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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO PUT
COLORADO TITLE INSURANCE COMPANIES ON NOTICE**

Tribal Land Claims May Cloud Title on 27 Million Acres

Golden, CO (May 12, 2004) – Today, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma (the “Tribes”) announced that over 150 land title, abstract and real estate companies in Colorado will be receiving a letter giving notice of the Tribes’ Claims. The letter indicates the potential for “substantial and prolonged clouds on private and public landowners’ title” in Colorado, which could arise from the Tribes’ April 14, 2004 filing of *Notice of Claims and Petition to Settle* with the U.S. Department of Interior. This pending proceeding may affect title on the disputed 27 million acres of land along the Front Range and may ultimately delay large construction and water projects planned in the State.

“The Tribes desire to notify those businesses that are working with land title in the State of Colorado of the potential impact that the Tribes’ land claims will have if left unresolved,” said Steve Hillard, President of the Native American Land Group, which is working with the Tribes on the Cheyenne and Arapaho Homecoming Project.

The 150 Colorado land companies were officially notified of the land dispute by a letter from William Blind, Vice-Chairman of the Tribes’ Business Committee, in which he states that the Tribes “wish to emphasize that the Nations seek to expeditiously resolve this matter before litigation commences. This would avoid the kind of protracted dispute that occurred in other states and that has already occurred in Colorado with respect to the *Taylor Ranch* litigation.”

Taylor Ranch is a reference to a recent Colorado Supreme Court decision affecting over 70,000 acres in Southern Colorado. The decision upheld pre-statehood land claims that were outside the recorded chain of title, and resulted in a loss of land rights by the current title holder. The Tribes reference *Taylor Ranch* in their Claims, noting their belief that they have far stronger claims than those made in *Taylor Ranch*, due to the Federal recognition of their rights to the disputed lands, as agreed in the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851. “The Taylor Ranch owners thus not only faced decades of clouds on their title, but they ultimately lost,” the letter continued.

The letter further emphasized the Tribes’ plan to initiate a settlement dialogue with the U.S. Department of Interior and the State of Colorado that “does not ask for one penny or one acre from the federal government, the State of Colorado, any political subdivision, or any landowner.”

“The Tribes will be offering a constructive settlement proposal that goes well beyond a ‘zero-cost solution’ to Colorado’s land-title problems. It will provide a substantial, continuous stream of shared revenue to the State during a time of financial crisis. Those urging anything short of serious consideration of the settlement proposal would, in our judgment, be irresponsible,” Hillard said.

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