



L A N D

B u y - B a c k P r o g r a m

f o r



T R I B A L N A T I O N S

2015 Listening Session  
March 19, 2015



[www.doi.gov/buybackprogram](http://www.doi.gov/buybackprogram)

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# What is the Buy-Back Program?

Created to implement the **land consolidation** component of the **Cobell Settlement Agreement**.

The Settlement provided a **\$1.9 billion fund** to purchase:

- fractionated interests
- in trust or restricted land
- at fair market value
- from willing sellers
- within a 10-year period

Keeps land in trust - purchased interests are immediately held in trust for the recognized tribe that exercises jurisdiction over the land.



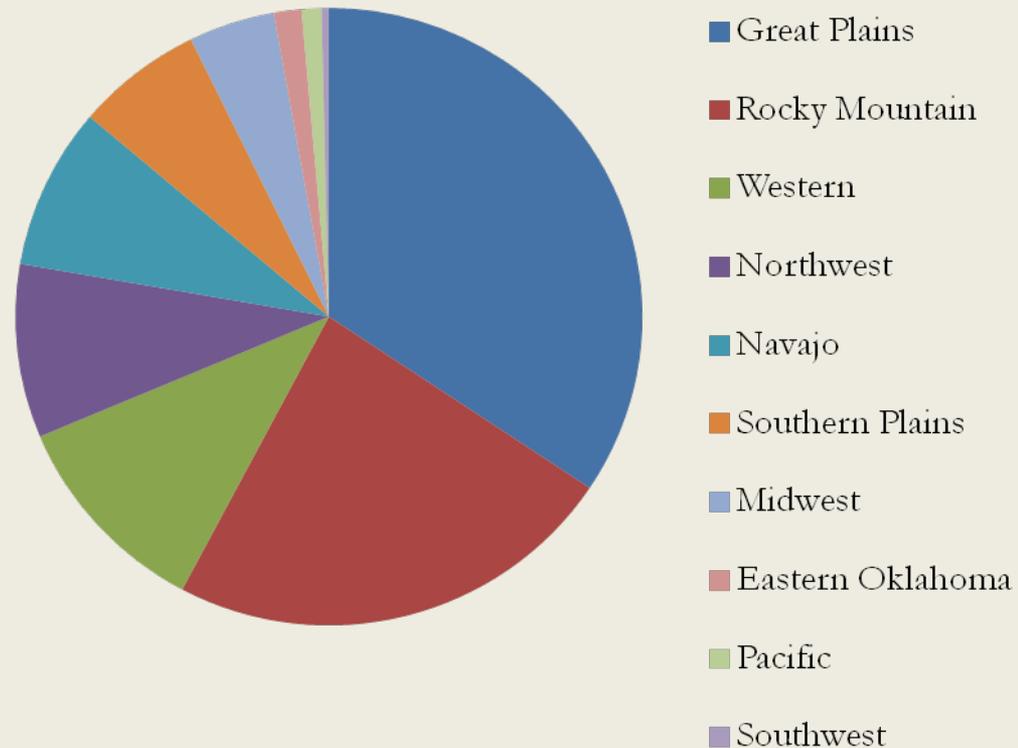
President Barack Obama with the late American Indian Activist Elouise Cobell

# What lands are involved in the Program?

- Interior holds in trust more than **56 million acres** for tribes and individual American Indians.
- This land is held in more than 200,000 tracts, of which **about 93,500** contain fractional ownership, involving approximately **150 reservations**.
- Approximately **243,000 unique owners** spread across the U.S.
- Approximately **90%** of the fractionated lands available to purchase are in **40** of the 150 locations.

