

INDIAN AFFAIRS MANUAL

Part 54

Agricultural Resources

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1.1 Purpose. This chapter documents Indian Affairs (IA) policy regarding the development of Indian agricultural and rangeland resources to increase production and to expand the diversity and availability of agricultural products for subsistence, income, and employment.

1.2 Scope. This policy applies to all Tribally and individually held trust and restricted Indian agricultural lands under Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) jurisdiction, and to all IA programs and staff charged with the management of these lands. This policy may also apply to entities carrying out activities on behalf of IA under contracts or other agreements if expressly agreed to in the contracts or agreements, or if the requirement to abide by such policy is otherwise required by law. These entities may include contractors or Tribes operating through contracts issued pursuant to Public Law (P.L.) 93-638. Compacted Tribes may not be required to abide by the policies contained in this chapter (depending on individual compact language), but are encouraged to use IA policy as guidance.

1.3 Policy. It is IA's policy to protect, conserve, utilize, and maintain the highest productive potential on Indian agricultural lands through the application of sound conservation practices and techniques.

1.4 Authority.

A. Statutes and Regulations.

- 1) P.L. 93-638, Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act (ISDEAA) of 1975, as amended
- 2) 25 U.S.C. § 5109, Indian forestry units; rules and regulations
- 3) 25 U.S.C. §§ 3701 et seq., American Indian Agricultural Resource Management Act, as amended

1.5 Responsibilities.

A. Director, BIA is responsible for:

- 1) ensuring compliance and capacity to comply with applicable statutes, regulations, IA policy, and Department of the Interior (DOI) policy; and
- 2) entering into national-level agreements with other federal and state agencies to increase resources and development opportunities for Indian land owners and land users.

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- B. Deputy Bureau Director (DBD), Field Operations, BIA** is responsible for assigning priority to agricultural and rangeland development activities, and supporting budget and staffing to implement these activities.
- C. DBD, Office of Trust Services (OTS), BIA** is responsible for coordinating agricultural and rangeland development activities among and between OTS programs, and supporting budget and staffing requests.
- D. Regional Director (RD)** is responsible for:
- 1) determining budget and staffing needs, justifying budget levels, and supporting requests through the budgeting process;
 - 2) providing regional guidance for agricultural and rangeland development activities; and
 - 3) entering into regional agreements with appropriate U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offices to increase participation in USDA programs on Indian lands.
- E. BIA Agency Superintendent** is responsible for:
- 1) determining the need for agricultural improvements;
 - 2) pursuing funding opportunities;
 - 3) scheduling and ensuring completion of identified practices, including those prescribed in programmatic and individual conservation plans;
 - 4) organizing, training, and assigning BIA agency staff and resources, and coordinating these activities with other BIA agency responsibilities; and
 - 5) building productive working relationships with counterparts in local USDA offices.

1.6 Definitions.

- A. Agriculture/agricultural** herein refers to cultivated crops, marketable or traditionally used materials, and livestock production for commercial as well as subsistence use.

Approval

Darryl LaCounte Digitally signed by Darryl LaCounte
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Darryl LaCounte
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Date