OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ulsamer - 343-4306

For Release to PM's, AUGUST 11, 1965

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

The Department of the Interior has recommended enactment of Federal legislation authorizing long-term leasing of lands on the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Reservation and the Papago Reservation, both in Arizona.

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.

An Act of August 9, 1955 authorized leases for periods of 25 years, with an option for one additional term of 25 years. The Department said this limitation has hampered the Indians of both reservations in negotiating leases for reservation development and has prevented them from gaining maximum return from their lands. Potential leases have been unable to obtain necessary financing to develop property under leases with only 50-year terms, the Department added.

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.

The Department recommended retention of a provision in each of the bills that would allow municipalities with boundaries adjacent to the reservations to annex all or part of them, with consent and approval of the Tribal Council and the Secretary of the Interior. The Department recommended against a provision in the bills that would permit annexation of reservation lands as much as 10 miles from city boundaries.

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.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

343-3171

For Release AUGUST 17, 1965

RICHMOND F. ALLAN OF MONTANA NAMED ASSOCIATE SOLICITOR IN INTERIOR

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall today announced the appointment of Richmond F. Allan of Billings, Mont., as an Associate Solicitor to head the Division of Indian Affairs in the Office of the Solicitor in Washington, D. C.

Mr. Allan, a native of Billings, has been an attorney with the Lands Division in the Department of Justice since February and now makes his home at Alexandria, Va., near Washington.

A cum laude graduate of Montana State University, where he received his bachelor of arts degree in 1955 and his bachelor of laws degree in 1957, Allan spent the year after his graduation from law school as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of London, where he studied international law, jurisprudence, and conflicts of law.

Upon returning to the United States he became law clerk to Judge Walter L. Pope, Chief Judge of the U. S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, San Francisco. From 1959 to 1961 he was partner in the Billings law firm of Kurth, Conner, Jones and Allan.

Mr. Allan was named Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Montana in 1961 and headed the Billings suboffice of the United States Attorney, representing the Government in many cases involving Indian litigation. He resigned that position to join the Department of Justice in Washington.

While attending law school, Mr. Allan was on the Montana Law Review Staff and was associate editor in 1956-57. He won two awards for outstanding scholarship and, in 1957, was named winner of the Northwest Regional National Moot Court Championship.

Mr. Allan is a member of the Montana and District of Columbia bars and has been admitted to practice before the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States.

He is married to the former Dorothy Frost of Billings. They have two sons.

The new associate solicitor's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Roy F. Allan, also of Billings, where the elder Mr. Allan is an assistant field solicitor for the Department of the Interior.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ulsamer - 343-4306

For Release AUGUST 16, 1965

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

The Department of the Interior said today it has submitted to Congress proposed legislation for disposition of \$1,750,000 in judgment funds awarded to the Otoe and Missouria Tribe of Indiana by the Indian Claims Commission.

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 Missouria 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 Missouria 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.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ulsamer - 343-4306

For Release to PM's, SEPTEMBER 1, 1965

THREE CALIFORNIA RANCHERIAS TERMINATED BY THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Department of the Interior today announced that the Bureau of Indian Affairs has terminated supervision of three Indian rancherias in California, under the provisions of the Rancheria Act of August 18, 1958 (P.L. 85-671), as amended.

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.

The 1958 Act called for distribution of rancheria assets to Indian owners and termination of Federal services they receive solely because of their status as Indians. Upon termination the same laws will apply to the Indians that apply to other citizens residing in the State.

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 <u>Federal</u> Register, scheduled for this week.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ulsamer - 343-4306

For Release SEPTEMBER 4, 1965

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

The Department of the Interior has recommended enactment of Federal legislation to provide for disposition of a \$29.1 million award to the Mission Indians, the Pitt River Indians, and certain other eligible Indians of California to be identified later should a bill be passed by Congress.

The judgment was made by the Indian Claims Commission and represents additional compensation for lands in California to which the Indians involved held aboriginal title and which were taken by the United States March 3, 1853.

Funds to cover the award were appropriated by Congress in 1964 and are on deposit in the United States Treasury, drawing four percent interest.

As proposed, the bill would also authorize the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a roll and make a per capita distribution to those Indians concerned in this judgment. A roll of Indians of California listing 36,094 names of persons living on May 24, 1950 may be used in preparing the new judgment rolls.

Under the bill, as recommended by Interior, those who apply for enrollment must be living on the date it becomes law; and must present proof that their name or that of an ancestor appeared on any one of the previous California Indian rolls prepared pursuant to the Act of May 18, 1928; or must establish descent from an Indian ancestor residing in California on July 1, 1852, prior to taking of the land by the United States.

Ineligible to share under the terms of the award are those whose Indian ancestry is derived solely from the Northern Paiute, Southern Paiute, Mohave, Quechan (Yuma), Chemehuevi, Shoshone, Washoe, Klamath, Modoc, and Yahooskin Band of Snakes, groups sometimes considered in the past to be Indians of California.

Those whose Indian ancestry is derived partly from one of the groups listed and partly from other Indians of California may elect to share in judgment awards to one or the other, but not both.

