

## **Bureau of Indian Affairs**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 31, 2001

CONTACT: Nedra Darling  
202-219-4152

### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

#### **Third Consultation Meeting On Improving Indian Trust Asset Management Set for January 3 in Oklahoma City**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Interior Assistant Secretary Indian Affairs Neal A. McCaleb and Deputy Assistant Secretary Wayne Smith will meet with tribal leaders on Thursday, January 3, 2002, in Oklahoma City, Okla., at the third in a series of consultation meetings on the Department's plan to improve the management of Indian trust assets. The meeting will be held at the Westin hotel (1 North Broadway) starting at 9:00 a.m. (CST).

On November 15, 2001, the Department announced plans to transfer and consolidate Indian trust asset management functions currently administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other Interior agencies within a new Bureau of Indian Trust Assets Management. The Department also announced the establishment of an Assistant Secretary for Indian Trust Assets Management to oversee BITA and a new Office of Indian Trust Transition to implement the transfer and consolidation plans.

Consultation meetings also will be held on January 10 in Rapid City, S.D.; January 17 in San Diego, Calif.; January 23 in Anchorage, Alaska; and February 1 in Washington, D.C. (Arlington, Va.). A notice with meeting dates and locations was published in the December 11 *Federal Register*.

**WHO:** Interior Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs Neal A. McCaleb and  
Deputy Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs Wayne Smith.

**WHEN:** 9:00 a.m. (CST), Thursday, January 3, 2002.

**WHAT:** Interior Department tribal consultation meeting on improving the management of  
Indian trust assets.

**WHERE:** Westin Hotel, 1 North Broadway, Oklahoma City, Okla.

**-BIA-**