Settlement Provides Tribes Investment Opportunities

On October 10, 1985, the Penobscot Nation and Passamaquoddy Tribe celebrated the 5th Anniversary of the Maine Indian Settlement Act of 1980. The celebration, held in Rockford, Maine, recognized many of the principals involved in the vindication of the Tribe's land claim in Maine, including the Native American Rights Fund. In 1972-1980, NARF represented the Tribes in their litigation and negotiations leading to the Settlement. The Act, signed by President Carter, awarded $81.5 million to the two Tribes for compensation of 12,000,000 acres of land taken from them in the 1700's. Approximately one-third of the Settlement was allocated for economic development. The other two-thirds was to be divided into a trust fund and land acquisition fund. In the past five years, the Tribes have received national attention for their entrepreneurship and investment of the trust fund.

Tribes Leveraging Economic Impact

The Penobscot Nation and Passamaquoddy Tribe have begun charting a new course toward financial independence and self-sufficiency for their tribal members. With a capital pool of approximately $27 million, the Tribes are purchasing businesses and industries in the State of Maine, essentially helping the local and state economy by keeping its investment in the state. Through its investment efforts, the Tribes hope to open up new opportunities and to help provide badly needed jobs for their respective Reservations. In the process, the Tribes are rapidly becoming a major economic and political force in the State of Maine.

Over the last five years, the Tribes' economic growth has been phenomenal. Last December, the Penobscot Nation celebrated the opening of its $2.5 million audio cassette manufacturing company on its Reservation. This spring, the Passamaquoddy Tribe will open its multi-service center to the public.

"...the tribes are rapidly becoming a major economic and political force in the State of Maine."

The Penobscot Reservation is located at Indian Island, near Old Town, Maine. The Passamaquoddy Tribe has two reservations, Pleasant Point and Indian Township, located near Perry and Princeton, Maine, respectively. Both Tribes elect a Governor, Lieutenant Governor and a tribal council to guide their tribal governments and their economic enterprises.

The Passamaquoddy Tribe's investment portfolio includes the purchase of a cement company, two radio stations (continued on next page)
and a blueberry farm. The Dragon Cement Company, located in Thomaston, Maine, is one of the largest manufacturing cement companies in New England and the only one in Maine. Radio stations, WRKD-AM and WMCN-FM, are located in Rockland, Maine. The stations are the only ones in the mid-coastal area and have been widely recognized as leaders in their public service endeavors and news coverage. The Northeast Blueberry Company has yielded an average crop of 500 tons during the last two years and has earned its entire $2 million investment back. The farm makes the Tribe one of the largest producers of commercial blueberries in the nation and provides seasonal work to 500 people.

The Passamaquoddy Tribe also owns the Reservation supermarket, Sipayik Supersaver, which employs 10 tribal members. Currently, the Tribe is finalizing the construction of its new multi-service center which is scheduled to be open in March. The center will include: a home fuel delivery system, a convenience store, a fast food restaurant, an automotive parts and equipment store, and an arts and crafts store. The Tribe is investigating the possibility of buying a slaughter house, a dairy farm and an alternative power company such as wind or solar power.

Another investment under consideration is a manufacturing housing company. The Tribe hopes to secure a share of the housing market in New England, eventually expanding throughout the US. The Penobscot Nation's audio cassette manufacturing company, Olamon Industries, employs 30 people and produces approximately one million cassettes. Timothy Love, Governor of the Penobscot Nation, explained that the audio cassette market has "gone crazy" and the company can't keep up with the current demand.

The Tribe also invested a portion of its money in Penobscot Guaranty which lends money to expanding companies. For example, if a company wanted to build condominiums, the Tribe will guarantee a certain amount of capital money and in return receive a fee for its investment, after a specified period of time. One of the most notable businesses on the Reservation is Sockalexis Arena, an ice hockey rink used by the Tribe and the local non-Indian community.

Other tribal ventures under consideration by the 1,800 member Tribe include guaranteeing a bingo operation for a Tribe in Connecticut and a liquor store in North Carolina. Negotiations are currently under way to buy a ski resort and a large paper company. Paper is one of the largest industries in the state, Governor Love said. The Tribe is currently working with Old Town, Maine, to establish an industrial park to lure more businesses into the area.

