



**Department of the Interior
Open Government Plan 3.0**

June 2014

I am pleased to present Version 3.0 of the Department of the Interior's Open Government Plan. The Department is dedicated to using sound science to manage and sustain America's lands, water, wildlife, and energy resources, honor our Nation's responsibilities to tribal nations, and advocate for America's island communities. As keepers of our Nation's legacy, we manage the resources in our care to benefit Americans now and in the future. Our Department and its employees are developing and implementing the cutting-edge science and expert management techniques that make this possible.

The Department is committed to engaging stakeholders and the public to better carry out its mission. Through initiatives like America's Great Outdoors, the Department is working to make the Federal Government a better partner with states, tribes, and local communities. The Department believes lasting conservation solutions should come from the American people and is excited to support the Open Government Initiative as a means to better engage with the public and set the course for America's conservation and recreation agenda in the 21st Century.

The Department's missions require us to engage with the American public and our stakeholders for the health of our economy and our Nation's public lands, and it is critical that we work now to establish meaningful and deep connections between young people – from every background and every community – and America's great outdoors. These younger generations embody the principles of openness, transparency, collaboration, and participation and they will serve as the next generation of the Department's employees and partners. The Department has set forth on an ambitious initiative to inspire millions of these young people to play, learn, serve, and work outdoors so that they will one day help lead the way in facing the challenges of climate change, water challenges, our new energy frontier, and meeting our solemn responsibility to federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes.

We look forward to implementing the specific initiatives within this plan and engaging the next generation of Americans to take the actions necessary to help America transform the challenges it faces today into opportunities for tomorrow.

Sincerely,


Sally Jewell

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I. Introduction

The Department of the Interior's (Department) broad mission spans the Nation, from the Arctic in Alaska to the southern tip of Florida, and from Midway Island in the Pacific Ocean to the Virgin Islands in the Caribbean. We manage 500 million acres of lands primarily located in the Western States and 1.7 billion acres on the Outer Continental Shelf. The activities of the Department are an economic engine. In 2012, the Department's programs contributed an estimated \$371 billion to the U.S. economy and supported 2.3 million jobs in activities including outdoor recreation and tourism, energy development, grazing and timber harvesting.

The Department's programs contribute to the quality of life for many people and communities across the Country and help to advance goals for stewardship and energy independence. Nearly every American lives within an hour's drive of lands or waters managed by the Department. In 2012, there were 417 million visits to departmentally managed lands. Recreational visits to the Department's lands had an economic benefit to local communities, particularly in rural areas, contributing an estimated \$45 billion in economic activity in 2012. The Department oversees the responsible development of 23 percent of U.S. energy supplies, is the largest supplier and manager of water in the 17 Western States, maintains relationships with 566 federally recognized tribes, and provides services to more than 1.7 million American Indian and Alaska Native peoples.

The context for this Open Government Plan reflects the complex mission of the Department and how it affects the lives of all Americans. The Department's 70,000 employees work in partnership with other Federal agencies, states, tribes, industry, and a rich diversity of stakeholders to preserve and interpret the Nation's rich heritage and history; manage diverse Federal lands, waters, and wildlife and fishery resources; provide world-class science that protects us from hazards and provides the public with critical information on the earth, energy, water, and resource conservation; ensure the conservation and delivery of water for diverse users; and deliver a suite of programs for American Indian and Insular communities. This Open Government Plan therefore reflects that for the Department, the principles of openness, transparency, collaboration and public participation are not a set of ideals, but a critical component of how we carry out our mission and true reflection on the nature of the Department.

II. Formulation of the Plan

The Department's Open Government Version 1.0 plan focused on the establishment of foundational transparency and openness efforts and standards within the Department, such as the publication of high value datasets to Data.gov, development of common data standards where possible, and building the structures and policies necessary to support further Open Government efforts. Plan 1.0 involved each of the Department's bureaus in its development and was led by the Office of the Chief Information Officer. As we implemented the initiatives of version 1.0, we discovered opportunities to further instill the values of Open Government within the Department, thereby impacting the very way in which the Department carries out its mission. Our early successes related to initiatives identified in Version 1.0 of our plan created new opportunities exponentially throughout the Department. To seize these opportunities, we

recognized the need for additional partners within the Department and additional knowledge leadership in areas such as culture change design.

Version 2.0 of the Department's Open Government Plan sought to highlight the success of implementing the initiatives of Version 1.0 of the Department's plan and to build upon those foundational efforts. A major portion of the Department's efforts in Version 2.0 of the plan were to refine and build upon the success of prior initiatives and move from initiatives such as publication of data to utilizing this published data to support openness, transparency, collaboration, and public participation. Version 2.0 of the plan also reflected the Department's lead role in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). The EITI was identified in the first National Action Plan as a major transparency and collaboration initiative for the Nation and the Department was tasked with the implementation of this initiative.

Version 3.0 of the Department's Open Government Plan furthers the efforts to implement the principles of openness, transparency, collaboration, and participation within the workings of the Department in order to better carry out our missions and serve the American public. In addition, the Department has engaged stakeholders, such as the International Association for Public Participations, the Union of Concerned Scientists, the Government Accountability Project, and the Center for Effective Government to assist in the development of specific initiatives within this plan. While this plan identifies specific initiatives for the Department, it is our hope that its publication will set the stage for further discussion and engagement with stakeholders and the public to develop and refine the Department's efforts to meet the requirements and the spirit set forth by the Open Government Initiative.

III. New and Expanded Initiatives

A. Collaboration Clinics

The Department is piloting Collaboration Clinics to help Departmental staff and leadership develop specialized skills needed to work more collaboratively with external partners and stakeholders in order to support more effective planning, decisionmaking, resource management, and landscape level conservation. The National Park Service (NPS) and the Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolutions (CADR) have collaboratively developed a 2-3 day workshop where collaborative problem solving is explained and demystified and the three main stages of collaborative problem solving are demonstrated. Utilizing a planning, doing, and implementation framework, these Collaboration Clinics support the efforts of the Department's on-the-ground personnel where engagement and collaboration with the public and stakeholders is crucial in their ability to carry out the Department's missions. These Collaboration Clinics are also designed to include facilitated discussions around group dynamics which may come into play as well as development of the individual skills needed to be most effective. The program is currently being piloted at NPS sites and these clinics are designed to increase the Department's in-house collaborative capacity while focusing on a site's particular needs or situation. The site is left with greater understanding, skills, and an action plan for tackling either a controversial issue or a complex collaborative process with stakeholders. Utilizing a train-the-trainer model, the

Department is gearing up to hold 10-12 clinics per year at various sites. Clinics are being held at the invitation of NPS parks and other units.

