

Foreword

The Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 was enacted to improve the financial management practices of the Federal government, and to ensure the production of reliable and timely financial information for use in managing and evaluating Federal programs. The Government Management Reform Act of 1994 (GMRA) furthered the objectives of the Chief Financial Officers Act by requiring all Federal agencies to prepare and publish annual financial reports, beginning with fiscal year 1996 activities. At the same time, the GMRA authorized the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to implement a pilot program to streamline and consolidate several statutory financial management and performance reports into a single, annual Accountability Report.

The 1998 Accountability Report is the Department of the Interior's third report under the pilot OMB program. For a second year in a row, Interior is proud to report that its consolidated financial statements have received an unqualified audit opinion. The 1998 unqualified audit opinion is a tribute to the collaborative efforts of Interior's program and financial staffs in managing and reporting on the Department's financial resources.

The 1998 Accountability Report has been revised to include a detailed discussion of Interior's five strategic goals. These goals unify the diverse missions of the Department and provide the strategic direction for managing and investing taxpayer resources to protect and preserve our natural and cultural heritage for future generations.

All comments regarding the content and presentation of this report are welcome. An electronic version of the report is available on Interior's Office of Financial Management World Wide Web site (www.doi.gov/pfm).

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About the cover: Glacier National Park, Montana (photo by Deb Carey)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



Fiscal Year 1998 Accountability Report

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