An Introduction

JERRY GIDNER
April 2023

We Excel,
Native America Prospers.
The Secretary of the Interior has a trust obligation to manage Indian trust land and the income it generates.

The Department of the Interior holds over 56 million acres of land in trust for Tribes and Native Americans.

The separation of duties between the management of natural resources and monetary assets is a prudent internal control.

BTFA manages the monetary trust assets.

BIA manages the natural resources (surface and subsurface).
Mission, Vision & Values

Mission
Manage the Trust Beneficiaries' Financial Assets

Vision
We Excel, Native America Prospers

Values
- Welcome: Dignity, Respect, Inclusion
- Encourage: Vision, Inspiration, Communication
- Learn: Support, Train, Excel
- Engage: Approachable, Emotional Intelligence, Compassionate
- Accountable: Integrity, Transparency, Self-less Service
- Dynamic: Improve, Develop, Grow
Staff & Offices

- 424 Federal Employees
- 212 Contractors
- 47% Virtual

- Stewart Lee Udall Building
  WASHINGTON, DC
- Operations & Call Center
  ALBUQUERQUE, NM
- American Indian Records Repository
  LENEXA, KS
Beneficiaries

- 408,000+ Individual Indian Money (IIM) Accounts
  - 59k Whereabouts Unknown
  - 770 International
- 4,100 Tribal Accounts
  - 267 Tribes
Services

• Accounting & Financial Management
  • Receipting, investing, disbursing, reconciling and reporting

• Records Management

• Financial Education/Outreach

• Trust Evaluations

• Litigation Support

• Probate (processing of monetary trust assets)
Accounting & Financial Management

- $8.2 billion under management (audited)
  - Tribal: $6.8 billion
  - Individual Indian Money (IIM): $1.4 billion
  - FY 2022 net change in trust fund balance: +$2.1 billion

- 11.8 million transactions/year
  - 99% accuracy
FY2022 Revenue Sources

- Judgements/Settlements: $1,476,090,777
- Oil & Gas: $1,417,973,300
- Lease/Rental: $230,746,762
- Investment Interest: $132,263,906
- Farming & Grazing: $120,025,754
- Rights of Way: $118,368,185
- Land Sales: $117,157,942
- Forestry: $73,684,618
- Coal: $9,962,858
- Damages/Fines: $8,984,385
- Other: $3,974,217
- Other Minerals: $3,703,060
FY2022 Audit

For the tenth consecutive year, BTFA received an unmodified opinion on the Individual Indian Monies annual financial statements.
Records Management

• American Indian Records Repository
• AS-IA, BIA, BIE, BTFA
• Tribal treaties & trust records
• 750 million pieces of paper
• Limestone cave
• Digital Center of Excellence
  • High Speed Scanners
Financial Education/Outreach

• Partnerships
  • Financial Literacy Education Commission
  • FDIC
  • Child Tax Care Credit
  • Affordable Connectivity
  • Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

• Webinars
• Financial Empowerment Plan
Trust Evaluations

• BTFA is the Secretary's designee for conducting evaluations for Tribes that compact trust programs.
• BTFA also conducts trust records assessments for BIA and BTFA.
• In FY2022, BTFA performed 51 Tribal trust evaluations and 40 trust records assessments.
Litigation Support

- BTFA collaborates with the Office of the Solicitor - Office of Indian Trust Litigation and the Department of Justice to defend the Department against lawsuits.
- BTFA supports cases through document search, digitization, historical accounting, research, and data analysis.
- In FY2022, BTFA supported nine Federal cases filed by Tribes or individual Indians.
- 20 active cases
Probate

• BTFA is the final piece of the Indian Probate process.
• BTFA performs the full distribution of estate account balances to eligible heirs/beneficiaries.
• BTFA also works closely with BIA Probate staff to close out the BIA TAAMS Probate cases once distribution is complete.
• In FY 2022, BTFA processed 2664 estate accounts and distributed in excess of $103 million to estate beneficiaries.
Budget

FY2023
$111 million (Total Appropriation)
- $2.5 million (Indian Trust Litigation Office)
- $7.1 million (Office of Hearings and Appeals)
$101 million (Operating Budget)

