



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

Report of the Department of the Interior Conference Activities and Spending – Fiscal Year 2024

The Department of the Interior (Department or DOI) has implemented internal controls over conference spending and activities in conformance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) memorandum M-12-12 *Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations*, OMB memorandum M-17-08 *Amending OMB Memorandum and M-12-12, Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations*, and the *Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, P.L. 118-47*.

Departmental policies provide a framework of internal controls designed to mitigate risks associated with conference planning, hosting and spending, and ensure compliance with Federal travel regulations. These policies require senior management to review and approve Department, Bureau, and Office hosted or attended conference events based on the estimated total conference costs. These efforts have resulted in effective controls over conference activities and spending.

For Fiscal Year 2024, the DOI did not conduct any agency-sponsored conferences with net expenses in excess of \$500,000 which would have required a Secretarial waiver in compliance with OMB Memorandum M-17-08.

Reporting of Conferences held during Fiscal Year 2024 that exceeded \$100,000 in Net Costs

OMB M-17-08 requires, “Agencies shall report on conference expenses on a dedicated place on their official website. By January 31 of each year, the agency shall provide a description of all agency-sponsored conferences from the previous fiscal year where the net expenses for the agency associated with the conference were in excess of \$100,000.”

During Fiscal Year 2024, the DOI conducted six conferences in which expenses exceeded \$100,000. DOI carefully planned each conference to support the DOI mission, the industries it serves, and the American people. A listing of these conferences with pertinent data is provided in the Fiscal Year 2024 Conference Activity table. All agency-hosted conferences were approved by officials with delegated approval authority (per DOI guidance). Conference information and data is based on individual reporting from the relevant Bureaus and Offices.

Department of the Interior
Fiscal Year 2024 Conference Activity

Conference Title	Purpose	Dates of Conference	Location	Attendees*	Total Net Costs
2024 Reclamation Leadership Conference (RLC)	The purpose of the RLC was to provide the Bureau of Reclamation's leadership an opportunity to discuss topics related to key challenges facing the agency today and provide training to senior leadership. The conference provided a mechanism to share knowledge among Reclamation's senior leadership and front-line managers on the latest practices and complex tasks facing Reclamation. This conference helps to ensure consistency and overall management to better provide for the needs of Reclamation's stakeholders, customers, and staff.	November 13, 2023 - November 15, 2023	Austin, Texas	213	\$ 395,172.00
Regional Biosecurity Training for the US Territories, Freely Associated States, and Kiribati	The goal of the Regional Biosecurity Training in November 2023 was to convene biosecurity personnel to address biosecurity challenges locally and regionally. Biosecurity, defined as the actions necessary to prevent the arrival, establishment, and spread of invasive species, is one of the top priorities of islands in the Caribbean and Pacific regions. This training was hosted by the Government of Guam and the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS), and the U.S. Department of State. The training was a successful convening of effective and substantive engagement, and a positive step toward building a culture of regular and effective engagement with islands in the Caribbean and Pacific regions to advance shared biosecurity priorities and goals.	November 27, 2023 - December 1, 2023	Hagåtña, Guam	40	\$ 373,566.75
2023 Alaska Region Providers Conference	The Alaska Region Providers Conference helped to fulfill the mission of the Department of Interior (DOI), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) by presenting BIA officials an opportunity to interact with tribal leaders, tribal staff, and tribal service providers at one place and time, on a wide variety of programs and services administered by the BIA. The conference involved face-to-face dialogue regarding trust responsibilities, human services, transportation, contracts, grants, housing, energy, natural and cultural resources, subsistence, etc.	November 28, 2023 - November 30, 2023	Anchorage, Alaska	101	\$ 272,343.90
2023 White House Tribal Nations Summit	Building on prior Summits and the progress made to strengthen our Nation-to-Nation relationships and invest record levels of resources in Tribal communities, Indian Affairs, and the White House hosted a meaningful Summit in 2023 to engage with Tribal leaders directly on important issues facing Tribal communities. The Summit featured new Administration announcements, updates on existing priorities, and efforts to implement key policy initiatives supporting Tribal communities.	December 6, 2023 - December 7, 2023	Washington, DC	94	\$ 131,942.30
2024 National Realty Training	The purpose of the 2024 National Realty Training was to bring together all levels of the Realty field staff and provide various trainings on topics related to Indian Trust Land and Minerals. The event was designed to improve the realty field staff's knowledge, skills, and understanding in statutes, regulations, policies, record systems, and handbooks (which are updated often). In addition, the courses were recorded as a reference tool for attendees and to assist in the training of those who could not attend.	June 11, 2024 - June 13, 2024	Albuquerque, NM	231	\$ 405,395.35
2024 Territorial Climate and Infrastructure Workshop (TCIW)	TCIW event in 2024 provided federal agencies and representatives from the Insular Areas an opportunity to connect and discuss federal funding opportunities for infrastructure and climate related priorities in the U.S. territories. The 2024 TCIW continues conversations from the previous TCIW events and continues to encourage a peer-to-peer network of islands working together to collaborate, share lessons learned, successes and challenges.	July 30, 2024 - August 2, 2024	Honolulu, HI	62	\$ 437,420.91

*Per OMB M-17-08, total number of individuals (inclusive of DOI and non-DOI) whose travel expenses or other conference expenses were paid by the government.