

New Releases, 1994

- Feb. 7 Bureau of Indian Affairs Budget Request of \$2.24 Billion Continues Shift of Responsibilities and Resources to Indian Tribes
- Mar. 11 Secretary Babbitt Names Faith Roessel as Deputy Assistant Secretary—
Indian Affairs



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL 1 P.M., FEBRUARY 7, 1994
Carl Shaw, (202) 219-4150

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS BUDGET REQUEST OF \$2.24 BILLION CONTINUES SHIFT OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND RESOURCES TO INDIAN TRIBES

Interior's Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Ada E. Deer said today the President's fiscal year 1995 budget request of \$2.24 billion for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) continues the shift of resources from the BIA to Indian tribes and strengthens the foundation established last year by President Clinton and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt to fulfill the federal Indian trust responsibility and the creation of a government-to-government partnership.

"By continuing to emphasize and enhance the shift of responsibilities and resources to the tribes, we are providing them with the capability and flexibility to set and implement their own goals and directly administer federal programs," Deer said.

"This budget includes a significant investment in Indian education with about one-third of BIA's Operation of Indian Programs (OIP) budget devoted to Indian education programs," she added.

The 1995 total budget authority request of \$2.24 billion for the Bureau of Indian Affairs falls slightly under the \$2.27 billion enacted for 1994. For current appropriations, the President's request is \$1.77 billion. The OIP appropriation is increased by \$9.3 million over 1994, to \$1.5 billion.

The request for Tribal Priority Allocations (TPA), the portion of BIA's budget where funding priorities for programs are determined by the tribes, totals \$447.4 million, about 30 percent of BIA's operating budget. The proposed program increase of \$8.8 million will be used for law enforcement, social services, agriculture, and other programs prioritized by the tribes at the local level. Self-governance grants of \$56.1 million are included in the TPA request and will provide funds for about 30 tribes. Contract support funds are also increased by \$4 million for a total of \$95.8 million.

--more--

Funds for education of Indian children in BIA's 186 funded schools are increased by \$15.8 million to \$514.8 million. "Quality education is an essential component in reducing unemployment, increasing self-esteem, improving community life, and increasing economic opportunities on the reservations," Deer said.

The education budget proposes distributing Indian School Equalization Formula dollars, which support basic educational programs for children in grades K through 12, based on the previous year's enrollment. The increased funding includes two new schools -- Trenton in North Dakota and Sault Ste. Marie in Michigan -- for the 1995-96 school year. Johnson-O'Malley, a supplemental education program for Indian students in public schools, will be funded at the FY 1994 level of \$24.4 million. Funding for the 22 tribally controlled community colleges is continued at \$26.9 million.

A total of \$170 million has been requested for legislated settlements to resolve long-standing tribal claims to water and lands that would be provided in a separate fund within the Indian Land and Water Rights Claims Settlements and Miscellaneous Payments to Indians appropriations. The fund will include payments for nine settlements as well as the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project and water rights negotiation and litigation studies. The request fully funds all anticipated FY 1995 requirements for implementing enacted settlements.

In human services, the BIA General Assistance program is funded at \$105.6 million. The \$5 million welfare reform planning grant program initiated in 1994 will not be continued in order to allow the Bureau to fund other priorities. Indian Child Welfare Act grants are funded at the 1994 level.

The President's budget includes \$191 million available in contract authority for Indian road construction which is funded out of the Department of Transportation Federal Highway Trust Fund. BIA's road maintenance funds are requested in the amount of \$30 million.

In natural resources, \$4.5 million is included to support the President's forest plan, \$3 million for Jobs in the Woods ecosystem restoration projects, and \$1.5 million to harvest the identified allowable backlog of approved annual timber cuts on reservations.

The Bureau continues to make progress in improving management and accountability in various areas. The 1995 request includes an increase of \$1 million for financial management, and a \$1.7 million increase to continue development and implementation of the land records history and imaging system critical to identifying ownership of allotted Indian lands.

The 1995 budget request includes a \$5.7 million reduction related to personnel streamlining and a \$7.7 million reduction resulting from administrative savings. BIA proposes to consolidate two area offices in Oklahoma and streamline other central offices and area and agency offices to provide more effective and efficient service delivery.

BIA will continue its funding for the repair of high risk dams on Indian reservations. A proposed budget of \$18 million will include corrective action to be completed on Black Rock Dam in New Mexico and Crow Creek Dam in South Dakota.

