



## United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS

4400 Masthead N.E.  
Albuquerque, NM 87109

**JUL 22 2016**

Dear Tribal/Consortium Leader:

On behalf of the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST), I am pleased to inform you of a trust modernization initiative titled Tribal Methodology, which is a Re-Engineered Annual Evaluation Process. This process is scheduled to be implemented utilizing a phased approach beginning in early calendar year 2017. The re-engineered process of conducting annual tribal trust evaluations (TTE) will be more efficient and easier for the Tribal/Consortium employees participating in the evaluations.

It is the responsibility of OST to conduct TTEs of Tribes/Consortiums that have compacted trust programs under the Indian Self-Determination Education and Assistance Act in accordance with 25 Code of Federal Regulations Part 1000.354. In addition, under these regulations, the Tribe/Consortium has the responsibility to participate in the TTE, and this re-engineered process makes it more convenient to do so.

OST is collaborating with 9 volunteer compacted Tribes/Consortiums on this trust modernization initiative. The objective of the Tribal/Consortium pilot initiative is to develop and test the annual tribal trust evaluation re-engineered process.

OST is currently in the process of conducting several one day Regional Meetings across Indian country to communicate this initiative and to answer any questions or concerns. You can expect to receive an e-mail with an invitation detailing the date, time, and location of the meeting in your region.

This is a major development in trust modernization that will be less intrusive on your daily operations and enable OST to more timely evaluate the management of compacted trust programs. For more information about this initiative, please visit the project website at [www.doi.gov/ost/tribal-methodology](http://www.doi.gov/ost/tribal-methodology). If you have any questions, please contact Nolan Solomon, Management and Program Analyst, at (505) 816-1257.

Sincerely,

Debra DuMontier  
Deputy Special Trustee