FY2022
$110 million
Budget

FY2024

- $109.1 million
  - $2.174 million below FY2023 enacted level
  - 436 full-time equivalents
- Executive Direction: $200,000 to support a Deputy Chief Beneficiary Officer.
- Trust Operations — Accounting: $284,000 to support increasing cost of operations.
- Information Services: $39,000 to support IT enhancements.
- Trust Operations Management: $505,000 to manage and coordinate the core trust programs.
- OBM Equal Employment Opportunity: $614,000 for the performance of EEO services.
Employee Engagement

• Stand-up Calls
• Training Opportunities
• Best Places to Work in the Federal Government Rankings (2021)
  • BTFA ranked 110 out of 432
  • BTFA ranked 4th among DOI bureaus & offices
Beneficiary Services

• Comprehensive Beneficiary Services Plan
• Online account access
  • March 2023: Pilot Program with 4 to 6 Tribes
  • Q1 FY 2024: Online access for Tribal and IIM Accounts
• Customer Relationship Management
• Interactive Voice Response Phone System
• In-House Call Center
• Virtual Trust Service Center
• New Investment Policy Statement
• Unbanked/Electronic Payments – Debit Card
  • Transition to New York Community Bank
Trust Administration

- Electronic Records Management Program (ERMP)
  - Digitization of AIRR collection
  - Field records inventory/management
- Trust Systems Change Board – ONRR & BIA
- Trust Process Review
Electronic Records Management Program

Background Principles
ERMP is a major foundation to fulfilling Trust Responsibility, long-mandated by OMB, and affects all IA records.

Complexity
Includes the conversion of more than 1 billion pages of paper material into useable digital information – More than 800 locations/offices are involved, with diverse missions and practices, supported by various electronic applications and systems.

BTFA Responsibility
Lead for records management - Supports BIE’s and BIA’s active mission needs with records policies and procedures.

Business Case
IA has a unique records responsibility within Federal Government – BTFA has established building blocks but needs assistance and support for a comprehensive and smooth digital transformation across IA; this will ensure quality control and consistency throughout IA and allow e-records to be accessed years from now.

Planning & Components
The ERMP has nine main components – Through comprehensive and coordinated planning, resulting in an overall Program Management Plan, IA will reduce the complexity of effecting electronic records management.

Governance
Need IA Representatives (for input from all bureaus/offices) - Regular collaboration across IA will help ensure that BIA and BTFA are exemplary High Impact Service Providers that achieve efficient modernization and deliver an improved, consistent service experience for Indian Country through effective access to data and information.
OMB Mandates/Federal Requirements

• OMB memos, M-19-21, M-23- require agencies to go paperless to enable and increase public's ability to better engage with Government

• NARA provides minimum standards

• IA must also consider Agency-specific requirements, circumstances, and needs to inform ERMP processes, products, and outcomes

• Trust responsibilities, including duty to account and provide information, are a critical consideration for the ERMP (beyond NARA minimum standards)

BTFA Responsibilities

• Provides records and information management guidance to AS-IA, BIA, BIE, and BTFA for electronic as well as paper records.

• Provides policy, guidance, procedures, technical assistance, and training for Department of the Interior (DOI) organizations that create, manage, or use Indian Fiduciary Trust Records (IFTR), such as BLM, ONRR, and OHA.

• Provides technical assistance to Tribes for P.L. 93-638, as amended, programs to develop and implement a Tribal records management program.
Planning & Components

• Program Management, includes components as planning, contracting, scheduling, budget, logistics, and risk management.
• Communication, Collaboration, and Consultation
• Standards, Policies and Procedures, and (including SOP Handbooks)
• Training
• Business Process Re-Engineering
• Analysis, Research, and Products (e.g., to respond to beneficiary inquiries, FOIA requests, etc.)
• Data Governance
• Information Management and Technology
• Digitization
Boarding School Initiative

Phase One
- Developed definition of a Federal Indian Boarding School (FIBS)
- Identified and completed summaries for 408 FIBS
- Began identification of marked and unmarked burial sites
- Prepared Phase I investigative report

Phase Two
- Develop detailed school profiles
- Continue digitizing documents
- Identify funding allocated to FIBS and policies in effect from 1819-1969
- Identify marked and unmarked burial sites
- Identify students and tribal affiliation
- Report on *Road to Healing* Tour
- Issue Phase II report
- Talking Circles
Thank You