B. Open Data

Government open data is a valuable national resource, and the Department is deeply committed to open data as a cornerstone component of enabling transparency, engaging citizens, and driving innovation. The Department's Open Data strategy is aligned with the Executive Order "Making Open and Machine Readable the New Default for Government Information" that President Obama issued on May 9, 2013, and the associated OMB Memorandum (M-13-13), which together will fundamentally transform the way in which the Federal Government manages data.

In order to make our data assets more open and available, the Department has been building a Department-wide Data Services Team, setting up basic data management processes and infrastructure (such as the Department's Enterprise Data Inventory in our Enterprise Metadata Repository, and continually improving our public-facing "data hub"), and collaborating with the Department's program leads and mission staff. During this early stage of our efforts, we have discovered and documented thousands of new datasets, and are working to improve and standardize the quality and stewardship of these and our large volume of datasets already available in open formats. Bureaus and offices have been collaborating very closely, working together, and helping each other. The Open Data Initiative bridges our mission areas, data management, and IT programs; together we are working to discover and deliver the true value of open data.

The Department's Open Data approach is to follow data lifecycle management processes, manage our data as a strategic asset, deliver data and data products as services, and share data and information to promote innovation and increase Government transparency.

The Department's data and data products span a wide range of programs and activities, and represent areas of continuing interest for our stakeholders and the public. As one of the largest contributors of metadata records to Data.gov and as the Managing Partner for Federal Geospatial Shared Services, the Department has been publishing data in support of the Open Government Initiative and Federal Shared Services for many years. Building our programs around Open Data principles will allow the Department to advance its management of data as strategic assets and to deliver improved data services to the public as well as to our own bureaus and offices. The internal use of Open Data is critical to the ongoing success of our activities in this arena. It is clear that Departmental policy development and service delivery will benefit from the effective and judicious use of Open Data. Inside the Department, Open Data can be used to streamline service delivery, create opportunities for innovation, identify new service and policy approaches, and generally, support the effective delivery of existing programs across a broad range of the Department's operations.

The Department of the Interior's Open Data Goals include:

- Manage all data assets used in the Department, bureau and office programs, mission-related data collection efforts, processes, and information systems. This includes data assets produced through DOI contracts and cooperative agreements, and in some cases Department-funded grants. It also includes data assets associated with, but not limited to, research, program administration, statistical, and financial activities.
- Separate data from systems and applications so that data can be managed, shared and reused as appropriate
- Follow data lifecycle management practices through strengthening the data management frameworks and processes among bureaus and offices across the Department.
- Deliver data and data products as services, from building a DOI Enterprise Data Inventory towards considering the development of a future Department Data Marketplace.
- Develop a robust consumer feedback process that aligns the Department's data services with user needs, promotes internal and external innovation, and effectively engages the user community.

Transparency Governance and Culture Change

In support of the Open Data Policy, the Department of the Interior's CIO issued a Memorandum defining the Departmental strategy for implementing the Policy. It calls for one mission program lead and one data lead per bureau and office to serve on a Departmental Data Governance Board to support and govern the Open Data Initiative at the Department. Open Data is an effort that requires both mission and information technology staff to join together to deliver results. Managing data effectively and sharing data internally and externally is a foundation for many of the Department's initiatives and a key element to enabling improved and efficient mission delivery.

The Memorandum established a Data Service Team charged with the management of data and delivery of services. The team is comprised of a mix of people from management and program operations to technical and IT staff, and from local data managers to senior executives. Each member brings his or her expertise in program subject matter, policy, and information technology or data management. Together, this team will serve as the bridge between the Department's mission areas and data management components, and the bridge between bureaus and offices of differing levels of data management expertise. This team will deliver the value of Open Data to the Department's internal operations and the public.

The Data Service Team will collaboratively align data management efforts at each bureau and office, and share knowledge, processes and tools to synchronize transformation of data assets into data services.

Open Data Phased Approach

The Department is addressing its open data strategy and planning through a four-phase approach. Many of the goals in the 'Foundation' phase are past their initial implementation and are now being iterated and improved upon. The Department's Data Service Team is currently focusing on many of the goals in the 'Structure' phase.

Efforts the Department has accomplished as a foundation include:

- Issued the Department's Open Data Memo supporting M-13-13 in September 2013
- Formed the Department's Data Governance Board with both a program lead and data lead per bureau/office, and the Department's Data Service Team with open membership across the Department
- Built the Department's Enterprise Data Metadata Repository which hosts the Department's Enterprise Data Inventory (EDI) and publishes our Public Data Listing (PDL) via open source technology (CKAN). This inventory allows users to find and download public datasets, either in bulk or through APIs (where available and appropriate)
- Developed strategy for alignment of the metadata standards of ISO (ISO-19115:2003, Geographic Information), Data.gov and Project Open Data to register metadata of the Department's datasets
- Collection of metadata through automatic harvesting and simple entry via web forms quarterly at minimum
- Delivery of the Department's Data.JSON to OMB MAX as per M-13-13 requirement
- Publication of the Department's Public Data List at www.doi.gov/data.json
- Established consumer feedback mechanism (issue tracker)

Additionally, the Department is currently building the structure to further support these Open Data efforts by:

- Developing the Department's Data Resource Management Departmental Manual
- Developing the Department's Data Governance Board Charter
- Developing the Department's Metadata Policy and its Implementation Guidance
- Developing the Department's Open Data Policy and Implementation Guide
- Developing the Department's Open Data Communication Plan
- Developing the Department's Data Hub (external) and the Department's Data Service Site (internal) for communication and feedback.
 - The Hub pulls the Department's information on available data and developer resources into one, user-focused site.
 - The Service Site provides a place for the Department's colleagues to share best practices and data management resources
- Delivered data management training for the Department's Data Service Team and program managers (four-day workshop and training happened in Denver, Spring 2014)
- Continue enhancing the Department's Enterprise Data Inventory, the Department's Public Data Listing, and APIs/web services

The Department has also identified and is working to implement the following next steps for managing data as an asset and building communities:

- Develop the Department's Data Release Process
- Develop a method for discovering unidentified datasets and linking existing datasets to new uses in a methodical way to support mission goals

- Develop a method to increase the value of prioritized datasets by packaging and/or managing them as services
- Provide basic analytics using the Department's data for support of internal decision making
- Establish regular information sharing sessions on open data and data service delivery topics
- Continue enhancing the Department's Enterprise Data Inventory, the Department's Public Data Listing, and APIs/web services
- Based on user feedback, provide data and data products as packaged services via doi.gov/data
- Plan a data jam or hackathon at the Department

Consumer Feedback and Data Publishing Process

The Department has established a public, transparent online feedback tracking site at <http://usinterior.ideascale.com/> to encourage public collaboration and participation. This platform provides the ability to publically track issues and suggestions about data access at the Department. It also provides the ability for the public or members of the government community to “push up” popular suggestions by “agreeing” or “disagreeing,” thereby ranking ideas or issues. Responses are also catalogued, providing accountability for actions. The Ideascale system is also being incorporated in the Department's Data Hub so that users will not need to go to a separate site to provide feedback, but will have all of the Department's data-related resources in one place.

