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**REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS  
UNITED STATES SENATE**



LM096211

Information On Federally Owned  
Submarginal Land Within The  
Blackfeet Reservation In Montana

B-147652  
B-147655

Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Department of the Interior

**BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

~~701355~~

096211

DEC. 19, 1972



COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

B-147652  
B-147655

*CI + R*

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with your request of July 31, 1972, this is our report containing information on federally owned submarginal land on the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana. This report updates a section (pp. 45 to 50) of our 1962 report on review of proposed legislation for conveying to certain Indian tribes and groups submarginal land administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior (B-147652, B-147655, Aug. 13, 1962).

We plan no further distribution of this report unless copies are specifically requested and then only after your agreement has been obtained or you have publicly announced the contents of the report.

Sincerely yours,

*James B. Stacks*

Comptroller General  
of the United States

*CI + R*  
The Honorable Henry M. Jackson  
Chairman, Committee on Interior  
and Insular Affairs  
United States Senate

*S 1900*

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### ABBREVIATIONS

BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
GAO	General Accounting Office

COMPTROLLER GENERAL'S REPORT  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS  
UNITED STATES SENATE

INFORMATION ON FEDERALLY OWNED  
SUBMARGINAL LAND WITHIN THE  
BLACKFEET RESERVATION IN MONTANA  
1 Bureau of Indian Affairs 6  
2 Department of the Interior 33  
3 B-147652, B-147655

D I G E S T

WHY THE REVIEW WAS MADE

The Chairman of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs requested the General Accounting Office (GAO) to

--update the factual data in the 1962 GAO report on its review of proposed legislation for conveyance of submarginal land administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to certain Indian tribes and groups and

--comment on how conveyance of the submarginal land can contribute to the social and economic advancement of the Indian tribes involved.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

There are 9,037 acres of federally owned submarginal land on the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana. The reservation is inhabited by the Blackfeet Tribe. (See p. 5.)

In May 1972 officials of BIA's Blackfeet agency office and of the county assessor's office estimated that the submarginal land, for which the Government paid \$31,076, was worth \$35 an acre, or a total of about \$316,000. (See p. 8.)

A BIA official told GAO that improvements, consisting of some fencing and a cabin, on the sub-

marginal land were of minor value. (See p. 8.)

The tribe has had authority to use all 9,037 acres of submarginal land under revocable permits issued by BIA. Permits issued by BIA to the tribe through October 1964 required the payment of annual rent. From November 1947 through October 1964, the Government collected about \$15,000 in rent. (See pp. 8 and 9.)

The current permit for the period March 1969 through February 1974 provides that the tribe is to pay no rental fee. The permit allows subpermitting but prohibits the growing of price-supported crops which are in surplus supply and reserves all timber, water rights, and mineral rights to the Government. (See pp. 8 and 9.)

The Government received revenues of about \$34,000 from September 1954 through May 1972 from leases issued for the exploration of oil and gas on the submarginal land. (See p. 9.)

Submarginal land is combined with other land managed by the tribe into range units averaging 2,000 to 2,500 acres each and are subpermitted for grazing. During 1969 through 1971, the tribe received about \$6,950 annually from subpermitting the submarginal land. (See p. 9.)

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The tribe gives preference to Indians in subpermitting the submarginal land. As of May 1972, 25 of the 30 subpermittees were Indians. (See p. 9.)

Recent information was not available on the existence of mineral resources on the submarginal land, other than information that potential oil and gas deposits were being explored under leases issued by the Government. (See p. 11.)

An agency office official informed GAO that, as in 1962, 120 acres of submarginal land are within an irrigation project and 2,074 acres are adjacent to flowing water and may have some value for recreational purposes. The official said that there are no other water rights of significant value. (See p. 11.)

Tribal lands, consisting of 164,098 acres, are in scattered tracts throughout the reservation and are classified primarily as farming, grazing, and forest land. (See p. 12.)

Through tribal participation and a grant by the Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce, a 67-acre industrial park was completed at a cost of about \$350,000 near Browning, Montana. An industrial development corporation was formed to contract for the construction of facilities at the site. As of May 1972, four plants were located in the park. (See p. 13.)

