Indian Affairs - Office of Public Affairs

Media Contact: Shane Wolfe 202-208-6416
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PHOENIX - Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne will meet with tribal leaders and law enforcement officials from tribes in Arizona at the Heard Museum on Thursday, Feb. 22 and hold a press conference on the President's budget proposals for Indian country.

The Secretary will meet with tribal chairman and other leaders to get their input on education and law enforcement needs. The President has proposed a $16 million increase to fund the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Safe Indian Communities Initiative, which will strengthen law enforcement capabilities on tribal lands to help combat the epidemic of methamphetamine use.

To raise the level of student performance in Bureau of Indian Education schools, the President's budget calls for an additional $15 million investment to improve Indian student academic achievement. The BIB system has 184 schools that educate about 50,000 students.

WHO: Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne W. Patrick Ragsdale, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs Thomas M. Dowd, Director, Bureau of Indian Education Tribal chairmen and law enforcement leaders of tribes in Arizona

WHAT: Press conference following meeting on education and law enforcement issues

WHEN: 12:00-12:30 p.m.

WHERE: Phelps Dodge Plaza (press check-in) Heard Museum 2301 N. Central Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85004