



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

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Media Advisory

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Contact: Interior Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Jewell to Kick Off Nationwide Tour Highlighting Nation's Progress on Conservation, Energy and Tribal Issues *First Stop on Tour Highlights Administration Efforts to Strengthen Tribal Nations, Invest in Native Youth Successes*

ACOMA PUEBLO, N.M. – On Thursday, December 8, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell will begin a nationwide tour to highlight the progress the nation has made over the last eight years on public lands, waters and wildlife management and restoring nation-to-nation relationships with Native Americans.

As part of President Obama's commitment to strengthening Indian Country, Secretary Jewell will visit the Acoma Pueblo, west of Albuquerque, on Thursday to highlight Administration efforts to strengthen tribal nations. She will be joined by the newly-appointed Bureau of Indian Affairs Director Bruce Loudermilk and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) Director Tony Dearman.

Secretary Jewell will meet with tribal leaders and tour the Pueblo where the Obama Administration restored more than 59,000 acres of land into trust for the benefit of the tribe. She will also talk with students, teachers and members of the Acoma Board of Education at the Pueblo's Sky City School that is transitioning from a BIE-operated school to one that is controlled by the Tribe.

In her capacity as [Chair of the White House Council on Native American Affairs](#), Secretary Jewell leads a comprehensive federal initiative to work more collaboratively and effectively with Tribes to advance their economic and social priorities. The Secretary's visit follows her participation in the eighth White House Tribal National Conference in Washington, DC this past fall.

WHO: **Sally Jewell**, U.S. Secretary of the Interior
Governor Kurt Riley, Acoma Pueblo & Pueblo Leadership
Bruce Loudermilk, Bureau of Indian Affairs Director
Tony Dearman, Bureau of Indian Education Director

WHAT: Visit to Acoma Pueblo in New Mexico

WHEN: Thursday, December 8, 2016
9:20 a.m. MDT – Media check-in
9:35 a.m. MDT – School tour
10:20 a.m. MDT – School assembly
11:00 a.m. MDT – Press conference in school library
12:00 p.m. MDT – Tour of Acoma Cultural Center & Old Village (photos only)

WHERE: Credentialed members of the media should plan to meet at:
Sky City Community School – Front Office
44 Pinsbaari Drive
Acoma Pueblo, NM 87034

MEDIA: Credentialed members of the media are encouraged to [RSVP here](#).

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