VISION OF TRUST MANAGEMENT MODEL, RESPONSIBILITY AND REFORM

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Secretarial Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform
MBCI Overview

- Only federally recognized tribe in Mississippi, Tribal Constitution ratified in 1945
- 10,500 + enrolled members, half under age of 25
- 35,500 + acres trust land in Mississippi and Tennessee
- 8 tribal communities
- Democratically-elected Government
MBCI Overview

- 2 branches of Government – Legislative and Executive
- 1 Tribal Chief, 17 member Tribal Council
- Sophisticated Tribal Court System
- 4th Largest Employer in Mississippi
- $1.365 Billion state impact
MBCI Overview

At our starting point in 1945:

- 80% unemployment
- Shortest life expectancy
- Worst infant mortality rate
- No access to high school education
Choctaw Business Overview

- Opened 1\textsuperscript{st} business in 1969
- 15 business divisions
- Manufacturing, health care, laboratory services, construction, real estate development
- Customer base includes: McDonald’s, Pepsi, NASA, Club Car, Department of Defense, among others
Application of Trust Responsibility

- Primary Agency Charged with Trust Responsibility - Department of the Interior
- Recent Focus – improving trust functions regarding reservation lands, natural resources and the management of the tribal allotment revenues derived from resources (focus primarily driven by Cobell Litigation and Settlement)
Application of Trust Responsibility

- United States Trust Responsibility to the Tribes not limited to land management
- Responsibilities include:
  - Performance of core government programs
  - Performance services for tribes
  - Facilitation of tribal self-determination as tribes assume more operational responsibility
Create BIA Accountability

Real-Life Illustration:
Patriot Ford Dealership – Carthage, Mississippi
Create BIA Accountability

- Streamline the allocation of management responsibility over trust assets
- Adequately train personnel involved in trust processes and their role in efficient implementation
- Establish an expectation of greater accountability
- Educate personnel on the history and background of the government’s trust responsibility
- Strengthen the government-to-government communication and relationship by involving tribes in the BIA education and accountability process on trust responsibility
Prohibit BIA’s Imposition of Unlawful Requirements

Real-Life Illustration:
Choctaw Tribal Schools
Native Star Reporting
NWEA MAP System
Prohibit BIA’s Imposition of Unlawful Requirements

- Accept tribes capabilities in realizing self-determination
- Give tribes the authority to operate schools with bare minimum federal oversight as Congress has expressly recognized
- Lesson the undue and unnecessary reporting burdens imposed on tribes
Correct BIA Inefficiencies

Real-Life Illustration:
Jackson County, Mississippi
Henning, Tennessee
Correct BIA Inefficiencies

- Eliminate repetitious activity
- Create better internal controls
- Develop a mechanism for addressing grievances
- Provide proper training
- Know your tribes individually
- Develop and implement a Code of Ethics and enforce them
Yakoki!