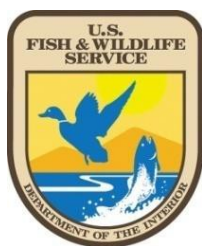


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Fiscal Year 2020



Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
Washington, DC 20240

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Introduction

This progress report highlights the programs and activities that the Department of the Interior (DOI) conducted in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 to support Executive Order (EO) 12898 and the DOI Environmental Justice Strategic Plan. These documents and related environmental justice information is publicly available on [DOI's environmental justice website, which is maintained by the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance \(OEPC\)](#).

DOI looks forward to collaborating with State, 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, EO 12898, [Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations](#), 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.”



President Clinton signing Executive Order 12898 on February 11, 1994.

In addition, EO 12898 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), Native American peoples, and public participation.

EO 14008, signed by President Biden on January 27, 2021, established the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council (IAC) and White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC) to help inform and oversee the federal program of work on EJ and be led by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

During FY2020, 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

“The U.S. Department of the Interior conserves and manages the Nation’s natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation’s trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper.”

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 multiple offices within the Office of the Secretary and eleven 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 Trust Funds Administration, 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 61,000 dedicated and skilled employees to carry out its mission and roles and responsibilities. The OEPC is the lead office for advising and assisting the Department’s implementation of environmental justice and EO 12898.

About this Annual Progress Report

This document serves as the DOI’s Annual Implementation Report of actions, as organized by the DOI Environmental Justice Strategic Plan. This report highlights several of the programs, activities, and efforts the DOI engaged in during FY2020. Reporting was re-started in the middle of the fiscal year, after a several year hiatus, and as a result activities may only reflect a portion of the reporting year. These actions 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 applicable programs, policies, and activities.

The FY2020 annual report is only a snapshot of the work, conducted among the bureaus and approximately 61,000 employees of the DOI, that involves environmental justice communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPLEMENTATION AT DOI

The Department's EJ Coordinator is in the OEPC, and coordinates with each of the DOI bureaus' designated environmental justice coordinators. The environmental justice coordinator is the designated 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. A directory of DOI's EJ Coordinators with contact information is maintained and made available on DOI's EJ website at:

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

Environmental Justice Strategies

EO 12898 directs Federal agencies to prepare a strategic plan on environmental justice. In response, the DOI developed 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 other Federal agencies 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. DOI then published a 2012-2017 Environmental Justice Strategic Plan to meet the MOU provision to update agency strategic plans. An updated DOI Environmental Justice Strategic Plan was issued in 2016 with an Environmental Justice Action Plan for 2016-2020. 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 Environmental Justice Working Group (DOI EJWG), an internal working group comprised of bureau/office Environmental Justice Coordinators that assists in the implementation of environmental justice principles at DOI and provides a forum for bureau/office collaboration on environmental justice activities, to develop the update.

DOI Environmental Justice Strategic Plan

The DOI's 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;
- 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 enforcement responsibilities under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, to improve efficiencies while preserving the integrity of Title VI and environmental justice activities.

The DOI Environmental Justice Strategic Plan can be found at the DOI's environmental justice website at: <https://www.doi.gov/oepec/resources/environmental-justice>.

DOI - Environmental Justice Coordinators

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 responsible officials and employees. All bureau directors and their senior managers have been briefed internally on the scope and importance of environmental justice in the day-to-day activities of the Department of the Interior.

- BIA: The EJ Coordinators are located in each of the 12 Bureau of Indian Affairs Regional Offices and are the Regional NEPA Coordinators. Currently, BIA has 12 Regional Office Coordinators and one primary EJ Coordinator.
- BLM: The Bureau of Land Management is organized into 12 State Offices. All BLM State Offices have a formally designated EJ Coordinator. BLM has a national EJ Coordinator.