Information furnished by the agency office showed that there were 148 business enterprises on the reservation, of which 49 either were owned by Indians or persons having Indian spouses or were managed by Indians. (See p. 14.)

From the time minerals were discovered, rentals, royalties, bo-

nuses, and other income derived from mineral leasing activities on tribal land totaled about \$20 million through June 30, 1971, including about \$2 million in fiscal year 1971. (See p. 14.)

The tribe's financial statements for fiscal year 1970--the latest statements available and not verified by GAO--showed tribal assets valued at about \$11 million and liabilities of about \$148,000. The principal asset was real estate valued at about \$10 million. (See p. 16.)

For fiscal year 1970 the tribe reported income of about \$927,000 and expenses of about \$775,000, or a net income of about \$152,000. (See p. 16.)

In August 1968 the Blackfeet and Gros Ventre Tribes were awarded a judgment of about \$8.7 million by the Indian Claims Commission as additional compensation for about 13.9 million acres of land ceded to the Government in 1888. In March 1972 disposition of the judgment funds was authorized. The tribes' share of the judgment, plus interest, was about \$7 million of which \$5.7 million was distributed on a per capita basis. The remaining \$1.3 million was to be used for purposes authorized by the tribal council and approved by the Secretary of the Interior. (See p. 17.)

As of May 1972, the tribe had one claim pending with the Indian Claims Commission but no specific amount had been established for this claim. (See p. 17.)

BIA and tribal officials told GAO that the tribe had not prepared specific plans for use of the submarginal land. The secretary of the tribal business council said,

however, that acquisition of the land would greatly enhance the tribe's goal of promoting the agricultural development of the reservation and would contribute significantly to its land acquisition program. (See p. 10.)

Another tribal official told GAO that a private firm is currently preparing a comprehensive long-range plan for the economic development of the reservation and that the submarginal land could be used or exchanged for more appro-

priate land to implement the plan. (See p. 10.)

A representative of the private firm informed GAO that, if the submarginal land were conveyed to the tribe, the land could be used for various purposes which would benefit the tribe. (See pp. 10 and 11.)

Accordingly, GAO believes that conveyance of the land to the tribe could contribute to its social and economic advancement. (See p. 17.)

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to a request dated July 31, 1972, from the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs (see appendix), and in accordance with subsequent discussions with his office, we have updated the factual data on pages 45 to 50 in our August 1962 report on submarginal land administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Department of the Interior.<sup>1</sup> That report was submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs. The Chairman also requested our comments on how conveyance of the submarginal land could contribute to the social and economic advancement of the Indian tribes.

This report pertains to the 9,037 acres of federally owned submarginal land on the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana, which is inhabited by the Blackfeet Tribe.

We reviewed records and interviewed officials of BIA's central office in Washington, D.C.; BIA's area office in Billings, Montana; BIA's Blackfeet agency office in Browning, Montana; and the tribe. We interviewed also employees of the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, and officials in the counties where the Blackfeet Reservation is located to obtain information on certain matters within their areas of expertise.

### BLACKFEET INDIAN RESERVATION

The Blackfeet Reservation is located in Glacier and Pondera counties in northwestern Montana. It was established for the Blackfeet and the Gros Ventre Tribes on October 17, 1855, by a treaty (11 Stat. 657) between the United States and the Blackfoot Nation. Various congressional acts and executive orders between 1873 and 1880 altered the southern

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<sup>1</sup>"Report on Review of Proposed Legislation for Conveyance to Certain Indian Tribes and Groups of Submarginal Land Administered by Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior" (B-147652, B-147655, Aug. 13, 1962).

and eastern boundaries of the reservation, and in 1888 the reservation contained a total of 21,651,200 acres.

The act of May 1, 1888 (25 Stat. 113), opened 17,500,000 acres of reservation land to settlement and segregated three parcels of land, totaling 4,150,290 acres, into three reservations--Blackfeet, Fort Belknap, and Fort Peck. In 1896 the Blackfeet Reservation was reduced to its present size of 1,525,712 acres when the tribe sold what is now a part of Glacier National Park to the Government. The reservation is now bounded on the north by Canada and on the west by Glacier National Park.

