

Buy-Back review at Tribal Council

Charles Jackson, of the Office of the Special Trustee, updated Tribal Council on the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations. The program is wrapping up across Indian Country, with a final Buy-Back tribe being the Wind River, Mr. Jackson said.

His report included a break-down of the payouts to all of the tribes that participated in the Buy-Back, including Warm Springs.

According to the report, Warm Springs had a relatively low land Buy-Back rate. However, the Confederated Tribes already have ownership of most of the reserva-

tion land, said Councilman Glendon Smith.

The Warm Springs Buy-Back program included 192 individuals, with 766 identified as potential sellers. Total payout was \$826,654 for the Buy-Back of 1,350 acres. More than \$4 million was available for the Warm Springs program.

The Warm Springs Buy-Back numbers are small compared to some of the other tribes, though circumstances are different for other tribes, sometimes including a patchwork reservation structure of tribal and individual ownership.

Umatilla is such a tribe. For comparison with Warm Springs the number of participants in the Umatilla program was about 1,500 members with total payout of more than \$20 million, and Buy-Back of almost 17,000 acres. Overall according to the report:

Total Buy-Back for all the participating tribes was almost \$3.5 billion, with the Buy-Back of more than 2.5 million acres. The Buy-Back Program has been part of the Cobell lawsuit settlement with the federal government.

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