

# **Summary: Unfounded Allegation of an Improper Contract Award by U.S. Fish & Wildlife**

**Report Date: August 4, 2021**

**Report Number: 19-0900**

The OIG investigated concerns identified in a U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) contract audit that an employee with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) improperly awarded a purchase order to a vendor. The audit noted that the purchase order had initially been a set-aside for eligible small businesses to complete, and the vendor was not eligible to receive set-aside contracts. In addition, the audit found that the FWS employee changed the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code on the solicitation several times and questioned whether the FWS employee showed improper preference to the vendor.

We did not find any evidence of wrongdoing. The FWS employee described inadvertently changing the NAICS code when drafting the solicitation in FedBid.com; the FWS employee did not notice that the codes in the FedBid system defaulted to a set-aside solicitation rather than full and open competition. The FWS employee never intended to award the purchase order through a set-aside. Ultimately, contracting officials were notified, the codes were corrected, and the purchase order was awarded to the lowest bidder, which was the vendor in question.

This is a summary of an investigative report we issued to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Director.

