

# INDIAN AFFAIRS MANUAL

- 1.1 Purpose.** This chapter documents Indian Affairs (IA) policy pertaining to programmatic and conservation planning for agricultural resources management on Indian lands.
- 1.2 Scope.** This policy applies to all Tribally and individually held Indian lands under Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) jurisdiction currently or potentially used for agricultural production, 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 provide technical assistance to, and participate with, Tribal governments in order to develop, update, and amend agricultural program resource management plans under the principles of sustained-yield and multiple-resource management.
- 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 CFR 162, Leases and Permits
  - 3) 25 CFR 166, Grazing Permits [General Grazing Regulations]
  - 4) 25 U.S.C. §§ 3701 et seq., American Indian Agricultural Resource Management Act (AIARMA), as amended
  - 5) 25 U.S.C. § 3711, Management of Indian rangelands and farmlands

**1.5 Responsibilities.**

- A. Director, BIA** is responsible for ensuring compliance and capacity to comply with applicable agricultural resource management statutes, regulations, IA policy, and Department of the Interior (DOI) policy.

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- B. Deputy Bureau Director (DBD), Field Operations, BIA** is responsible for assigning priority to programmatic resource and conservation planning, and supporting budget and staffing to complete this work.
- C. DBD, Office of Trust Services (OTS), BIA** is responsible for:
- 1) coordinating programmatic resource management planning support activities;
  - 2) conservation planning among and between OTS programs; and
  - 3) supporting programmatic and conservation planning budget and staffing.
- D. Chief, Division of Natural Resources, OTS** is responsible for monitoring policies, standards, and procedures in support of integrated resource management planning on Indian lands.
- E. Regional Director (RD)** is responsible for:
- 1) determining planning budget and staffing needs;
  - 2) justifying budget levels, and supporting requests through the budgeting process; and
  - 3) providing regional guidance and staff support for programmatic and conservation planning.
- F. Agency Superintendent** is responsible for organizing, training, and assigning BIA agency staff and resources to ensure completion of programmatic resource management as well as BIA and/or U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation plans, and coordinating these activities with other BIA agency responsibilities.

### 1.6 Definitions.

- A. Agriculture/Agricultural** refers to cultivated crops, marketable or traditionally used materials, and livestock production for commercial as well as subsistence use.
- B. Agricultural Resource Management Plan (ARMP)** refers to a plan developed under section 3711(b) of the AIARMA. The ARMP is a ten-year plan developed in accordance with an Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) that specifies the Tribal management goals and objectives developed for Tribal agricultural and grazing resources. Plans developed and approved under AIARMA will govern the management and administration of Indian agricultural resources and Indian agricultural lands by the BIA and the Tribal governments.

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- C. BIA Conservation Plan** is used to protect trust land used for agricultural purposes. This plan must be developed in accordance with the ARMP for each permit/lease in the region. A statement of management objectives for grazing or other agricultural use, and a contract with stipulations defining required uses, operations, and improvements must be included in a BIA Conservation Plan.
- D. NRCS Conservation Plan** is developed and implemented to protect, conserve, and/or enhance natural resources within the client's social and economic interests and abilities. Natural resources are defined by NRCS to include soil, water, air, plants, animals, energy, and human considerations.
- E. Indian land** means land that is held in trust by the United States or land owned by an Indian or Indian Tribe, and is subject to restrictions against alienation.
- F. IRMP** is a comprehensive plan that requires the interrelationships between the social, environmental, and economic components of the Indian reservation be taken into account. It requires the active participation of those with a vested interest in the management of reservation resources. The goal of an IRMP is to tie all decisions which affect a tract of land together so that each decision's impact is weighed against all others. The IRMP process provides an assessment of proposed decisions and their related impacts, and defines the policies and priorities land managers are to use to ensure their actions move the Tribe toward its vision for the reservation.
- G. Programmatic Resource Management Plan** herein refers to an ARMP, IRMP, or Forest Management Plan.

**1.7 Standards and Requirements.** The following standards and requirements are followed in order to assist Tribes/Tribal governments with developing, updating, and amending ARMPs and to help Tribes make sound natural resource management decisions on trust lands.

- A.** Manage each Tribe's agricultural resources in accordance with the goals and objectives set forth in the Tribe's approved ARMPs.
- B.** Promote efficient and cost effective agricultural program resource management planning by requiring that IRMPs written or funded by BIA meet the process and content requirements for ARMPs set forth at 25 U.S.C. § 3711.
- C.** Work with authorized land users, Indian landowners, USDA NRCS, and the Farm Service Agency (FSA), where indicated, to develop conservation plans for each agricultural lease and permit.

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- D. Meet the USDA NRCS and FSA conservation planning process and content requirements in conservation plans written by BIA where participation in USDA Farm Bill programs is anticipated.
- E. Accept conservation plans written by the NRCS in cooperation with Indian Tribal entities, landowners, and land users as fulfilling the conservation planning requirements contained in 25 CFR 162.231(b) and 25 CFR 166.312, when consistent with a current Memorandum of Understanding between DOI, BIA, USDA NRCS, and FSA.

### Approval

**Darryl LaCounte** Digitally signed by Darryl LaCounte  
Date: 2020.09.28 14:44:53 -0400

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Darryl LaCounte  
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Date