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Ulsamer - 343-4306

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR RECOMMENDS LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING LONG-TERM
LEASES FOR TWO ARIZONA INDIAN RESERVATIONS

Two bills now before Congress would permit land leases not to exceed 99 years for public, religious, educational, recreational, residential or business purposes. They would provide for a maximum term of 40 years for farming leases when substantial investment is necessary for land improvement to grow specialized crops, and would continue the present maximum of 10 years for grazing leases and farming leases where substantial investment is not required for development. They would not apply to mineral development leases.

Under the proposed measures, the State of Arizona would be authorized to amend its State laws or Constitution to assume civil and criminal jurisdiction over all or any part of the reservations, permanently or for an authorized period. Such action would be subject to the consent of the Tribal Council and the approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

Other significant provisions would allow Indian owners to dedicate land for streets, alleys, and other public purposes, with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior; permit the Indians to provide for extension of State and county zoning ordinances, housing codes, and health and sanitation laws to leased areas; and affirm the power of the Tribal Council to enact zoning, building and sanitary regulations for reservation lands not under State jurisdiction.

P.N. 67525-65

★ news release

343-3171

RICHMOND F. ALLAN OF MONTANA NAMED ASSOCIATE SOLICITOR IN INTERIOR

★ news release

Ulsamer - 343-4306

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT PROPOSES LEGISLATION TO DISTRIBUTE JUDGEMENT FUNDS AWARDED
TO OTOE AND MISSOURIA TRIBE

The funds now are held in the United States Treasury at four percent interest and represent additional compensation for lands in western Iowa and northwestern Missouri and for valuable resources acquired by the United States from the Tribe under treaties in 1836 and 1854. The sum of \$150,000 will be withheld from disbursement of the award pending final determination of a conflicting claim by the Yankton Sioux Tribe.

Located in Noble County, northeastern Oklahoma, the Otoe and Missouri Reservation contains 1,400 acres of tribal land and 33,437 acres of allotted land. The present tribe is regarded as successors in interest to the Indians living at the time of the two treaties. In 1954, the total tribal enrollment was reported to be 1,042, with approximately 970 tribal members living on or adjacent to the reservation.

The proposed bill provides that the present governing body of the Otoe and Missouri Tribe will administer the judgment funds, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. Although the group has not developed a formal organizational document, it has a general council and a business committee, recognized by the Department of the Interior.

P.N. 67683-65

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Ulsamer - 343-4306

THREE CALIFORNIA RANCHERIAS TERMINATED BY THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

The rancherias, which are actually small tracts of Indian land under Federal trust, are: Scotts Valley Rancheria, a 56.6 acre tract in Lake County; Robinson Rancheria, 168 acres in Lake County; and Guidiville Rancheria, 244 acres in Mendocino County.

There are 145 Indians who will share in the distribution of assets for the three rancherias.

Of the 41 rancherias named in the original 1958 Act, 17 were terminated previously.

Termination becomes effective upon publication of a notice in the Federal Register, scheduled for this week.

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Ulsamer - 343-4306

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS BILL FOR DISPOSITION OF \$29.1 MILLION
AWARD TO CALIFORNIA INDIANS

★ news release

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NEW 'HOUSE PLAN' SERVICE TO SPUR INDIAN HOME BUILDING

"The new service is expected to step up housing on the reservations to a 1,500 units-a-year pace," Udall said. He termed it "the most important move yet in Interior's campaign to offer Indian families an opportunity for decent, safe and sanitary housing--a 'must' if the reservation Indian is to adjust to modern-day America and compete on an equal basis with other citizens."

Since programs of the Public Housing Administration became available to Indian reservations in 1961, tribes have established 73 housing authorities to handle contracts for low-rent projects and individual homes. The mutual-help program was launched by BIA and PHA in 1962. It enables Indians with incomes below the ordinary PHA minimum requirements to contribute their own labor and land as down payment on their homes.

"The mutual-help idea has proved very popular with the tribes," Udall said. The new packaged plans, already approved by PHA, will help accelerate the program by simplifying the design problem which often was a delaying factor in getting the program underway, he explained.

"Low-rent housing projects have been of great help to Indian tribes and more are needed," Udall said. "But many Indians cannot afford to pay even the low rental figure and most of them want to own their homes. The mutual-help program enables them to substitute time and labor for cash, and to help themselves acquire a decent home with low monthly payments."

Udall pointed out that the housing program is a major factor in improving living conditions among some 60,000 Indian families, who are now living in overcrowded, unsafe and unsanitary dwellings.

"We are aware that mutual help is not an easy way to build a house," Udall stressed. "It requires an enormous effort and much persistence by the Tribal Housing Authority and the individual Indian workers, but we feel the program offers many benefits. Not only will Indians raise their standard of living; they will experience a pride of ownership and a sense of accomplishment which justifies the entire effort."

