

sage of this subchapter and the satisfaction of its terms and in exchange for the moneys appropriated hereunder—

(A) settle and forever release their respective claims against the United States asserted by them in United States Court of Federal Claims Case Nos. 218–89L and 630–89L; and

(B) forever disclaim any and all right, title, and interest in and to the Disclaimed Drybed Lands, as set forth in those enactments of the respective councils of the Indian Nations.

(16) The resolutions adopted by the respective Councils of the Cherokee, Choctaw, and Chickasaw Nations each provide that, contingent upon the passage of the settlement legislation and satisfaction of its terms, each Indian Nation agrees to dismiss, release, and forever discharge its claims asserted against the United States in the United States Court of Federal Claims, Case Nos. 218–89L and 630–89L, and to forever disclaim any right, title, or interest of the Indian Nation in the Disclaimed Drybed Lands, in exchange for the funds appropriated and allocated to the Indian Nation under the provisions of the settlement legislation, which funds the Indian Nation agrees to accept in full satisfaction and settlement of all claims against the United States for the damages sought in the aforementioned claims asserted in the United States Court of Federal Claims, and as full and fair compensation for disclaiming its right, title, and interest in the Disclaimed Drybed Lands.

(17) In those resolutions, each Indian Nation expressly reserved all of its beneficial interest and title to all other Riverbed lands, including minerals, as determined by the Supreme Court in *Choctaw Nation v. Oklahoma*, 397 U.S. 620 (1970), and further reserved any and all right, title, or interest that each Nation may have in and to the water flowing in the Arkansas River and its tributaries.

(Pub. L. 107–331, title VI, §602, Dec. 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 2845.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Act of April 30, 1906 (34 Stat. 137), referred to in par. (7), probably means the Act of April 26, 1906, ch. 1876, 34 Stat. 137, which was classified in part as a note under section 355 of this title.

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 107–331, title VI, §601, Dec. 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 2845, provided that: “This title [enacting this subchapter] may be cited as the ‘Cherokee, Choctaw, and Chickasaw Nations Claims Settlement Act.’”

§ 1779a. Purposes

The purposes of this subchapter are to resolve all claims that have been or could have been brought by the Cherokee, Choctaw, and Chickasaw Nations against the United States, and to confirm that the Indian Nations are forever disclaiming any right, title, or interest in the Disclaimed Drybed Lands, which are contiguous to the channel of the Arkansas River as of December 13, 2002, in certain townships in eastern Oklahoma.

(Pub. L. 107–331, title VI, §603, Dec. 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 2847.)

§ 1779b. Definitions

For the purposes of this subchapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) Disclaimed Drybed Lands

The term “Disclaimed Drybed Lands” means all Drybed Lands along the Arkansas River that are located in Township 10 North in Range 24 East, Townships 9 and 10 North in Range 25 East, Township 10 North in Range 26 East, and Townships 10 and 11 North in Range 27 East, in the State of Oklahoma.

(2) Drybed Lands

The term “Drybed Lands” means those lands which, on December 13, 2002, lie above and contiguous to the mean high water mark of the Arkansas River in the State of Oklahoma. The term “Drybed Lands” is intended to have the same meaning as the term “Upland Claim Area” as used by the Bureau of Land Management Cadastral Survey Geographic Team in its preliminary survey of the Arkansas River. The term “Drybed Lands” includes any lands so identified in the “Holway study.”

(3) Indian Nation; Indian Nations

The term “Indian Nation” means the Cherokee Nation, Choctaw Nation, or Chickasaw Nation, and the term “Indian Nations” means all 3 tribes collectively.

(4) Riverbed

The term “Riverbed” means the Drybed Lands and the Wetbed Lands and includes all minerals therein.

(5) Secretary

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) Wetbed Lands

The term “Wetbed Lands” means those Riverbed lands which lie below the mean high water mark of the Arkansas River in the State of Oklahoma as of December 13, 2002, exclusive of the Drybed Lands. The term “Wetbed Lands” is intended to have the same meaning as the term “Present Channel Claim Areas” as utilized by the Bureau of Land Management Cadastral Survey Geographic Team in its preliminary survey of the Arkansas River.

(Pub. L. 107–331, title VI, §604, Dec. 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 2847.)

§ 1779c. Settlement and claims; appropriations; allocation of funds

(a) Extinguishment of claims

Pursuant to their respective tribal resolutions, and in exchange for the benefits conferred under this subchapter, the Indian Nations shall, on December 13, 2002, enter into a consent decree with the United States that waives, releases, and dismisses all the claims they have asserted or could have asserted in their cases numbered 218–89L and 630–89L pending in the United States Court of Federal Claims against the United States, including but not limited to claims arising out of any and all of the Indian Nations’ interests in the Disclaimed Drybed Lands and arising out of construction, maintenance and