The Data Services Team will regularly review feedback on this site and address issues as appropriate. In some cases, this might mean a response that explains timelines for data release, or explains why a dataset cannot be released. In other cases, actions will be taken to address the issues raised.

This consumer feedback will be taken into account in the Department's data publishing process and will help in guiding the Department's data resource priorities to those data assets of most value to the public. In addition, once the Department's data publication infrastructure is ready (i.e., when CKAN and its linkages to Data.gov are fully functional, and the Department's employees have a sustainable process for data maintenance and stewardship), bureaus and offices will be free to publish new and/or improved public data and information as soon as it is available. This process of publication and feedback will move the Department to a healthy data management lifecycle state.

Current Status

The Department is systematically inventorying data assets, including those that are public, non-public, and restricted. The Department has added thousands of datasets to its Enterprise Data Inventory since the publication of M-13-13. In addition, the Department will continue to Enhance its Enterprise Data Inventory.

The Department is making public data assets available for discovery, download and use through the Department's Data Catalog. The Department's Public Data Listing is also available as a JSON file at www.doi.gov/data.json.

The Department has encouraged public use of already released datasets by continuously improving its data access and datasets through response to public feedback. For example, the Department recently supported the release of some key datasets, which are a part of the Climate Data Initiative in a new format (JSON) at the request of external organizations. The Department is also continuously improving its data— Data Hub – to make it more usable, and provide more resources for the public (both specialists and general users).

The Department is also working to implement a systematic data management framework to ensure data quality and stewardship over the long term. This framework will allow the continual discovery of existing data that will be cataloged and made discoverable, as appropriate. Completion of the “Foundation” and “Structure” phases mentioned above will result in the Department's mission programs' ability to register and publish datasets as soon as they are ready to be made available.

Part of the Department's Open Data Initiative, the data management plan, will enable the Department to manage data as assets which will in turn increase the Department's accountability, transparency, and responsiveness; improve public knowledge about the Department's bureaus and offices; further the Department's core mission; and create further economic opportunities for the Nation.

C. Proactive Disclosures

The Department's efforts to proactively disclose information to advance transparency, accountability, and openness can be seen throughout various sections of this Plan, such as but not limited to FOIA, Records Management, and Open Data.

D. Privacy

The Department is committed to the principles of transparency and openness while also meeting its responsibilities to privacy compliance. The following list includes various privacy compliance reports applicable to the Department and is also available on the Department's Privacy Program website at http://www.doi.gov/ocio/information_assurance/privacy/privacy-reports.cfm.

Annual FISMA SAOP Report

The Department submits a Senior Agency Official for Privacy (SAOP) report annually to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Department of Homeland Security through CyberScope in accordance with the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 and OMB policy. The SAOP report documents findings from privacy program reviews and compliance activities. The OMB annual reports to Congress on Federal agency implementation of the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 are available

to members of the general public on the OMB Office of E-Government & Information Technology website at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/e-gov/docs/>.

Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the E-Government Act of 2002

The Department submits a report annually to OMB for the Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the E-Government Act of 2002. This annual report includes a section on Privacy Policy, Privacy Impact Assessments, Privacy Training, and descriptions of agency compliance with the privacy provisions of the E-Government Act of 2002. The Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the E-Government Act of 2002 is available to members of the general public on the OMB Office of E-Government & Information Technology website at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/e-gov/docs/>. The Department's annual submissions to OMB for the Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the E-Government Act of 2002 may be viewed by general members of the public on the Department's website at <http://www.doi.gov/ocio/egov/index.cfm>.

ISE Annual Report to the Congress

The Department submits a report annually to the Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment (ISE) for the ISE Annual Report to the Congress in accordance with the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. This annual report includes a section dedicated to protecting privacy, civil liberties, and civil rights and meeting compliance requirements and Administration performance goals for information sharing and safeguarding. The ISE Annual Report to the Congress is available to members of the general public on the ISE website at <http://www.ise.gov/annual-report>.

E. Whistleblower Protection

The Department understands the vital role its employees play when they disclose a violation of law, rule, or regulation, gross mismanagement, gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, and a substantial and specific danger to public health and safety. Protecting and supporting these individuals is crucial to ensuring that employees will continue to best serve the American public by drawing attention to any misuse of the public trust. Whistleblower protection laws exist to protect employees who fear or suffer reprisal for making a disclosure. The Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012 paves a smoother path for whistleblowers and yet, in reality, challenges will still exist. The Department and the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) are committed to meeting those challenges, within its statutory authority, through an informed and equipped constituency and will work tirelessly to influence the Department's to sustain a culture that values whistleblowers and opposes retaliation.

The OIG Whistleblower Protection and Ombudsman Program (WBPOP) ensures that employees who disclose information are fully informed of their rights, responsibilities, and remedies under anti-retaliation laws, and provides advisory services and support to whistleblowers which may include a formal OIG investigation. The Department is committed to training officials and managers on best practices to ensure whistleblowers are

not retaliated against. Additionally, the Department is committed to meetings responsibilities for compliance with the Office of Special Counsel's 2302(c) Certification Program.

F. Websites

The Department is committed to developing a culture that serves the public by providing information in a useful and accessible format through traditional websites as well as increasingly through various social media outlets. To support these efforts, the Department developed a Digital Strategy to engage the public and share information the public and stakeholders may find useful. This strategy, www.doi.gov/digitalstrategy/index.cfm, supports the Department's efforts to be more open and transparent and has contributed to the Department's Media and Social Media policies receiving high marks from the Union of Concerned Scientists, www.ucsusa.org/GradingGovernmentTransparency.