As of May 1972 the ownership status of the land within the reservation boundaries was as follows:

	<u>Acres</u>
Indian land:	
Tribal (title held in trust by the Government)	127,851
Tribal (fee title held by the tribe)	36,247
Allotted by the tribe to individual Indians (title held in trust by the Government)	<u>772,003</u>
	<u>936,101</u>
Other land:	
Submarginal, Government-owned	9,037
Administrative reserve of BIA	151
Private ownership	<u>580,423</u>
	<u>589,611</u>
Total	<u><u>1,525,712</u></u>

#### BLACKFEET INDIAN TRIBE

The tribe was organized under the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984). It operates under a constitution and bylaws approved by the Secretary of the Interior on December 13, 1935, and amended January 18, 1946, and May 24, 1950. The tribe ratified its corporate charter on August 15, 1936.

BIA records show that tribal membership was 10,648 as of March 1972. A BIA labor force report prepared in March 1972 showed that 5,741 Indians, both tribal members and non-members, lived on the Blackfeet Reservation and an additional 475 Indians lived in areas adjacent to the reservation. The report showed also that the Indian labor force totaled 1,353, of whom 495 were unemployed.

## CHAPTER 2

### INFORMATION ON SUBMARGINAL LAND, TRIBAL LAND,

#### AND TRIBAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES

##### SUBMARGINAL LAND

The 9,037 acres of submarginal land are in 33 separate tracts, ranging from 40 to 840 acres, within the reservation boundaries. Various combinations of tribal trust, tribal fee, allotted, and privately owned land surround these submarginal tracts.

The Government purchased the submarginal land under the provisions of title II of the National Industrial Recovery Act of June 16, 1933 (48 Stat. 200), the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of April 8, 1935 (49 Stat. 115), and section 55 of the act of August 24, 1935 (49 Stat. 750, 781). According to BIA records, the Government paid \$31,076 for the land.

In May 1972 agency office and local county assessor officials estimated that the submarginal land was worth \$35 an acre, or a total of about \$316,000.

We estimate that, if the submarginal land had been subject to real estate taxes, the 1971 taxes would have been about \$1,800.

A BIA official told us that improvements, consisting of some fencing and a cabin, on the submarginal land were of minor value.

##### Present and past uses

The tribe has had authority to use all 9,037 acres of submarginal land under revocable permits issued by BIA. The current permit covers the period March 1, 1969, through February 28, 1974, and provides that the tribe is to pay no rental fee. The permit states that all timber, water rights, mineral rights, and the right to grant easements on the land for public purposes are reserved to the Government. The permit allows subpermitting but prohibits the growing of price-supported crops which are in surplus supply.

Through October 1964 permits issued by BIA required the tribe to pay annual rent for use of the land. In October 1964 the Acting Secretary of the Interior directed that no further charges be made under permits issued to Indian tribes for use of such lands. From November 1, 1947, through October 22, 1964, the Government collected rentals amounting to about \$15,000. In addition, from September 20, 1954, through May 22, 1972, the Government received revenues of about \$34,000 from leases issued for the exploration of oil and gas on the submarginal land. A Bureau of Land Management official told us that, as of August 1972, 15 oil and gas leases were in effect on 5,121 acres of submarginal land.

The submarginal land is combined with other land managed by the tribe into range units averaging 2,000 to 2,500 acres each and is subpermitted for grazing. During 1969 through 1971 the tribe received about \$6,950 annually from subpermitting the submarginal land.

The tribe gives preference to Indians in subpermitting the submarginal land. Indian applicants who own up to 250 head of cattle can obtain a subpermit at a reduced rate without competitive bidding. Those Indians who own more than 250 head of cattle must obtain the subpermit through competitive bidding. If a non-Indian is the high bidder on a unit for which an Indian also has bid, the Indian may obtain the subpermit at the higher bid.