With the packaged plans, prospective Indian homeowners will have 44 variations of a standard floor plan to choose from, each designed to blend well with the landscape on any reservation. Exteriors include concrete block, frame and adobe, with foundation plans also varying to suit the section of country. Concrete block will be used mainly in parts of the West and Southwest, and well-insulated frame construction will be used in northern States. The adobe house was designed especially for areas accustomed to this type of architecture.

Each home will have three bedrooms, kitchen, dining area, living room and bath. The enclosed area contains 916 square feet of floor space.

The package comes complete with a step-by-step construction manual and list of materials. PHA makes loans to a tribal housing authority for the purchase of materials and the employment of skilled labor where needed. BIA organizes the projects and supervises all construction.

Officials estimate that the value contributed by the Indian families through their labor and land will average about 15 to 20 percent of the value of the house. The homeowner will pay his own utilities and be responsible for maintenance.

Projects are coordinated with the Public Health Service, providing for adequate water and sewerage disposal facilities at each location.

At present, 300 mutual-help homes are under construction on 23 reservations, with 1,100 additional units to be started during the spring and summer of 1966. The States where tribes have begun mutual-help projects are Arizona, Montana, New Mexico, Alaska, California, Nevada, Utah, Idaho and Washington.

The program is expected to result in twice as many mutual-help homes being built by Indians next year as during the last four years combined.

BIA has requested that the Public Housing Administration reserve funds for several thousand Indian units--low-rent and mutual-help--under the Public Housing Act of 1965. This is in addition to the 3,300 authorized under the previous Act. The majority of the units probably will be built under the mutual-help plan, BIA officials said.

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Ulsamer - 343-4306

CALIFORNIA RANCHERIA TERMINATED BY THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Termination becomes effective upon publication of a notice in the Federal Register. Notices are simultaneously being sent to all Big Valley Rancheria Indians.

P.N. 71533-65

★ news release

For Release to PM's, DECEMBER 13, 1965

Owen D. Morken, career employee of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, will take over as new Area Director for the Bureau at Juneau, Alaska, January 2, 1966, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced today.

Morken has been assistant area director for economic development at Aberdeen, South Dakota, since the spring of 1962. At Juneau he succeeds Robert L. Bennett, who is now the Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Washington, D. C.

A native of Brainerd, Minnesota, and a social science graduate of Bemidji State Teachers College, Morken joined the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Civilian Conservation Corps program in 1939. After working in various assignments at the Pipestone School, the Hopi and Navajo Reservations and the Minnesota Agency, he was appointed Superintendent of the Fort Berthold Agency, New Town, North Dakota in January of 1957. While there he was given the Governor John E. Davis leadership award for community betterment and other recognition for his work in economic development.

In 1960 he was transferred to the Pierre Agency, Pierre, South Dakota, where his work in community development not only was effective with the Indian people, but was also singled out for praise by the Pierre, South Dakota, Chamber of Commerce. Since April of 1962, he has been the Assistant Area Director in Aberdeen in charge of Resource and Economic Development.

Secretary Udall said, "I believe that Mr. Morken's experiences in helping tribes to program judgment funds and in working with the Indian people, their neighboring communities, and local and State governments have demonstrated his ability to handle the important Alaskan assignment. These are all very important to the Tlingit-Haida people, who are awaiting settlement of their claim, and to the other native people of the State, whose future is an integral part of Alaska's future as a State."

P.N. 72819-65

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For Release APRIL 4, 1966

Assistant Secretary Anderson said the Bureau of Indian Affairs has instructed its Navajo Area Director, Graham Holmes, to organize a team to assist in the temporary relocation of the evicted Navajos. The team, including a social worker, will be present when the eviction notices are served.

The Hopi request to the Interior Department for assistance was contained in a letter signed by the Hopi Tribal Chairman, Dewey Healing, and three other Council members.

Chairman Healing noted that the Council adopted a resolution December 29, 1965, which gave the Navajos until April 1 to voluntarily leave the Hopi Reservation.

"The April 1 date...is now at hand," Healing said, "and few, if any, of the Navajo Indians...have departed. We are particularly anxious that the exercising of our legal rights shall not result in undue ill will or violence. In view of this fact," Healing continued, "we respectfully solicit your aid..."

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SECRETARY UDALL PREDICTS RECORD-BREAKING USE OF INTERIOR RECREATION SPOTS:
URGES INCREASED ATTENTION TO SAFETY BY VACATIONING PUBLIC

Secretary Udall estimated that a record high of approximately 185,000,000 visitor-days of use will be recorded in areas managed by the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation. The 1965 total was about 173 million.

Under the President's Mission Safety-70 program, calling for a reduction of injuries not only among Federal workers, but for users of Federal recreation areas and other sites, the Department has added many safeguards the past several months. The Job Corps has had a leading role in speeding this work, Secretary Udall added.