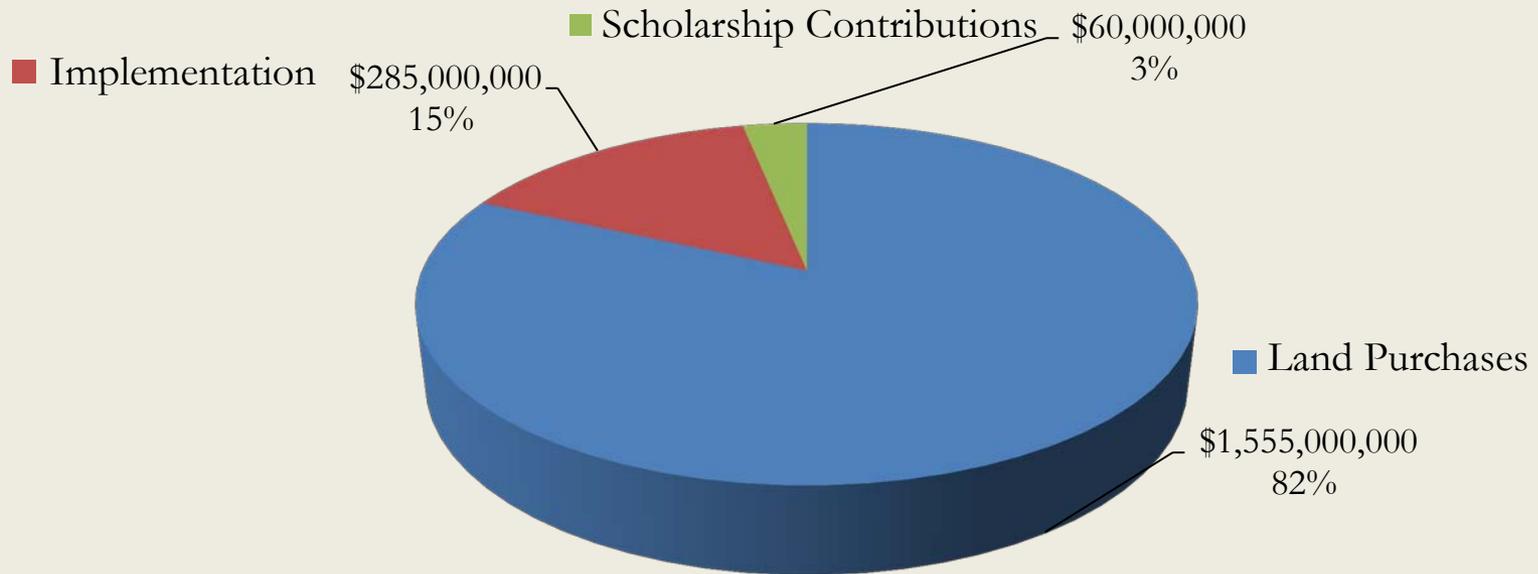
## Fractional Interests by Region

Total: 2,971,612



# What are the components of Trust Land Consolidation Fund?

Acquiring Fractional Interests (min. available for payment to owners)	\$1,555,000,000
Implementation/Administrative Costs (capped at 15 percent)	285,000,000
Scholarship Fund (max. available, keyed to interests sold)	<u>60,000,000</u>
Total	\$1,900,000,000



# What are the Program Priorities?

1. **Individuals.** Promoting landowner awareness and education to facilitate informed landowner decision making. Maximizing landowner opportunities to participate.
2. **Tribes.** Strengthening partnerships and respecting and upholding tribal sovereignty. Tailoring the effort to each location based on tribal involvement and priorities.
3. **Timely Use of the Fund.** Expending Trust Land Consolidation Fund by purchasing interests from landowners to reduce fractionation and expand tribal ownership. Remain flexible and open to constant learning and improvement.

# What are the major phases of the Program?

1. **Outreach** to inform landowners about the Buy-Back Program; answer questions; find willing sellers; and collaborate with tribes via cooperative agreements to implement culturally-specific approaches.
2. **Land Research** to collect data necessary to establish fair market value for fractionated tracts that might be acquired.
3. **Land Valuation** to determine the fair market value of tracts where Interior will offer to buy fractional interests.
4. **Land Acquisition** to purchase interests in fractionated tracts valued in the land valuation phase that individuals would like to voluntarily sell.

