

Western Shoshone Project
Update
March 7, 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 February 2012 Progress Report). There are 1650 previously approved applications and 2660 denied (ineligible) applications remaining to be QA reviewed. The BIA is striving to complete the QA review of the remaining 1650 previously approved applications by the end of March 2012 to allow time for any appeals that may be filed from any of those 1650 applications that are determined ineligible during the QA review process. The QA review process for 2660 denied applications is less rigorous and the time to appeal the denial decisions on those applications has expired. 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: Please see the previous Web site posting entitled February 15, 2012 - Western Shoshone Claims Distribution Act (1.85 MB file) – Tax information highlighted on page H. R. 884 - 3 (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.

How can you help?

- Keep addresses and telephone contact numbers current. A letter of address verification will be sent out during the month of March to all approved eligible applicants. This letter provides the Bureau with the most current and accurate address for purposes of mailing the final per capita payment. This also provides individuals who want to change the request of "Printed Check" to direct deposit an opportunity to submit a request for direct deposit.
- **Important Notice:** C/O addressees and Sponsor names will not appear on the final checks to be issued. Unless we have a court order or Power of Attorney for the eligible applicant, checks will be issued in the name of the applicant only. If the check is returned to Treasury or the final letter of verification of an address letter is returned we may have the funds placed in an IIM account, subject to the individual providing a current address. The reason for this action is to ensure that only the eligible applicant receives the per capita payment as required by the Western Shoshone Claims Distribution Act.

- Probate: 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 any changes of 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.

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