"Typical of these," Secretary Udall said, "are the dangers of asphyxiation while camping. Last year--in outdoor settings--six people lost their lives in our national parks because they heated their tents or trailers with charcoal-fired units, usually barbecues. The coals depleted the air of oxygen and death resulted. These six deaths in a single year from a single cause can be compared with the preceding 19 years in our parks when a total of only five such deaths was recorded."

Following are summaries of recreational opportunities on Interior-administered areas and some basic safety rules:

National Park Service

The National Park Service, which administers 225 areas and anticipates 128 million visitors during 1966, its 50th Anniversary Year, offers these tips:

1. See a Ranger, especially if it is your first visit to an area, to become acquainted with unusual weather conditions, terrain, wildlife, or other features.
2. Let Park headquarters know if you plan a trip away from the "populated" areas of a park.
3. Stay away from wild animals--they may attack without warning. Keep food safely stored to prevent raids.
4. Children should be watched so they won't become lost or venture into dangerous areas.
5. Drive carefully. Be prepared to stop for animals. Be alert for natural hazards, such as loose rocks. Guard against "freezing" at the wheel because of precipitous cliffs. Even in daytime driving, keep your headlights on. Drive defensively; others probably are also strangers to the road.
6. Don't over-exert. Wear proper clothing and low-heeled shoes when walking.
7. Be extremely careful with fire; do not build any kind of fire in an unventilated or poorly ventilated space.
8. Never swim alone. When you do swim, avoid dangerous water.
9. Ask a Ranger's advice before boating on any park water.

The Park Service points out that motor vehicle accidents and falls of persons lead in causes of nonfatal injuries in Park areas. Fatal accidents are almost evenly divided between motor vehicle accidents and drowning. Falls rank next.

Bureau of Land Management

About 460 million acres of public land, administered by the Bureau of Land Management, await vacationers. More than 100 developed campgrounds are ready for use in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming. You are welcome to make your own camp, away from developed facilities, if you observe a few rules. Some safety tips:

1. Be extremely careful with fire.
2. Observe regulations and common-sense rules regarding firearms.
3. Watch for wild animals on roads. Give logging trucks ample room.
4. Do not go into remote areas without leaving word as to your destination and your intended length of stay. Take ample water, a good map, compass, first-aid kit, spare rations, extra clothing.
5. If you are on a hike--or are walking back from a disabled vehicle, walk on the left--facing traffic.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian tribes, which operate recreational areas in 22 States and are planning to be hosts to 7 million visitors this year, have been busy installing additional safety devices, including warning signs, fencing, and guardrails.

Because many of the recreation areas have expanses of water, Bureau of Indian Affairs safety officials urge guests on reservations to observe normal precautionary measures. These include: Remain on shore during inclement weather. Permit only experienced handlers to operate boats. Be watchful of children and do not permit inexperienced swimmers to go beyond safe depths. Do not "horseplay."

"Horseplay," add the Indians, "is for horses--not for humans enjoying water sports."

In addition to water activities, outings on reservations can be devoted to sightseeing, picnicking, scientific-historic studies, attendance at Indian ceremonials and dramas, fishing, hunting, hiking, and mountain climbing.

Some of the reservations offer horseback riding and golfing.

Fish and Wildlife Service

Scattered throughout the United States are 297 National Wildlife Refuges totaling 28 million acres, which are expected to be the scene of 16 million visitor-days of use this year.

While these areas, which include lakes and streams, are managed primarily for various species of wildlife, they are open to the public as long as basic purposes of the refuges are not jeopardized. Activities available include picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, and wildlife observation.

Water safety and fire prevention are stressed along with the warning: "Do not feed or handle any animals."

Designated swimming areas will be roped-in during periods of peak use. Roads have been improved for safety, but not for high-speed use.

Public awareness has helped prevent damage to signs and other safety installations, but vandalism still remains a problem.

Bureau of Reclamation

The Bureau of Reclamation, which has created 200 recreation areas encompassing over 4½ million acres in the 17 Western States while developing water-resource projects primarily for irrigation and power, expects a considerable increase this year over the more than 35 million visitors who enjoyed these spots last year.

Reclamation has a carefully planned safety program, "Operation Westwide," which is conducted in cooperation with the American Red Cross. Thirty-six community water-safety councils have been created to educate and protect the public in recreation areas throughout the West.

Chief among causes of drowning at Reclamation sites are children swimming without adult supervision, overloaded boats, and insufficient water safety equipment in boats.

In predicting increased use of Reclamation-created water areas, the Bureau points out that one of its new lakes--Lake Meredith, created by the recently completed Sanford Dam--drew approximately 250,000 fun seekers to the Texas Panhandle the first six months it was open to the public.

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Ulsamer - 343-4306

INTERIOR ASKS \$1.1 MILLION INCREASE IN FUND FOR EXPERT ASSISTANCE
LOANS TO INDIAN GROUPS

P.N. 79705-66