

Secretary Zinke’s claims about needing to move DOI employees out of D.C. do not have a clear justification. According to information collected by the Congressional Research Service (see Table 1 below), more than 58,000 Interior staff (about 90 percent) are already located outside of the Washington, D.C., region.

Table 1: Department of Interior Full-Time Employees in the Washington DC Region

	Inside DC Region	Outside DC Region	Total Full Time	Percentage of Employees in DC Region
USBR	55	5,154	5,209	1%
BIA	177	7,205	7,382	2%
BLM	400	9,815	10,215	4%
USFWS	743	7,919	8,662	9%
NPS	2,309	17,985	20,294	11%
USGS	1,132	6,535	7,667	15%
OSMRE	90	334	424	21%
BSEE	262	588	850	31%
Office of the Secretary	1,181	2,478	3,659	32%
BOEM	193	374	567	34%
Office of the Solicitor	187	225	412	45%
OIG	126	127	253	50%
Department of Interior Total	6,855	58,739	65,594	10%

Source: OPM’s FedScope Database, as of 30 September 2017.

Note: DC region includes Northern Virginia and portions of Maryland.

Note: Includes full-time employees only. Table does not include 2,681 part-time employees. Of these part-time employees, 209 are located in the Washington DC Region (7.7 percent of all part-time employees).

Specifically, Secretary Zinke has identified the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the most likely to move away from D.C. However, as indicated in the table above, these three offices already have more than 90 percent of their respective workforces outside of the Washington, D.C., region. In USBR’s case, only 1 percent of the workforce is in D.C. In BLM’s case, it’s 4 percent. BLM’s headquarters office in the region develops guidance and regulations, while state, district, and field offices manage and implement the bureau’s programs.