



Advancing Trust Reform: New Law to Modernize Trust Asset Management

JUNE 28, 2016

1:30 to 4:00pm

MEETING ROOM

Tribal leaders have achieved a major step forward with the Indian Trust Asset Management Reform Act, signed into law on June 22, 2016). The primary feature of the new law is a Demonstration Project that empowers tribes to develop plans for trust asset management with tribal objectives and priorities. The tribal plan and regulations, when approved by Interior, can authorize the tribe to engage in surface leasing, forest management, and appraisals without any further approval of the Secretary.

The new law also creates the position of Under Secretary for Indian Affairs to supervise and coordinate trust functions that are now separate in the Office of Special Trustee, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and other divisions of Interior. The Secretary of Interior is required to consult with tribes and develop a plan for the future of the OST. Tribal leaders want to build on OST's expertise in trust fund management, and move to a system focused on tribal self-determination and economic opportunities.

This session will also briefly review different facets of the trust reform, including Department of the Interior's new Rights-of-Way Regulations; an update on the Land Buy-Back Program; reviewing land into trust issues, DOI reaching its goal of place 500,000 acres in trust; and a discussion with Office of the Special Trustee on appraisals, probate reform, and minors' trust accounts.

Moderator: NCAI President Brian Cladoosby

The Indian Trust Asset Management Reform Act

Ernie Stensgar, Vice Chairman, Coeur D'Alene Tribe

Brian Gunn, Powers, Pyles, Confederated Tribes of Colville Reservation

Updates and Discussion with the Bureau of Indian Affairs

Land to Trust, Rights of Way, Buy Back Program

Assistant Secretary Larry Roberts

Michael Black, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Katy Grounds, Senior Advisor on Tribal Relations for Land Buy-Back Program

Updates and Discussion with the Office of Special Trustee

Probate Reform

Appraisals

Minor's Trust Accounts