- BOEM: The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management appointed the first dedicated full-time EJ Coordinator in January 2020, reporting to the Chief Environmental Officer in the Director's office.
- BSEE: BSEE's EJ Coordinator resides in the Office of the Director. BSEE collaborates with BOEM on EJ functions and serves on BOEM's EJ Working Group.
- OSMRE: The OSMRE EJ Coordinator is located at the OSMRE Headquarters Office, in the Program Support Directorate, Division of Regulatory Support. The OSMRE Regional and Field offices also support local and regional environmental justice initiatives.
- FWS: The full-time Fish and Wildlife Service EJ Coordinator is located at the Headquarters, in FWS's External Affairs Office. The FWS has eight regions. Each region has identified a staff member as an EJ point of contact.
- USGS: The EJ Coordinator for the U.S. Geological Survey manages the Social & Economic Drivers Program in the Southeast Region of USGS, Texas District Office, Texas Water Science Center in Austin.
- NPS: The National Park Service identified an EJ Coordinator in the Headquarters office. The NPS has seven regions; each region has identified staff as an EJ contact.
- ODICR: The DOI Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Civil Rights (ODICR) includes a representative on the DOI's EJWG. Including the representative, four employees within the ODICR work on environmental justice issues.
- BOR: The Environmental Compliance Division, Civil Rights Division, and the Native American Affairs Office of the Bureau of Reclamation all have environmental justice policy responsibilities and have identified a point of contact.
- OEPC: The DOI Environmental Justice Coordinator is located within the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance at the headquarters of the Department of the Interior.

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. Programs, activities, and efforts are discussed under each of the five goals.

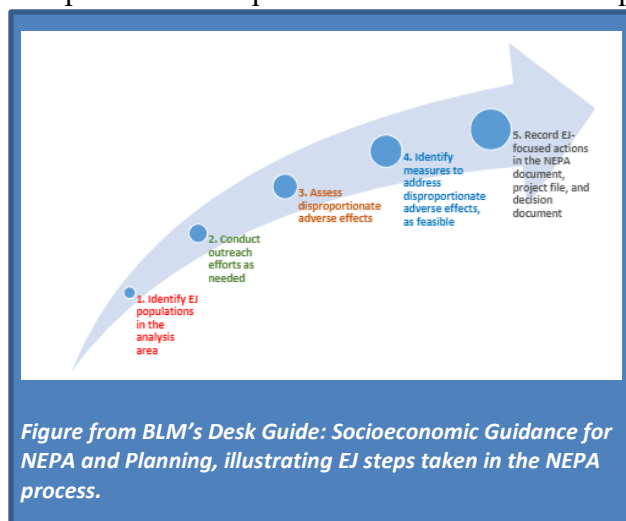
Goal 1: Ensure responsible officials are aware of the provisions of EO 12898 and are able to identify and amend programs, policies, and activities under their purview that may have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority, low-income, or tribal populations.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) – Bureau Environmental Justice Working Group

BOEM developed a bureau EJ working group to address NEPA analysis, research needs, outreach and education. The BOEM EJ working group includes representatives within all Outer Continental Shelf regions and three program areas of Oil and Gas, Renewable Energy and Marine Minerals. This group also includes Public Affairs and environmental experts from the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE). BOEM also included EJ and Tribal relations in the establishment of a new internal group called the BOEM Justice, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) committee in July 2020. EJ team members participated in Director’s briefings, budgetary requests, BOEM/BSEE DCA Ally Engagement Week and New Employee Orientation. The BOEM EJ Coordinator joined the EJ IWG NEPA committee and Native American/Indigenous Peoples Committee as co-chair.

BLM - Environmental Justice Reference Materials

The BLM produced two internal implementation reference documents to provide best practices and practical examples. The documents are the product of years of creative effort on the part of



BLM staff. The *Desk Guide: Socioeconomic Guidance for NEPA and Planning* supports BLM staff responsible for addressing or reviewing socioeconomics and EJ in the NEPA compliance process and for development, revision and amendment of land use plans under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. The *Environmental Justice Frequently Asked Questions* uses 17 questions to guide the reader through the process of conducting an EJ analysis under NEPA and for related land management decisions. Both documents were used extensively by practitioners in 2020.

BLM – Environmental Justice Webinar

BLM’s Socioeconomic Program designed and conducted a webinar on EJ titled *Environmental*

Justice and Cultural Resources in the BLM as part of the Socioeconomics Webinar Series. BLM staff led the training which provided details on EO 12898 and the National Historic Preservation Act, focusing on the intersections and potential coordination between the EJ and cultural resource program areas, as well as providing related examples and best practices.

Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) - Update of Reclamation's Tribal Consultation Guidelines

Reclamation undertook a full review and update of its protocol guidelines for tribal consultation. The guidelines, [*Working With Indian Tribal Governments – Consultation, Cultural Awareness, and Protocol Guidelines*](#), includes recommendations for tribal outreach, consultation process, and guidance on developing consultation protocol agreements. The guidelines incorporate best practices, including guidance on post-consultation follow-up with tribes and providing written notification of agency decisions and how the consultation informed the Reclamation's decision.

OEPC – Annual Reporting Guidance

OEPC issued [*Environmental Compliance Memorandum \(ECM\) 70-1, Reporting Environmental Justice Activities*](#), to provide guidance to bureaus and offices on when and how to submit information needed for reporting the Department's activities relating to environmental justice.

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.

BIA - HEARTH Act supports Tribal Self-Determination

In 2020 the BIA continued work regarding the Helping to Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act (HEARTH Act) of 2012 that amended the Indian Long-Term Leasing Act of 1955, to include Tribal Approval of Leases at 25 U.S.C. § 415(h). The Act provides a mechanism for federally-recognized tribes to approve, manage, and enforce leases of their tribal trust and restricted lands for business, residential, agricultural, and other purposes without review of tribal leases by the BIA, or approval of tribal leases by the Secretary if the tribe's leasing regulations:

- Have been reviewed by the BIA, and
- Have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior prior to execution of the lease, and
- Are not "Grandfathering" a lease approved under 25 CFR 162.

The minimum requirements for Secretarial approval of tribal regulations under the HEARTH Act are that the tribal regulations must be consistent with BIA's leasing regulations at 25 CFR Part 162 and not a "meet and exceed standard".

BIA - Division of Water and Power, Office of Trust Services - Water Resources

In 2020, the BIA Water Resources Program awarded \$10.4 million in water related funding to 95 Tribes across the United States in the following two programs: the Water Management, Planning, and Pre-Development (WMPPD) program, and the Water Rights Negotiation and Litigation (WRNL) program. WMPPD allows Tribes to ensure that their water resource programs are conducted consistent with applicable laws, regulations, court decisions, and negotiated settlements of water rights claims. It provides funding for crucial tasks involving protection of tribal water resources necessary for sustainable tribal water supply. The WMPPD also support projects submitted by tribes for the WRNL program when funding has been exhausted for necessary projects critical to establishing and defining Indian water rights. The WRNL program provides technical consultation and administrative cost support for tribes to engage in the protection of Indian Water Rights.

BIA - Division of Water and Power, Office of Trust Services - Safety of Dams

The Safety of Dams Program is responsible for 141 high-hazard dams on 42 Reservations. Of those, 80 dams on 21 Reservations are maintained through Public Law (P.L.) 93-638 contracts with an approximate annual funding of \$1.1 million to the Tribes. In addition, the program is currently constructing repairs to Four Horns Dam on the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana through a P.L. 93-638 Subpart J contract, with an approximate value of \$15 million. Finally, the program in 2020 continued rehabilitation construction at Wildhorse Dam near the Duck Valley Reservation with an approximate value of \$1 million.

BIA - Division of Water and Power, Office of Trust Services – Irrigation

The Branch of Irrigation and Power (BIP) provides written notice to Tribes of available funding for Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, P.L. 93-638 contracts. Several Tribes have chosen to secure the funding through P.L. 93-638 contracts to include design, engineering services, and construction project management. Actual construction of the irrigation facilities includes planning services, construction management services, and heavy equipment purchases. Currently, BIP has 638 contracts with Tribes on the BIA irrigation projects shown totaling \$26.8 million.

National Park Service (NPS) - Ocmulgee River Corridor Special Resource Study, Macon, GA - Tribal Consultation

In February 2020, the NPS initiated tribal consultation regarding the development of a Special Resource Study (SRS) of significant cultural and natural resources located along approximately 50 miles of the Ocmulgee River corridor between the cities of Macon, Georgia, and Hawkinsville, Georgia. The study area includes a patchwork of privately and publicly owned land, including a large portion of the Ocmulgee Old Fields Traditional Cultural Property, an area fundamental to the shared identity of Muscogee speaking tribes. In April 2020, the NPS invited 12 federally-recognized Tribes affiliated with the study area to participate in a virtual tribal consultation meeting to allow them to share their perspectives on the significance of the landscape to individual tribes and to American



Indian history in the region. There was active participation of all the affiliated Tribes with ancestral lands or direct interest in or near the study area. The evaluation of the national significance of Muscogee Creek Heritage as tied to the landscape and physical resources of the Ocmulgee River corridor will require extensive collaboration between tribes and the NPS study team. This initial consultation was a first step in developing that collaborative relationship on this important study.

