



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WESTERN REGION
400 North 5th Street
Two Arizona Center
Phoenix, Arizona 85004



Update

Western Shoshone Claims Distribution Act September 30, 2009

The Western Shoshone Judgment Fund Distribution Act dated July 7, 2004, Public Law 108-270, 118 Stat. 805, requires the Secretary of the Interior to establish a judgment fund per capita roll to distribute the judgment funds awarded to the Western Shoshone by the Indian Claims Commission in Docket 326-K. The Act also establishes an Educational Fund with the funds awarded in Docket Nos. 326-A-1 and 326-A-3.

The following are Bench Mark Achievements on the preparation of the Western Shoshone Judgment fund per capita roll:

- April 5, 2007 – Began sending out applications to share in the per capita distribution.
- October 5, 2007 – Ninty (90) day time frame for receiving applications of which 90% must be reviewed prior to setting a final deadline date for receiving applications. (5,265 applications received by October 5, 2007; therefore, 4,739 of those applications must be reviewed in order to set a final date for receiving applications.)
- August 30, 2009 – Completed entering of the historical Indian Census Rolls with Indian blood degrees into the data base.
- September 21, 2009 – Completed quality review and made necessary corrections to the Historical Indian Census Roll data base.

PHASE I OF PROJECT IS COMPLETED.

- September 21, 2009 – Continue review of applicant files for completeness. If incomplete, request information/documents from applicants, i.e. unsigned certifications and birth records.
- October 5, 2009 – Begin to issue decisions on the applications (5,265) received by October 5, 2007. The final deadline for receiving applications will be 90 days after 90% of the applications (4,739) have been reviewed. The final deadline will be published in the Federal Register.

Questions? Contact the Western Regional Office, Karen Ketcher, Coordinator of Western Shoshone Project, (602) 379-6600; Sharlot Johnson, Regional Tribal Operations Officer, (602) 379-6786.

Office is Moving: Effective October 5, 2009, the Western Regional Office will be located at 2600 North Central Avenue, 4th Floor, Phoenix, Arizona 85014. **All mail is to be addressed to: Western Shoshone Judgment, Western Regional Office, Post Office Box 3838, Phoenix, Arizona 85030.**

Data for September 2009 will not be available until October 15, 2009. The following Progress Report will be updated at that time.

*****Update*****
October 19, 2009

- The move to the new location at 2600 North Central Avenue, 5th Floor, Phoenix, Arizona 85014 was completed. The office was relocated with very little interruption in work activities. All files were successfully relocated and a quality assurance review to ensure that all applications were accounted for has taken place.
- The Region is currently working with the Western Shoshone Tribal groups to establish the Educational Committee pursuant to Section 4 (c) of the Act. Five of the six groups have identified their representative and are providing the documentation to confirm the appointments. Once the Educational Committee is established, it will begin to develop the rules and procedures for approval by the Secretary.
- The concerns brought forth by the Western Shoshone Steering Committee concerning the release of the judgment roll to the Educational Committee as it relates to the Privacy Act has been discussed with the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians, the Western Region, and the Office of the Solicitor. A possible resolution to this issue has been identified and will be discussed with the Western Shoshone Steering Committee and the Educational Committee once it is established.

PROGRESS REPORT

Activity	Totals to date	September 2009	October 2009	Cumulative
Number of applications received	8,025	59		8,084
Number of outgoing correspondence	3,858	398		4,256
Number of applications reviewed	216	125		341
Number determined eligible	0	0		0
Number determined ineligible	216	125		341
Appeals	0	0		0