The 1995 request for construction includes \$6.9 million to complete the construction of the Sac and Fox juvenile detention center in Oklahoma. Education construction programs total \$43 million, a reduction of \$31.3 million from 1994, including a reduction in funding for one-time 1994 new school construction projects and a reduction in facilities improvement and repair. Construction will continue on seven previously funded schools, and the Bureau will have sufficient unobligated funds to complete facility improvement and repair projects on schools and law enforcement facilities.

-BIA-



BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS BUDGET REQUEST OF \$2.24 BILLION CONTINUES SHIFT OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND RESOURCES TO INDIAN TRIBES

Interior's Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Ada E. Deer said today the President's fiscal year 1995 budget request of \$2.24 billion for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) continues the shift of resources from the BIA to Indian tribes and strengthens the foundation established last year by President Clinton and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt to fulfill the federal Indian trust responsibility and the creation of a government-to-government partnership.

"By continuing to emphasize and enhance the shift of responsibilities and resources to the tribes, we are providing them with the capability and flexibility to set and implement their own goals and directly administer federal programs," Deer said.

"This budget includes a significant investment in Indian education with about one-third of BIA's Operation of Indian Programs (OIP) budget devoted to Indian education programs," she added.

The 1995 total budget authority request of \$2.24 billion for the Bureau of Indian Affairs falls slightly under the \$2.27 billion enacted for 1994. For current appropriations, the President's request is \$1.77 billion. The OIP appropriation is increased by \$9.3 million over 1994, to \$1.5 billion.

The request for Tribal Priority Allocations (TPA), the portion of BIA's budget where funding priorities for programs are determined by the tribes, totals \$447.4 million, about 30 percent of BIA's operating budget. The proposed program increase of \$8.8 million will be used for law enforcement, social services, agriculture, and other programs prioritized by the tribes at the local level. Self-governance grants of \$56.1 million are included in the TPA request and will provide funds for about 30 tribes. Contract support funds are also increased by \$4 million for a total of \$95.8 million.

Funds for education of Indian children in BIA's 186 funded schools are increased by \$15.8 million to \$514.8 million. "Quality education is an essential component in reducing unemployment, increasing self-esteem, improving community life, and increasing economic opportunities on the reservations," Deer said.

The education budget proposes distributing Indian School Equalization Formula dollars, which support basic educational programs for children in grades K through 12, based on the previous year's enrollment. The increased funding includes two new schools -- Trenton in North Dakota and Sault Ste. Marie in Michigan -- for the 1995-96 school year. Johnson-O'Malley, a supplemental education program for Indian students in public schools, will be funded at the FY 1994 level of \$24.4 million. Funding for the 22 tribally controlled community colleges is continued at \$26.9 million.

A total of \$170 million has been requested for legislated settlements to resolve long-standing tribal claims to water and lands that would be provided in a separate fund within the Indian Land and Water Rights Claims Settlements and Miscellaneous Payments to Indians appropriations. The fund will include payments for nine settlements as well as the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project and water rights

negotiation and litigation studies. The request fully funds all anticipated FY 1995 requirements for implementing enacted settlements.

In human services, the BIA General Assistance program is funded at \$105.6 million. The \$5 million welfare reform planning grant program initiated in 1994 will not be continued in order to allow the Bureau to fund other priorities. Indian Child Welfare Act grants are funded at the 1994 level.

The President's budget includes \$191 million available in contract authority for Indian road construction which is funded out of the Department of Transportation Federal Highway Trust Fund. BIA's road maintenance funds are requested in the amount of \$30 million.

In natural resources, \$4.5 million is included to support the President's forest plan, \$3 million for Jobs in the Woods ecosystem restoration projects, and \$1.5 million to harvest the identified allowable backlog of approved annual timber cuts on reservations.

The Bureau continues to make progress in improving management and accountability in various areas. The 1995 request includes an increase of \$1 million for financial management, and a \$1.7 million increase to continue development and implementation of the land records history and imaging system critical to identifying ownership of allotted Indian lands.

The 1995 budget request includes a \$5.7 million reduction related to personnel streamlining and a \$7.7 million reduction resulting from administrative savings. BIA proposes to consolidate two area offices in Oklahoma and streamline other central offices and area and agency offices to provide more effective and efficient service delivery.