The subpermits in effect as of May 1972 are as follows:

	<u>Number of subpermittees</u>	<u>Acres of submarginal land</u>
Indian	25	7,429
Non-Indian	5	1,568
Land not leased	<u>-</u>	<u>40</u>
Total	<u>30</u>	<u>9,037</u>

Four of the five non-Indian subpermittees owned land adjacent to the submarginal land.

## Potential and planned uses

BIA classified nearly all of the submarginal land as grazing land. BIA and tribal officials told us that the tribe had not prepared specific plans for use of the submarginal land. A tribal official said that improvements had not been made on the land because the tribe did not have title to the land. The official said, however, that a private firm was preparing a comprehensive long-range plan for the economic development of the Blackfeet Reservation under a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. He said also that the submarginal land could be used or exchanged for more appropriate land to implement the long-range plan. In addition, the secretary of the tribal business council informed us in May 1972 that acquisition of the land would greatly enhance the tribe's goal of promoting the agricultural development of the reservation and would contribute significantly to its land acquisition program.

The potential benefits from conveyance of the submarginal land to the tribe were also pointed out to us by a representative of the private firm which is preparing the long-range plan. The firm's Director of Planning Activities informed us in May 1972 that the overall goal of the tribe was a land acquisition program that would return a maximum amount of land on the reservation to tribal ownership. He stated that any Government-owned land received by the tribe would benefit it in the following areas of land use.

1. Irrigation--Any Government lands within irrigation units or adjacent to proposed reservoirs, streams, or irrigation canals would be of economic benefit to the tribe. There are 2,200 acres of submarginal land within the area proposed for irrigated farming.
2. Recreation--The tribe is trying to acquire any land that could eventually be used for either tourist or recreational programs. There are 180 acres of submarginal land within the area proposed for recreational development.
3. Grazing--The tribe plans to construct a livestock sales center and also has plans for a cattle feed

lot and a feed-processing plant. Any Government-owned grazing land acquired by the tribe would be used for further development of ranching and related businesses. There are 6,657 acres of submarginal land within the area proposed for grazing and ranching development.

The representative of the firm preparing the long-range plan stated that the tribe was searching for land to provide site locations for 410 homes which it plans to start constructing by 1975. Community centers, shopping centers, and a commercial jet airport were also proposed. He also said that the tribe planned to hold some land in reserve for future development, particularly with regard to mineral resources.

#### Mineral and water resources

Recent information was not available on the existence of mineral resources on the submarginal land, other than information that potential oil and gas deposits were being explored under leases issued by the Government.

An agency office official informed us that, as in 1962, 120 acres of submarginal land are within an irrigation project and that 2,074 acres are adjacent to flowing water and may have some value for recreational purposes. The official said also that there are no water rights of significant value on the remainder of the land.

## TRIBAL LAND

Tribal lands are in scattered tracts throughout the reservation. Various combinations of allotted, submarginal, private, and Government-owned land surround these lands. The following table shows the classification and the use of tribal land during calendar year 1971.

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Acres</u>			<u>Total</u>
	<u>Used by Indians</u>	<u>Used by Non- Indians</u>	<u>Idle</u>	
Open grazing	60,035	22,519	840	83,394
Dry farming	5,320	5,150	-	10,470
Irrigated farming	4,457	1,754	571	6,782
Forest	49,396	-	-	49,396
Wild land (marshland, barren land, etc.)	10,516	-	-	10,516
Other uses (townsites, etc.)	<u>2,746</u>	<u>794</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,540</u>
Total	<u>132,470</u>	<u>30,217</u>	<u>1,411</u>	<u>164,098</u>

An agency office official told us that the idle grazing land is located in a rugged area which is undesirable for cattle grazing and that there had been no demand for it as grazing land for sheep. He told us also that, during 1971, tribal-owned irrigation project land was idle because there was no demand for it.

Information readily available to us concerning land uses and mineral resources pertained to all reservation land in general, including tribal land. This information is discussed in subsequent sections of this report.

