

Interior Releases Valuation Plan for Land Buy-Back Program; Reviewed, Strengthened by The Appraisal Foundation

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As part of President Obama’s commitment to help strengthen American Indian communities, the Department of the Interior today released its revised Land Buy-Back Program Valuation Plan. The Appraisal Foundation (TAF), the nation’s foremost authority on appraisal standards and qualifications, performed a comprehensive review of the draft Plan, which was revised to incorporate all of TAF’s recommendations.

“There is no greater authority for establishing standards for appraisals and qualifications for appraisers than The Appraisal Foundation,” said Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. “TAF’s independent analysis confirms that the steps we are taking to determine fair market value for offers to landowners are cost-effective and conform to the best practices for valuation. We are grateful for their comprehensive review and have incorporated their recommendations into the Valuation Plan we will use in the months and years ahead as we work through a transparent process to provide fair market value to tribal landowners.”

The Valuation Plan will guide the methods Interior uses to determine the value of fractional lands held by Indian landowners to ensure that willing sellers are offered fair market value for their land interests. The Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (Buy-Back Program) implements the land consolidation component of the Cobell

Settlement, which made \$1.9 billion available to purchase fractionated interests in trust or restricted land from willing sellers within 10 years. Upon purchase, interests will be held in trust for tribal governments for their beneficial use.

TAF, a non-profit, non-partisan organization authorized by Congress to issue national appraiser standards and qualifications and guidance on valuation methods, found the Department’s Valuation Plan a sound approach to meeting the appraisal demands required of the Buy-Back Program.

“We are honored to participate in this historic project and to lend our expertise to the Department of the Interior and its mission to provide Indian landowners with a fair market price for their fractional lands,” said David S. Bunton, President of The Appraisal Foundation. “The Land Buy-Back Program is a massive undertaking deserving the highest quality in appraisal standards and techniques. We are pleased that the Department has incorporated all of our recommendations and we are confident that these will greatly benefit landholders for years to come.”

The Buy-Back Program has the potential to unlock millions of acres of fractionated lands for the benefit of tribal communities. Interior holds about 56 million acres in trust for American Indians. More than 10 million acres are held for individual American Indians and nearly 46 million acres are held for In-

dian tribes. The Department holds this land in more than 200,000 tracts, of which about 93,500 (on approximately 150 reservations) contain fractional ownership interests subject to purchase by the Buy-Back Program.

Because of the large number of properties involved, the Buy-Back Program plans to use mass appraisal techniques in which values are assessed simultaneously for many properties within a particular geographic area. TAF specifically analyzed and concurred with the Program’s determination that mass appraisals are the most efficient and cost-effective means to appraise similar, non-complex, vacant lands that have

comparable land sales available. At the same time, recognizing that mass appraisals may not be appropriate for all tracts, TAF also reviewed the other appraisal methodologies identified in the Plan for such instances, including project appraisals and property-specific appraisals.

The Buy Back Program Valuation Plan was developed by the Office of Appraisal Services in the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians.

The revised Valuation Plan, TAF’s analysis, and the Department’s response to specific recommendations, are available at: www.doi.gov/buybackprogram/appraisals.

Sac and Fox Elder’s Activities

NOVEMBER 13, 2013 – WEDNESDAY

The monthly **Elders Advisory Committee Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, November 13th** at the Elders Building in **Stroud**. The meeting will begin at 10am. Potluck lunch, all elders attending the meeting are encouraged to bring a covered dish.

NOVEMBER 22, 2013 – Friday

The elders will be hosting their **Annual Thanks-giving Dinner on Friday, November 22nd** at the **SFN Gymnasium**. All elders are asked to bring a covered dish or dessert and a bingo prize. We will be extending an invitation to the Sac and Fox Employees and elders from local tribes to be our guests. Mark your calendar to come out and enjoy the day with other elders.

DECEMBER 7, 2013 – SATURDAY

Annual Winter Dance and Big Ticket Raffle will be held on **Saturday, December 7th** (at the SFN Gym or Community Building-dependent on construction completion). We will be serving a traditional turkey dinner. Elders are asked to bring side dishes, concession and cake walk donations.

December 11, 2013 – WEDNESDAY

In lieu of the elders monthly Elders Advisory Committee Meeting – we will be hosting the **Annual Christmas Dinner and Gift Exchange** at the **S&F Multi-Purpose Center in Shawnee, 11:30pm – 3pm**. This event will be a catered meal (menu to be decided at November’s meeting). SFN Employees in the Shawnee area and elders from the local tribes will be our guests. We are sure to have some fun and holiday cheer at this event. Bring yourself and a bingo prize so we can have even more fun! See you there!!



MONTH of NOVEMBER 2013

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 Tomato Soup Grilled Cheese Green Beans Pear Cup
4 Beef Pot Pie Tomato Slices Peach Cup	5 Chicken Broccoli Rice Casserole Crackers Fruit Cocktail	6 Tamales Pinto Beans Chips & Salsa Pear Cup	7 Spaghetti Carrots Salad Cookie	8 Biscuit/Gravy Bacon Boiled Egg Applesauce
11 Veteran’s Day OFFICES CLOSED Veterans Dance at the gym	12 Fish Cole Slaw French Fries Fruit Cocktail	13 Liver & Onions Mac & Tomatoes Salad Pineapple Cup	14 Pinto Beans Cabbage Cornbread Banana	15 Meatloaf Baby Carrots Bread Mandarin Orange
18 Baked Ham Green Beans Sweet Potatoes Mandarin Orange	19 Salisbury Steak Mashed Potato Mixed Veggies Jello w/fruit	20 Northern Beans Carrots Macaroni salad Peaches	21 Fried Chicken Potato Salad Broccoli Pear Cup	22 Pancake Sausage Patty Boiled Egg Juice (Elders Dinner)
25 Chicken & Dumplings Pickled Beets Fruit Cocktail	26 Indian Tacos Fresh Veggies Pear Cup	27 Tuna Salad Cottage Cheese Crackers Applesauce	28 OFFICES CLOSED	29 OFFICES CLOSED

Food Distribution Program Updates



Regional Vendor Distribution Model Pilot: New Food Package

New food items from our OKC based vendor MDV Nash-Finch include Peter Pan peanut butter, Campbell’s Soups, Hungry Jack mashed potatoes, etc., no more generic Black & White labeled items of the past. Holiday Hams will be in soon!

FDPIR Income Guidelines:

New Deductions Expected to Boost Participation Nationwide

With our increased FY14 Net Monthly Income Standards, new income deduction rules were also approved in the CFR. Households that pay rent or utilities, regardless of amount, are now allowed a Standard \$300 Deduction of their Net Monthly Income that is measured against the USDA Net Monthly Income Standards. For elderly or disabled household members there is now a Medical Expense Deduction that can be claimed for all out of pocket medical expenses with no limit regarding the amount. Also there is a new Meal Deduction that can be claimed should a household member require the full time services of a home health worker.

For more information on these deductions or to see if you qualify please call **(866) 622-2310 Shawnee Office** or **(800) 256-3398 Stroud Office**.

Sac and Fox Nation Food Distribution Program

CALL TODAY
TO SEE IF YOU
QUALIFY!!!

STROUD OFFICE
(800) 256-3398

SHAWNEE OFFICE
(866) 622-2310

If at least one member of your household is Native American, you reside within our service area, and you meet our income guidelines...
You May Qualify. Call Today!!!

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