BLM – Tribal Consultations for Oil and Gas Leasing Handbook and Pocket Guide (CO)

BLM staff from the 10 Colorado Field Offices, the Colorado State Office, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation met in February 2020 for a two-day workshop on oil and gas development. As a result of that meeting, tribal members and BLM staff collaborated to produce a reference document for use during future oil and gas projects. The team developed this tool as a supplement to government-to-government consultation to assist the tribes and BLM staff in understanding how and when to communicate with each other throughout the oil and gas planning, leasing, and development processes. The [*Tribal Consultations for Oil and Gas Leasing Pocket Guide*](#), is available for use by the Ute tribes and BLM staff.

Reclamation - Minority, low-income, and tribal populations participate remotely in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) public involvement processes

BOR used Virtual Public Meeting (VPM) format, Virtual Question and Answer (VQA) Sessions,



Entiat, Leavenworth, and Winthrop National Fish Hatcheries are mitigation hatcheries established by the Grand Coulee Fish Maintenance Project (1937) to compensate for anadromous fish losses above Grand Coulee Dam. All three produce spring or summer Chino.

and Teleconference sessions during the public scoping and public comment periods of several Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) in FY 2020. The use of virtual and teleconference environments allowed for meaningful and varied participation and comment options and, in particular, presented opportunities to minority, low-income, and tribal populations to participate in the process, and allow their comments, questions, and concerns to be heard and addressed. Virtual participation allowed for material to be presented and archived in a manner that increased participation flexibility to minority, low-income, and tribal populations and other members of the public. The use of teleconferences provided an alternative participation option for those without access to the internet or in-person meetings.

The VPM and VQA websites were designed to reproduce an open house format and were structured around stations modeled on the topics typically seen at open house public scoping meetings, such as maps and summarized project information, and were available continuously during the scoping period and public review periods. The VQA sessions were held at various times and were recorded for the interested public to view later if they were unable to attend.

Reclamation expects to continue the use of VPM and VQA, as well as more traditional means of outreach, such as teleconferences and in-person meetings, in order to offer increased participation opportunities for minority, low-income, and tribal populations and other members of the public.

The Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery Surface Water Intake Fish Screens and Fish Passage (SWISP) Project Draft EIS and the Columbia River System Operations EIS are examples of projects using VPM and VQA—Information related to these EISs and public outreach can be found at the following links:

- [SWISP Draft EIS VPM](#)
- [SWISP Draft EIS VQA/Public Comment](#)
- [Columbia River System Operations EIS](#)

Reclamation - Navajo Nation Collaboration on the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP)

Reclamation undertook a Value Planning (VP) Study on the NGWSP in collaboration with the Navajo Nation and other Project Participants to address the current \$250 million funding gap between the latest project estimate and the authorized ceiling for the Project under Public Law 111-11. The NGWSP is the cornerstone of the Navajo Nation's Water Rights Settlement Agreement in the San Juan River Basin in New Mexico. Both Reclamation and DOI worked closely with representatives from the Navajo Nation to plan the study, which initially involved an extensive design and design data collection review for the VP team and their external advisor/consultants through a series of focus calls that were held virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reclamation - Preservation of Tribal Sites at Chimney Hollow

Reclamation's Eastern Colorado Area Office is responsible for tribal assets on federal lands and coordination with relevant tribes. A sub-district of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District proposes to build Chimney Hollow Dam and Reservoir, partially on federal lands. Reclamation consulted with the Southern Ute and Northern Cheyenne tribes to mutually decide if existing tribal sites at the Chimney Hollow project area warranted protection. Reclamation petitioned the State Historic Preservation Office to change designated eligibility to ensure permanent legal protection for the tribal sites during and after project construction.

