

Department of the Interior Departmental Manual

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Chapter 7: Office of the Deputy Bureau Director - Trust Services

Originating Office: Bureau of Indian Affairs

130 DM 7

7.1 Office of the Deputy Bureau Director - Trust Services. The Deputy Bureau Director - Trust Services, reports to the Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs and is responsible for all headquarters activities associated with management and protection of trust and restricted lands, real estate services and natural resources, water, forestry, wildland fire, and environmental and cultural resources (excluding energy and mineral resources).

7.2 Responsibilities. The Deputy Bureau Director - Trust Services, is responsible for managing the Bureau's natural resources and water rights programs; Safety of Dams program; irrigation and power systems; Federal Power Act in re-licensing hydro-power projects; realty; probate operations; forestry; wildland fire; land buy-back, environmental and cultural resource management; and oversight of Land Title Record Centers.

7.3 Organization. The Deputy Bureau Director - Trust Services carries out the mission and functions of the office with assistance from the following:

A. Division of Real Estate Services. The Division provides assistance, advice, policy, oversight, monitoring, and coordination for the protection, management, planning, conservation, development, and utilization of trust and restricted Federal Indian-owned lands that include acquisition, disposal, tenure, rights-of-way, permits, leasing, and sales. The Division manages the Bureau's program to accept real estate on behalf of tribes under the Base Realignment and Closure Act and similar programs. The Division also manages the Cadastral Survey program for the determination of legal boundaries on Indian land.

B. Division of Land Titles and Records. The Division oversees policy development, deployment, and implementation of the title portion of the trust asset and accounting system, and oversees the administration and maintenance of title documents, document certification, title research and examination, and the determination of legal title for Federal Indian trust or restricted lands.

C. Division of Probate Services. The Division provides functional control, assistance, and policy development coordination for probate programs, and monitors and evaluates probate operations. The Division exercises program oversight and plans and schedules Bureau probate

and assisted activities. The Division coordinates the implementation of the Bureau's policies and procedures to ensure that the probate initiatives meet the Secretary's fiduciary responsibilities and improve efficiency of services to tribes and individual Indians. The Division is responsible for developing action plans and systems for probate programs and for developing and implementing improvements to the probate process. The Division is also responsible for managing and implementing probate-related outsourcing efforts and coordinating associated operations with other trust reform activities and other Departmental initiatives.

D. Division of Natural Resources. The Division coordinates, manages, plans, oversees, monitors development and provides protection for trust natural resources and fish and wildlife resources. The Division provides direction and guidance for all activities related to planning, management, conservation, and development; utilization of soil, farmland, rangeland, fish and wildlife resources, and endangered species. The Division is responsible for the Bureau's natural resource damage assessment and restoration program.

E. Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management. The Division coordinates, manages, plans, oversight, and monitoring for activities related to development, enhancement and protection of trust forest resources, including the National Wildland Fire Program. The Division exercises program oversight and provides planning and scheduling for Bureau-wide forestry activities at the national level to ensure that regulatory and policy requirements are followed and that technical standards of sound forest management are upheld. The Division has staff in Washington, DC; Denver, Colorado; the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho; and interagency fire coordination centers in Missoula, Montana; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

F. Division of Water and Power. The Division coordinates, manages, plans, oversees, monitors, and provides technical assistance for activities related to irrigation construction, dam rehabilitation, operation and maintenance of dams, irrigation, and power projects; and protection of Indian water rights, water development planning, litigation support, and attorney's fees. The Bureau's responsibilities under the Federal Power Act in re-licensing hydro-power projects that affect Indian trust resources are carried out by the Division. The scope of responsibilities includes: engineering management, operations and maintenance involving over 100 dams, numerous large irrigation projects, more than 100 irrigation systems and several large revenue-generating power operations. The Division is also responsible for flood plain management. The Division is resource utilization oriented and functions as an engineering management and oversight operation, responsible for policy development, program management, and technical support services to provide Indian tribes with the ability to protect, manage, and plan for the utilization of their water resources, and support the legal defense of title to Indian water rights.

G. Division of Environmental and Cultural Resources. The Division is responsible for environmental management and cultural resources management programs. It is also responsible for ensuring compliance with environmental and cultural resource statutes including the National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and the Archeological Resources Protection Act; and administers the Indian Affairs museums, universities, and other institutions, and human remains handled under the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act.

H. Division of Land Buy-Back. The Division administers and executes the voluntary buy-back and consolidation of fractionated land interests pursuant to P.L. 111-291, the Claims Resolution Act of 2010.