

Western Shoshone Project
Update
February 10, 2012

The Western Shoshone Project Office continues to perform quality assurance (QA) reviews on all applications that were received by close of business on December 31, 2010 (also see the January 2012 Progress Report included below). Part of the QA review process is to ensure that all applicant files contain the required documents leading to the decision made on the applicant's eligibility or ineligibility. This includes ensuring that the proper blood degree determination was made and ensuring that the proper determination was made on whether an applicant shared or did not share in another aboriginal land claim. These process steps are time consuming but ensure that the determinations made are in accordance with the Western Shoshone Claims Distribution Act of July 7, 2004.

Tax Information: We are experiencing a heavy volume of calls from tax preparer's and applicants asking if the judgment funds are taxable. Please see the Western Shoshone Claims Distribution Act included below (the applicable portion of the Act is highlighted in yellow for quick reference).

Target date for completion is: June, 5 2012. Please keep in mind that this is dependent upon the completion of the QA reviews of all applications and a final decision by the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs on all appeals filed under 25 CFR Part 62 Enrollment Appeals.

Any questions should be directed to the Western Shoshone Project Office at (602) 253-0024. If the line is busy, please try again.

How can you help?

- Keep addresses and telephone contact numbers current.
- If applicable, provide death certificates for those applicants who were family members, passed away after July, 7 2004 and were determined eligible. This allows the BIA to place the deceased applicant's funds into an IIM-Estate account pending Probate of the applicant's estate (If you have any questions pertaining to the probate process, please contact the Western Nevada Agency Probate Office at (775) – 887 – 3500 or the Eastern Nevada Agency Probate Office at (775) – 738 – 5165).

Please submit the information to:

Western Shoshone Project
Post Office Box 3838
Phoenix, Arizona, 85030

Reminder: Any change of information must be provided in writing with the applicant's signature. Information should be submitted to the above address or faxed to (602) 253-4520.