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News Release

Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians

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Guidance Provided for Federal Income Tax Treatment of Per Capita Payments

Applies to Proceeds of Settlements of Indian Tribal Trust Cases

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Internal Revenue Service has provided Notice 2012-60 concerning the federal income tax treatment of per capita payments that members of Indian tribes receive from proceeds of certain settlements of tribal trust cases between the United States and those Indian tribes. The notice advises, in part, “per capita payments made from the proceeds of an agreement between the United States and an Indian tribe settling the tribe’s claims...are excluded from the gross income of the members of the tribe receiving the per capita payments.”

“This is very important information for tribal members who receive settlement funds. I hope each one will take just a few moments to read this IRS notice,” said acting Principal Deputy Special Trustee Michele F. Singer.

The complete notice may be accessed on the website of the Department of the Interior’s Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) website at www.doi.gov/ost. OST Fiduciary Trust Officers (FTOs) are available to assist tribal trust beneficiaries regarding funds in tribal trust and Individual Indian Money accounts. Contact information for FTOs is available at www.doi.gov/ost/fto.

Beneficiaries may also obtain information about their Indian trust funds by calling the OST Trust Beneficiary Call Center, toll free, at 1-888-678-6836. The call center is open Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to noon, Mountain time.

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The mission of OST is to perform our fiduciary trust responsibilities to American Indian tribes, individual Indians and Alaska Natives by incorporating a beneficiary focus and beneficiary participation while providing effective, competent stewardship and management of trust assets.