 ALCC NPS Program engaged 72 Native American youth from several different Native American nations through service projects in NPS units in the Pacific West Region (PWR) the Intermountain Region (IMR), and the Midwest Region (MWR). Below are two examples of the service projects:

- Arizona Conservation Corps, Crew and Intern Programs: An eight person crew served in the Grand Canyon National Park, performing conservation service projects for 13 weeks. An additional eight person crew served in the Grand Canyon under leveraged funding. In total, 3,840 hours of work were performed. One intern served at Grand Canyon National Park, developing interpretive and cultural programs. In late summer, a 12 person crew was dedicated to Saguaro National Park for four weeks.
- Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa, Crew Program: The Conservation Corps worked closely with the American Indian community in the Twin Cities to provide a unique opportunity for Native youth to serve at Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. The new program, called “Restoring Relations Youth Corps”, utilized corps infrastructure and the knowledge of indigenous people for youth development of partners in the community. As a result, nine Native youth and two young adult leaders completed 2,235 hours of work and education.

### *NPS - Groundwork Yellowstone and Grand Tetons Experience*

The NPS provides economically disadvantaged urban youth from across the country the opportunity to participate in various facilities projects in Yellowstone and Grand Tetons Parks while also participating in STEM education programs and backcountry camping activities. Eighty-five youth from Groundwork Trusts participated in FY16. In Grand Teton National Park, 20 youth leaders from across the Groundwork network became “urban ambassadors” through the

inaugural “Mountains to Main Street” program, crafting engagement strategies to connect their communities—who do not typically visit national parks—with nearby NPS units. Rather than simply encourage local residents to visit nearby parks as tourists, Mountains to Main Street ambassadors began by asking how national parks could serve the communities they wanted to engage. The urban ambassadors then developed strategies for using NPS’s natural, cultural, and historic resources to meet the communities’ needs. By developing and drawing on the urban ambassadors’ leadership and community mobilization expertise, this innovative partnership seeks to forge relationships between communities and parks that will endure long after the Mountains to Main Street program has ended.

### *BOEM – Evening of Science*

The Alaska Region hosted a ‘BOEM Evening of Science’ in the communities of Barrow and Nuiqsut to present and discuss research and studies for Beaufort Sea. The Alaska Region also attended the Alaska Marine Science Symposium, the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission Mini-Convention, the BIA Providers Conference, the Marine Mammal Commission Conference, and the Alaska Forum on the Environment as a way to informally interface with communities and Tribes on BOEM activities.

### *NPS - Hawaii Island Youth Ranger Program*

The Hawaii Island Youth Ranger Program (HIYRP) targets underserved Asian Pacific Islander youth (high school and college) from Hawaii’s three poorest districts (i.e., Puna, Pahoia, and Ka`u) as well as several districts in West Hawaii where there are four NPS units. This program exposes its participants to various career tracks within the NPS through after school training workshops, Pathways internship opportunities, and a mentoring program. In partnership with Friends of Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park, the HIYRP is training approximately 62 youth and employing 25-30 youth via the Pathways internship program or through equal pay educational stipends through the Friends. Some examples of projects the subtends are working on are:

- In the Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park, youth provided park maintenance, with one group of youth completing three roofing projects from start to finish. Being mentored by journeymen, they learned how to use various tools such as tongue and groove pliers, and basic roofing techniques. The park benefited by the completion of these three backlogged maintenance projects.
- Additionally, the youth crews helped remove 3,596 invasive olive trees at Ainahou Ranch, to protect native forests and improve habitat for the federally endangered Nene goose. In areas surrounding the NPS facilities, the Youth Rangers removed 2,869 invasive ginger and strawberry guava.

### *BOEM – Archaeological Analysis*

BOEM continues to work with tribal partners, through the University of Rhode Island, for an ongoing study: Developing Protocols for Reconstructing Submerged Paleocultural Landscapes

and Identifying Ancient Native American Archaeological Sites in Submerged Environments. On the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), rising postglacial sea levels have submerged a vast paleo landscape that most likely includes archaeological resources under the sea. Reaching out to Native American groups in Oregon and California is important in conducting a study to identify submerged relic landscapes off of the West coast.

