

# THE LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM FOR TRIBAL NATIONS

## A Brief History

The Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations works to unify fractionated tribal land bases that resulted from the failed historical policy of allotment. Fractionation affects approximately 150 locations and results in tracts of land with potentially hundreds of owners. Over the next decade, the Program and tribes will partner to help communities consolidate these lands across Indian Country.



### Cobell Settlement Agreement

The Cobell Settlement Agreement provides for a \$1.9 billion Trust Land Consolidation Fund to be used over a ten-year period to purchase fractional interests.

The Secretary of the Interior established the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations to utilize this fund. This Program, in cooperation with tribes, seeks to combat the historic fractionation problem and unify tribal lands for you, your land, and your community.

## Working for...

### YOU

#### When and how can I sell my land?

The Program will work with tribes to visit many locations over the course of a decade to appraise land and make offers to landowners. If your tribe chooses to participate in the Program, you may receive an offer packet describing your land's appraised value as well as instruction on how to sell your land.

#### How will I be paid for my land and how much?

You will receive fair market value for any land interests you decide to sell, based on your share in the whole tract, plus \$75 per offer packet. Funds will be deposited into your Individual Indian Money (IIM) account.

#### Do I have to sell my land?

No. Participation in the Program is strictly voluntary.

#### What are my next steps?

The first step is to contact the Trust Beneficiary Call Center (888-678-6836) to register your desire to sell your interests, provide your current contact information, and ask any questions you may have.

### YOUR LAND

#### What happens to my land if I choose to sell?

By selling your interests through the Program, you may create opportunities to make Indian lands more productive for tribes and the communities they serve.

Any land interests you sell will remain in trust, but ownership will be transferred to the tribe with jurisdiction over the land.

### YOUR COMMUNITY

#### Tribal development

Selling your land for tribal consolidation will allow your tribe to develop previously unusable land for economic and tribal growth. Tribes could use the land to build homes, community centers or businesses, or for other uses, such as tribal preservation.

#### Scholarships for Indian students

For each land sale, the Department of the Interior will contribute a percentage of the proceeds (up to **\$60 million**) to the Indian Education Scholarship Fund for American Indian and Alaska Native students.

Visit our website for updates and more information: [www.doi.gov/buybackprogram](http://www.doi.gov/buybackprogram)