



L A N D

B u y - B a c k P r o g r a m

f o r



T R I B A L N A T I O N S

Navajo Nation
Report to Navajo Council
Window Rock, AZ
March 26, 2015



What is the Buy-Back Program?

The Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations was created to implement the **land consolidation** component of the **Cobell Settlement Agreement**.

The Settlement provided a **\$1.9 billion fund** to purchase

- fractionated interests
- in trust or restricted land
- at fair market value
- from willing sellers
- within a 10-year period.

Refer to the Program's Status Report (November 20, 2014) for more information and fractionation data.

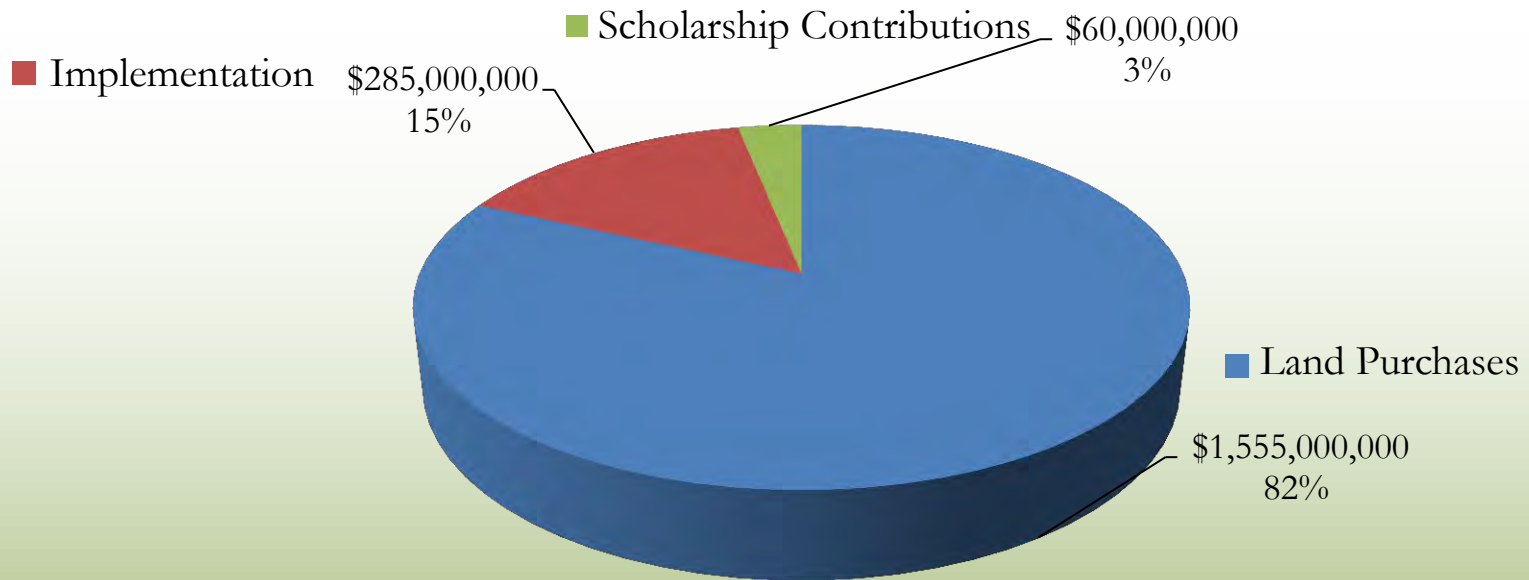


President Barack Obama with the late American Indian Activist Elouise Cobell

What are the components of Trust Land Consolidation Fund?



Acquiring Fractional Interests (min. available for payment to owners)	\$1,555,000,000
Implementation/Administrative Costs (capped at 15 percent)	285,000,000
Scholarship Fund (max. available, keyed to interests sold)	<u>60,000,000</u>
Total	\$1,900,000,000





Program Priorities

1. Promoting landowner awareness and education to facilitate landowner decision making.
2. Expending Trust Land Consolidation Fund by purchasing interests from landowners to reduce fractionation and expand tribal ownership.
3. Improving government-to-government relationships with tribes.

What are the major phases of the Program?



1. **Outreach** to inform landowners about the Buy-Back Program; answer questions; find willing sellers; and collaborate with tribes via cooperative agreements to implement culturally specific approaches.
2. **Land Research** to collect data necessary to establish fair market value for fractionated tracts that might be acquired.
3. **Land Valuation** to determine the fair market value of tracts where Interior will offer to buy fractional interests.
4. **Land Acquisition** to purchase interests in fractionated tracts valued in the land valuation phase that individuals would like to voluntarily sell.

Navajo Nation Specifics



- Purchase Estimate - \$ 102,452,432 (6.5% of the \$1.55 Billion)
- Of the 146 locations, Navajo ranks 5
- Landowners reside in 49 U.S. states; 2 foreign countries
- 3,383 Landowners are Whereabouts Unknown
- Number of Unique Individual Landowners: approx. 33,910
- Number of Purchasable Tracts: 4,391
- Sum of Equivalent Acres: 437,053



Estimated Timeline for Implementation

- ASAP: Finalize cooperative agreement
- Spring-Winter 2015: Pre-Offer Outreach
- Fall 2015: Appraisal Completion Date (Tentative)
- Spring 2016: Offers Mailed (Tentative)
- Spring 2016: Post-offer outreach

Cooperative Agreement Status



- Pending approval
- The Parties seek to finalize the agreement by **April 15, 2015** so landowner education can begin immediately
- Agreement is the product of significant planning and coordination with Navajo since June 2013
- Signing Ceremony

Questions?



Jan Parker 2009