



# Bureau of Trust Funds Administration

## Mission

The mission of the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA) is to manage the Department of the Interior’s (DOI) trust beneficiaries’ financial assets. BTFA provides fiduciary guidance, management, and leadership for Tribal trust and Individual Indian Money (IIM) accounts.

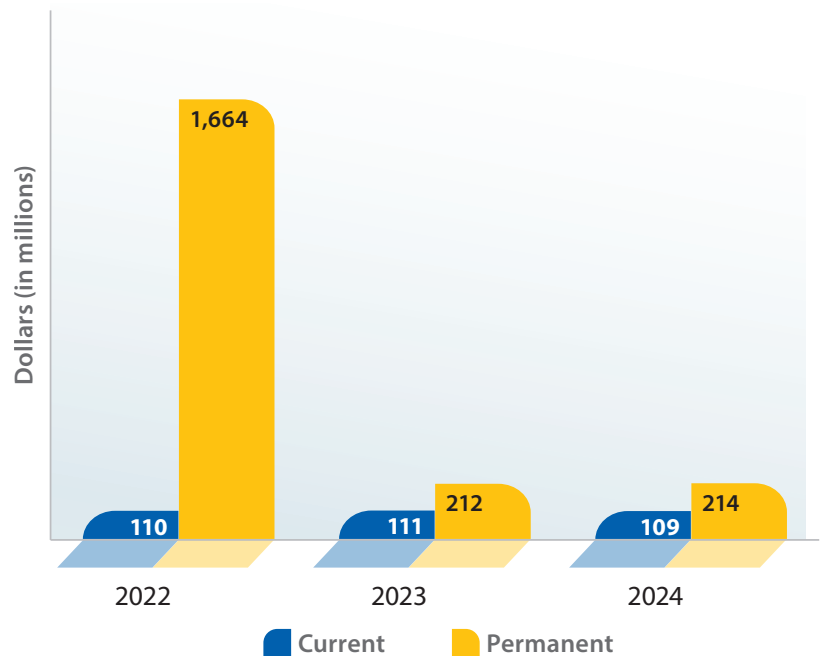
## Budget Overview

The 2024 budget totals \$109.1 million in current appropriations, \$2.2 million below the 2023 enacted amount due to a functional transfer, to support the execution of the Federal trust responsibilities to American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes, individuals, and communities. BTFA estimates staffing will total 439 full-time equivalents (FTEs) in 2024. The 2024 budget promotes investments in programs to ensure the Department is meeting its financial management trust obligations, with targeted programmatic increases to ensure effective operations and improve beneficiary services. In addition, the 2024 budget proposes to transfer the funding for the Office of Hearings and Appeals to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to better facilitate probate functions.

## Program Overview

BTFA was established within the Office of the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs (AS-IA) in 2020 to house the ongoing financial trust management functions of the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians. The 2024

## BTFA Funding



budget continues to propose BTFA as a stand-alone bureau with critical independent functions for effective management of Indian assets and service to Indian Country. In 2021, the Department held listening sessions on the future of BTFA, and the input received showed Tribes do not want BTFA or its functions eliminated, and some Tribes would like to have expanded services from BTFA. The Department looks forward to working with Congress on ensuring BTFA is fully recognized as a bureau to allow the organization to focus on its mission of serving Indian Country.

BTFA is responsible for the financial management of approximately \$8.2 billion of Indian trust funds held in about 4,100 Tribal accounts and about 408,000 IIM Accounts. Trust funds include payments from judgment awards, settlements of claims, land-use agreements, royalties on natural resource use, other proceeds derived directly from trust resources, and financial investment income. Trust financial management functions include receipting, investing, disbursing, reconciling, and reporting of trust funds on behalf of individual Indians

## BUREAU OF TRUST FUNDS ADMINISTRATION Facts



- The Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA) will continue to meet Interior’s core responsibilities for sound fiduciary trust management on behalf of individual Indians and Tribes.
- The bureau provides services to American Indians and Alaska Natives in 574 federally recognized Tribes in the 48 contiguous States and Alaska.
- BTFA will continue to manage approximately \$8.2 billion of Indian trust funds held in about 4,100 Tribal accounts and about 408,000 Individual Indian Money accounts.
- BTFA processes more than 350,000 account maintenance transactions and 4,500 probate orders (monetary estate distributions) and distributions of funds to beneficiaries annually.

and Tribes. In addition, BTFA provides document production support for lawsuits and litigation related to Tribal and IIM trust accounts.

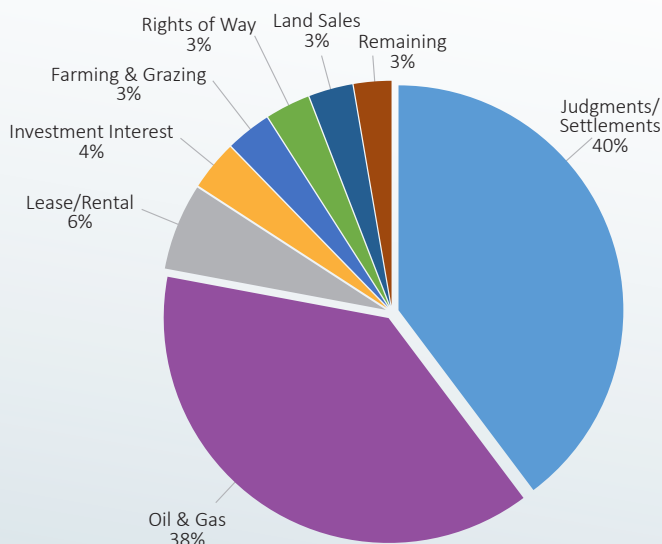
BTFA is responsible for planning and executing the historical accounting of Tribal trust accounts and IIM accounts. That work is accomplished by the Office of Trust Analysis and Research (OTAR), which also works to resolve the ownership of residual balances in Youpee Escheat accounts and special deposit accounts, as well as to distribute account balances to Tribes, individual Indians, and non-trust entities.

OTAR provides litigation support resulting from Tribal lawsuits in coordination with the DOI

Solicitor’s Office and the Department of Justice. As of October 1, 2022, eighteen trust cases that do or could involve BTFA were pending in various Federal courts regarding the Federal Government’s fiduciary trust duties.

The 2024 budget transfers the \$7.1 million in funding for the DOI Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) Probate Hearings Division from BTFA to BIA. The OHA Probate Hearings Division adjudicates Indian probate cases submitted from the BIA probate program on behalf of the Secretary, independent of BIA. This transfer will align OHA’s Probate Hearings Division function with BIA’s Probate Real Estate function, allowing DOI to more efficiently process probate cases to completion by

## Accounting & Financial Management



### FY 2022 Revenue Sources

- Judgments/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



Entrance to the National Archives facility in Lenexa, KS.

*BTFA Photo.*

improving coordination between BIA and OHA and by modifying new tools and research methods for case processing.

### **Federal Trust Programs**

The budget provides \$1.7 million for Executive Direction, including a program increase of \$200,000 for a Deputy Chief Beneficiary Officer, who will lead BTFA’s customer experience improvement efforts to continually increase its understanding of its beneficiaries, reduce administrative hurdles, enhance transparency, and create efficiencies to improve beneficiary service delivery and more directly meet the needs of the trust beneficiaries.

The 2024 budget includes \$107.3 million for Trust and Program Operations.

The Trust Operations program comprises BTFA’s primary beneficiary-facing services, including field operations, accounting operations, settlement support, trust records, and information resources functions. The budget provides a total of \$84.4 million for Trust Operations, of which \$25.3 million

is for Field Operations. Field Operations staff serve as the primary point of contact for trust beneficiaries—Tribes, individual Indians, and Alaska Natives—seeking information and services in conjunction with their trust assets. Through new online and existing services, the Field Operations program will promote equitable access for Indian trust beneficiaries by ensuring BTFA services are accessible in historically underserved communities.