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.

BLM – Monitoring Environmental Justice Impacts of the BLM's Western Oregon Resource Management Plan (RMP)

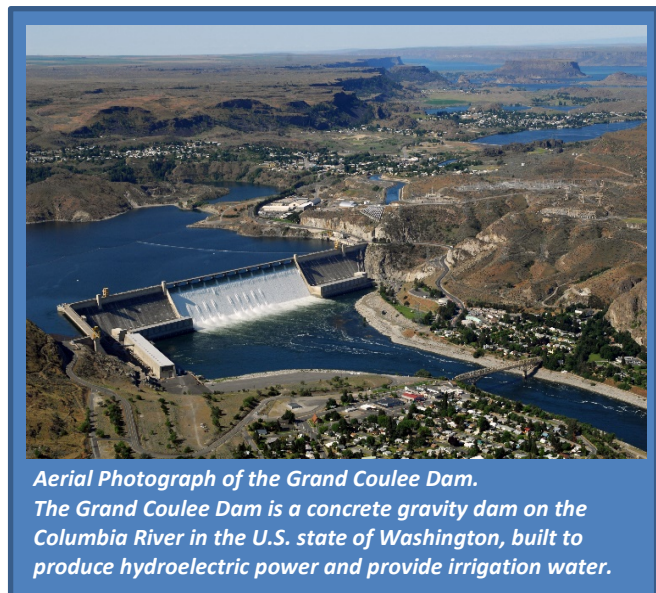
The BLM's 2016 Final EIS for the Western Oregon RMPs determined that Coos and Curry counties were environmental justice communities due to their low-income populations and concluded that negative effects on employment of implementing the RMP would be disproportionate in these counties. To address this issue, the BLM proposed to monitor environmental justice effects as the RMP is implemented. In 2018, the BLM entered into an interagency agreement with the U.S. Forest Service to develop the monitoring framework since BLM was working with the U.S. Forest Service to monitor effects of the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) on local economies. To date, the U.S. Forest Service has adapted the NWFP framework to monitor effects in Coos and Curry counties. This framework provides the BLM greater confidence in identifying any changes in the local economy that are attributable to BLM timber harvest activities, apart from changes resulting from other sources, and provide BLM data to inform future BLM land management decisions in Coos and Curry counties.

BLM – Early Screening for EJ Populations in Planning and NEPA (WY)

BLM Wyoming created visual aids to promote early screening for EJ populations in planning and NEPA efforts. These tools include bar graphs and spatial data layers. The bar graphs clearly identify counties in each field office that have low-income or minority populations that meet a threshold for classification as an Environmental Justice population. The spatial data layers show the racial and ethnic composition and poverty rates at the census block group-level and use colors to identify block groups with EJ populations. Field office staff can use these GIS layers to identify projects that overlap with EJ populations and develop targeted outreach.

Reclamation - Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) Cultural Resources Program

The [FCRPS Cultural Resources Program](#) is a joint effort of Reclamation, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). These agencies, primarily through contracts with 10 participating tribes, identify potential historic properties, evaluate their integrity and historical or cultural significance, and address adverse effects resulting from operations and maintenance of 14 Federal dams and reservoirs in the Columbia River system. Many of the affected historic properties are pre-contact archaeological resources and other historic properties of religious and cultural importance to tribes in the Pacific Northwest, including traditional cultural properties important to the maintenance of Native American communities as distinctive entities.