The Passamaquoddy Tribe and Penobscot Nation depend on the technical expertise of Tribal Assets Management (TAM) in developing their business interests. TAM was established in 1983 to provide investment advice to the Tribes. The company now assists tribes across the nation and provides expertise in business acquisitions, business financing, investment returns, and cost reduction.

Pay-Off Takes Time

Cliv Dore, Governor of Pleasant Point, cautioned about the waiting game on the return of the investments. He explained that even though the Tribe has accumulated large investments from the settlement, the return has yet to trickle down enough to benefit individual tribal members. "The balance of the settlement won't be seen for several years. The monetary rewards are going to be a few years down the road," he said.

John Stevens, Governor of Indian Township, also expressed a concern about the long wait on the return and added that it was one of the problems to overcome in regard to the settlement. "They (tribal members) want an instant return on the investments and you have to wait on those returns. It takes a few years to get an investment back," he said.

Maine Claim Initiated in 1960's

Governor Stevens, a former NARF Steering Committee member, was one of the original initiators of the claim. He started the effort after reading a copy of the Passamaquoddy's 1794 Treaty with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts which authorized 23,000 acres of land to the Tribe. At the time, the Tribe had title to 17,000 acres of land. He then set out to investigate the history and legality of the Tribe's land losses. It was not until 12 years later that the Passamaquoddy Tribe asked Tom Tureen, a recent law graduate who had opened the Indian Legal Services unit of Pine Tree Legal Assistance in Calais, Maine to review the Tribe's claims. Mr. Tureen would soon leave Pine Tree and become a full-time NARF staff attorney to handle the case.

It was soon discovered that the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation could seek return of 12,000,000 acres, or two thirds of the State of Maine. The land had been taken in unratified treaties with Maine and Massachusetts. Under the terms of the Indian Trade and Intercourse Act of 1790, all
Wayne Newell, Director, Passamaquoddy Indian Township Health Center and NARF Steering Committee Member (Photo: Youngblut)

The Health Center, located at Peter Dana Point, Maine, was built with income received from the Passamaquoddy Tribe's investment (Photo: NARF)

transfers of Indian land which did not receive federal approval are null and void. The treaties with Maine and Massachusetts were never ratified by Congress. Therefore the land transfers were void. At the time, the Tribes were under state control.

In 1975, NARF obtained a federal court judgment which held that the 1790 Act protects all bona fide Indian tribes, whether federally recognized or not. This decision was unanimously affirmed on appeal.

Tribes' Social Problems
Need Years to Resolve

Although their investments have been successful, the Tribes have not eliminated the social problems that existed before settlement. Unemployment, poverty, and alcoholism continue to be significant problems on the Reservations. However, the Tribes have developed programs and services to address those social needs. Many of their programs are funded through Housing and Urban development, Indian Health Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In 1976, the Tribes received federal recognition as part of the federal legislation approving the land claim settlement. Before, they were wards of the State of Maine. Since the settlement, the Tribes have seen progress in the areas of employment, education and housing.

"... the Tribes have not eliminated the social problems... they (the Tribes) have developed programs and services to address those (social) needs."

The Tribes' financial successes have also made a difference and provide hope for the future. The Tribes' unemployment rate has slowly decreased to a rate of approximately 60-65 percent. The Tribes plan to develop more business and industry on the Reservations and surrounding areas. Tribal businesses such as Olamon Industries and Sipayik Super-saver employ tribal members, but are only the beginning to providing badly needed jobs. Governor Stevens hopes that in the next five years that all Passamaquoddy tribal members will be employed. Clayton Cleaves, Pleasant Point tribal planner, wants the businesses to completely wipe out unemployment on the reservations. However, Governor Dore explained that it will be the 1990's before any real impact of the settlement is felt by the local community. He acknowledged that the Tribe as a whole is doing well, "We've promulgated good investigations into good investments," but he added, "We need to work at developing jobs and companies."

The settlement has also contributed to upgraded housing conditions and living standards on the Reservations. Construction of new homes, schools and tribal buildings are evident on all three Reservations. At Indian Township, the finishing touches on the new tribal building are being completed. At Peter Dana Point, about six miles away, a new health center was constructed with the proceeds from the Tribe's blueberry venture. At Indian Island, the Penobscots boast of a new tribal school under construction that will house grades K-9.

