



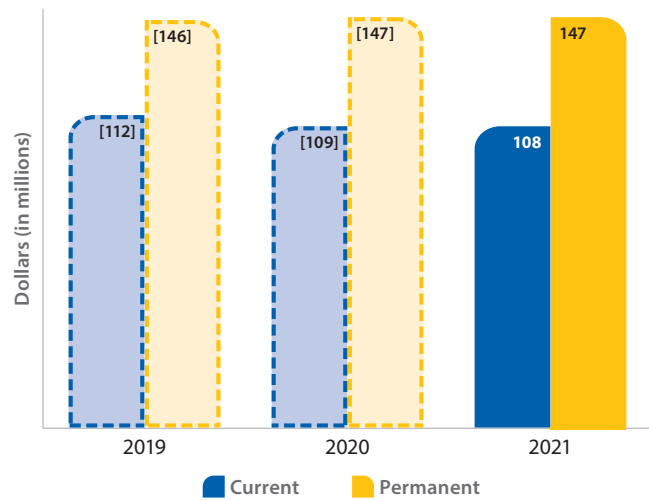
# BUREAU OF TRUST FUNDS ADMINISTRATION

**Mission**—The mission of the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA) is to honor America’s trust responsibilities by incorporating a beneficiary focus and participation while providing superior stewardship of trust assets. BTFA provides fiduciary guidance, management, and leadership for Tribal Trust and Individual Indian Money (IIM) accounts and oversees and coordinates efforts to establish consistent policies, procedures, systems, and practices throughout the Department of the Interior for the Indian Trust Administration System.

**Budget Overview**—The 2021 budget includes \$108.4 million in current appropriations. BTFA estimates staffing will total 433 full-time equivalents in 2021, including staff in the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (LBBP). The budget proposes to establish the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration within the Office of the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs and moves functions of the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) into BTFA. Budget activities previously in the OST budget are also restructured—as further detailed in BTFA’s budget justification—reflecting Interior’s successful trust reform efforts and the eventual termination of OST in accordance with the American Indian Trust Funds Management Reform Act of 1994. BTFA will become the new home for the ongoing essential functions currently performed by OST.

BTFA is responsible for the financial management of Indian trust funds, including receipt, investment, disbursement, and reporting of trust funds on behalf of individual Indians and Tribes. BTFA manages approximately \$5.5 billion, held in roughly 3,600 trust accounts for more than

## BTFA Funding



Note: Table displays FY 2019 and FY 2020 funding for similar Office of Special Trustee for American Indians programs.

250 Indian Tribes and about 406,000 open IIM accounts. In addition, BTFA provides litigation and document production support for lawsuits related to those accounts.

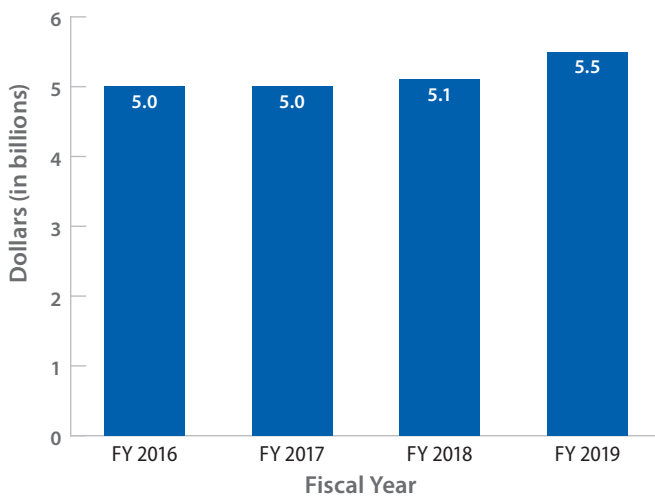
BTFA manages trust funds, which include payments from judgment awards, settlements of claims, land use agreements, royalties on natural resource use, other proceeds derived directly from trust resources, and financial investment income. BTFA has the responsibility to plan and execute the historical accounting 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 and to distribute account balances to Tribes, individual Indians, and non-trust entities.

## BUREAU OF TRUST FUNDS ADMINISTRATION Facts



- The 2021 budget proposes to establish the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration as a new bureau transitioning from the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians, which was established in 1994 by the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act.
- BTFA will continue to meet Interior's core responsibilities for sound financial trust management on behalf of individual Indians and Tribes.
- The bureau will provide services to nearly 2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives in 574 federally recognized Tribes in the 48 contiguous States and Alaska.
- BTFA will continue to manage approximately \$5.5 billion of trust funds, held in roughly 3,600 trust accounts for approximately 250 Indian Tribes and about 406,000 open Individual Indian Money accounts.

BTFA Managed Trust Fund Balances



OTAR provides litigation support resulting from the settlement of *Cobell v. Salazar* and other Tribal lawsuits, in coordination with the Department of Justice. As of January 2020, approximately 18 pending cases are filed in various Federal courts by Indian Tribes or individual Indians regarding the Federal government's fiduciary trust duties.