IV. Ongoing Initiatives

A. Participation in Transparency Initiatives

i. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

In the United States' first National Action Plan, President Obama announced the United States' commitment to implementing the EITI, a voluntary, global effort designed to increase transparency, strengthen the accountability of natural resource revenue reporting, and build public trust for the governance of revenues received for oil, gas, and mineral extraction. Recognizing the Department's lead role in the management of revenues associated with Federal offshore and Federal and American Indian onshore mineral leases, as well as revenues received as a result of offshore renewable energy efforts, President Obama named the Secretary of the Interior as the Administration's Senior Official responsible for the oversight of implementation of EITI.

On December 11, 2013, the USEITI Multi-Stakeholder Group approved the U.S. Candidacy Application for Secretary Jewell's transmission to the International EITI Board and on December 19, 2013, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell submitted the Application to the EITI International Board.

Through the efforts of the USEITI Multi-Stakeholder Group, the U.S. application for candidacy in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative was approved by the EITI Board at its March 18-19 meeting in Oslo, Norway. The U.S. is the first G8 country to achieve candidate status and become an EITI implementing country, joining a group of 41 countries around the world that are working actively to improve the management of their oil, gas, and mining sectors.

With approval of its candidacy application, the U.S. is now moving towards productions of its first USEITI Report within the next 2 years and completion of the

remaining requirements to become an EITI Compliant Country. For more information, please see the Flagship Initiatives section of this Plan.

ii. Data.gov

In addition to its own Open Data Initiative, the Department continues to support the publication of data to data.gov. To support this initiative, the Department Data.Gov Points of Contact (POC) have been brought together to form a multi-bureau working group to address the challenges and opportunities associated with publishing datasets to Data.Gov. This working group supports the Department while also looking towards the broader applicability of their work to the Federal Government community. This group has assessed the current departmental data dissemination process and established standard, comprehensive framework consistent with Open Government Directive and ensures the coordination with key stakeholders to include mission leadership, sensitivity, privacy, quality, and suitability for release perspectives.

The Department continues to provide a large number of datasets to Data.Gov covering a wide range of topics valued by our diverse array of stakeholders. The U.S. Geological Survey is a recognized leader in geospatial data and while the USGS has led the Department in the publication of data to data.gov, all major DOI bureaus have contributed datasets and are committed to the principles of transparency, openness, and information sharing.

iii. eRulemaking

During Fiscal Year 2013, the Department used Regulations.gov to publish 928 notices and 233 proposed and final rules, as well as numerous supporting documents. Using Regulations.gov has allowed the Department to efficiently and effectively share information with the American public, as evidenced by the many thousands of comments received on these publications through the site. The community interested in our activities is extremely large and diverse as reflects our Departmental stakeholders. We firmly believe this community has benefited through public submissions to the Regulations.gov website and through our management of these submissions using the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS).

The eRulemaking Initiative outcomes for DOI and the other partner agencies include:

- Substantial improvement in usability for agencies and the public, with more improvements pending.
- Growing public and agency usage: Visits to and comments submitted through Regulations.gov continue to climb; agencies continue to increase their use of FDMS.
- Improved service to the public because commenting is easier and because we can process comments more efficiently using FDMS.

iv. IT Dashboard

The Department remains committed to and is in full compliance with reporting to the IT Dashboard. The Department submits its major investments' project cost and schedule, CIO rating, contracts, and performance data to the IT Dashboard on a monthly basis, making this information available to the public. On an ongoing basis the IT Dashboard identifies quality issues with investment data, which the Department strives to correct in a timely manner. Outstanding data quality issues that currently exist with the Department investments include “long/large activities” (any that are longer than 6 months in duration) “incomplete /inaccurate data” (the sum of project costs being greater than the total of investment costs), and “poor contract data.” The Department’s Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) Planning and Portfolio Management team is working with bureau and office capital planners and investment managers to update their activities to meet the 6 month duration requirements and their project lifecycle costs to report in the correct format. In some cases, the processing of these updates has required that investments undergo a re-baseline, which per Departmental policy, is required to be formally approved by its governance bodies. Investment managers are also updating their contract tables to ensure contracts are associated with valid links to USASpending.gov data. These continued efforts leading the Department to better quality data and assist us in identifying and remedying areas in need of additional attention.

v. Recovery.gov

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The ARRA investment funded approximately 3,900 projects throughout the Department. The ARRA funding has been used for projects in parks, refuges, and public lands throughout the Nation; to improve conditions in Indian Country; to strengthen the Department’s scientific infrastructure; and for water projects throughout the Western States. The Department’s Recovery Act program is geographically dispersed, involving headquarters, regional, and local staff from across the Department in addition to thousands of contractors, cooperators, and tribes.

Since the inception of the ARRA, the Department has monitored its projects through the use of three milestones. These milestones are awarded, mobilized, and substantially complete. The Department’s bureaus track each project to these three milestones, which help those responsible for project oversight and monitoring to evaluate if the projects are being completed on time, within budget, and in line with the goals of ARRA. Milestone tracking also supports the Department’s effort to monitor ARRA implementation at the portfolio level. The Department’s reporting requirements related to Recovery.com expired after the January 2014 reporting period.

vi. Grants.gov

The Department is one of 26 Federal grant-making agencies that use Grants.gov to provide online search and application ability for Federal financial assistance applicants and grantees. Grants.gov is a Government-wide clearinghouse managed by the Department of Health and Human Services that provides electronic functionality for applicants and grantees, and reduces the paper-based processes that challenge the Federal grants environment. The OMB Memorandum M-10-16, dated April 23, 2010, directs Federal grant-making agencies to use the “Find” functionality of Grants.gov to post synopses of announcements of all funding opportunities’; and use the “Apply” functionality of Grants.gov to post application packages for grant programs. The use of the Find and Apply functionality was directed in OMB policy notices to Federal agencies in 2003 and 2004, respectively

Through the use of Grants.gov, the Department is able to improve efficiency, meet E-Gov goals, and provide benefits to both citizens and the government. Government wide, the initiative deployed a unified search/find capability for grant opportunities, standard data sets, and a common mechanism and processes for applying for Federal grant funds. The Department currently has 172 grants posted to the site.

vii. CFDA.gov

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance is the designated location for agencies to identify their financial assistance programs. The Department of the Interior currently lists 276 programs in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. Interior has the second largest number of programs, and awards about \$4 billion in financial assistance annually. The Federal Program Information Act requires agencies to update their programs in the CFDA annually. Interior has issued Department-wide policy for the development of program descriptions and requires bureaus to review and provide assurance of the accuracy of CFDA data.

viii. SAM.gov

The System for Award Management (SAM) is a Government-wide contractor information system managed by the General Services Administration that consolidates the functionality previously found in Central Contractor Registry (CCR), Federal Agency Registration (FedReg), Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA), and the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS). The deployment of SAM has streamlined and integrated processes, eliminated data redundancies, and reduced costs while providing improved capability.