The level of education has increased significantly over the last five years. Tribal members are now taking advantage of the educational opportunities provided to them. In 1980, the Passamaquoddy Tribe had approximately six members attending college. This year, 43 students enrolled in college and 10 more are expected to go next year. "The level of education has increased significantly over the last five years."

The Penobscot Nation has approximately 62 students attending college. Governor Love said that people are going to school, getting an education and coming back. "Young people are important," he said. "People need them and there is a place for them here and we care about what happens to them."

(continued on next page)
The hockey arena was constructed by the Penobscot Nation and hosts several league games throughout the year. (Photo: Penobscot Nation)

State of Maine Takes Notice
The business ventures have captured the attention of the State of Maine. The Tribes have deliberately purchased Maine businesses, not only to help themselves, but to help the state economy. And, with a large capital pool to acquire business and investments, they are definitely an economic force to contend with.

Mr. Cleaves stated that Maine’s future power structure will include not only the traditional banks and paper companies, but also the Tribes. Before settlement, the Tribes were not recognized as potential investors in the State. All three governors acknowledge a positive change in the attitude of the State toward their respective Tribes. Before settlement, relationships with the State were described as relatively poor. “Now it is the State that is offering joint ventures on and off the Reservation,” Gov. Stevens said. He noted that the investments have also made the Tribe a political force in the State. “Ten years ago they didn’t even listen to us. Those are the fringe benefits of the settlement.”

NARF a “Lifeline” During Claim
Governor Stevens stated that the land claim settlement was the only process the Tribe could take to limit damages on the Reservation by non-Indians in the State. He explained that the settlement was carefully planned out and that NARF was a “lifeline.” NARF, he said, “extended resources we didn’t have. The Indians here had come to a point of frustration; we had no outlet and no money.” He said that the court was the only system the Tribe could look to for help. “If that failed, there was no one else to look to.”

“NARF extended resources we didn’t have”

During the negotiations for the settlement, it was no secret that the land claim was a political “hotbed” in the State. The Tribes were accused of blackmail and seeking to establish a separate “nation within a nation.” The State challenged the jurisdictional provisions of the proposed settlement, which provided that the Tribes’ lands constituted “Indian country,” and therefore outside the jurisdiction of the State. The State argued that the Nonintercourse Act did not include land within Maine.

Will Development Affect Indian Culture?
Other individuals see more to the settlement than the economic and political impact on the Tribes. Wayne Newell, Director of Indian Township’s Health Center, expressed his concern about the effects of education and the influence of the outside world on the Tribe’s language and culture. He said that past histories of other tribes have shown that many have lost their culture and language through development. However, Mr. Newell feels his Tribe is taking the necessary steps to ensure that the culture and languages are not lost. He said language classes are taught in school and social studies and civics courses about the Tribe are currently being developed, including the history of the land claim.

“Our children need to know that our leadership was involved in the land claim,” he said. “We teach tribal songs, music, crafts — those are the symbols of our culture. Our culture is in our values. If we lose those, then the other is really a stage show.” Mr. Newell, a current NARF Steering Committee member, is optimistic that his Tribe can retain the language and culture and survive the changes on his Reservation. “I think it’s one of those things that if we take it in hand, we’ll be able to do both,” he said.

Maine Tribes Must Decide Their Own Future
All three governors recognize the unlimited opportunities provided to the Tribe since the signing of the land claim act. They also acknowledge that the Tribes have to decide their own direction and future. “We have unlimited opportunities and if we let personalities and differences get involved, the Tribe will not go anywhere,” Governor Dore said.

For the future, Governor Stevens hopes the Tribe will play a role in influencing the outside world. He sees the youth as carrying out tribal plans. “Our kids are the ones who are going to carry the burden. We can’t leave it up to anyone else.”

“We have resources that other tribes can only dream of,” Gov. Love said. “The biggest problem we have to overcome is believing in ourselves. The Tribe has terrific opportunities. There are decisions we have to make. If we make it, we can put ourselves on the back.” He added that a real sense of community has evolved on the Reservation and people are seeing good instead of bad.

