THE COBELL SETTLEMENT

The long running Cobell v. Salazar class action lawsuit involving the trust administration of Individual Indian Money (IIM) Accounts was finally settled in December 2009 after 14 years of litigation. The Cobell Settlement was approved by Congress and the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 was signed by President Obama on December 8, 2010. The Settlement became effective on November 24, 2012, after appeals were exhausted through the U.S. Supreme Court.

It is important to understand that the Cobell Settlement is a two-sided agreement. For their part, Indian people who either currently have or have had in the past an IIM account, or owned an interest in trust land may share in a payment of $1.5 billion. The Department of the Interior (DOI) for its part of the Settlement received $1.9 billion to be used for two things—$1.5 billion for purchasing undivided trust interests in trust allotments owned by individual Indians and returning those interests to the tribe with jurisdiction, plus up to $285 million for program implementation (including $60 million to the tribe with jurisdiction, plus up to $285 million for program implementation) for the education of Indian students that would be generated as a matching amount from the purchase of the trust interests, and funds to support the work of the Trust Reform Commission for developing recommendations for future changes in trust management.

The completed package must be postmarked by the date shown here in the letter. If postmarked later, it may not be processed.

YOUR GRANTOR ID NUMBER AND NAME

- The ID number and name must both be correct or you should contact the Trust Beneficiary Call Center (TBCC) immediately at 1-888-678-6836.

YOUR DECISION

- If you choose to sell none of your interests, you do not need to do anything further.
- If you choose to sell some, but not all, of your interests listed on the Purchaseable Interest Inventory, you will be paid fair market value for the tracts you choose to sell, plus an additional payment of $75 for your time in completing the package.
- If you choose to sell all of the interests listed on the Purchaseable Interest Inventory, you will be paid the fair market value shown in this line, plus an additional $75 for your time in completing the package.

IF YOU CHOOSE TO SELL

- The completed package must be postmarked by the date shown here in the letter. If postmarked later, it may not be processed.

THE LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM FOR TRIBAL NATIONS

As part of the Cobell Settlement, this program is aimed at reducing the level of fractionation in trust allotment land titles. The Program will only purchase undivided trust and restricted fee interests from individual owners who are willing to sell and return those interests to the tribe with jurisdiction over the allotment. The Program has until November, 2022 to purchase $1.5 billion of these interests. As currently designed, the Program will work reservation-by-reservation conducting appraisals and making offers to individual land-interest holders.

WHY THIS PUBLICATION

Part of the mission of the Indian Land Tenure Foundation is to inform individual Indian landowners so that they can make wise decisions regarding their land ownership and management. While the Foundation does not take a position on whether a landowner should sell or not sell their interests, we do believe understanding the forms that you will receive from the Department of Interior is the first step in your decision making. This publication has been created to assist you in understanding those forms.

Cover Letter and Instructions

YOU MUST DECIDE QUICKLY

The offer is only good for the 45 days after this date on the letter.

LANDOWNER INCOME REPORT (not pictured)

- This report will show your income (excluding oil and gas royalties) on leased tracts in which you own interest.
- You may request this report from the Trust Beneficiary Call Center (TBCC) at 1-888-678-6836.

Important Documents to Know About:

OFFER PACKET DOCUMENTS

- Cover Letter and Instructions
- Deed
- Exhibit A: Purchaseable Interests Inventory
- Tract Maps

POST-PURCHASE DOCUMENTS

- Acknowledgement Notice

AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

- Landowner Income Report
- Exhibit B: Approval of Conveyance
- Conveyed Interests Report

Informing Indian Landowners
On the Land Buy-Back Program
How to Complete the Buy-Back Program Deed

YOUR NAME, ID NUMBER, AND NAME ON SIGNATURE LINE
• Check all three items to be sure each is accurate.
• The names should be your full legal name.
• If the typed information is incorrect, contact TBCC at 1-888-678-6836 for instructions.

DO NOT SIGN THE DEED UNTIL YOU ARE WITH THE NOTARY PUBLIC
When the notary asks you to, sign your name exactly as it appears on the deed.

NOTARIES AVAILABLE
• Notaries are available at no cost at BTFA (formerly known as OST) offices.

BRING YOUR ID AND THE DEED TO A NOTARY PUBLIC
• Ask the Notary if their commission is current.
• Bring your ID.

• If the typed information is incorrect, contact TBCC at 1-888-678-6836 for instructions.

DO NOT SEND COPIES
• You must return the original signed and notarized deed for the sale to be processed.
• You may make a copy of the deed for your records if you wish.

DO NOT SIGN THE DEED UNTIL YOU ARE WITH THE NOTARY PUBLIC
When the notary asks you to, sign your name exactly as it appears on the deed.

BE AWARE
• You may make a copy of the deed
• You must return the
• The Notary Public will complete the remainder
• Remember to bring your ID.
• Ask the Notary if their commission is current.

BRING YOUR ID AND THE DEED TO A NOTARY PUBLIC (formerly known as OST) offices.
• Notaries are available at no cost at BTFA

• If the typed information is incorrect, contact TBCC at 1-888-678-6836 for instructions.