The information entered into SAM is the primary method through which the government facilitates payments through the Department of Treasury’s Automated

Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system. The Department’s Financial and Business Management System interfaces with SAM and ASAP.

ix. FSRS.gov

The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) requires agencies to ensure contractors are in compliance with Federal reporting requirements, and to review contractor reports on a quarterly basis to ensure the information is consistent with contract information. Prime contractors and prime grant recipients subject to Federal Acquisition Regulation clause 52.204.10, Reporting Executive Compensation and First-Tier Subcontract Awards) must report their first-tier sub-awards in FSRS on a monthly basis. The FSRS feeds into USASpending.gov. The Department has issued an internal policy to implement this broader policy for all of the Department’s applicable contracts and financial assistance awards.

x. USASpending.gov

The Transparency Act required OMB to “ensure the existence and operation of a single searchable website” for Federal awards. Federal agencies populate the Federal Procurement Data System and Federal Assistance Award Data System, which then populates USASpending.gov with required information on Federal contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, loans, and other financial assistance.

B. Public Notice

The Office of Communications (OCO), the Office of External Affairs, and the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs work closely to provide information to the public, media, stakeholder groups and state and local governments. Similarly, the offices that fall under the Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management, and Budget play a key role in communicating the Secretary’s vision and priorities through the budget and other means.

Office of Communications: This office provides leadership, expertise, counsel, and coordination for the development of communications strategies vital to the overall formulation, awareness and acceptance of mission programs and policies. The various means of communications adopted by this office are as follows:

- Maintain and constantly improve the Department’s website (<http://www.doi.gov>) and the Department’s official presence on social media websites such as Facebook, Tumblr, YouTube, and Twitter.
- Assist media by responding to their inquiries and provide other information they may require or find useful. The principal vehicles used for dissemination of news are internet, telephone, press releases, and audio-visual messages.

- Develop and implement media and public information projects for widespread public dissemination of policy and program information.
- Travel (by senior leadership) to key locations affected by Departmental policies to hold town hall meetings with stakeholders and the public to seek input and explain key Departmental policy initiatives.
- Prepare, edit, and issue news releases on departmental policies and program issues; develop speech texts, reports, briefing materials, articles and similar materials for the Secretary; develop publications and audio and visual materials as it determines necessary in order for the Department to be responsive to a broad range of public inquiries.
- Plan and coordinate press briefings and news conferences for the Secretary and the Secretariat; inform officials of fresh media activity on issues; and publish special internal communications to supervisory and policy level officials. Secretary Jewell, Deputy Secretary Connor and all Assistant Secretaries and Bureau Directors regularly grant requests for interviews with national, local and tribal news outlets.

In addition, the Department has taken great strides to improve the information made available online to the public. The Department's website has undergone a transformation in the past year to make information easily accessible, to better explain the Secretary's priorities and increase transparency. For members of the public who cannot attend, some town hall-style meetings and conferences are broadcast on www.doi.gov.

Office of External Affairs: This office communicates with and engages outside stakeholder groups on important policy decisions at the Department.

Office of Intergovernmental Affairs: This office works closely with state and local governments including governor's offices, state legislatures, mayors, city councils and other local governments to communicate the Department of the Interior's priorities and policy decisions and to coordinate feedback on these policies from a local perspective.

Policy, Management, and Budget – Office of the Budget: This office is the portal for all information for the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and all budget information. In addition, the Secretary and the Department utilize the budget as a primary communication tool for her vision and policies. The 2015 Budget in Brief, outlines the funding and legislative agenda that is included in the 2015 budget for the Department and is available on the Budget Office's Website at:

<http://www.doi.gov/budget/appropriations/2015/highlights/index.cfm>.

Department of Interior's Strategic Plan: The Department's Strategic Plan communicates the Department's key mission strategies in a 5 year plan that is updated every 3 years. There is a link on the Departmental website for budget and performance information that provides direct access to the strategic plan and the Annual Performance Report

<http://www.doi.gov/bpp/upload/DOI-Strategic-Plan-for-FY-2014-2018-POSTED-ON-WEBSITE.pdf>).

C. Records Management

The Department is addressing the “Managing Government Records” Directive, OMB M-12-18, through our June 2012, Department of the Interior Software as a Service (SaaS) solution; email Enterprise Records and Document Management System (eERDMS) initiative.

To facilitate the directive objectives, the Department has simplified the scheduling process, increased scheduling consistency and decreased the amount of time needed for reviewing and approving records schedule modifications through the implementation of a single Departmental Records Schedule (DRS). This effort has consolidated over 200 independent records schedules with over 2,300 retention periods to a single DRS that aligns 37 lines of business and 230 retention periods. The DRS was completed in phases with the last phase submitted to National Archives and Retention Administration (NARA) in March 2014. The DRS contains four categories: Administrative, Policy, Legal and Mission. These categories align to both the “Big Bucket” NARA approach for agencies and the Department’s Strategic Plan for the Legal and Mission categories.

The Department is also laying the foundation for records management as a service within the Department. The first steps are to provide a crosswalk of records services within the Departmental Manual and revise the Departmental Manual to reflect managing records to support 21st century workflow processes identified by OMB and NARA. To facilitate this, we are centralizing records management processes and functions, and incorporating comprehensive bureau records management plans to facilitate these changes. In cooperation with bureau and office Assistant Directors for Information Resources, the Department has initiated a series of directed memoranda assigning key records staff to eERDMS phases in promulgating records management policies and best practices in fulfillment of their mission.

The second steps are to begin the migration of over 30 identified legacy records and document management solutions. In cooperation with the bureau missions, the Department has begun seven of those migrations. Further, we are working to establish interconnected links to other enterprise solutions in support of the eERDMS program such as our Departmental financial systems. A link to the explanation of the Department’s records page can be found at http://www.doi.gov/ocio/information_management/index.cfm.

D. Freedom of Information Act Requests

The DOI’s Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) operations are decentralized across nine bureaus and five offices. Each bureau/office has a FOIA Officer in charge of its FOIA program. Depending on the size of the bureau/office and the location of its personnel, some bureaus/offices maintain a highly decentralized FOIA process while others are highly centralized. Due to the expansive missions of these bureaus and offices (which involve a

number of sensitive, high-profile issues), the 14 FOIA programs continue to receive large numbers of requests, often complex, from a broad spectrum of requesters. Some of these issues include domestic and renewable energy production, protection of endangered species, land and water management, and fulfillment of the Government's obligations to the Native American Nations.

