



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

SEP 26 2014

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Department of the Interior (Department) invites you to participate in several consultations and meetings during the 2014 Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) October 26 - 31, 2014, in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Department welcomes gatherings of tribal leaders, such as NCAI, as potential sites for Executive Order 13175 tribal consultations and to provide other updates to tribes on our ongoing work as Trustee to Indian tribes. We have scheduled the following meetings:

Sunday, October 26, 2014, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## **Government-to-Government Consultations**

### ***Secretarial Elections*** (Room: Regency V)

The Department wishes to consult with Indian tribes on a new proposed rule with respect to the Department's regulations on Secretarial Elections (25 C.F.R. § 81, *et seq.*). This proposed rule addresses the process Bureau of Indian Affairs uses to call and conduct Secretarial elections upon a tribe's request or tribal members' petition. For several years, the Department has been working to update these regulations. In 2009 and 2010, the Department held several consultation sessions on draft versions of these rules in Anchorage, Alaska; Brooks, California; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Pala, California; and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Publication of the proposed rule in the Federal Register is expected to occur the first week of October 2014, and will be available at:

<http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/AS-IA/ORM/index.htm>

### ***The Indian Water Rights Settlement Program*** (Room: Centennial Ballroom II)

The Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office (SIWRO) wishes to consult with Indian tribes on policies related to the Department's Indian Water Rights Settlement Program. The discussion will focus on ways to strengthen SIWRO, including providing more robust guidance to Indian tribes and coordination with settlement teams negotiating Indian water rights settlements.

Sunday, October 26, 2014, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

***Indian Child Welfare Act Listening Session*** (Room: Chicago D)

The Department will host an Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Working Group update and listening session. Please join us as Federal officials share updates on ongoing efforts being made by the Federal Government to ensure ICWA compliance is strengthened. Your voice will contribute to the vision of strengthening compliance and help lead the way in protecting American Indian and Alaska Native children.

Monday, October 27, 2014, 6:15 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

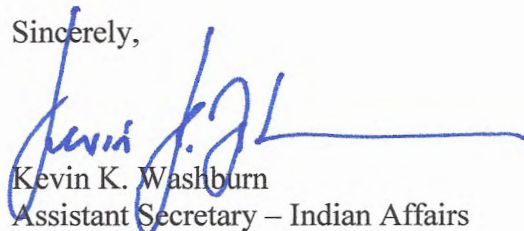
***Sacred Sites Roundtable*** (Room: Hanover C)

The Department will participate in a roundtable discussion as part of NCAI's Breakout Session titled, "Protecting Our Sacred Places: An Overview and Discussion of Current Efforts." Members of the core working group of the Federal interagency Memorandum of Understanding on Sacred Sites will present discussion drafts of a proposal for Federal training, and confidentiality of Sacred Sites information for discussion and feedback.

Meaningful tribal consultation and collaboration are an important part of this Administration's commitment to informed decision-making and to honoring the United States' trust relationship with tribal nations. My office will provide further information and materials, if needed, for each of these meetings at [www.bia.gov/consultation](http://www.bia.gov/consultation).

Thank you for your continued leadership and interest in consultation. Please be reminded of my open door policy and visit [www.bia.gov/ContactUs](http://www.bia.gov/ContactUs) in order to request a meeting. If you have further questions, please contact my office at (202) 208-7163.

Sincerely,



Kevin K. Washburn  
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs