



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Advisory: Navajo Nation Council to hold closing ceremony for the Navajo Land Buy Back Program

WINDOW ROCK – The Navajo Nation signed a cooperative agreement with the federal government in April 2015, to allow for the implementation of the land consolidation component of the Cobell Settlement — a class action lawsuit over claims that the government mismanaged and incorrectly accounted for the income from Indian Trust assets, specifically Individual Indian Money accounts.

The 2012 settlement provided \$1.9 billion for tribes to consolidate fractional land interests. For the Navajo Nation, approximately \$102 million was set aside for individual Navajo allottees to have the opportunity to voluntarily sell their allotment land, which would then be placed in trust for the Navajo Nation.

Eastern Navajo Land Commission chair Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie and ENLC members will host the closing ceremony to mark the successful conclusion of the Navajo Land Buy Back Program, which has spent approximately \$108 million on land consolidation efforts for the Navajo Nation.

WHO: 23rd Navajo Nation Council, President Russell Begaye, Michael L. Connor, *Deputy Secretary of the Interior* - U.S. Department of the Interior, John McClanahan, *Buy-Back Program Manager* - Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations

WHAT: Recognition Ceremony to Honor the Successful End to the Navajo Land Buy Back Program

WHERE: Navajo Nation Museum Auditorium, Window Rock, Arizona

WHEN: Thursday, January 5, 2017 beginning at 10:00 a.m. (local time)

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