“The biggest problem we have to overcome is believing in ourselves.”

Through the Tribes’ determined effort to exercise their legal rights and to seek justice for an age old wrong, they are establishing a sound economic base for their members and future generations. Financial independence, once a dream, is slowly becoming a reality for the Passamaquoddy Tribe and Penobscot Nation.
Case Updates

Catawba Claim Argued Before U.S. Supreme Court
NARF attorney Don Miller appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court in January to defend the right of the Catawba Tribe of Southern Carolina to pursue a 44,000 acre claim to land in South Carolina. The opposition in this major land claim case appealed a favorable lower court decision to the U.S. Supreme Court. A decision is expected in late spring.

Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska Wins Back Jurisdiction
The Winnebago Tribe has recently regained control of misdemeanor criminal jurisdiction over its own members. The State legislature agreed to retrocede jurisdiction in January, but the process of retrocession will not begin until June. Retrocession is necessary because of a 1953 federal statute which granted civil and criminal jurisdiction to several states, including Nebraska. Non-Indians will not be tried in tribal court and alleged felonies committed by Indians will be tried in federal court. Attorney Bob Peregoy handled the matter.

The San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe to Retain Identity on Traditional Lands
This small group of traditional people near Tuba City, Arizona, is being assisted by NARF to resolve a legal claim to its traditional lands. NARF attorneys Kim Gottschalk and Bob Peregoy are handling the matter, which is expected to go to trial next fall.

80-Year-Old Native Alaska Fisherwomen Denied Traditional Fishing Grounds
NARF attorneys in Alaska recently filed a complaint to allow two subsistence fisherwomen the right to continue use of their fishwheel in an area in which they have harvested fish for years. Recently, Alaska state fish and game officials prohibited the two women from continuing their subsistence fishing close to home, instead forcing them to travel 30 miles (one way) for their daily harvest.

Amicus Brief Filed in Religious Freedom Case
NARF recently filed an amicus (friend of the court) brief on behalf of several tribes and Indian organizations in *Heckler v. Roy*. The case, which will be decided this term by the Supreme Court, raises the issue of whether the federal government can infringe upon the religious beliefs of an Indian in order to protect its own interest in preventing fraud and abuse in a public assistance program. The amicus brief was filed on behalf of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), National Indian Youth Council (NIYC), the Winnebago Tribe, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho. Attorney Steve Moore filed the brief.

From the Director

Dear NARF Donor:

We are very pleased to report the significant advances made by the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation since the signing of the Maine Indian Settlement Act in 1980. NARF was involved in representing the Tribes from the early 1970's until signing of the Settlement. These long-term commitments on our part are typical for these major matters.

Our assistance was possible only because of the generous support of people like you, plus special private and public grants to us. Thank you to all of you who helped make these tremendous strides happen. Please continue; without your help we can do very little.

With you, we can assure that tribal self-sufficiency and increased human dignity replace hopelessness and impoverished self-esteem.

John E. Echols
Executive Director

PS. Our special thanks, too, to both Maine tribes featured in this article. They have begun to contribute to NARF since the Settlement so that we, in turn, can help others.
New National Support Committee Members

Billy Mills, Oglala Sioux, is an Olympic Gold Medalist and a successful business executive. He is president of Billy Mills Insurance Services and is a nationally known motivational speaker talking before business, professional and educational groups. His athletic accomplishments were featured in a major motion picture about his life entitled “Running Brave” which highlighted his 10,000 meter run at the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo, Japan. He is the first and only American to win that event. Born and raised on the Pine Ridge Reservation, Mr. Mills was named to the US Olympic Hall of Fame in 1984. He has recently appeared with Connie Stevens on behalf of the Windfeather Foundation to raise money for Indian projects on various reservations. On July 13, 1985 he appeared on the LIVE-AID world-wide broadcast to assist the famine relief project in Africa.

Amado Peña, Jr is a Yaqui/Chicano artist whose work has been the subject of over 100 one-man exhibits across the country. For fifteen years Peña taught in the Texas public schools. Throughout these years he traveled the Texas arts and crafts circuit; the demand for his work became so great that Peña now devotes full time to his artistic endeavors. His career in art has since grown from the small studio in Austin to the expansion of three prominent El Taller Galleries in Austin, Santa Fe, and Taos. Among the major public collections including work by Peña are: The White House, the Smithsonian Institute, California State University at Long Beach, The El Paso Museum of Art, The University of Texas Huntington.

Amado Peña, Jr
Art Gallery, Nuevo Santander Museum and the Whitney Museum

On behalf of the Steering Committee and staff, we would like to welcome Messeurs Mills, Tureen and Peña to the National Support Committee of the Native American Rights Fund.

CBS Funds Development Intern

Fran Mousseau

CBS Inc recently agreed to fund a ‘mentorship’ project at the NARF-Boulder office to provide hands-on fundraising experience to an Indian person. Fran Mousseau, an Oglala/ Santee Sioux, was selected last November to fill this position.

Fran was selected because of her previous experience with the Tribes, her high level of enthusiasm and willingness to learn, plus her commitment to serve the Indian community. NARF is pleased to provide very valuable fundraising and public information experience to Native American talent. At the same time, the organization benefits from the extra help for six months. Ms. Mousseau assists the NARF development staff in practically every development project including direct mail, wills and bequest program, special events, tribal solicitation and public information.
Your Hidden Giving Power

Most people who purchase life insurance do so to help ensure that their family will not undergo unnecessary financial hardship when they die. Many a surviving loved one who has not had the benefit of life insurance proceeds can testify to how welcome extra income would have been at this time of need. However, insurance plans can become outdated. The financial needs of your beneficiaries may have changed since you purchased the policy. Fortunately, the life insurance policy can easily be transferred from one owner to another.

Life insurance can be a convenient way to make a significant gift to the Native American Rights Fund. It allows you to give a little at a time, or to give something that is already paid for but no longer needed. Here are just a few of the possibilities for giving life insurance.

**Give a Policy You No Longer Need**

You may want to give a policy that is no longer needed for its original purpose. This policy makes an excellent gift and is deductible for the full cash value.

*Example: Jack H. took out a $10,000 life insurance policy when his son was born, to insure his college education. But when the time came, Mr. H. was able to send his son to college without cashing the insurance policy. He wanted to do something meaningful with the policy so he gave it to the Native American Rights Fund in honor of his son. He was able to deduct the replacement value on his federal income tax return up to 50 percent of his adjusted gross income.*

**Take Out a New Policy**

If you have thought about making a sizeable gift, but could not afford a gift as large as your commitment, you can take out a life insurance policy that will eventually be worth a great deal. However, it will only cost a little each month. If the Native American Rights Fund is named as owner and beneficiary, the premiums are deductible as charitable gifts.

*Example: Sally R. had always had a strong concern about the progress in strengthening the rights of Indians. She had given regularly to the Native American Rights Fund, but wanted to do more. She was talking with a friend who had gotten great satisfaction from buying a life insurance policy for $5,000, with a monthly premium she could afford. Ms. R. talked with her life insurance agent and took a policy naming NARF as owner and beneficiary. Every premium payment will be deductible on her federal income tax return.*

**Change the Beneficiary of an Existing Policy**

A policy that doesn't have a particular purpose and names the estate of the policyholder or a person who no longer needs the security, makes an ideal gift. If NARF is named as irrevocable beneficiary and owner, the cash value at the time of the gift and all future premiums are tax deductible.

*Example: Janice H. has a life insurance policy which named her daughter as sole beneficiary. Her daughter has since become independent and no longer needs this financial security. After talking with her life insurance agent, she decided to change the beneficiary to the Native American Rights Fund.*

**Name NARF as Secondary or Remainder Beneficiary**

If Janice had wanted her daughter to remain as the primary beneficiary of the policy, she could have instead named NARF as secondary beneficiary, to receive the benefits in case her daughter predeceased her. Or, if she already had a secondary beneficiary, she could have named NARF a remainder or final beneficiary in case the first two both predeceased her.

Bequests by will of cash, securities, real and personal property, the residue of an estate, or any part of it, can have significant tax savings. If you have not already requested a copy of our free booklet, "How to Protect Your Rights With a Will," please do so now.

For more information on giving through life insurance, your will, or the Otu'han Memorial Program, clip and mail the coupon and return to NARF in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

☐ Life Insurance Donations
☐ Otu'han Memorial Program
☐ "How to Protect Your Rights With a Will"

To: Planned Giving Coordinator
Native American Rights Fund
1506 Broadway
Boulder, CO 80302

Name ________________________________
Phone ( ) __________________________
Address ____________________________
City ___________ State _______ Zip ______
In the spirit of the Otu’han, the Native American Rights Fund has received recent gifts in memory of:

MISS ESTHER L. MATTHEWS by Miss Eleanor A. Matthews
ALMA A. MARCELLUS by Beverly S. Cox
JULIA DEL FAVERO by Mr. & Mrs. Andy Beltramello
BERNICE J. WITHROW by Laurel A. Withrow
MARY ELIZABETH Sexton by Dr. Allan Compton
WILLIS JOYCE by Opal Mae Douglas
JOSEPHINE PINWAR by Mr. & Mrs. Andy Beltramello
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MILTON KRUPAT by Mr. Arnold Krupat
MARGARET N. ROBINS by Henry R. Robins
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JOHN R. BAYLESS by Jane B. Burtt
SPOTTED FAWN by Scott Serata
PHILIP DEERE by Kay Cole
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RUTH M. MARKS by Mr. & Mrs. Ib J. Mork
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INDIAN FRIENDS & FRIENDS OF WWII
   by Hallord S. Hosier
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EDWARD J. DILLON by Elizabeth & John Pflender
TOM W. ECHOHAWK by Lucille A. Echahawk

NARF has also received numerous gifts in honor of friends and relatives in celebration of special occasions such as birthdays, and anniversaries, or simply to honor a friendship. We encourage our donors to continue this fine tradition by recognizing and honoring friends and loved ones through a gift to the Native American Rights Fund.
Otu’han

In the Journals of Lewis and Clark it is noted that the Sioux had a custom of giving gifts in the names of those they wished to honor.

This custom is referred to as Otu’han (o-tu-han) — a Lakota word literally translated as “giveaway.” Items of value such as shawls, quilts and household items are gathered over a long period of time to be given away during pow-wows or celebrations in honor of births, anniversaries, marriages, birthdays, and other special occasions. The Otu’han is also customary in memory of the deceased. Once the appropriate funeral services and ceremonies are finished, gifts are made to relatives and friends in the name of the deceased. The custom of giving in honor or memory of someone is still very much alive among Indian people today.

In the spirit of the Otu’han, the Native American Rights Fund would like to encourage our donors to likewise recognize and honor a friend or loved one on special occasions through a gift to NARF. In the same spirit we encourage you to give in memory of the deceased.

Benefits of the Otu’han:

1. Your gift will enable NARF to continue to work toward equality and long overdue justice for the First Americans.
2. Your gift enables you to honor a friend or loved one in a meaningful manner.
3. Your gift in someone else’s name will be acknowledged with a specially designed Native American card.
4. Your gift is tax deductible.

To make your gift, fill out this form and send it along with your donation to:

Marilyn E. Pourier
Planned Giving Coordinator
Native American Rights Fund
1506 Broadway
Boulder, Colorado 80302

For more information about other ways of giving to NARF please write the Planned Giving Coordinator, c/o NARF.
Native American Rights Fund

The Native American Rights Fund is a nonprofit organization specializing in the protection of Indian rights. The priorities of NARF are: (1) the preservation of tribal existence; (2) the protection of tribal natural resources; (3) the promotion of human rights; (4) the accountability of governments to Native Americans; and (5) the development of Indian law.

Our work on behalf of thousands of America's Indians throughout the country is supported in large part by your generous contributions. Your participation makes a big difference in our ability to continue to meet the ever increasing needs of impoverished Native American tribes, groups, and individuals. The support needed to sustain our nationwide program requires your continued assistance.

Requests for legal assistance, contributions, or other inquiries regarding NARF's services may be addressed to NARF's main office: 1506 Broadway, Boulder, Colorado 80302. Telephone: 303-447-8760.

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Deputy Director: Jeanette Wolfley (Navajo/Shoshone-Bannock)

Native American Rights Fund
1506 Broadway
Boulder, Colorado 80302

Address Correction Requested