



2020 Update: United States Department of the Interior

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Interior Region 3

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Interior Regions

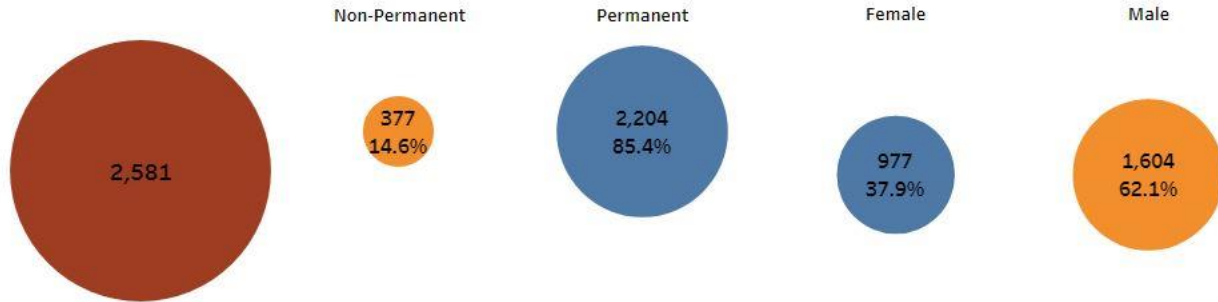
12 Interior Region Names Based on Watersheds



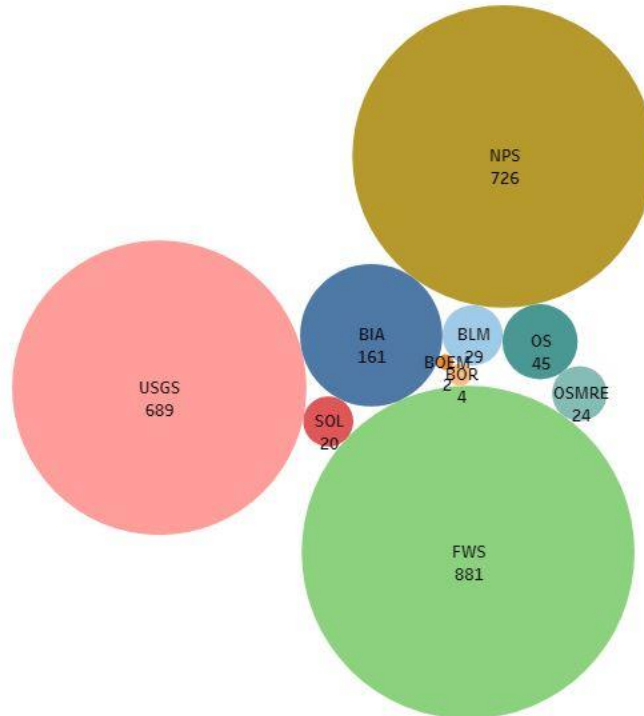


Interior Region Profile

Region 03 - Great Lakes Total Employees as of **January 6, 2020**: 2,581



BIA	161 / 6.2%
BLM	29 / 1.1%
BOEM	2 / 0.1%
BOR	4 / 0.2%
FWS	881 / 34.1%
NPS	726 / 28.1%
OS	45 / 1.7%
OSMRE	24 / 0.9%
SOL	20 / 0.8%
USGS	689 / 26.7%
Grand Total	2,581 / 100.0%



- DOI Unified Region**
- (All)
 - International
 - Region 01 - North Atlantic-Appalachian
 - Region 02 - South Atlantic-Gulf
 - Region 03 - Great Lakes
 - Region 04 - Mississippi Basin
 - Region 05 - Missouri Basin
 - Region 06 - Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas-Gulf
 - Region 07 - Upper Colorado Basin
 - Region 08 - Lower Colorado Basin
 - Region 09 - Columbia-Pacific Northwest
 - Region 10 - California-Great Basin
 - Region 11 - Alaska
 - Region 12 - Pacific Islands



Solicitor's Office

- About 400 staff nationwide, half in DC, half in field
- Northeast Regional Office, Bloomington, MN
 - 13 attorneys
 - 4 clients generating the vast majority of our work:
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior Region 3
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs, Midwest Region
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs, Great Plains Region
 - Bureau of Indian Education, Bloomington, MN



Areas of Practice Include

- Land acquisitions
- Fee-to-trust
- Real property law
- Trespass
- Freedom of Information Act
- Government contracting
- Administrative law
- Indian lands grazing
- Tribal government
- Indian mineral leasing
- NEPA
- Endangered Species Act
- National Wildlife Refuge law



Priorities for the Department of the Interior, Region 3

- Make personal contact with Tribes, States and Stakeholders in Region 3 and use unified DOI operations to enhance partnerships and to more effectively address matters of mutual interest or concern
- Share expertise and resources to eliminate avoidable delay and meet all Departmental responsibilities respecting Superior National Forest Mineral Activities, Great Lakes Conservation, Permitting, and NEPA Streamlining
- Improve identification and resolution of conflicts in the following areas: Great Lakes conservation, linear infrastructure (e.g. pipelines, transmission lines, roads, etc.), Endangered Species Act consultation and permitting, and meeting the trust responsibility to federally recognized Indian Tribes
- Increase discussion, understanding, and progress on key priorities and tasks through tri-weekly discussions and project-specific partnerships



Legal Updates

- Endangered Species Act regulatory changes
- Northern Long-Eared Bat listing litigation update
- NEPA Streamlining



ESA Regulatory Changes

- Section 4 Listing
 - Foreseeable Future Clarified
 - Blanket 4(d) Rule Rescinded
 - Economic Impact Information Addressed
- Section 7 Consultation
 - Effects of the Action Defined
 - Adverse Modification Clarified



Northern Long Eared Bat listing litigation

- Northern Long Eared Bat listed as threatened in April 2015
 - Key threat: white-nose syndrome
- Final 4(d) rule designed to target the take prohibitions to those that provide conservation benefits for the species
 - Purposeful take prohibited everywhere
 - Incidental take prohibited in “white nose zone” only for tree removal under specified circumstances
 - Other incidental take not prohibited (e.g. mortality from wind turbines)
- In litigation, decision expected soon



NEPA Streamlining

- Secretarial Order 3355: EIS page and time limits
 - Generally, EIS must be completed within 1 year of issuance of a Notice of Intent and is limited to 150 pages.
 - Deputy Secretary's office may waive page/time limits for unusually complex projects
 - Solicitor's Office included in EIS Project Teams and briefing Review Team
 - Result: improved review times. BLM data shows that an EIS used to take an average of 200 days to clear once it was sent to Washington but now takes only 15-25 days.
- NEPA changes ahead? CEQ released draft NEPA regulations, currently open for public comment



What's on Your Mind?

- What questions, concerns or ideas do you have?



Thank You!