

significant role to play in helping tribes develop the physical infrastructure they will need to accommodate tourists who come to their lands,” McCaleb said. He added that many of the tourism-driven improvements also would improve the basic quality of life for tribal communities.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe’s new entertainment complex at its Prairie Knights Casino and Lodge will be the site of the conference’s opening night reception. Other event activities include an Indian Market and Trade Show showcasing over 100 exhibitors and a Sacajawea/Lewis and Clark historical tour along the Missouri River.

McCaleb oversees the BIA, a 176-year-old federal agency with almost 10,000 employees nationwide that provides services to, carries out its federal trust responsibilities for, and promotes the self-determination of the 558 federally recognized Tribal governments and approximately 1.4 million American Indians and Alaska Natives.

The American Indian/Alaska Native Tourism Association is a national organization whose mission is to “facilitate a network of American Indian tourism interest to cooperatively identify cultural benefits, markets and tourism opportunities that will enhance Tribal business and economic development strategies.” The BIA is a member of AI/ANTA.

For more information on the American Indian Tourism Conference, call 2001 Host Tourism Co-Chair Sandra Ann Poitra at 701-477-5495 or National Indian Tourism Co-Chair Gloria Cobb at 715-588-3324, or visit the conference web site at <http://www.indiantourism.org>

-BIA-