U.S. Department of the Interior

History

- Created by Congress in 1849 to:
  “take charge of the nation’s internal affairs”
- Known as “The Department of Everything Else” because of its wide and eclectic range of responsibilities

www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/utley-mackintosh/interior1.htm
Department of Everything Else

Construction of DC water system
Colonization of freed slaves in Haiti
Management of hospitals and universities
Oversight of D.C. jail
Census
Oversight of western wilderness
Indians, public lands, patents, pensions and territorial governments

Department of the Interior

Evolution

- 1879 – Creation of U.S. Geological Survey
- 1884 – Bureau of Labor (later became Department of Labor)
- 1887 – Interstate Commerce Commision
- 1902 – Bureau of Reclamation to construct dams and aqueducts in the west
- 1910 – Bureau of Mines
- 1916 – National Park Service

Department of the Interior
Evolution Continued

• 1934 – Oversight of Alaska, Hawaii, Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico
• 1935 – Hoover Dam completed
• 1940 – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
• 1950s – More islands – Guam, Samoa and Trust Territory of Pacific Islands

Department of the Interior

Recent Events

• 2001 – Gale Norton appointed first female Secretary of the Interior
• 2010 – Minerals Management Service renamed to Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement

http://www.boemre.gov/
The Department of Everything Else

Function

• Everything upon the face of God's earth will go into the Home Department," John O. Calhoun had prophesied

• "A slop bucket for executive fragments," one editorialist labeled the department.

• “Mother of Departments”

U.S. Department of Interior
Mission - 2011

• “Manage and sustain America’s lands, water, wildlife and energy resources”
• “Honor our nation’s responsibilities to tribal nations”
• “Advocate for America’s island communities”
U.S. Department of the Interior
Nuts and Bolts

• Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar
• Funding, Budget, and Appropriation
• 70,000 employees

Department of the Interior.
U.S. Department of the Interior

How Congress Spends Your Money

DOI Budget: $12 billion

National Debt Awareness Center
http://www.federalbudget.com/
U.S. Department of Interior
Offices

Eight Technical Bureaus
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement
Bureau of Reclamation
National Park Service
Office of Surface Mining
Reclamation and Enforcement
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Geological Survey

Bureaus and Offices. US Department of the Interior
http://www.doi.gov/bureaus/index.cfm
Department of the Interior
More Offices

- Environmental Policy and Compliance (Mine!)
- Alaska Affairs
- Civil Rights
- Office of Occupational Health and Safety (OSHA)
- Coordinated Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Activities
- Many, many, more...

U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC)

Mission Statement: “To provide leadership on a national and regional level for environmental policies and compliance for the nation’s premier resource management and conservation agency.”
U.S. Department of the Interior
OEPC Current Teams

• Natural Resources Management Team – NEPA Information
• Environmental Management and Integration Team - Sustainability
• Resource Protection, Preparedness and Response Team
• Environmental Cleanup and Liability Management Team