# Accomplishments

## Agreements w/ Tribes

- Entered into agreements or other arrangements with 18 tribes

## Shared information with tribes and landowners

- Expanded Call Center to answer questions, update addresses, and log “interested sellers”
- Launched website ([www.doi.gov/buybackprogram](http://www.doi.gov/buybackprogram)) and public service announcements
- Issued more than 40 press releases, including media notices and op-eds
- Gained coverage in nearly 400 articles, more than 110 news outlets
- Updated System of Records Notices (SORNs) to facilitate information sharing with tribes

# Accomplishments

## Consolidated land

- More than \$350 million in land sales (payments to individuals)
- Consolidated about 551,000 acres of fractionated land at 14 locations
- Achieved an average acceptance rate of 43%
- Exceed purchase goals within 45 days at 3 locations
- 3,455 tracts have reached at least 50% tribal ownership

## Managed Implementation Costs

- Expended 8.7% of the \$285 million authorized for implementation costs

## Contributed to Scholarship Fund

- Transferred \$5 million thus far

# Accomplishments (as of March 13, 2015)

Location	Agreement or other arrangement (Y/N)	Sales	Acceptance Rate <sup>†</sup>
Pine Ridge Reservation (Oglala Sioux)*	Y	\$83,955,060	48%
Makah Indian Reservation	Y	\$975,150	42%
Rosebud Indian Reservation*	N	\$14,278,716	27%
Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana	Y	\$24,413	24%
Quapaw Reservation	Pending	\$27,799	45%
Gila River Indian Reservation	Y	\$51,456,006	53%
Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation*	Y	\$8,927,128	53%
Flathead Reservation (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes)	Y	\$5,402,075	25%
Umatilla Indian Reservation*	Y	\$7,341,902	45%
Crow Reservation*	Y	\$130,465,499	64%
Lake Traverse Reservation (Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate)	Y	\$31,622,761	49%
Squaxin Island Reservation	Y	\$725,972	33%
Coeur d'Alene Reservation*	Y	\$4,729,572	43%
Salt River Reservation*	Y	\$11,439,845	30%
Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation	Y	tbd	tbd
Cheyenne River Reservation	Y	tbd	tbd
Standing Rock Sioux Reservation	Y	tbd	tbd
Ft Peck Indian Reservation (Assiniboine and Sioux)	Y	tbd	tbd
Swinomish Indian Reservation	Y	tbd	tbd
Lummi Reservation	Y	tbd	tbd
Navajo Reservation	Pending	tbd	tbd
Quinault Indian Reservation	Pending	tbd	tbd

\*Offers are still processing for these locations.

<sup>†</sup>This figure is calculated by dividing the number of accepted offers by the number of individuals who received offers.

# Next Steps

## Open Comment Period – Topics of Interest

- Ideas for Improvement
- Ways to Increase Landowner Outreach
- Implementation at Less-Fractionated Locations
- Structural Improvements

Submit  
Comments by  
April 20, 2015

## Continue Implementation Efforts – Offer Response Due Dates

Status Report identifies 42 locations for implementation activities

- 83% of outstanding fractional interests
- 67% of eligible landowners
- 15 of the 19 states with fractional interests

Through 2017

## Getting Prepared – Tailoring Efforts to Specific Locations

- Share information, such as GIS data and landowner location
- How can land consolidation help tribes achieve land-related goals?
- What are tribal acquisition priorities?
- Inform landowners and identify interested or willing sellers

Ongoing

# Next Steps

**Deadlines for more than \$130 million in offers are approaching** for nearly 20,000 owners of fractional land interests

Owners must respond soon to accept and return purchase offers (including a signed, notarized deed)

- **Coeur d’Alene (deadline: March 23)**
- **Umatilla (deadline: March 30)**
- **Salt River (deadline: March 31)**
- **Pine Ridge (deadline: April 20)**
- **Rosebud (deadline: May 16)**

## Missed a Deadline?

- **Option 1:** Return your offer and signed, notarized deed even though it is past the deadline. This late submission will be reviewed based on capacity, appraisal expiration, and availability of funds. We cannot guarantee acceptance of late submissions.
- **Option 2:** Call the TBCC and indicate you are a Willing Seller. The Program may send offers to landowners who are interested in selling their interests after the Program’s offer response deadline for a particular location provided there is a current appraisal and funds are available.

# Implementation Schedule – through middle 2017

**In November 2014, the Program added 21 additional locations for implementation activities.**

- Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians of the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation, California
- Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, Wyoming and Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, Wyoming
- Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians of the Bad River Reservation, Wisconsin
- Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana
- Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, California
- Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation, South Dakota
- Fond du Lac Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Minnesota
- Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation, South Dakota
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, California & Arizona
- Round Valley Indian Tribes, Round Valley Reservation, California
- Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community of the Salt River Reservation, Arizona
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation
- The Osage Nation
- Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, North Dakota
- Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians of North Dakota
- Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
- Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota