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Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians

Office of the Special Trustee Provides Investment Services to U.S. Treasury for \$1 Billion in Eight New Tribal Trust Funds

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On behalf of the Department of Treasury and with the approval of American Indian beneficiaries, the Department of the Interior's Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) will be investing nearly \$1 billion in new tribal trust funds in U.S. Treasury and other federal government securities. OST manages Tribal Trust Funds and Individual Indian Money (IIM) accounts and is responsible for coordinating reform efforts to improve trust asset management and beneficiary services throughout Interior.

After thorough consultation with the affected tribes, Treasury and OST entered into eight agreements that authorize OST to provide these expert investment and fund program management services for eight tribal accounts that Congress has established at the Treasury Department to compensate these tribes for land claims and other damages.

"This federal collaboration is an excellent example of an efficient and cost-effective solution that resulted from the tireless efforts of knowledgeable staff," said Principal Deputy Special Trustee Michele F. Singer. "The process was facilitated by proactive leaders from both agencies."

In carrying out the federal government's fiduciary trust responsibilities, OST's Office of Trust Funds Investments, in consultation with tribal beneficiaries, plans, develops, operates, and controls the buying, selling, and trading of investments to augment American Indian trust funds. The office provides technical advice and assistance to Indian tribes, regional offices, and agencies to develop financial plans and investment strategies.

The investment needs and objectives of each account are determined through consulting with the tribal beneficiaries. OST investment staff then select and monitor securities designed to meet those objectives. Through this authorized process, tribal beneficiaries have the opportunity to invest in securities that may yield higher levels of income. OST will invest the new tribal accounts similar to the way it invests other tribal accounts.

Because of OST's investment capabilities, the Treasury Department tapped into this expertise to allow OST to invest in eligible government securities in accordance with the terms and conditions in the agreements.

OST was established in 1994 by the [American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act](#) to improve the management of the Indian fiduciary trust in the Department of the Interior. OST is headquartered in Washington, D.C., with financial management and other functions administered in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and by staff located throughout Indian Country. Visit the OST website at www.doi.gov/ost.

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The mission of OST is to honor our trust responsibilities by incorporating a beneficiary focus and participation while providing superior stewardship of trust assets.