



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Appeal No. 2015-121

June 15, 2015

Stephen K. Hansen

(b) (6)

85395

Dear Mr. Hansen:

This responds to the May 25, 2015, Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") appeal ("appeal") that you filed with the Department of the Interior ("Department"), which the Department received on May 26, 2015,¹ and that it assigned as **Appeal Number 2015-121**.² The appeal concerns your October 17, 2014, FOIA request to the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") that sought, among other things not relevant here, "information on why [a cost recovery schedule for CFeds, "a land surveyor training program,"] has not been developed." You filed this appeal because you state that the BLM did not provide an "explanation as to why a cost recovery schedule has not been developed."

Please be aware that the FOIA does not require an agency to perform research for the purpose of explaining, interpreting, or justifying the rules, regulations, and laws legislated by the Government or the actions that it has taken (or not taken) on a particular issue. Nor does the FOIA require an agency to answer questions or interrogatories disguised as FOIA requests or provide personal services. Because the "explanation" that you seek through this appeal implicates precisely the type of research and services that an agency is not required to perform or provide in response to a FOIA request, your appeal is **DENIED**.

If you are dissatisfied with the Department's determination that the BLM is not required to provide you with the requested "explanation," you have a right to seek judicial review of this decision under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B).

This completes the Department's response to your appeal. Please call the FOIA Appeals Office at (202) 208-5339 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Darrell R. Strayhorn
FOIA Appeals Officer
Department of the Interior

cc: Ryan Witt, FOIA Officer, BLM
Cindy Cafaro, Departmental FOIA Officer

¹ Since your appeal arrived in the FOIA Appeals Office's e-mail on May 25, 2015, a federal holiday, the Department deems your appeal as received on the next workday, May 26, 2015.

² Please note that the FOIA requires an agency to make a determination on an appeal within 20 workdays after the receipt of such appeal. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(ii). The Department's issuance of the decision on this appeal is well within this time frame.