

## **Summary: Investigation of Bureau of Reclamation's Workers Compensation Fraud**

**Report Date: June 15, 2015**

In July 2014, an Employee and Labor Relations Specialist with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation reported concerns that an employee who had been listed as permanently disabled, was committing possible worker compensation fraud. It was reported that the employee obtained a hunting license in 2007 and went on hunting expeditions, owned a ranch, and rode horses to help with pain management. Although the employee reported in September 2008 that his pain was under control, the employee reported in November 2008 that he had moved furniture and subsequently incurred increased back pain and was unable to work. The USBR Specialist reported the employee might be working outside of his medical restrictions and that USBR could offer the employee a job that would be suitable for the employee's injury.

During our investigation, on October 20, 2014, a doctor examined the employee at the request of the Office of Workers Compensation Program (OWCP), and determined that he was capable of sedentary, light work. USBR offered him a position as a mail and file clerk. Although the employee accepted the job offer in June 2015, USBR withdrew the job offer due to concerns that he could be injured on the job. As a result, the employee will remain in the OWCP program.

This investigation was closed with no further action.

*This is a summary of an investigative report that was issued internally to the U.S. Department of the Interior. This summary was posted to the web on October 13, 2015.*