BIA will continue its funding for the repair of high risk dams on Indian reservations. A proposed budget of \$18 million will include corrective action to be completed on Black Rock Dam in New Mexico and Crow Creek Dam in South Dakota. The 1995 request for construction includes \$6.9 million to complete the construction of the Sac and Fox juvenile detention center in Oklahoma. Education construction programs total \$43 million, a reduction of \$31.3 million from 1994, including a reduction in funding for one-time 1994 new school construction projects and a reduction in facilities improvement and repair. Construction will continue on seven previously funded schools, and the Bureau will have sufficient unobligated funds to complete facility improvement and repair projects on schools and law enforcement facilities.

	1994 Enacted		1995 Request		Change From 1994	
	EIE	Amount	EIE	Amount	EIE	Amount
Appropriations						
Operation of Indian Programs	10,995	1,491,805	10,645	1,501,090	-350	+9,285
Construction	358	166,979	266	83,111	-92	-83,868
Indian Land and Water Claim Settlements and Miscellaneous Payments to Indians	25	103,259	112	174,045	+87	+70,786
Indian Direct Loan Program Account	0	2,484	0	0	0	-2,484
Indian Guaranteed Loan Program Account	7	9,690	7	9,690	0	0
Technical Assistance of Indian Enterprises	0	1,970	0	1,970	0	0
Navajo Rehabilitation Trust Fund	0	2,466	0	0	0	-2,466
Subtotal, Appropriations	11,385	1,778,653	11,030	1,769,906	-355	-8,747
<i>Proposed Emergency Replenishment Supplemental</i>		<i>[12,363]</i>				
Permanents and Trusts						
Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations	449	68,102	449	69,249	0	+1,147
Indian Loan Guaranty and Insurance - Fund Liquidating Account	0	11,000	0	11,000	0	0
White Earth Settlement Fund	0	8,000	0	7,500	0	-500
Cooperative Fund (Papago)	0	560	0	550	0	-10
Operation & Maintenance of Quarters	91	6,000	91	6,000	0	0
Trust Funds	0	311,337	0	354,501	0	+43,164
Payment to Tribal Economic Recovery Fund	0	84,934	0	25,666	0	-59,268
Subtotal, Permanents & Trusts	540	489,933	540	474,466	0	-15,467
TOTAL, BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	11,925	2,268,586	11,570	2,244,372	-355	-24,214

	1994 Enacted		Uncontrollable Changes		Program Changes		1995 Request	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Tribal Priority Allocations								
Tribal Government	126	106,549	-3	+5,955	+1	+1,522	124	114,026
Human Services	226	55,786	-12	+358	+1	+83	215	56,227
Education	17	34,149	0	+97	0	+326	17	34,572
Public Safety and Justice	610	92,051	-28	+1,503	+17	+3,383	599	96,937
Community Development	105	21,375	-1	+68	+4	+420	108	21,863
Resources Management	867	64,224	-4	+2,372	+9	+1,260	872	67,856
Trust Services	534	28,323	-5	+211	+7	+775	536	29,309
General Administration	566	27,481	-69	-1,950	+9	+1,031	506	26,562
Subtotal, TPA	3,051	429,938	-122	+8,614	+48	+8,800	2,977	447,352
Other Recurring Programs								
Tribal Government	7	92,384	-7	-561	0	+4,000	0	95,823
Human Services	0	110,619	0	+25	0	-5,000	0	105,644
Education	3,906	445,582	-68	+1,577	+25	+14,290	3,863	461,449
Community Development	579	65,706	0	+2	0	-1,500	579	64,208
Resources Management	8	44,061	0	-3,768	0	-120	8	40,173
Trust Services	94	3,008	0	+52	0	0	94	3,060
Subtotal, Other Recurring Progs.	4,594	761,360	-75	-2,673	+25	+11,670	4,544	770,357
Non-Recurring Programs								
Tribal Government	0	9,209	0	0	0	-4,275	0	4,934
Public Safety and Justice	0	3,052	0	-500	0	-1,966	0	586
Community Development	1	10,688	0	+1	0	-3,961	1	6,728
Resources Management	119	29,738	0	+20	0	-2,091	119	31,849
Trust Services	130	33,782	-20	-16,264	-14	-600	96	16,918
Subtotal, Non-Recurring Progs.	250	86,469	-20	-16,743	-14	-8,711	216	61,015
BIA Central Office Operations								
Tribal Government	60	3,665	-3	-238	0	0	57	3,427
Human Services	12	1,315	0	+5	0	0	12	1,320
Public Safety and Justice	29	2,899	0	+16	0	0	29	2,915
Community Development	20	1,151	-1	-26	0	0	19	1,125
Resources Management	49	3,867	0	+120	0	0	49	3,987
Trust Services	131	19,625	0	-745	+17	+2,750	148	21,630
General Administration	566	50,014	-59	-3,881	+19	+2,712	526	48,845
Subtotal, Central Office Ops.	867	82,536	-63	-4,749	+36	+5,462	840	83,249
BIA Area Office Operations								
Tribal Government	28	2,320	-6	-476	0	+74	22	1,918
Human Services	28	1,628	-3	-17	0	-2	25	1,609
Public Safety and Justice	12	988	0	-78	0	-43	12	867
Community Development	86	4,449	-5	+178	0	-80	81	4,547
Resources Management	61	4,320	+12	+15	+8	+77	81	4,412
Trust Services	273	12,381	-18	-474	+1	-17	256	11,890
General Administration	644	36,545	-193	-7,604	0	+191	451	29,132
Subtotal, Area Office Ops.	1,132	62,631	-213	-8,456	+9	+200	928	54,375
Special Programs and Pooled Overhead								
Human Services	0	2,593	0	0	0	-858	0	1,735
Education	234	14,103	-2	+58	0	0	232	14,161
Public Safety and Justice	13	2,494	-7	-1,343	0	0	6	1,151
Community Development	18	3,513	0	-88	0	0	18	3,425
Resources Management	0	2,128	0	0	0	0	0	2,128
General Administration	0	44,040	+48	+15,917	0	+2,185	48	62,142
Subtotal, Special Progs.	265	68,871	+39	+14,544	0	+1,327	304	84,742
Subtotal, Direct Programs	10,159	1,491,805	-454	-9,463	+104	+18,748	9,809	1,501,090
Reimbursable Program	836	0	0	0	0	0	836	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	10,995	1,491,805	-454	-9,463	+104	+18,748	10,645	1,501,090

Highlights of Program Changes

	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Tribal Priority Allocations	+48	+8,800
<p>Program-specific increases include the Law Enforcement Program (+1,100) to meet operating and transition expenses of three new juvenile detention centers, scheduled to be completed in 1994: Tuba City, Chinle, and Oglala Sioux; and the Water Resources Program (+400) to provide resources for a water project for the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes of Florida as a part of the Department-wide restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem. A tribal priority general increase is requested (+5,300; +48 FTE), which has been allocated based on local tribal priorities; and an increase (+2,000) to cover non pay-related inflationary cost increases.</p>		
Other Recurring Programs	+25	+11,670
<p>Tribal Government An increase is requested in contract support (+4,000) for expanded and new program contracts as well as to cover adjustments in indirect cost rates.</p>		
<p>Human Services A decrease is reflected in Welfare Assistance Grants (-5,000) for the one-time grant program provided in 1994 for planning local welfare reform strategies.</p>		
<p>Education The additional resources requested for School Operations (+14,290; +25 FTE) include an increase in ISEP funds (+9,065; +25 FTE) to cover students in two new schools (Trenton and Saulte Ste Marie), and to provide an increase per weighted student unit. Decreases include Program Adjustments (-500) for teacher/leadership training in the Effective Schools model, and the Early Childhood Development Program (-1,000) due to a lack of appropriate facilities. There is an increase in student transportation (+2,000) for the projected increase in student enrollment and additional mileage for extracurricular activities; and an increase in Administrative Cost Grants (+4,725) to reflect the increased funding levels in school operations programs under grants and contracts.</p>		
<p>Community Development There is an increase in the Facilities Operation and Maintenance program (+500) to support new Bureau-owned detention facilities.</p> <p>The decrease in the Housing Improvement Program (-2,000) will allow tribes to make progress on reducing unexpended balances.</p>		
<p>Resources Management Decreases are reflected under Rights Protection Implementation for the Western Washington (Boldt) case (-100) for the one-time funding provided in 1994 for forest planning activities for the Pacific Northwest tribes; and Tribal Management Development Programs (-20) for the one-time funding provided in 1994 for the Pyramid Lake Tribe for payment of fees for the Tribe's settlements.</p>		
Non-Recurring Programs	-14	-8,711
<p>Tribal Government The Self-Determination Technical Assistance Grants program will not be funded in 1995 (-4,275). The primary objective of the grant program has been to help tribes acquire administrative capabilities to contract programs. Since the majority of program funds are contracted, the need for these grants is reduced and can be met within the expanded funding levels for Tribal Priority Allocations.</p>		
<p>Public Safety and Justice The decrease in Special Tribal Courts (-1,466) will eliminate this program. The remaining funds will support the five existing appellate courts. A decrease is also reflected in Special Law Enforcement (-500), eliminating matching funds for the purchase of tribal law enforcement vehicles. Tribes may use increased funding in Tribal Priority Allocations to purchase law enforcement vehicles at their discretion.</p>		

FTE Amount

Community Development

The decrease in the Business Enterprise Development Program (-3,961) will terminate this program. The Bureau will continue to rely on the Loan Guarantee and Community and Economic Development Grant programs to provide capital and resources to support economic development.

Resources Management

The Prairie Dog Program (-1,536; -1 FTE) will be phased out as the population of prairie dogs has been significantly reduced since the inception of the Bureau-wide program in 1985. The remaining funds will satisfy the settlement agreement with the Oglala Sioux Tribe. The decrease for the Gila River Farms Project (-173) reflects projected increases in crop production and revenues that will reduce the need for operating subsidies in 1995.

A total increase of \$3,500 is requested in Forest Woodland Management for: the President's Forest Plan (+1,500) and the Jobs in the Woods Program (+2,000). An increase is also requested for the Endangered Species program (+300; +1 FTE) to consolidate and coordinate the Bureau's role in protecting approximately 50 threatened and endangered species on more than 100 reservations nationwide.

Trust Services

The decrease for Probate Backlog (-400; -16 FTE) reflects recent progress in reducing the backlog. The decrease in Waste Management (-200) is an adjustment for the completion of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Midnite Mine reclamation plan. The staffing increase in this program (+2 FTE) is to establish positions in the cleanup of landfills on Indian reservations.

+36 +5,462

Central Office Operations**Trust Services**

Increases are requested for Land Records Improvement (+1,750; +7 FTE) to continue the land records history and imaging system project, and Financial Trust Services (+1,000; +10 FTE) to provide resources to support activities associated with correcting material weaknesses.

General Administration

Increases are requested in Executive Direction (+90) to fully fund the salary and related expenses of the Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs; and Administrative Services (+1,322; +4 FTE) to address material weaknesses and other management improvements in areas of: personal property (+405), procurement automation (+220), fixed asset inventory (+250), records and directives (+292; +2 FTE), CFO Act implementation (+25), and contracts and grants management (+130; +2 FTE). The increase requested in Financial Management (+1,000; +15 FTE) will address the remaining staffing requirements which have been identified as essential to provide accountability for over \$2.4 billion in appropriations and receipts. The increase requested in ADP Central System Support (+300) is for the training of users and systems operation on automated systems throughout the Bureau.

Area Office Operations

Area Offices have made minor program adjustments, which net to zero, to reflect actual program operations in the offices (Tribal Government +74; Human Services -2; Public Safety and Justice -43; Community Development -80; Resources Management +77; Trust Services -17; and General Administration -9). In addition, an increase is requested in General Administration (+200) for the Tribal Budget System

+9 +200

Resources Management

The increase in Forestry (+8 FTE) is to implement the President's Forest Plan.

Trust Services

An increase is requested in financial trust services (+1 FTE) to support activities associated with the correction of material weaknesses.

Special Programs and Pooled Overhead**Human Services**

The decrease in the Child Protection and Family Violence program (-858) adjusts for the one-time costs in 1994 for informational videos, handbook, and training of personnel.

+1,327

General Administration

Increases are requested for Intra-Governmental Billings for FTS 2000 (+720) and Human Resources Development (+1,465) for enhanced training of BLA personnel. This increase includes an expanded Indian Student Intern and Cooperative Program to recruit future employees with the skills needed to manage the BLA's complex and varied responsibilities.

APPROPRIATION: Construction

Summary of Requirements

	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Appropriation enacted, 1994			358	166,979
Uncontrollable Changes				
FTE Usage Reduction	-12	0		
Additional Cost in 1995 of the January 1995 Pay Raise		+31		
One less Paid Day in FY 1995		-10		
CSRS/FERS Retirement Costs		+34		
One-Time Changes		-31,147		
Transfer FTE Allocation to Bureau of Reclamation	-80	0		
Program Changes (detailed below)			0	-52,776
Total Requirements			266	83,111

	1994 Enacted		Uncontrollable Changes		Program Changes		1995 Request	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Tribal Government Construction	0	5,338	0	-2,238	0	-700	0	2,400
Education Construction	88	74,355	-12	+27	0	-31,355	76	43,027
Public Safety and Justice	0	13,600	0	0	0	-4,700	0	8,900
Resources Management Construction	105	64,056	0	-28,881	0	-14,391	105	20,784
General Administration	0	9,630	0	0	0	-1,630	0	8,000
Subtotal, Direct Program	193	166,979	-12	-31,092	0	-52,776	181	83,111
Reimbursable Program	85	0	0	0	0	0	85	0
FTE Allocation to BuRec	80	0	-80	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	358	166,979	-92	-31,092	0	-52,776	266	83,111

Tribal Government Construction

The decrease in Contract Support (-700) reflects the reduced construction activities in 1995.

Education Construction

Decreases are reflected in New School Construction (-13,000) as the next school on the New School Priority List is estimated to cost \$26 million and phased funding is not recommended; Employee Housing (-4,239) for completion of the Ramah Navajo project in 1994; and Advance Planning and Design (-4,000). A decrease is also reflected in Facilities Improvement and Repair (-10,116) since many projects previously funded remain in various stages of design and will not be ready for construction until 1995.

Public Safety and Justice

The decrease in Law Enforcement Construction (-4,700) reflects completion of the Chinle, Tuba City, and Oglala Sioux projects in 1994. The request will provide sufficient resources to complete the Sac and Fox Juvenile Detention Facility during 1995.

Resources Management Construction

Decreases are reflected for the following irrigation projects: San Carlos (-1,500); Ute Mountain Ute (Dolores) (-3,000); Gila River Farms (-1,816); Fort Belknap (-1,000); Salt River Pima Maricopa (-1,430); Colorado Indian Tribes (-1,900); Fort McDowell (-695); the Hogback (-200); Jemez (-700); and Walker River (-650). Work on these projects will be continued in 1995 using unexpended balances. The decrease in Fish Hatchery Rehabilitation (-1,500) adjusts for one-time 1994 projects.

General Administration

The decrease in Land Acquisition (-180) adjusts for the one-time funding provided in 1994 for land acquisition for the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe. A decrease is proposed in the Bennett Freeze Housing Improvements (-1,450) pending completion of the survey of housing needs in this area.

FTE Amount
-700

-31,355

-4,700

-14,391

-1,630



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
For Immediate Release: March 11, 1994

Carl Shaw, 202 219-4150

SECRETARY BABBITT NAMES FAITH ROESSEL AS DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY - INDIAN AFFAIRS

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt today announced the appointment of Faith Roessel, a licensed attorney and enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs in the Department of the Interior.

"I am highly pleased that Faith Roessel has agreed to join the Department as my deputy," Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Ada Deer said. "She is a most welcome addition to our team and I look forward to utilizing her talents and legal knowledge in assisting tribal governments in the protection of their trust assets and their quest to become self-sufficient."

Roessel said she looked forward to working with Secretary Babbitt, Assistant Secretary Deer, and tribal leaders throughout the country in providing the best of services to Indian people. "I know this Administration is dedicated to the protection of the land and other natural resources of Indian tribes, and I am honored to have been asked to serve," she said.

Roessel comes to Interior after serving three years as Director of the Washington office of the Navajo Nation where she directed the legislative strategy of her tribe's budget and annual appropriations initiatives before the Congress. From 1987 to 1991 she served as senior staff attorney with the Native American Rights Fund in their Washington office where she represented Indian tribes and groups before the Congress, federal agencies, law judges, and federal courts.

The new Deputy Assistant Secretary served as Legislative Assistant to U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) from 1983 to 1987. For two years previous she was an associate in the law firm of Vlassis and Ott in Phoenix, Arizona, a firm that served as General Counsel to the Navajo Nation.

Roessel earned her B.A. in Sociology from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, in 1978. She was awarded a J.D. in 1981, from the University of New Mexico School of Law in Albuquerque. Roessel is a board member of the American Bar Association's

Commission on Opportunities for Minorities in the Profession and is the Chair of the ABA Multicultural Women Attorneys Network. She is also a board member of the Arizona State University School of Law Indian Advisory Board and serves on the board of Americans for Indian Opportunity.

Roessel and her husband Matthew Slater have one child and reside in Bethesda, Maryland.

-BIA-