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• Notaries are available at no cost at BTFA (formerly known as OST) offices.

BRING YOUR ID AND THE DEED TO A NOTARY PUBLIC
• Ask the Notary if their commission is current.
• Remember to bring your ID.
• The Notary Public will complete the remainder of this form after they see you sign it.

DO NOT SEND COPIES
• You must return the original signed and notarized deed for the sale to be processed.
• You may make a copy of the deed for your records if you wish.

DO NOT SIGN THE DEED UNTIL YOU ARE WITH THE NOTARY PUBLIC
When the notary asks you to, sign your name exactly as it appears on the deed.

BE AWARE
• If you’re not the person named on the deed, you cannot sign the deed.

Exhibit A: Purchasable Interests Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Tract ID</th>
<th>Tract</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
<th>Interest</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Contribution Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>345 M 0000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.003819464</td>
<td>95.49</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>345 M 0001</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.023437500</td>
<td>546.75</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>345 M 0002</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.333333333</td>
<td>8,373.33</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHOOSE WHAT YOU WANT TO SELL
• Only fill in the bubble(s) for the tract(s) which you want to sell.
• Use only black or blue ink.

ACREAGE
• This column indicates the total acreage of the tract or allotment that you have an interest in.

CORRESPONDING TRACTS
• These item numbers and tract ID numbers correspond on the two forms.

SEND ALL PAGES
• You must return the original pages of both parts of the Inventory for the sale to be processed.
• Keep a copy for your records.
### Acknowledgement Notice

**POST-PURCHASE DOCUMENT**

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**Land Buy Back Program for Tribal Nations**  
**BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS**  
**3/26/2014**

**ADDRESS**  
**Deed ID 345 4000000001**  
**Date: 02/26/2014**  
**Page: 1 of 1**

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**Thank you for your participation in the Land Buy Back Program for Tribal Nations. The recent sale of your interests through the Land Buy Back Program will not only help to create opportunities and support education, workforce development, and economic growth for the Tribe and the community at large, but also to address and reduce the fractionalization of tribal lands.**

This notice acknowledges your interest in the program and confirms your decision to sell your land. To ensure the accuracy of our records, please review the attached information carefully.

If you have any questions, please contact the Tribal Beneficiary Counsel at 888-678-6836 or visit our website at [www.indianland.com](http://www.indianland.com).

---

**TOTAL OF SALE**

- **This total sum paid for the interests you chose to sell plus $75.**

---

**CONFIRMATION OF YOUR SALE OF INTERESTS**

- **If all forms are returned on time and have been completed correctly, the sale will be processed within 60 days of the return-by date for offers (contingent on the availability of funding), and you will receive an Acknowledgement Letter confirming the sale.**
- **Keep this letter for your records.**
- **If an offer does not get approved by the Program, you will receive notification and will retain ownership of your relevant interests.**

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**Exhibit B: Approval of Conveyance**

**AVAILABLE FROM BIA REALTY OFFICE UPON REQUEST**

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**CONVEYANCE AND CONVEYED INTEREST REPORT**

**Offer Number: 100**  
**Deed ID 345 4000000001**

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**PORTION OF INTEREST YOU OWN**

- **This column shows the share of the tract that you hold, converted to a decimal.**
- **If you would like to understand that in terms of acreage, you can multiply the total acres in the tract by the ownership interest (Example: 320 acres x .0003819 equals approx. 0.12 acres).**
- **Keep in mind that your interest is undivided from all others in the same tract so the land is not physically divided into small pieces. You hold a share of the tract; you do not own specific acres in it.**

---

**FAR MARKET VALUE**

- **This column shows the fair market value for your ownership interest as determined through an appraisal.**
- **This is the value that you are being offered for selling this interest and it is non-negotiable.**
- **To determine the value of the entire allotment, divide the interest value by the ownership interest (Example: $95.49 divided by .000381944 equals approx. $250,000).**

---

**WHEN THE APPRAISAL HAPPENED**

- **This shows the date of the approved appraisal that was used to determine the value the tract or allotment.**
- **You may call the TBCC to request a copy of the appraisal report.**

---

**INTERESTS HELD AND OFFERED TO PURCHASE**

- **This shows the interest you own that the Program is offering to buy. Not all interests may be listed in this Inventory. If you are interested in selling additional interests, call the TBCC and identify yourself as a willing seller.**
- **There are three possibilities: surface only, minerals only, and both mineral and surface.**
- **Mineral and surface ownership cannot be separated in this Program—if you choose to sell a tract with both Minerals and Surface interests, both interests will be sold together.**
- **If you want to know whether you are earning lease income from any of the listed interests, you may call the TBCC at 1-888-678-6836 to get the information or request a copy of your Landowner Income Report.**

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**INFORMING INDIAN LANDOWNERS ON THE LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM**

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**Land Buy Back Program for Tribal Nations**  
**BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS**  
**3/26/2014**

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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
**INFORMING INDIAN LANDOWNERS ON THE LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM**  
**Page: 1 of 1**  
**Date: 02/26/2014**

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**You may request and review your Approval of Conveyance and Conveyed Interest Report—this is your receipt.**