The LBBP is responsible for the expenditure of the \$1.9 billion Trust Land Consolidation Fund authorized by the settlement agreement in *Cobell v. Salazar*, confirmed by the Claims Resolution Act of 2010. The LBBP will work to reduce land ownership fractionation in 2021 by continuing implementation efforts at scheduled locations while effectively managing administrative costs.

**Trust and Program Operations**—The 2021 budget includes \$106.6 million for Trust and Program Operations, of which \$19.5 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.

The budget provides \$17.9 million for Accounting Operations, which conducts all fiduciary accounting activities, including receipt, disbursement, reconciliation, and financial reporting related to the trust funds managed by the Department. To manage the expected workload for historical accounting of Tribal Trust and IIM accounts, the budget includes \$17.9 million for Settlement Support, which funds OTAR.

The request includes \$8.4 million for Information Resources to fund critical IT investments to migrate the existing BTFA hardware infrastructure to a Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP)-certified, Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) moderate cloud-computing environment. It also funds operation of the trust information technology architecture. BTFA anticipates the more robust IT infrastructure will provide options for more cost-effective delivery of services within Trust Operations—Field and Accounting Operations.

The budget provides \$15.1 million for Trust Records. This program operates the American

Indian Records Repository and provides records management training and services to BTFA, Tribes, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Education, and the Office of the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs. Included in the requested amount are funds to accelerate the digitization of trust records, which will help BTFA meet new Federal records retention requirements.



American Indian Records Repository in Lenexa, KS

The budget requests \$22.9 million for Business Management, which includes BTFA’s communication, policy, and training functions and its budget, finance, and administration entities. This amount also includes \$9.7 million in passthrough funding for the Office of Hearings and Appeals and the Office of the Solicitor for litigation support. The budget provides \$4.8 million for the Office of Trust Risk, Evaluation and Compliance, which oversees and evaluates the Indian fiduciary trust programs and manages a comprehensive system of internal controls of BTFA operations.

**Management Reforms**—The 2021 budget helps to advance several significant management

reforms. The budget supports the Administration’s priority workforce goal to incentivize employee performance to better recognize high-performing employee contributions to mission achievement across the bureau. In 2021, the Department proposes to consolidate all agency ethics staffing and funding within the Departmental Ethics Office in the Office of the Solicitor. The 2021 budget therefore assumes a transfer of \$203,000 and 1 FTE associated with current bureau ethics activities.

**Fixed Costs**—Fixed costs of \$1.7 million are fully funded.

**SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS**  
(all dollar amounts in thousands)

*Comparison of 2021 Request with 2020 Enacted<sup>1/</sup>*

|   | 2020 Enacted |                  | 2021 Request |                | Change      |                 |
|---|--------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
|   | FTE          | Amount           | FTE          | Amount         | FTE         | Amount          |
| Current   |              |                  |              |                |             |                 |
| Federal Trust Programs.....                             | [417]        | [108,540]        | 404          | 108,399        | +404        | +108,399        |
| Subtotal, Current .....                                 | 0            | 0                | 404          | 108,399        | +404        | +108,399        |
| Permanent and Other                                     |              |                  |              |                |             |                 |
| Tribal Special Fund .....                               | 0            | [107,000]        | 0            | 107,000        | 0           | +107,000        |
| Tribal Trust Fund .....                                 | 0            | [40,000]         | 0            | 40,000         | 0           | +40,000         |
| Trust Land Consolidation Fund.....                      | [18]         | 0                | 29           | 0              | +29         | 0               |
| Subtotal, Permanent .....                               | 0            | [147,000]        | 29           | 147,000        | +29         | +147,000        |
| <b>TOTAL, BUREAU OF TRUST FUNDS ADMINISTRATION.....</b> | <b>[435]</b> | <b>[255,540]</b> | <b>433</b>   | <b>255,399</b> | <b>+433</b> | <b>+255,399</b> |

**HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES**  
*By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity*

**APPROPRIATION: Federal Trust Programs<sup>1/</sup>**

|   | 2019 Actual | 2020 Enacted | 2021 Request | Change   |
|---|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| Executive Direction.....                  | [1,697]     | [1,697]      | 1,766        | +1,766   |
| Trust and Program Operations .....        | [109,843]   | [109,843]    | 106,633      | +106,633 |
| TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o rescission)..... | [111,540]   | [111,540]    | 108,399      | +108,399 |
| Rescission of Prior-Year BA .....         | [0]         | [-3,000]     | 0            | [+3,000] |
| TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/rescission) .....  | [111,540]   | [108,540]    | 108,399      | +108,399 |

<sup>1/</sup> Tables display FY 2019 and FY 2020 funding for similar Office of Special Trustee programs in non-add brackets for comparison purposes.