

MEDIA ADVISORY (DRAFT)

DATE: Monday, September 5, 2016

CONTACT: Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas
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Lester Randall, Chairman
(785) 231-4555

**KICKAPOO TRIBE TO HOST COMMEMORATION
OF PLUM CREEK SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT;**

KANSAS ATTORNEY GENERAL DEREK SCHMIDT TO SPEAK

HORTON, KS. | Kickapoo Tribal Chairman Lester Randall announced today the Tribe will commemorate completion of the Plum Creek Settlement Agreement at a ceremony to be held at the Kickapoo Tribal Administration Building on Friday, September 9 beginning at 11:00 a.m.

In his statement, Chairman Randall said, "This Agreement secures the Kickapoo Tribe's long-term viability, for without water, we cannot survive as a Tribe or a community." Randall went on to say, "This commemoration ceremony will allow the Kickapoo People to formally thank Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt and staff as well as the Kansas Department of Agriculture and representatives of other state agencies for working with the Tribe and the Native American Rights Fund to secure the Tribe's right to a permanent supply of water, thus enhancing the quality of life for tribal members and sustaining the Kickapoo Reservation for future success and enhancement."

Featured speakers will be Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt; Chad Bontrager, Deputy Secretary of the Kansas Department of Agriculture; Native American Rights Fund Senior Staff Attorney Steve Moore; and, Kickapoo Tribal Chairman Lester Randall.

The Kickapoo Tribe has worked for more than 40 years to secure a safe and reliable source of water for its reservation beginning with the construction of a small dam, water intake and treatment system in the 1970's. Since that time, the Tribe has worked with regional stakeholders on development of a water storage initiative known as the Plum Creek Project.

The Plum Creek Project stalled due to the inability of the Tribe to secure adequate property rights after the local watershed district refused to exercise condemnation authority. Most, if not all man-made lakes and watersheds developed in Kansas have required the use of eminent domain and condemnation authority. As a result of these setbacks, the Tribe set out to acquire land in fee simple title through negotiation and purchase with willing landowners. To date the Tribe has acquired a substantial portion of land needed for the Plum Creek Project and continues to solicit the purchase of additional land from area landowners.

The Plum Creek Agreement quantifies the Tribe's senior water rights in the Delaware River Watershed, which is necessary for the Plum Creek Project to proceed. Plum Creek is a tributary to the Upper Delaware River, which flows through the Kickapoo Reservation in Brown County. The Tribe has successfully negotiated its water right with the State of Kansas, the U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of Justice, with the assistance of technical staff and consultants.

Signatories to the Agreement include the State of Kansas, Office of the Kansas Attorney General and the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas. Upon execution, the Agreement will be forwarded to the Federal Government for ratification by the U.S. Congress.

For more information, including a history of the Plum Creek Project, please contact the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas or the Native American Rights Fund. Historical information will also be made available at the Plum Creek Commemoration.

The Media and public are invited to attend the commemoration.

**Kickapoo Tribal Administration Building
Friday, September 9 at 11:00 a.m.
824 111th Drive, Horton, KS 66439**

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The Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas has more than 1,600 members and is governed by its Tribal Council. The Tribe's reservation land is located approximately five miles west of Horton, Kansas in Brown County and encompasses an area of approximately 30 square miles (the Tribe does not own all of the land located within the Federally-recognized reservation).

For more information on the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, please refer to the following Kickapoo Tribe websites:

www.ktik-nsn.org

www.goldeneaglecasino.com

Native American Rights Fund

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