The bureau/office FOIA officers report each month to the Department's FOIA policy staff in the Office of the Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs (OES) on their backlogs. This heightens awareness among managers of the bureau/staff FOIA programs about their backlogs; allows the Department's FOIA policy staff to monitor trends or spikes in backlogs; and gives the Department's FOIA policy staff the opportunity to work with bureaus/officers on ways to reduce backlogs. A number of bureaus/offices send reports to their managers on a regular basis indicating any overdue FOIA requests. These steps (in addition to an increased emphasis on auditing, enhanced reporting, and expanded training), have resulted in yearly backlog reductions and the consistent closing of the Department's 10 oldest requests since the last version of this report was issued. The Department is also playing an active role in the White House's ongoing efforts relating to the Second Open Government National Action Plan.

The Department's FOIA website (<http://www.doi.gov/foia>) contains information about the Department's FOIA program for both the public and Departmental employees. This website reflects a presumption of openness and the Department's ongoing interest in and efforts towards accessibility, transparency, proactive disclosures, and collaboration. The website contains a new interactive tracking tool (found at <https://foia.doi.gov/requeststatus/>) and a FOIA Guidance page (found at <http://www.doi.gov/foia/news/guidance/index.cfm>) that contains links to, among other things, the Department's new FOIA regulations and new FOIA Departmental manual. The Department is working toward issuing a new FOIA Handbook that will further integrate a "presumption of openness" through its changes that are intended to strengthen the Department's response process and improve customer service. When the new Handbook is issued, it will be posted on the website's guidance page.

Also available on the website are:

- A description of the Department's staffing and organizational structure for FOIA, including specific contact information for the agency Chief FOIA Officer, FOIA Public Liaisons, and other public points of contact, as found at: <http://www.doi.gov/foia/what-we-do.cfm>, <http://www.doi.gov/foia/contacts.cfm> and <http://www.doi.gov/foia/servicecenters.cfm>;
- The Department's process for responding to FOIA requests, as found in the Department's new FOIA regulations and new FOIA Departmental Manual, both of which are accessible from: <http://www.doi.gov/foia/news/guidance/index.cfm>; and
- Links to the Department's FOIA reports (including the Annual FOIA Report and Chief FOIA Officer Report) at: <http://www.doi.gov/foia/doi-foia-library.cfm>. These reports include assessments of the Department's capacity to analyze, coordinate, and respond to

FOIA requests in a timely manner, along with discussion of efforts to reduce the Department's pending backlog of outstanding FOIA requests.

E. Congressional Requests

The Department's Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs communicates Departmental policies and the viewpoints of the Secretary regarding Congressional issues. The Office plans, develops and implements the Department's legislative goals and strategies, notifies Congressional offices of Interior initiatives, and monitors the status of legislative proposals. Testimonies and other legislative information, as well as contact information for this office, are available on the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs website <http://www.doi.gov/ocl/index.html> which is also available as a link from www.doi.gov/open. Information on the website includes a staff directory, links to Congressional Information, testimony and other legislative information, and a general contact email address.

The DOI document production process is led by the Office of the Executive Secretariat (OES) in partnership with Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, and Office of the Solicitor. Within OES is the centralized Document Management Unit (DMU), which manages the Department's document production process to Congress. The process includes providing guidance on the scope of the search and format for submission; imaging and coding the collected documents; organizing the documents for attorney review; and producing the documents in a final format to the requestor. Due to the immense range of operations in the bureaus and offices within the Department, the DMU collaborates with senior staff from all bureaus and offices. The DMU continues to process a growing number of sensitive and high profile document requests including diverse issues such as renewable and conventional energy production, endangered species, and tribal trust litigation.

F. Declassification

The Department of the Interior does not have original classification authority; therefore our classified documents have, at the most, a derivative classification (taken from another agency based on their classification of the information.) The Departments and Agencies which "originate" the classified documents are responsible for declassifying and releasing the relevant documents.

The Department is frequently contacted through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) process to authorize disclosure of classified information when another agency has mentioned the Department in their classified document. In those cases, the Department reviews the content and context of the information and works with the Solicitor's Office to

determine what information is appropriate to be released. As the Department does not have original classification authority, the Department will only do this if requested by the originating agency. The OCIO is responsible for establishing policy and procedures for the protection of national security classified and sensitive information processed in automated

systems, including all forms of hard, soft, and transmission media. The OCIO is also responsible for coordinating with bureau/office Security Officers regarding classified national security and other sensitive controlled unclassified information matters, as appropriate.

G. Participation

The Department recognizes that public participation and engagement are essential ingredients for serving and working with the American public, making good policy and reaching sound decisions on challenging and complex natural resource management issues. With the engagement of DOI's 280,000 volunteers, our myriad of partnerships such as with the National Park Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, individual park and refuge friends groups, and other non-governmental organizations the Department has long had a history of participation with the public at large, other Federal, tribal, state and local governments, academic institutions and other non-government organizations to better meet the mission of the Department. Participation with the public and non-Departmental entities is a fundamental way of doing business within the Department.

The Department seeks to build upon its strong record of encouraging participation with the public and partner organizations. The Department currently offers numerous trainings on how to plan and carry out effective public participation and has frequently partnered with organizations such as the International Association for Public Participation and the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation's US Institute for Environmental Conflict resolution to offer Department employees the tools and information to conduct high quality public participation processes and the educational resources to increase the quality of their participation in such processes. The Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution(CADR) helps to enable the Department's public participation efforts by providing policies, structures and resources to support engagement with and participation by the public in the carrying out of the Department's missions. To this end, CADR has developed an Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity contract as a strategic sourcing initiative to allow Department bureaus and offices access to expert impartial public participation process planning and facilitation services to ensure meaningful input and engagement even in conflict situations.

