



# Realty Report – Division of Fee to Trust

Partners in Action Conference  
2016

Russell Baker – Supervisory Realty Specialist



# Tribes Serviced & Services Provided

The Division of Fee to Trust, located at the Midwest Regional office, processes fee to trust applications and reservation proclamations for:

- Ho-Chunk Nation
- Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
- Oneida Nation
- Shakopee Mdwakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota

# Division of Fee to Trust Staff

- Russell Baker                      Supervisory Realty Specialist
- Pamela Butterfield              Realty Specialist
- Michelle Dufek                    Realty Specialist
- Andrew Nichols                  Realty Specialist
- Thomas Wilkins                  Realty Specialist
- Tully O'leary                      Program Analyst
- Vacant                                Environmental Protection Specialist



# Accomplishments – FY16 - Division of Fee to Trust

- 23 Parcels Taken into Trust Status (1,779.45 acres)
- 19 Completed Cases (2,192.48 acres)
- 15 Notice of Decisions issued (201.68 acres)
- 10 Reservation Proclamations published (520.10 acres)



# Challenges

The number of appeals, negative comments, or objections received from local governments and private citizens has greatly increased.

More than 50% of our active fee to trust applications have received an appeal, negative comment, or objection.

FY15? More than 70%



# Responding to the Challenge

In FY16, 14 of the Division's cases were in appeal status:

12 – Interior Board of Indian Appeals

2 – Assistant Secretary–Indian Affairs

Interior Board of Indian Appeals upheld all 12 of the Regional Director's decisions. The Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs dismissed the two remaining appeals.

**All appeals were successfully resolved.**



# For more information, please contact:

Russell Baker

Supervisory Realty Specialist

612 725 4583

[russell.baker@bia.gov](mailto:russell.baker@bia.gov)

Note: current agreement expires at end of FY17. A copy of the draft agreement and invitation will be sent to all tribes in MW region prior to renewal.