The budget provides \$18.3 million, a program increase of \$284,000, for Accounting Operations, which conducts all fiduciary accounting activities—including receipting, disbursing, and reconciling—related to the trust funds managed by the Department.

Settlement Support, which funds OTAR, is funded at \$18.0 million. This funding level will allow OTAR to manage the expected workload for historical accounting for Tribal trust and IIM accounts.

The budget includes \$8.7 million in Information Resources funding to develop, maintain, and

operate the trust information technology enterprise architecture; provide day-to-day computer support to BTFA personnel nationwide; and develop and maintain applications in support of the BTFA mission. The \$39,000 program increase will directly support BTFA's unique Information Resources needs, which do not duplicate those elsewhere in the Department, including BIA.

The budget provides \$13.7 million for Trust Records. This program operates the American Indian Records Repository and provides records management training and services to BTFA, Tribes, BIA, the Bureau of Indian Education, and AS-IA. The budget includes funding for the digitization of trust records to continue ongoing work to meet Federal records retention requirements.

Trust Records also supports DOI's Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative (BSI) and its comprehensive review of Federal boarding school policies. BTFA, through Trust Records and other BTFA offices, is supporting the BSI with investigation and retrieval of relevant records, including information from 1819 to 1969 related to DOI's oversight and implementation of the Indian boarding school program. Through the BSI, the Department seeks to work with Tribal Nations to begin the long healing process through transparency and accountability.

The 2024 budget requests \$505,000 to establish a Trust Operations Management function within Trust Operations. This amount will fund a Principal Deputy Bureau Director for Trust Operations and dedicated personnel to coordinate efforts among the various Trust Operations programs. The dedicated management will allow for enhanced continuity in delivery of BTFA's unique program and services to Tribes and other BTFA beneficiaries.

Program Operations comprises BTFA's communication, policy, and training functions and its budget, finance, and administration entities. The budget requests \$22.9 million, a \$614,000 program increase for Program Operations. This amount includes \$2.6 million for the DOI Office of the Solicitor for litigation support. The budget provides \$6.8 million for the Office of Strategic Oversight and Planning, which oversees and evaluates the Indian fiduciary trust programs and manages a comprehensive system of internal controls for BTFA operations and the BTFA Strategic Planning and Project Management Office. Those functions are integral to BTFA accomplishing its unique mission and do not duplicate functions elsewhere in the Department.

Within Program Operations, the BTFA budget includes \$614,000 as part of a Departmentwide Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility initiative to address identified high-priority needs in support of Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, and Executive Order 13988, Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation. As part of this initiative, the Department, bureaus, and offices will jointly conduct a review of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility program across Interior to identify gaps, challenges, and best practices and examine Department and bureau roles, responsibilities, and governance.

### **Fixed Costs**

Fixed costs of \$3.3 million are fully funded.

## SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS

(dollar amounts in thousands)

### Comparison of 2024 Request with 2023 Enacted

	2023 Enacted		2024 Request		Change	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
<b>Current</b>						
Federal Trust Programs .....	422	111,272	436	109,098	+14	-2,174
Subtotal, Current .....	422	111,272	436	109,098	+14	-2,174
<b>Permanent</b>						
Tribal Special Fund .....	0	53,000	0	53,000	0	0
Tribal Trust Fund .....	0	159,000	0	161,000	0	+2,000
Subtotal, Permanent .....	0	212,000	0	214,000	0	+2,000
<b>Allocation and Reimbursable</b>						
Reimbursable .....	3	0	3	0	0	0
Subtotal, Allocation and Reimbursable .....	3	0	3	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL, BUREAU OF TRUST FUNDS ADMINISTRATION .....</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>323,272</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>323,098</b>	<b>+14</b>	<b>-174</b>

## HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity

### APPROPRIATION: Federal Trust Programs

	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Request	Change
Executive Direction .....	1,501	1,520	1,749	+229
Trust and Program Operations .....	108,071	109,752	107,349	-2,403
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....</b>	<b>109,572</b>	<b>111,272</b>	<b>109,098</b>	<b>-2,174</b>