H. Collaboration

i. Collaboration Skills

New training and education is being delivered to improve collaborative leadership skills, increase employees' knowledge, and develop collaboration competencies within the Department to allow the Department to work more collaboratively to manage natural resources and address complex challenges that cross governmental jurisdictions and geographic boundaries such as climate change, renewable energy, water supply, and conservation of species. The Department's Offices of Strategic Employee and

Organizational Development, Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution, and the Bureau Human Capital Officers, training centers and partnership offices are working together to ensure consistent education and training that support genuine collaboration. In addition, the current class of Department's Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program has a central focus on collaboration and engagement efforts.

ii. Leadership Commitment and Organizational Structures

For an organization to embrace collaboration principles and practices, it requires leadership commitment and support structures consistent with a culture of collaboration. Departmental Senior Leadership recognizes the importance of collaboration principles and practices in order to best serve the public and carry out the missions of the Department. Major Departmental initiatives such as America's Great Outdoors, Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, and the Youth Initiative demonstrate the Department's commitment to instilling a culture of collaboration and participation within the Department. Structures such as the Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution (CADR), which works to ensure the Department has the resources, support and skills needed to work collaboratively and effectively engage stakeholders and the public support the Department's bureaus and offices in carrying out their missions in the spirit of the Open Government principles.

iii. Processes and Tools

The Department is committed to the recognized principles and standards of effective public participation, collaboration, and Environmental Collaboration and Conflict Resolution (ECCR). A wide range of tools and techniques are used by all Department bureaus and offices to accomplish core mission activities and the Department aspires for every manager and employee to have a collaboration tool kit with knowledge of when and how to use each tool to achieve results. This tool kit includes Negotiated Rulemaking processes, Listening Sessions and public meetings, Government-to-Government consultation processes, Environmental Conflict Resolution and collaborative problem-solving, National Environmental Policy Act collaboration, prizes and competitions, anonymous feedback options, and facilitated negotiation processes. In addition to these tools, in its collaboration efforts, the Department frequently utilizes:

- **Grants and Cooperative Agreements**

Partnership grants are used by the Department when it is supporting a public purpose and does not anticipate any substantial involvement with the recipient after funds are transferred, for example, where an agency grants funds to an organization that will use the funds for a specified purpose. Cooperative agreements are similar to grant agreements, but are used when the Department will be actively involved in the activity for which the funding or in-kind service is being provided. Another type of grant arrangement is the challenge assistance or cost-sharing agreement, which requires the provision of matching funds to leverage the effectiveness of the grant funds. Criteria

for when to use a grant or cooperative agreement are found in the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act at 31 U.S.C. § 6305.

- **Partnerships**

The Department has a long history of engaging with other Federal and non-Federal government agencies, and non-profit and private entities in fulfilling our mission. At the Department, our partnerships promote conservation on our treasured landscapes, preserve natural and cultural resources, bring innovative approaches to resource management, and engage diverse entities, including youth, to accomplish Interior's mission.

Through partnerships, we achieve community and landscape level conservation results across America, tapping the knowledge and innovation of local people and organizations. Conservation, use, and protection of America's natural, cultural, and historical heritage constitute an essential component of the mission of the Department of the Interior. Scientifically informed and technologically based stewardship of our public lands, waters, wildlife and special places – if it is to succeed – must be done in collaboration and partnership among Interior agencies, with other governmental entities and, most importantly, with the citizens who share and give form to our mission.

- **Memoranda of Understanding**

Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) are useful when partnership arrangements do not involve the transfer of funding, property, services, or human resources by either party, but is instead based on mutual agreement on processes, products, or outcomes accomplished by working cooperatively with other Federal or non-Federal partners on issues of mutual interest. The MOU are based on the appropriate statutory authority for the formation of the partnership, and generally include the following elements: heading; background; statement of purpose; identification of statutory authorities; procedures to be followed and responsibilities of the parties; and administrative provisions.

As an example, the Department, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Environmental Protection Agency developed a collaborative, interagency approach to address air quality issues associated with onshore oil and gas development on public lands. The MOU established a common process for the agencies to follow in analyzing the potential air quality impacts of proposed oil and gas activities on federally managed lands. The collaborative approach established in the MOU increases efficiency, certainty and transparency in the process – benefiting Federal agencies, industry, states, and tribes.

- **Statutory Partnerships**

A substantial number of general statutory (programmatic) authorities can be broadly thought of as partnership tools because they enable Department partnership action. Congress also often enacts legislation that authorizes specific partnerships or partnership activities. These partnership tools often define a relationship in which the Department will work with other Federal or non-Federal entities, including state, local

and tribal governments. In these situations, Congress determines the scope of the partnership and usually provides specific authority in addition to the bureau's general statutory authorities. Legislation to implement a particular partnership activity may be proposed to Congress through appropriate official channels and through the bureau's congressional liaison office. For examples, the Department enjoys statutory partnerships with organizations such as the National Park Foundation and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, working together to protect and preserve the Nation's natural and cultural resources.

- **Advisory Committees**

Advisory committees allow the Federal Government to obtain independent expert advice on scientific, technical and policy matters from stakeholders and constituents with knowledge or interest related to broad or specific issues. An advisory committee is any committee, board, commission, council, conference, panel, task force, or other similar group, or any subcommittee or other subgroup thereof that is established by statute or reorganization plan, established or utilized by the President, or one or more agencies, in the interest of obtaining advice or recommendations for the President or one or more agencies or officers of the Federal Government.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) established more than 15 years ago Resource Advisory Committees/Councils (RACs) in each of its 12 states for the purpose of collaboratively working with industry, citizens, non-government organizations and other stakeholders who want to work with the BLM in addressing resource management decisionmaking. Some states have more than one RAC and the breadth of what the RACs do in terms of recommending action to the BLM ranges from advice on grazing policy to recreational opportunities. The BLM continues to renew the RACs' charters and rotate membership, in consultation with governors, to ensure meaningful balances of interests are represented on these groups. The RACs have proven to be an important mechanism for public engagement in Federal land management.

- **America's Great Outdoors**

President Obama launched the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative to develop a 21st Century conservation and recreation agenda. The AGO takes as its premise that lasting conservation solutions should rise from the American people – that the

protection of our natural heritage is a non-partisan objective shared by all Americans. AGO recognizes that many of the best ideas come from outside of Washington. Instead of dictating policies, this initiative turns to communities for local, grassroots conservation initiatives. Instead of growing bureaucracy, it calls for reworking inefficient policies and making the Federal Government a better partner with states, tribes, and local communities. www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/index.cfm

- **Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation policy**

The Department jointly developed a new Departmental policy with ongoing collaboration between tribes and the Department to ensure full implementation and

improved working relationships with tribes. <http://www.doi.gov/cobell/upload/FINAL-Departmental-tribal-consultation-policy.pdf>

- **Landscape Conservation Cooperatives**

Protecting the Nation's natural and cultural resources and landscapes is essential to sustaining our quality of life and economy. Native fish and wildlife species depend on healthy rivers, streams, wetlands, forests, grasslands and coastal areas in order to thrive. Managing these natural and cultural resources and landscapes, however, has become increasingly complex. Land use changes and impacts such as drought, wildfire, habitat fragmentation, contaminants, pollution, invasive species, disease, and a rapidly changing climate can threaten human populations as well as native species and their habitats.

As a result, the Department founded Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) to bring together stakeholders to address these challenges. The LCCs are public-private partnerships that recognize these challenges transcend political and jurisdictional boundaries and require a more networked approach to conservation—holistic, collaborative, adaptive, and grounded in science to ensure the sustainability of America's land, water, wildlife, and cultural resources. As a collaborative, LCCs seek to identify best practices, connect efforts, identify gaps, and avoid duplication through improved conservation planning and design. Partner agencies and organizations including Federal agencies, state, tribal and local government, not for profit organizations and universities, coordinate with each other while working within their existing authorities and jurisdictions.

The 22 LCCs are organized by eco-region and collectively form a national network of land, water, wildlife, and cultural resource managers, scientists, and interested public and private organizations—within the U.S. and across our international borders—that share a common need for scientific information and interest in conservation.

I. Flagship Initiatives

i. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

On September 20, 2011, eight founding countries (Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, South Africa, United Kingdom, and the United States) endorsed an Open Government Declaration and announced individual National Action Plans committing their governments to better serving their constituents. This Open Government Partnership represented a multilateral initiative to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. In the spirit of multi-stakeholder

collaboration, the Open Government Partnership is overseen by a steering committee of Governments and civil society organizations.

In the United States' first National Action Plan, President Obama announced the US's commitment to implementing the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), a voluntary, global effort designed to increase transparency, strengthen the accountability of natural resource revenue reporting, and build public trust for the governance of revenues received for oil, gas and mineral extraction. Recognizing the Department's lead role in the management of revenues associated with Federal offshore and Federal and American Indian onshore mineral leases, as well as revenues received as a result of offshore renewable energy efforts, President Obama named the Secretary of the Interior as the Administration's Senior Official responsible for the oversight of implementation of EITI.

The EITI's aim is to strengthen governance by improving transparency and accountability in the extractives sector through a multi staged process with prescribed actions which must be taken within each of the stages. Under EITI, participating governments work hand-in-hand with company and civil society representatives to produce reports that help citizens understand how the Government manages its extractive sectors. The reports include parallel public disclosures by both the Government and companies, of the payments that companies have made to the Government on their oil, gas and mining development. In addition to increased transparency, EITI strengthens accountability and empowers citizens by enhancing the accessibility of information available about the revenues generated from natural resource development.

To become an initial EITI candidate, a country must meet five "sign-up" requirements including the formation of a multi-stakeholder group comprised of the Federal Government, companies participating in extractive activities and civil society groups. Upon meeting these requirements, a country has one and half years to publish an "EITI report" that reconciles what companies involved in extractive activities indicate they pay in taxes, royalties and signature bonuses, with what governments indicate they have received. To achieve EITI compliant status, a country must complete an EITI Validation, which provides an independent assessment of the progress achieved and what measures are needed to strengthen the EITI process. If the international EITI Board considers a country to have met all EITI requirements, that country is recognized as EITI Compliant.

To support the application process, the Department engaged stakeholders and the American people by holding a number of public listening sessions across the country and opened a public comment period to gather suggestions as to the formation of the collaborative multi-stakeholder group. Feedback provided through written comments as well as the listening sessions directly informed the Department as it worked to design and develop a collaborative multi-stakeholder group comprised of government, industry, and civil society representatives tasked with developing the scope, framework and criteria for the reporting of extractive industry data as well as developing and

publishing a fully-costed workplan for implementation and reporting, and a timetable for implementation of the EITI as part of its application for candidacy in EITI.

The Department engaged a number of organizations and individuals involved with EITI implementation efforts in some of the 35 countries who have begun the EITI implementation process. While valuable information and lessons learned were gathered, the sheer size and scope of the efforts required in the United States' full implementation of EITI are unprecedented.

In December 2012, following a comprehensive stakeholder assessment and call for nominations, the Secretary of the Interior formed the USEITI Multi-Stakeholder Group [Federal Advisory Committee](#), also known as the MSG. The USEITI MSG is comprised of 21 members and 20 alternates who represent a variety of stakeholders. The USEITI MSG has met several times since February 2013 to oversee EITI implementation, define the scope and materiality for initial USEITI reporting, and prepare an application for EITI candidacy. To further support the engagement and transparency efforts within the EITI candidacy process, the public is welcome at USEITI Multi-Stakeholder group meetings and a schedule and phone participation information for those interested parties with difficulty attending in person is available through the USEITI website.

On December 11, 2013, the USEITI Multi-Stakeholder Group approved the U.S. Candidacy Application for Secretary of the Interior Jewell's transmission to the International EITI Board, and on December 19, 2013, Secretary Jewell submitted the Application to the EITI International Board.

Through the efforts of the USEITI Multi-Stakeholder Group, the U.S. application for candidacy in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative was approved by the EITI Board at its March 18-19 meeting in Oslo, Norway. The U.S. is the first G8 country to achieve candidate status and become an EITI implementing country, joining a group of 41 countries around the world that are working actively to improve the management of their oil, gas, and mining sectors.

With approval of its candidacy application, the U.S. is now moving towards production of its first USEITI Report within the next 2 years and completion of the remaining requirements to become an EITI compliant country. More information is available via the USEITI website: <http://www.doi.gov/EITI/index.cfm>.

ii. MyAmerica

The MyAmerica initiative is built upon the partnerships and data sharing efforts that have been forged through interagency efforts that support Recreation.gov. MyAmerica is envisioned as a data and web services platform that will make key visitor and travel information for public lands available in standard formats via easy to use Application Programming Interfaces (APIs). MyAmerica will not be a website or mobile application. Rather, it will be a data platform designed to help others build better

websites and mobile applications to facilitate travel planning and visitor information services for our Nation’s public lands. Developing the MyAmerica platform will help the Department encourage and enhance tourism and recreation on our public lands and waters from the iconic vistas to the hidden gems, and promote continued growth of the travel and tourism economy. In partnership with the General Services Administration, the Office of Management and Budget and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Department will be hiring a Presidential Innovation Fellow (PIF) to assist in identifying and freeing access to the widest possible range of the Department’s scientific, administrative, and natural resource management data. In doing so, our PIF will also guide our early efforts on our Open Data flagship initiative “MyAmerica.”

J. Public and Agency Ideas

The Department intends to use the publication of this Plan to set the stage for further discussion and engagement with stakeholders and the public, and to continue to develop ideas and refine the Department’s initiatives and efforts to meet the requirements and the spirit set forth by the Open Government Initiative. This Plan will be posted to www.doi.gov/open with requests for additional feedback from the public.