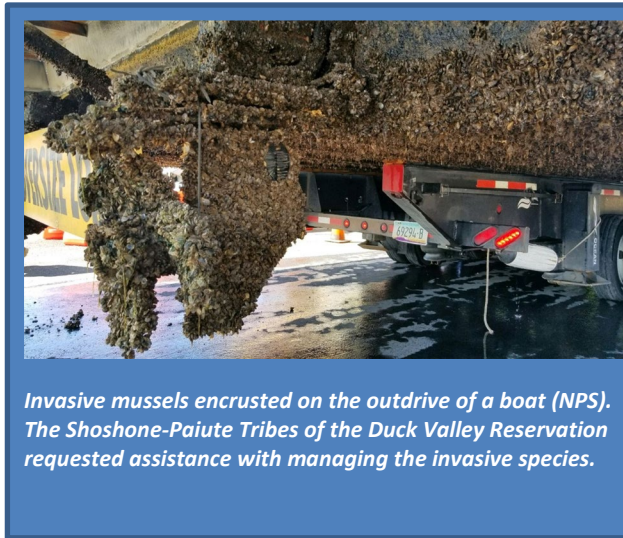


The Program has identified over 4,500 archaeological resources and 1,500 potential traditional cultural properties in the area of potential effects. In the last five years, identification efforts on Federal lands at the 14 projects have been completed. Work to evaluate all the identified properties is ongoing, and tribal participants have recently highlighted the need to increase the pace of mitigation efforts.

Recent mitigation projects conducted by the Columbia Pacific Northwest (CPN) Region have included a \$2 million burial site stabilization project in the upper reaches of Lake Roosevelt (the reservoir created by Grand Coulee Dam), providing funding for barriers to prevent driving recreational vehicles on archaeological sites exposed by reservoir drawdowns, and support for tribal educational programs that foster the transmission of traditional knowledge.

BIA and Reclamation - Shoshone-Paiute Tribes - Preventing Aquatic Invasive Species from Entering the Waters of the Duck Valley Reservation in Idaho and Nevada

The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation requested that Reclamation assist with these efforts to prevent aquatic invasive species (AIS), particularly Quagga Mussels, from entering the waters of the Duck Valley Reservation on the Idaho-Nevada border. Recreation activities at Wildhorse Reservoir are a main source of economic stability and self-sufficiency for the tribes and any diminution of the tribes' ability to maintain that income would have a substantial adverse impact.



Reclamation assembled a partnership between the Tribes, Reclamation, the BIA, and the states of Idaho and Nevada. The partnership designed an AIS study to evaluate potential source locations of Quagga, risks to reservation waters, effective methods for controlling introduction, locations for boat washing stations, coordinating inspection data between Idaho and Nevada, and the best actions for the Federal, State, and Tribal agencies to take to address all aspects of the AIS issue. The tribes have issued a request for proposals and the federal Duck Valley Indian Water Rights Settlement team has set aside funding for the study.

BIA, USGS, and Reclamation - Navajo Monument Valley Aquifer Storage and Recovery Study

Reclamation began a partnership with USGS and BIA to study the artificial recharge and storage potential of the Oljato aquifer in Monument Valley. There is potential for this aquifer to store tens of thousands of acre-feet of San Juan River water during periods where water supply exceeds demands. This water could then be used when the San Juan River has high turbidity, low water quality, or low flows.

FWS – Natural Disaster Relief Collaborative

The FWS, through their role in the EJ Rural Communities Committee of the EJ IWG, partnered with Federal and private groups to marshal resources that addressed critical health needs in a community. There were over 2000 deaths in Puerto Rico from Hurricane Irma, over 600 of which were linked to diabetes and the lack of supplies. The EJ IWG contacted groups that supply free insulin and connected them with local and federal emergency



responders that were responding to hurricane Irma. These contacts made it possible for the non-profit group Insulin for Life to provide thousands of donated diabetic medical supplies to Puerto Rico from FY 2019 through May 2020.

FWS- Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge Environmental and Economic Justice Strategic Plan

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge became the first National Wildlife Refuge in the country to have its own site specific Environmental and Economic Justice strategic plan in 2017. The first version of the plan spanned 2017-2020 and was based on the Department of the Interior's Environmental Justice Strategic Plan. The plan incorporated community input and needs and was written collaboratively by the Valle de Oro NWR Environmental and Economic Justice Leadership team made up of FWS/Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, the Friends of Valle de Oro NWR, and the Los Jardines Institute. In 2020, the Valle de Oro Environmental and Economic Justice Leadership team began the work to update the plan for 2021-2025. Local community members as well as a group of over 20 community groups were invited to take part in the process.

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.

BIA - The Division of Energy and Mineral Development (DEMD) of Indian Affairs Awarded Energy and Mineral Development Grants

In 2020, the BIA Division of Energy and Mineral Development (EMDP) awarded 35 Tribes in 14 States with \$6.5 million in Energy and Mineral Development Grants. This funding will aid tribal recipients in achieving energy independence and building economic self-sufficiency. The projects were selected from among 53 proposals submitted during the FY 2020 funding cycle. Among new innovative grant uses, those selected will assist tribes with evaluating options for developing solar projects, feasibility studies to develop commercial wind farms, and conduct surveys to locate and assess geothermal heat sources.

