

Secretary of the Interior Fast Facts

About the position:

- Nominated by President
- Confirmed by Congress
- Established as a department March 3, 1849, and in 1873 territorial oversight transferred from Secretary of state to Department of the Interior
- Statistics:
 - There have previously been 53 Secretaries of the Interior, Deb Haaland is the 54th
 - 50 have been men of European decent
 - 1 Latino
 - 2 women
 - 1 Native American
- Manages America's land and cultural resources and oversees agencies:
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - Bureau of Indian Education
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
 - Bureau of Reclamation
 - Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
 - Bureau of Trust Funds Administration
 - National Park Service
 - Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - U.S. Geological Survey

How does this relate to Native Americans?

- Treaties
- Executive Orders
- Length of time on this landscape for tribes: Millennia
- Length of time on this landscape for Europeans: 500+ years
- How many land treaties have been violated by US government: Unfortunately, almost all of the 370+ treaties involving land have been compromised by the United States Government
- Amount of reparations made to tribes for the land ceded, legally or illegally to the US government

Land issues in Montana focused on in this lesson:

- Badger-Two Medicine
- Kerr Dam
- Bison Range
- Crow Hunting Rights



How could the Secretary of Interior directly support tribes with these and other land issues?

- Honoring treaties: more than 370 treaties between the United States Government and sovereign American Indian nations remain in effect
- Honoring tribal sovereignty
- Supporting agencies to honor tribal knowledge for management on lands used by tribes for millennia
- Listening to tribes and their needs for health, prosperity, safety, and sanctity

Federal Policies administered through the Department of the Interior

- Reservations
- 1887 Dawes Act and Allotment
- Assimilation and Boarding Schools
- Termination and Relocation
- Self Determination

Fun Fact

- Indian Affairs Office was originally placed under the Department of War

For further research:

[History of the Department of the Interior](#)

[An Enduring Partnership: Interiors Commitment to Honoring our Nation-to-Nation Relationship with Tribes](#)

[Interior Department, Federal Partners Commit to Protect Tribal Treaty Rights](#)