As a result of meetings that were held with Chumash community leaders in support of the Archaeological and Biological Assessment of Submerged Landforms off the Pacific Coast, a Native American internship was created to provide up to two student interns an opportunity to spend up to two days each on the research vessel assisting with the geophysical surveys that were conducted around the Northern Channel Islands. One student intern from the Santa Ynez Band of Mission Indians participated in this survey.

#### USGS – Groundwater Monitoring and Water Quality Sampling

The USGS Wyoming-Montana Water Science Center works with the Blackfeet Nation in Montana to provide technical assistance and training on groundwater monitoring and water quality sampling. In the past 3 years, oil and gas exploration and development has increased dramatically on the Blackfeet Reservation, primarily in the Bakken formation and adjacent units. Efforts are focused on the development of a groundwater monitoring plan to address both water quality and quantity issues for the reservation. The addition of groundwater data to the existing surface-water monitoring program would help the Blackfeet Nation to identify: (1) current groundwater and surface water conditions; (2) instances of ground water or surface water contamination; and (3) any unexpected or unnatural decline in levels of ground or surface water. In July 2016, the WY-MT WSC provided hands-on training to Blackfeet tribal employees on groundwater quality sampling of monitoring wells on their Reservation.

#### *USGS – White Sturgeon Study*

The USGS Idaho Water Science Center works with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho to evaluate streamflow and sedimentation conditions in the Kootenai River that may be affecting the sustainability of white sturgeon. The cooperative study will help to evaluate changes in hydrologic and sediment conditions that have been caused by the construction of Libby dam and other alterations to the natural stream systems. The study will also help in the development of tools to assess the feasibility of remediation scenarios used to enhance the white sturgeon spawning substrate and habitat.

#### *NPS - Historically Black Colleges & Universities Initiative Program*

The NPS is partnering with the Greening Youth Foundation (GYF) on the NPS Historically Black Colleges & Universities Internship (HBCUI) Program. The HBCUI Program connected 49 students between the ages of 18-35 attending HBCU Institutions to NPS parks and units in the fields of natural and cultural resource conservation. An overall program goal is to instill in the interns a better understanding and appreciation of the important role African Americans have played in the development and progress of the country while increasing career opportunities for

students attending HBCUs. Participants are also introduced to local environmental justice challenges. Following the internships all HBCUI participants attend a three-day “Leadership & Career Workshop,” where they give presentations on their individual summer experience, network with key NPS leadership officials and participate in career enhancement workshops.

#### *USGS – Pacific Lamprey*

USGS collaborates with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) to examine the role of contaminants as a potential threat to the survival of Pacific lamprey (*Entosphenus tridentatus*) in the Columbia River Basin. The USGS Oregon Water Science Center has produced the largest contaminant dataset on Pacific lamprey in North America. Concentrations have measured at levels that likely pose threat to lampreys indicating that contaminants may play a role in Pacific lamprey declines. USGS has a report in preparation that will assess contaminants in returning adult lampreys at tribal harvest locations and at mainstem dams. Results may have implications for both the health of the species and human health of tribal members who harvest and consume Pacific lamprey.

#### *USGS – Workshop for Native American Youth on Water*

For the past three years, USGS–Cascades Volcano Observatory scientists have conducted a field- and class-oriented workshop on water for Native American youth between the ages of 14 and 18. Students learn about the fundamentals of the water cycle and water quality, gain field experience collecting water-quality data and measuring discharge from a variety of sources from springs to lakes, and practice computer skills through data input and analysis. The three-day, three-night workshop is held at the College of the Siskiyous and gives students a college experience. In addition to the water aspects students learn about native plants, local geology, and visit the California Sisson Fish Hatchery. Attendance includes youth from the Pit River, Quartz Valley and Karuk Tribes. The Workshop is a collaborative effort among USGS, USFS–Mount Shasta District, and the College of the Siskiyous. In 2016, the workshop partnered with the Pit River Lomakatsi Restoration Program that funds tribal student interns for natural resource projects. The workshop fosters better relations between Tribes with ancestral ties to Mount Shasta and USGS researchers who have several projects on the mountain.

#### *FWS – Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program*

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program serves as the premier tool for conservation delivery on privately owned land. The Program provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners, tribes and schools on a voluntary basis to help meet the habitat needs of federal trust species. Field biologists work one-on-one with landowners and partners to plan, implement and monitor activities.