The EMDP grant program helps eligible applicants obtain technical assistance funding to hire consultants to identify, evaluate or assess the market for energy or mineral resources that a Tribe will process, use, or develop. This is for projects that conduct resource inventories and assessments, feasibility studies, or other pre-development studies necessary to process, use and develop energy and mineral resources.

BIA - Tribal Climate Resilience Program

On June 1, 2020, the BIA selected the FY 2020 BIA Tribal Resilience Program (TRP) funding award recipients, providing \$14.4 million to Tribes. Awards will support tribal adaptation

planning, and ocean and coastal management planning, capacity building, and relocation, managed retreat, and protect-in-place planning for climate risks. With adaptation planning, vulnerability assessments, training, and access to data and tools, tribal managers are better able to more accurately identify best management choices during project design. These decisions to mitigate climate risks for vulnerable resources support building resilience to natural and human systems and infrastructure. The 157 awards made will fund 113 Tribes and Tribal organizations and directly support even more Tribes through cooperative planning and shared information and tools. The tribally-designed and delivered training and planning awards are expected to provide direct benefit to over 778,000 individuals and 113 Tribes. A Summary of FY2020 Climate Awards by tribe, title, funded amount, and project description is provided on [the BIA Tribal Resilience Program website](#).

DOI – Measles Vaccines in American Samoa

DOI's Office of Insular Affairs provided \$490,000 in funding support to prevent the spread of measles in American Samoa and to help bolster efforts to vaccinate the entire population with the Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccination in the territory. As a result of a measles outbreak in other parts of the Pacific and in the neighboring Independent State of Samoa where more than 80 people died from the disease, the U.S. territory declared a state of emergency on November 13, 2019, to protect its residents against the spread of measles. On December 8, 2019, the state of emergency was extended with restrictions on public gatherings and the closure of public and private schools.



FWS – Tribal Wildlife Grants Program

The Tribal Wildlife Grants (TWG) Program provides opportunities for Federally recognized tribes to engage in fish and wildlife conservation projects. In FY20, Congress appropriated \$5.209 million for TWG that was awarded through a nationally competitive process. The maximum award is \$200,000 for a single project.

Reclamation - Grant and Funding Programs.

Reclamation's grant and funding programs include the Native American Affairs Technical Assistance Program (NAA-TAP), WaterSMART, and other programs. The NAA-TAP provides assistance to Indian Tribes and tribal organizations to support a broad range of activities, such as water needs assessments, improved water management studies, and water quality data collection and assessments.

- Through this the NAA-TAP, Reclamation works with Tribes to understand their individual water resource needs and develop plans to help meet these needs through collaborative partnerships. Funding has improved the quality of life in many tribal communities, most of which are underserved with less than 50% of the median household income. Completed projects include new drinking water wells, irrigation system improvements, backup power supply, water treatment, and fire suppression.
- Under the [WaterSMART Program](#) Reclamation provides cost-shared grants to aid Tribes and other disadvantaged communities to plan and make improvements to their water delivery systems. These include Small-Scale Water Efficiency Project grants for improvements prioritized through past planning efforts and Drought Program grants for drought planning and implementation of drought resiliency projects.

The following are examples of these and similar program projects in FY2020, when Reclamation awarded:

- Funding for the final well design for the Bodaway-Gap Water System, located in Tuba City, Arizona to provide a new water supply well to service its approximately 1,000 drinking water customers.
- The Pueblo of Tesuque \$152,090 to complete the environmental compliance and implement channel modifications in order to restore the natural function and connectivity of the Tesuque River channel through Pueblo lands.
- A contract with the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation to develop new water wells adjacent to an existing tribal well. Reclamation awarded the Pueblo of Laguna \$200,000 to complete the upgrades for 14 rangeland wells; converting them from mechanical to solar power and installing new storage tanks and appurtenances.
- The Pueblo of Jemez \$47,750 to assist with design services for necessary reconstruction of the Pecos Diversion Dam.
- Funding for the community of Teetso, Arizona, to drill a new livestock well, necessary because of the ongoing drought in the Region.
- The Shoshone-Bannock Tribe of the Fort Hall Reservation its fourth grant under the Small-Scale Water Efficiency Program.
- \$45,000 to the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians Tribe to replace 80 domestic and commercial manual read meters with automatic meter reading (AMR) meters and install 20 additional AMR meters at previously unmetered locations. This project is supported by studies undertaken by the Tribe and the NPS.

