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Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians

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President's FY 2013 Budget for the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians Requests \$146 Million

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The President's fiscal year 2013 budget request for the Department of the Interior's Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) is \$146 million, a \$6.1 million decrease from the FY 2012 enacted level, reflecting the Administration's commitment to fiscal discipline, while maintaining vital operations and program services.

"OST's budget request addresses the President's priorities, including innovation, education and infrastructure," said acting Principal Deputy Special Trustee Michele Singer. "OST employees fully support doing things smarter and more efficiently to carry out our fiduciary trust responsibilities to American Indian beneficiaries."

Key funding levels include \$9.8 million for Trust Records, \$8.3 million for Trust Review and Audit, \$23.6 million for Field Operations, \$10.7 million for Appraisal Services, \$28.8 million for Trust Services, \$26.8 million for Historical Trust Accounting, and \$26.6 million for Budget, Finance, and Administration.

The budget identifies reductions for administrative efficiencies across OST such as no longer using an independent contractor to offer Indian fiduciary trust certification courses. OST will work with the Department of the Interior University to offer trust management training for OST, BIA, and tribal personnel. Also, OST will work collaboratively with the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs' Policies and Regulations office, the Department, and the Solicitor's Office to create, modify, or eliminate regulations, policies, and procedures.

The OST has operational responsibility for financial trust fund management, including receipt, investment, and disbursement of Indian trust funds and for real estate appraisals on Indian trust lands. The OST manages more than \$3.7 billion held in over 2,900 trust accounts for more than 250 Indian Tribes and over 380,000 open Individual Indian Money accounts.

OST carries out the Administration's Indian fiduciary trust responsibilities through: providing beneficiary services that are accurate and responsive; supporting tribal self-governance and self-determination that increase participation in managing assets; maintaining ownership information that is accurate, timely, and reliable; conducting trust fund asset management that meets fiduciary standards; and encouraging land and natural resources management that maximizes return.

OST was initially tasked with Department-wide oversight for the reform of Indian trust management and implementation of new fiduciary accounting systems. OST's oversight role expanded in 1996 to include operational responsibility for financial trust fund management, including receipt, investment, and disbursement of beneficiary funds.

Visit the OST website at www.doi.gov/ost/budget to view the fiscal year 2013 budget request justification.

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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.