**Goal 5: Integrate the DOI’s environmental justice strategies with its Title VI of the Civil Rights Act enforcement responsibilities to improve efficiencies while preserving the integrity of Title VI and environmental justice activities.**

*Office of Civil Rights – Title VI Reviews*

In 2016, no formal Title VI reviews occurred that intersected with environmental justice.

## **IMPLEMENTING THE DOI ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTION PLAN**

As part of the update to the DOI Environmental Justice Strategic Plan, DOI developed a 2016-2020 Action Plan, which outlines what DOI will do to integrate environmental justice into its policies, activities, and actions in the upcoming years. The Action Plan is divided into multiple focus areas such as: Strategic Plan Development; Inter and Intra-agency coordination; Public Participation/Information Dissemination; Native American Collaboration; and Department Policy and Guidance. The following section provides examples how DOI is meeting the actions outlined in the Action Plan for FY16.

### **Inter and Intra-agency coordination**

- *Ensure that there is representation on all EJ IWG subcommittees that are applicable to the DOI mission, and*
- *Provide assistance and expertise for working group products*

DOI has representation on multiple EJ IWG subcommittees – including the NEPA Committee, the Strategic Implementation Committee, the Public Outreach Committee, the Native American/Indigenous Peoples Committee, and the Public and the Regional Engagement Committee. DOI will continue to evaluate the work products of the EJ IWG subcommittees for DOI involvement and will participate when necessary.

In FY16, DOI worked together with other federal agencies on the EJ IWG and its subcommittees on guidance and work with communities. Such work included:

- The adoption of the Framework for Collaboration and its goals to: enhance communication and coordination; enhance multi-agency support; and advance interagency strategies;
  - The completion of a multi-year effort - the Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in National Environmental Policy Act Reviews; and
  - The implementation of the Access and Awareness Webinar Series.
- 
- *Support and collaborate with other agencies to provide coordinated Federal outreach to environmental justice communities*

### *BLM/U.S. Forest Service (USFS) – Tribal Workshops on Climate Vulnerabilities*

In partnership with the USFS, BLM California provided two workshops for tribes in the Berryessa Snow Mountain and the North Coast/Klamath River areas. The workshops support tribal efforts to plan and develop strategies for identifying and responding to climate vulnerabilities.

### *NPS/BLM – The Public Lands Education Project*

The BLM, NPS, and U.S. Forest Service work together to leverage resources and combine programs to accomplish mutual goals benefitting youth in southern California. One such effort is through the Public Lands Education Project (PLEP) to educate, engage, and employ underserved youth from inner city and rural communities that are diverse in race, gender, and ethnicity. The PLEP reaches out to underserved populations and to ensure that all Americans enjoy our natural and cultural resources. Partners include community-based organizations such as Raices Cultura, Esperanza Center, Friends of the Desert Mountains and local Tribes. Young people work together to tackle conservation issues, learn from Native communities, build trails, enhance recreational opportunities and restore cultural and historic landmarks.

### *BLM – New Mexico Land Grant Council Partnership*

BLM's New Mexico State Office continues an ongoing relationship with the New Mexico Land Grant Council, a unique non-governmental group, representing the Mexican and Spanish Land Grants in New Mexico. The residents of the land grants are primarily Hispanic, and are often considered low-income populations. Most of the residents are of multi-generational descent on their grants, and have an ingrained sense of the land and of place similar to many Indian tribes.

### *BLM/NPS – Ute Ethnobotany Partnership*

The Ute Ethnobotany Partnership is a partnership among the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation, BLM, NPS, the U.S. Forest Service, Colorado State University (CSU) Extension Service, Museum of Western Colorado, and Mesa State College. Betsy Chapoose, the Cultural Rights and Protection Director for the Ute Indian Tribe, initiated the idea of students from the reservation anticipating in the annual field trip with elders, in hopes of bringing tribal elders and youth back to their aboriginal lands and to learn about plants and their traditional uses. The Ute Indian Tribe provided transportation for elders and youth to visit public lands in the Western Slope. The reconnection with their aboriginal lands ignited many thoughts and remembrances of their ancestors before removal from Colorado in 1880 and sparked support to continue the project.

### *FWS/NOAA – Strengthen Opportunities for Public Engagement*

In 2016, FWS and NOAA Fisheries revised the Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAAs) to improve the process for working with states, tribes and private landowners in voluntary conservation efforts under the Endangered Species Act. The Act can be

used to engage partners in conservation and protecting species before they are listed as threatened or endangered. The CCAAs provides a mechanism that encourages non-federal landowners to implement specific conservation measures for at-risk wildlife. In return, they receive assurances that they will not be required to undertake any additional conservation measures or be subject to additional resources use or land use restrictions, even if subsequent information indicates that additional or revised conservation measures are needed for the species or if the species is ultimately listed under federal protection. The two agencies hope these changes will encourage additional non-federal landowners to participate in these agreements.

#### *FWS – National Wildlife Refuges waives Entrance Fees*

Across America national wildlife refuges offer unparalleled opportunities to experience the great outdoors. The NWR System is the world’s largest network of conservation lands, encompassing 565 refuges and 38 wetland management districts. Nearly 500 national wildlife refuges and wetland management districts are open to the public, hosting some 50 million visits each year – almost all offering free admittance year-round.

#### **Public Participation/Information Dissemination**

- *Encourage the participation of environmental justice communities in the decision processes under NEPA*

#### *BLM – Travel Management Plan*

The BLM Arizona Yuma Field Office completed the La Posa Travel Management Plan in La Paz County, a predominately Hispanic rural county in southwestern Arizona with a per capita income almost \$17,000 below the national average. The Yuma Field Office devised a Communications Plan that emphasized outreach to both Hispanic and low-income communities in the County. The Communication Plan helped the field office engage multiple low-income and minority groups in implementation efforts and helped strengthen an emerging partnership with proponents of the Arizona Peace Trail. The Peace Trail is a community-based effort that seeks to designate an off highway vehicle (OHV) friendly system of routes through three Arizona counties with a goal of increasing recreational revenue for the counties and the local communities surrounding those routes. In particular, the BLM has worked collaboratively with off road groups in local communities to improve visibility and access to the Peace Trail.

#### **Native American Collaboration**

- *Participate in Tribal consultation and coordination efforts*

#### *NPS - American Indian Liaison Office*

The American Indian Liaison Office (AILO) provides guidance to NPS field and program managers to enable them to interact with American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives on a government-to-government basis. The office provides guidance concerning Indian self-determination, tribal self-governance, environmental review, land restoration, free exercise of

religion, sacred sites, and traditional cultural properties. AILO assists in reconciling programs, policies, and regulations, with traditional uses of NPS lands by American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

#### *NPS - National Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Program*

The National NAGPRA Program administers two grant programs annually to assist museums, Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian Organizations in fulfilling their responsibilities under the NAGPRA. Repatriation grants defray costs associated with the packaging, transportation, contamination removal, reburial, and/or storage of NAGPRA-related human remains and cultural items. Consultation/Documentation grants support the efforts of museums, Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations to consult and document NAGPRA-related human remains and cultural items in non-federal collections.

#### *Reclamation – Native American Affairs Program*

The mission of Reclamation's Native American Program is to make the benefits of the Reclamation Program available to Indian Tribes and to fulfill Reclamation's Indian Trust responsibilities. Reclamation's Native American Program is a collaborative, cooperative program, with overall leadership and guidance provided by the Commissioner's Native American and International Affairs Office (NAIAO), and project implementation occurring through the regional or area offices. The NAIAO provides leadership and central coordination for Native American Program issues. Such issues include, but are not limited to, the government-to-government relationship, tribal consultation, the Indian trust responsibility, and Indian sacred sites. The NAIAO also leads Reclamation's participation in Interior's Indian water rights settlement program, and leads and supports a Technical Assistance to Tribes program (NAA TAP).

#### *BLM – Resource Management Planning*

In Alaska, the BLM is preparing a Resource Management Plan for the Bering Sea-Western Interior region, with a Planning Area that encompasses 62 million acres of land in western Alaska, including 10.6 million acres managed by the BLM. The Planning Area includes 66 federally recognized Tribes and 48 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) regional and village corporations, all of which were notified about the planning process and invited to participate. The BLM coordinated with tribes and ANCSA corporations in villages near BLM-managed blocks of lands in the planning area to develop a schedule of village scoping meetings and to offer government-to-government and ANCSA Corporation consultation.

During the scoping period, the BSWI RMP Team made additional presentations to 12 groups upon request, including to Village and Traditional Councils and ANCSA corporations. The BLM then worked with tribal and corporation leadership to host scoping meetings in nine villages in the planning area and subsequently to host 14 meetings following development of preliminary alternatives. The BLM received many proposals from Native villages during its request for nominations of new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the Planning Area. Of the approximately 60 rural communities within the Planning Area, 27 villages and census-

designated places are in the vicinity of BLM-managed land within or near the BSWI Planning Area or could be affected directly by changes in management. All 27 communities were determined to be environmental justice populations due low income status, minority status, or both.

Based on the many issues raised by Alaska Natives and villagers during scoping, the preliminary alternatives included “Support for Bering Sea-Western Interior Communities” as a resource area for which management goals and actions were developed. Potential actions include increased collaboration and coordination, avoidance of restrictions on subsistence activities, options for increasing Native employment in the villages, supporting infrastructure development, and making lands available if needed for village relocation due to flooding and coastal erosion. Coordination is continuing during the EIS process.

#### *BLM – Tribal Relations Handbook*

In 2016, BLM Arizona began developing a training program to use during the rollout of the new BLM 1780 Tribal Relations and its accompanying Handbook H-1780-1 Improving and Sustaining Tribal Relations, which will be delivered by the Socioeconomics and Cultural Heritage program leads to all managers and appropriate staff. This training will emphasize the nature of consultation, and how BLM can address multiple compliance requirements by engaging in timely, ongoing, tribal consultation.

#### *BLM – Native American Land Conservancy Partnership*

The Native American Land Conservancy (NALC) and the BLM Needles Field Office partnership manages, protects and preserves the endangered historic and biological resources in the area of Old Woman Wilderness that are of cultural importance to area Tribes, as well as, providing access for tribal members to enjoy the area and its resources in traditional ways. The partnership was founded on common management objectives including minimizing impacts to the land from cattle and Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use. Projects are executed jointly and generally involve both public and NACL Preserve lands. The BLM is able to conduct rehabilitation and reduce unauthorized entry into wilderness areas, while building upon relations of the BLM, NALC and Chemehuevi Tribe.

- **Continue to evaluate opportunities to improve tribally-controlled and operated schools**

#### *Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) – Lease Agreements*

In FY16, BIE published a proposed rule that would allow BIE to enter into agreements with third parties to lease the land or facilities of a Bureau-operated school in exchange for funding that benefits the school. The proposed rule establishes: standards for the appropriate use of lands and facilities under a lease agreement; provisions for the use and benefit of a school; accountability standards to ensure ethical conduct; and provisions for monitoring the amount and terms of consideration received.

### *BIE – 21st Century Community Learn Centers*

BIE provides grant assistance to schools through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program. Through 21st CCLC, BIE-funded schools and dormitories are eligible to receive grants that enable them - with the assistance of community partners - to plan, implement, or expand projects that benefit the educational, health, social, cultural, and recreational needs of the students and community. In addition, lifelong learning activities and literacy education programs are available for adult family members in the local school setting.

### *BIE – Facility Replacement*

BIE funded 10 schools eligible for funding for campus-wide replacement. The School Facilities and Construction Negotiated Rulemaking Committee established developed a formula for the equitable distribution of funds to address the poor condition of many BIE-funded schools. BIE School are educating 75 percent or more of the students in portables. Campus-wide replacement is needed to bring facilities up to current standards.

In addition to the School Replacement Program, BIE provided funding to replace the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig High School in Bena, MN, through the Facility Component Replacement Program. This program received funding for the first time since 2011 when Congress appropriated \$11.9 million in FY16 to replace individual buildings, and will support replacement of individual facilities that do not meet standards necessary for an effective education system but may not qualify for full campus replacement.

## **Departmental Policy and Guidance**

- *Incorporate environmental justice content into agency handbooks and manuals as appropriate*

### *DOI – Environmental Justice Departmental Manual Chapter*

In 2016, DOI developed a draft Environmental Justice Chapter to the Departmental Manual (DM) which guides DOI's actions. The DM Chapter describes the roles and responsibilities for implementation of environmental justice at DOI.

### *BLM – Land Use Planning Handbook*

BLM Zoned Social Scientists served as part of a bureau-wide team developing, reviewing, and finalizing environmental justice guidance for field offices, and environmental justice content for a soon-to-be-released update of the new BLM Land Use Planning Handbook.