

INDIAN AFFAIRS MANUAL

1.1 Purpose. This chapter provides the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) authorities and responsibilities relating to the acquisition of fractional interests in trust or restricted land for consolidation under Tribal ownership.

1.2 Scope. This policy applies to the Chief, Division of Trust Land Consolidation (DTLC), and to DTLC staff involved in acquiring fractional interests in trust or restricted land.

1.3 Policy. It is the policy of Indian Affairs (IA) to consolidate fractional interests in trust or restricted land under Tribal ownership, in a manner that enhances Tribal sovereignty and minimizes administrative costs, and for the purpose of promoting Tribal self-sufficiency and self-determination.

1.4 Authority.

A. Statutes and Regulations.

1) P.L. 106-462, Indian Land Consolidation Act Amendments of 2000

2) P.L. 108-374, the American Indian Probate Reform Act of 2004

1.5 Responsibilities.

A. Director, BIA is responsible for the development of national policy affecting Indian lands.

B. Deputy Bureau Director (DBD), Field Operations is responsible for disseminating DTLC-related policy and guidance to the Regional Directors.

C. DBD, Office of Trust Services (OTS) is responsible for management and oversight of the DTLC and for disseminating DTLC-related policy and information to the DBD, Field Operations, and other offices as appropriate.

D. Regional Directors are responsible for carrying out DTLC policy as directed and, when applicable, for overseeing the implementation of policy either directly or via BIA Agency Superintendents.

E. Chief, DTLC is responsible for managing and providing oversight of the acquisition of fractional interests in trust or restricted land pursuant to and in accordance with applicable statutory authority. The Chief, DTLC is the designated authority to accept and approve transactions transferring trust or restricted land interests from individual Indian sellers to the Tribe with jurisdiction. Upon approval, the deed and supporting documents are automatically recorded in the official BIA land title system of record,

INDIAN AFFAIRS MANUAL

Part 75
Chapter 1

Trust Land Consolidation
Overview and Authorities

Page 2

Trust Asset and Accounting Management System (TAAMS).

1.6 Standards, Requirements, and Procedures.

- A. The DTLC utilizes current certified TAAMS title ownership data to generate transaction documents in TAAMS.
- B. DTLC Pre-Approval Quality Assurance staff ensures acceptance quality by reviewing received and scanned transaction documents in TAAMS. Documents that are complete and properly executed are transferred in TAAMS to the DTLC Approving Official.
- C. The DTLC Approving Official conducts a final review and approves complete and properly executed transaction documents in TAAMS.
- D. DTLC Post-Approval Quality Assurance staff ensures title transfer and recordation quality and completeness by reviewing approved transactions in TAAMS.

Approval

Darryl LaCounte

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Darryl LaCounte
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Date