- \$70,000 to the Pueblo of Zia to install 40 radio-read meters at currently unmetered homes. The project is the first phase of a larger metering effort and will allow the utility to access accurate water usage data and begin an appropriate fee scale for system water users.
- \$750,000 to the Pueblo of Zia under the WaterSMART Drought Response Program to modernize a failing irrigation flume across the Jemez River and install associated buried PVC pipe. The existing flume and ditch are critical infrastructure delivering water from Lake Zia to the Pueblo's agricultural lands.
- \$300,000 to the Navajo Nation's Oljato Chapter to drill and equip a 450-foot drinking water well capable of producing 120 acre-feet per year near the Utah-Arizona border to increase the region's available drinking water by more than 80%. Currently, during dry periods, wells go dry and water must be hauled from far distances.
- \$110,771 to the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians to develop a comprehensive drought contingency plan for its reservation in southwestern Riverside County, California. The Tribe delivers water for agricultural, residential, and commercial uses. The Tribe experienced extreme drought conditions in 2014-2016 and has faced multi-year drought conditions for approximately seven years.
- The WaterSMART Water Conservation Field Services Program approximately \$75,000 for the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) on the Colorado River Irrigation Project. Once constructed, the reservoir will enhance irrigation water control and management including reducing operational spills.
- \$10,000 in environmental and cultural compliance services to assist the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation with the ecological restoration of the Bear River Massacre site in Southeast Idaho.
- The Navajo Nation \$270,000 to develop a new water production well, which will supply water to the Aneth Chapter house.
- \$75,000 in WaterSMART funds to the Chickasaw Nation to install smart water meters, enabling them to reduce water losses.
- The Navajo Technical University senior media students \$10,000 to create a video documentary of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP).

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, Diversity, Inclusion, and Civil Rights (ODICR)– Title VI Reviews

In FY 2020, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Workforce Management conducted eleven public civil rights compliance reviews of state agency recipients of federal financial assistance in the following states and territory – American Samoa, Hawaii, Illinois, Georgia, New Jersey, South Dakota, Arizona, Missouri, District of Columbia, Rhode Island and Maryland. In their reviews, FWS included a Title VI of the Civil Rights element which intersects with environmental justice.

Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to read the DOI EJ Annual Report for FY2020. This report highlights work from across the DOI, done by employees through a variety of programs. There are many other activities that support environmental justice conducted each year by DOI.

The DOI coordinates internal EJ implementation activities through the DOI Environmental Justice Working Group (DOI EJWG). The DOI EJWG is chaired by the Director of OEPC, under the senior leadership of the AS-PMB, and includes representatives from each of the DOI bureaus as well as the ODICR. The DOI EJWG collaborates with OEPC in implementing the provisions of Executive Order 12898 throughout the DOI, including the development of this DOI EJ Annual Report. The DOI EJWG participates in both internal and external collaborative environmental justice efforts as well as committees of the EJ IWG and IAC. The DOI EJWG informs DOI management and staff as well as the public about DOI’s activities that support environmental justice.

The senior appointed official charged with the DOI’s implementation of Executive Order 12898 is the Assistant Secretary of Policy, Management and Budget (AS-PMB). The AS-PMB’s responsibilities include overseeing compliance with environmental statutes and developing and maintaining internal administrative policies, standards, objectives, and procedures for the DOI. Environmental justice activities are administered within AS-PMB by the OEPC, and this report was prepared by the OEPC in keeping with the DOI’s environmental justice strategy, and to report on DOIs accomplishments for FY2020. The report is part of an *Environmental Justice Implementation Policy* in the Department Manual (DM) at Part 525 Chapter 1 that DOI implements to provide an overarching vision, as reflected in our environmental justice goals.