### Agricultural uses

In its land use inventory and production report for 1971, BIA estimated that 246,228 acres of land under its jurisdiction could be irrigated, although only 20,186 acres were actually under irrigation. Land under BIA's jurisdiction included tribal, allotted, and submarginal land. An agency office official told us that, when the estimate was made,

the economic feasibility of preparing this land for irrigation was not considered and that technological advancement and an increased demand for farm land would be necessary before much of this land would be irrigated. He mentioned that the development of a faster maturing grain would greatly aid farmers on the reservation. He said that frost damages the grain on the eastern part of the reservation, where most of the farming is done, about every 5 years and in some other areas every 2 years.

A BIA report dated April 1972 on the resources and development potential of the Blackfeet Reservation area pointed out the need for improved management of agricultural activities on land on which irrigation might be developed. The report also pointed out that much of the reservation range lands could be improved through better range management. The report cited BIA statistics published in 1968 which indicated that crop yields on irrigable land were only 45 percent of potential yields and that range land was producing at 65 percent of capacity.

#### Industrial and recreational uses

BIA's April 1972 report stated that residents of the Blackfeet Reservation area had been studying the area's recreational possibilities and the development of tourist trade. The report stated also that several public and private efforts had been made to attract industrial development to the reservation area so that jobs could be provided for those no longer employed in agriculture and for the general reservation population who had consistently been underemployed.

For example, through tribal participation and a grant by the Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce, a 67-acre industrial park, adjacent to the city of Browning, was completed at a cost of about \$350,000. An industrial development corporation was formed to contract for the construction of facilities at the site. As of May 1972, four plants--a saw mill, a wood products plant, a pencil manufacturing factory, and a plant making prefabricated houses--were located in the park. All of these enterprises except the saw mill were owned and operated by Indians.

Information furnished us by the agency office showed that there were 148 business enterprises on the reservation, of which 49 either were owned by Indians or persons having Indian spouses or were managed by Indians.

BIA's report pointed out that the reservation, because it was located near parks, appeared to have a good recreation and tourism potential. The report mentioned that the reservation has several campgrounds and picnic areas and offers fishing facilities and that the tribe is constructing a motel-tourism complex that will fill the needs of visitors to Glacier National Park.

### Mineral resources

Petroleum extraction has been an important factor in the economy of the reservation area for many years. Some of the major oil and gas fields were discovered in the early 1920s and others were developed in more recent years.

All development of oil and gas deposits has been carried out under leases. The tribe has been investigating the possibility of engaging in the exploration, development, and production of oil and gas on its own or jointly with major oil companies. The tribe expects that such a program would enable it to share in a larger portion of the profits from the oil and gas production on the reservation.

From the time such minerals as oil and gas were discovered, rentals, royalties, bonuses, and other income derived from mineral-leasing activities on tribal land totaled about \$20 million through June 30, 1971, including about \$2 million in fiscal year 1971.

BIA's report on the resources and development potential of the Blackfeet Reservation pointed out that the development of the petroleum industry in this part of Montana can be expected to slow down unless new fields are discovered. Several of the existing fields are presently using water flooding as a secondary means of recovery.

BIA's report, on the other hand, mentioned that recently interest has been shown in the titaniferous magnetite deposits in the North Central Montana area and in the potential

existence of such a deposit in the Blackfeet Reservation area. BIA's report stated that it was only a matter of time until technological development would make it economically feasible to use the magnetite deposits in the area.

BIA's report also mentioned the existence in the reservation area of coal deposits which did not appear to be significant or readily minable at this time. A Geological Survey official told us that coal had not been mined on the reservation.

## TRIBAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES

An agency office official provided us with the tribe's fiscal year 1970 financial statements, the latest available for our review. The statements, which we did not verify, showed that the tribe had assets valued at \$11,107,273 and liabilities of \$147,989. The principal asset was real estate valued at \$10,043,189. For fiscal year 1970 the tribe reported income of \$927,470 and expenses of \$775,378, or a net income of \$152,092.

An agency office official told us that annual income in fiscal year 1972 had been expected to amount to about \$1.5 million. A tribal council member said that estimated receipts of the tribe in 1973 were expected to be derived from the following sources.