- **This amount should be the total sum of the interests you chose to sell.**

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**Sample**

**Approved Conveyance**

**Available from BIA Realty Office upon request**

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**You may request this report**

- **You may call the TBCC at 1-888-678-6836 to request your Approval of Conveyance and Conveyed Interest Report.**
- **Review your Conveyed Interests Report carefully for details about the land title interests that you sold and keep for your records.**

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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
**INFORMING INDIAN LANDOWNERS ON THE LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM**  
**Page: 1 of 1**  
**Date: 02/26/2014**

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**By John Doe**

Thank you for your participation in the Land Buy Back Program for Tribal Nations. The recent sale of your interests through the Land Buy Back Program will not only help to create opportunities and support education, workforce development, and economic growth for the Tribe and the community at large, but also to address and reduce the fractionalization of tribal lands.

This notice acknowledges your interest in the program and confirms your decision to sell your land. To ensure the accuracy of our records, please review the attached information carefully.

If you have any questions, please contact the Tribal Beneficiary Counsel at 888-678-6836 or visit our website at [www.indianland.com](http://www.indianland.com).

---

**PORTION OF INTEREST YOU OWN**

- **This column shows the share of the tract that you hold, converted to a decimal.**
- **If you would like to understand that in terms of acreage, you can multiply the total acres in the tract by the ownership interest (Example: 320 acres x .0003819 equals approx. 0.12 acres).**
- **Keep in mind that your interest is undivided from all others in the same tract so the land is not physically divided into small pieces. You hold a share of the tract; you do not own specific acres in it.**

---

**FAIR MARKET VALUE**

- **This column shows the fair market value for your ownership interest as determined through an appraisal.**
- **This is the value that you are being offered for selling this interest and it is non-negotiable.**
- **To determine the value of the entire allotment, divide the interest value by the ownership interest (Example: $95.49 divided by .000381944 equals approx. $250,000).**

---

**WHEN THE APPRAISAL HAPPENED**

- **This shows the date of the approved appraisal that was used to determine the value the tract or allotment.**
- **You may call the TBCC to request a copy of the appraisal report.**

---

**INTERESTS HELD AND OFFERED TO PURCHASE**

- **This shows the interest you own that the Program is offering to buy. Not all interests may be listed in this Inventory. If you are interested in selling additional interests, call the TBCC and identify yourself as a willing seller.**
- **There are three possibilities: surface only, minerals only, and both mineral and surface.**
- **Mineral and surface ownership cannot be separated in this Program—if you choose to sell a tract with both Minerals and Surface interests, both interests will be sold together.**
- **If you want to know whether you are earning lease income from any of the listed interests, you may call the TBCC at 1-888-678-6836 to get the information or request a copy of your Landowner Income Report.**
Summary of Highlights

- The offer to sell your ownership interests is strictly voluntary—you decide if you want to sell.
- All completed and notarized original forms must be returned/postmarked within the 45-day deadline in order for the sale to be processed.
- Fill out the Deed, but don’t sign it until you’re in front of the Notary Public. Be sure to sign your name exactly as it is typed on the deed.
- Return the original signed and notarized deed, and all original pages of both parts of Exhibit A: Purchase Interests Inventory, in the self-addressed postage prepaid envelope provided in your offer package.
- Once your completed forms are received, it may take up to 60 days after the return-by date to complete the sale (contingent on the availability of funding), after which you will receive anAcknowledgment Notice.
- You may request your Conveyed Interests Report. Review carefully for details about the land title interests that you sold—this is your receipt.

Resources

LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM
Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations
www.doi.gov/buybackprogram
Trust Beneficiary Call Center (TBCC)
1-888-678-6836
Hours of Operation: M-F 7:00 am - 6:00 pm
Sat. 8:00 am - Noon, Mountain Time
Fiduciary Trust Officer at your agency
can be found at:
https://www.doi.gov/ost/our-regional-offices

COBELL SETTLEMENT INFORMATION
Indian Trust Settlement
P.O. Box 9577,
Dublin, OH 43017-4877
1-800-961-6109
www.cobellsettlement.com
www.indiantrust.com
info@IndianTrust.com

WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN
Make sure your IIM account information is up
to date. Call the TBCC (1-888-678-6836) or visit
the ITFA website (www.doi.gov/ost) if your name
or address has changed. Tell your friends and rela-
tives to do the same.

OTHER RELATED RESOURCES
Indian Land Consolidation Act
(Cornell Law Website)
www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/25/chapter-24
AIPRA
(Tribal Court Clearinghouse website)
www.tribal-institute.org/lists/understanding.htm

The Indian Land Tenure Foundation (ILTF) is a national, community-based organization focused on American Indian land recovery and management. ILTF’s primary aim is to ensure that all reservation and important off-reservation lands are owned and managed by Indian people and Indian nations.

As a community foundation, ILTF relies on funding from private foundations and donations from Indian nations, corporations and individuals to support its programming in Indian Country. Please consider making a donation to the Indian Land Tenure Foundation today.

To learn more about our work and programs and to make a donation, visit our website at: www.iltf.org.