

Department of the Interior

At the [Partnership for Public Service](#), we believe that our future and our democracy depend on the ability to solve big problems—and that we need an effective federal government to do so. As part of the executive branch, federal agencies play a role in enforcing laws and policies to achieve these ends. This series presents a sampling of initiatives at specific agencies to demonstrate the many ways our government affects our lives and communities.

THE PEOPLE OF THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT

Each of the roughly 52,000 career federal employees at the Department of the Interior is committed to the mission of the organization: To protect and manage the nation’s natural resources and cultural heritage; provide scientific and other information about those resources; and honor the department’s trust responsibilities and special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and additional populations in the U.S. territories and other islands the department serves. Veterans make up about 20% of the department.¹

EMPLOYEES WITH VETERAN STATUS



TYPE OF WORK

Department of the Interior staff work within a variety of subcomponents, that is, entities within the department. These include:



Agencies such as the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which manage America’s vast natural and cultural resources

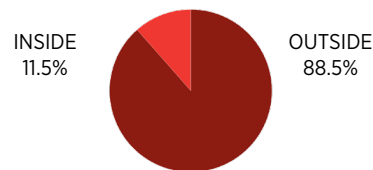


Departmental offices such as the Office of the Chief Information Officer and the Office of the Solicitor, which provide department-wide managerial and operational leadership

WHERE THEY WORK

Interior employees work throughout the United States and around the globe. More than 85% of the career staff work outside the Washington, D.C., area.²

DOI CAREER STAFF WORKING INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE WASHINGTON, D.C., AREA



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“For a long time, wildlife crime wasn’t treated as a serious crime even though it had become a lucrative business tied to organized crime...We are now bringing these traffickers to justice.”

Edward Grace, deputy chief of the office of law enforcement for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Department of the Interior and [2016 Service to America Medals](#) * People’s Choice award winner

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S COMMITMENT TO SERVE THE PUBLIC

THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT IN YOUR BACKYARD

Since 1916, the [National Park Service](#) has been entrusted with the care of our national parks. Tribes, local governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses and individuals partner with the park service to revitalize their communities, preserve local history, celebrate local heritage and create close-to-home opportunities for children and families to get outside, be active and have fun.



SERVICE SPOTLIGHT

2019 Science, Technology and Environment Award

Christina A. Neal and the USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory Team

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Interior employees [Christina Neal](#) and the [USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory Team](#) were finalists for the 2019 Service to America Science, Technology and Environment medal for their outstanding work. The team carefully monitored a large and sustained eruption of the Kīlauea Volcano in Hawaii and provided vital updates to protect residents, tourists and property from ash, lava and toxic fumes.

¹ Data included in this section represents full-time, nonseasonal, permanent civilian employees of the executive branch as of February 2024. Unless otherwise noted, this includes the career members of the Senior Executive Service. For more up-to-date information, see <https://ourpublicservice.org/performance-measures/agency-performance-dashboard/profile/DOI/>

² The Washington, D.C., area includes the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. It excludes all other U.S. states and U.S. territories as well as federal employees living in foreign countries.

Read about the other Federal Agencies in Focus: <https://landing.ourpublicservice.org/federal-agencies-in-focus>



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