Oil and gas leases (collected directly by the tribe)	\$ 950,000
Grazing fees	100,000
Forestry income	100,000
Farm leases, fines, and miscellaneous sources	100,000
U.S. Treasury (income from oil and gas and other leases collected by the Government and budgeted for use by the tribe)	<u>300,000</u>
Total	<u>\$1,550,000</u>

The tribe has been receiving assistance from several Government agencies which provided about \$17.5 million during the 5-year period 1967 through 1971 as follows:

Agriculture	\$ 5,490,000
Commerce (Economic Development Administration)	2,012,500
Action (Volunteers in Service to America)	363,500
Office of Economic Opportunity	2,065,000
Labor	253,500
Housing and Urban Development	5,431,400
Health, Education, and Welfare	260,000
Interior	650,000
Small Business Administration	950,000
Justice (law enforcement)	<u>29,000</u>
Total	<u>\$17,504,900</u>

On August 23, 1968, the Blackfeet and Gros Ventre Tribes were awarded a judgment of about \$8.7 million by the Indian Claims Commission as additional compensation for about 13.9 million acres of land ceded to the Government under the act of May 1, 1888 (25 Stat. 113). The act of October 21, 1968 (82 Stat. 1190), appropriated funds to cover the award, and disposition of the judgment funds was authorized pursuant to the act of March 18, 1972 (86 Stat. 64).

The act of March 18, 1972, provided that the judgment, plus interest, less attorney's fees and other related expenses, be divided so the Blackfeet Tribe would receive 73.2 percent and the Gros Ventre Tribe would receive 26.8 percent. Of about \$7 million received by the Blackfeet Tribe, \$5.7 million was distributed on a per capita basis to all enrolled members of the tribe. The remaining \$1.3 million was to be used for purposes authorized by the tribal council and approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

As of May 1972, the tribe had one claim pending with the Indian Claims Commission. The claim was for a proper accounting by the Government for all property or funds received and expended on behalf of the tribe. No specific amount has been established for this claim.

#### SUMMARY

BIA and tribal officials told us that the tribe had not prepared specific plans for use of the submarginal land. The secretary of the tribal business council informed us in May 1972 that acquisition of the land would greatly enhance the tribe's goal of promoting the agricultural development of the reservation and contribute significantly to its land acquisition program. Another tribal official told us that a private firm is currently preparing a comprehensive long-range plan for the economic development of the reservation and that submarginal land could be used, or exchanged for more appropriate land, to implement the plan. A representative of the private firm informed us that, if the submarginal land were conveyed to the tribe, the land could be used for various purposes which would benefit the tribe. (See pp. 10 and 11.)

Accordingly, we believe that conveyance of the land to the tribe could contribute to its social and economic advancement.

HENRY M. JACKSON, WASH., CHAIRMAN  
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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 31, 1972

### BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

The Honorable Elmer B. Staats  
Comptroller General of the United States  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Elmer:

This letter is in reference to my letter dated April 1, 1971, in which I requested your staff to begin updating the Comptroller General's Report on Submarginal Land which was submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs on August 13, 1962.

It has recently been brought to my attention that the Department of the Interior is making a study of instances in which a tribe or group of Indians seeks to acquire land and, as a result of this study, does not intend to submit any further proposed legislation and related comments on the proposed transfer of submarginal lands to Indian tribes and groups until the study is completed.

Previous agreements provided for your staff to initiate the updating of factual data in your 1962 report at the time the Department prepared a draft of proposed legislation providing for the transfer of submarginal land to an Indian tribe or group. Under these arrangements, reports were issued on four Indian tribes or groups and I understand that reports are currently in process on five additional tribes or groups.

The Honorable Elmer B. Staats

Page 2

July 31, 1972

Because the Department apparently does not plan to submit any further proposed legislation providing for the transfer of submarginal lands to Indian tribes and groups until after its study is completed, please consider this letter an official request to have your staff begin updating the factual data in the 1962 report regarding the remaining nine Indian tribes or groups and to furnish individual reports thereon as soon as each is completed.

I would like for your reports to include comments on how the conveyance of the lands in question to Indian tribes can contribute to their social and economic advancement.

Your assistance is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

  
Henry M. Jackson  
Chairman

HMJ:fge

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE