

## **Report of the Department of the Interior Conference Expenses – Fiscal Year 2012**

In a sustained effort to act transparently with taxpayer dollars, and eliminate wasteful and inefficient government spending, the Department of the Interior (Department) continues to strengthen and test internal controls over conference spending and activities. In addition, the Department updated policies and procedures to incorporate Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance. Departmental policies are consistent with the President's Campaign to Cut Waste, Executive Order 13589 -- *Promoting Efficient Spending*, and OMB memorandums M-11-35 and M-12-12. Policies provide a framework of internal controls designed to mitigate risks associated with conference planning and spending, and ensure compliance with Federal travel regulations. Our most current policy incorporates new guidance on conference sponsorships, updated conference and sponsorship checklists, and clarified guidance on cost comparisons and adhering to per diem limits.

Department-wide efforts to reduce conference spending have contributed to a thirteen percent reduction in travel costs compared to the prior fiscal year.

For Fiscal Year 2012, \$7.76 million funded 32 conferences in which net conference expenses in excess \$100,000. The link below provides details of costs and location for each conference.

<https://cms.doi.net/pfm/upload/FY-2012-Conference-Spending-Over-100k.pdf>

Since May 11, 2012, the Department has strictly complied with the Administration's prohibition on agency-sponsored conferences with net expenses in excess of \$500,000. In compliance with OMB Memorandum 12-12, "Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations," and based on exceptional circumstances, the Secretary granted one waiver in Fiscal Year 2012.

<https://cms.doi.net/pfm/upload/Waiver-of-conference-spending-FY-2012.pdf>

The Department will continue to closely monitor conference activity as well as strengthen our policies and internal controls around our conference and travel activity. If you have any questions, please contact Patrick McHugh, Staff Accountant or Eric Eisenstein, Internal Control and Audit Follow-Up Chief, in the Office of Financial Management at (202) 208-4701.