The Department said the \$29.1 million award should not be confused with a \$5 million award made in 1944 by the Court of Claims in favor of the Indians of California. The proposed legislation also provides for distribution of more than \$1 million remaining from the 1944 award after a \$150 per capita distribution was completed June 30, 1955.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Kerr - 343-4306

For Release to PM's, NOVEMBER 5, 1965

NEW 'HOUSE PLAN' SERVICE TO SPUR INDIAN HOME BUILDING

A complete do-it-yourself house planning service has been packaged by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs to accelerate "mutual help" housing projects on Indian reservations, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced today.



"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 over-crowded, 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 land-scape 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 spirng 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.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ulsamer - 343-4306

For Release to PM's, NOVEMBER 12, 1965

CALIFORNIA RANCHERIA TERMINATED BY THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has terminated supervision of the Big Valley Rancheria, in Lake County, California, the Department of the Interior announced today. The action was taken with the consent of the Indian group, and in conformance with provisions of the California Rancheria Act of August 18, 1958 (P.L. 85-671) as amended in 1964.

Rancherias are small tracts of California Indian land under Federal trust. Big Valley, which contains 120 acres, is the 21st rancheria to be terminated under the 1958 Act. The Act called for distribution of rancheria assets to the Indian owners and the termination of Federal services they receive because of their status as Indians.

Upon termination the same laws apply to rancheria residents that apply to other citizens in the State.

Approximately 225 Big Valley Indians are affected by this action. They belong primarily to two Indian groups: the Pomos, who once ranged through central California from the coast to the crest of the main range of the Coast Range Mountains, and a small section of the Sacremento Valley; and the Pit River, or Achomawi Indians, who once occupied the Pit River country of northeastern California.

Termination becomes effective upon publication of a notice in the <u>Federal</u>

<u>Register</u>. Notices are simultaneously being sent to all Big Valley Rancheria

Indians.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release to PM's, DECEMBER 13, 1965

OWEN D. MORKEN NAMED AREA DIRECTOR OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AT JUNEAU, ALASKA

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."

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release APRIL 4, 1966

### INTERIOR ACTS TO SECURE HOPI RIGHTS

The Department of the Interior today announced that in response to a request from the Hopi Indian Tribal Council, it is directing the removal of about 35 Navajo Indians who are illegally residing within the Hopi Reservation in northern Arizona.

Assistant Secretary of Interior Harry R. Anderson instructed the Superintendent of the Hopi Agency, Clyde Pensoneau at Keams Canyon, Arizona, to serve the eviction notices on those Indians who did not comply with previous eviction notices of the Hopi Council.

The new eviction notices advise the Navajos that their failure to move will result in the matter being referred to the Attorney General for appropriate legal action.

The Hopi Reservation is an area to which the Hopi Tribe won undisputed ownership in a lawsuit brought by them against the Navajos. The Supreme Court affirmed the 1962 decision of the special Federal Court which tried the case. The Hopi area is surrounded by the Navajo Reservation.

Mr. Anderson said this action in honoring the Hopi request is in keeping with the Interior Department's trusteeship responsibilities.

"While this action is necessary," he said, "we will make every effort to prevent hardship on anyone. The decision of the Courts must be carried out, and I appeal to everyone concerned to cooperate responsibly in meeting this requirement."

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..."

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR OFFICE OF INFORMATION

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For Release MAY 1, 1966

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

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall today urged the tens of millions of visitors who will enjoy Interior-administered recreation areas this year under the "Discover America" slogan to "discover, also, that safe travel begins with the traveler."

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.

"The upswing in sales of the \$7 Golden Passport to Federal recreation areas indicates that more people than ever before are preparing to move into the countryside and enjoy the hundreds upon hundreds of beautiful spots dedicated to their use by Interior," Secretary Udall said. "At the same time, safety experts in the Department are becoming increasingly aware that the wholesome outdoors is not always the most healthful for those who ignore the basic rules of accident prevention."

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.

But, he said, new hazards develop quickly.

"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. Reads 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  $4\frac{1}{2}$  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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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ulsamer - 343-4306

For Release MAY 12, 1966

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

The Department of the Interior has recommended that Congress increase to \$2 million the revolving fund that provides loans for expert assistance to Indian tribes that have filed claims before the Indian Claims Commission.

The Department has proposed an amendment to increase by \$1.1 million the present fund which was established under an Act of November 4, 1963. The fund now provides \$900,000 for loans to Indian tribes or groups that lack funds to secure expert services, other than counsel, in the preparation and trial of their claims.

As of March 1, 1966, the Department reported, loans totaling \$800,404 had been approved, and new loan applications totaling \$444,706 were pending against the \$99,596 balance available. An estimated 35 tribal groups that are expected to need similar financial assistance may apply for an additional \$1.5 million, the Department estimated, because the average loan is \$47,000.

Recognizing the revolving feature of the fund, Department spokesmen pointed out that a number of factors preclude sizable repayments on the outstanding loans for several years. Such repayments are usually made out of judgment funds.

Where Indian land title must be determined and the services of historians, anthropologists, and ethnologists required, the loans may be outstanding for an estimated five to seven years. When title has been determined, appraisals of land, minerals, and timber may delay repayment from judgment funds for three to five years.

Progress of claims cases may be further delayed by the adverse actions of parties other than the petitioning Indians; by the need to dispose of issues on overlapping land interests; or by the appeal of Indian Claims Commission decisions to the Court of Claims.

The Department of the Interior believes that the proposed increase in the loan fund would expedite the settlement of pending claims.