

**INDIAN AFFAIRS
DIRECTIVES TRANSMITTAL SHEET**

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION Office of Trust Services, Branch of Ag & Rangeland Management (Division of Natural Resources)		DATE SEP 09 2014

EXPLANATION OF MATERIAL TRANSMITTED:

These chapters establish the policies, authorities, and responsibilities for the protection, planning, administration, and monitoring of trust and restricted Indian land used for agricultural purposes under Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) jurisdiction.



Michael Black
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

Remove: None

Insert: All 6 new IAM chapters

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- 1.1 Purpose.** This chapter describes 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 tribal and individually held Indian lands under Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) jurisdiction currently or potentially used for agricultural production, to all IA programs and staff charged with the management of these lands, and to tribal entities acting for the United States through contracts issued under Public Law (P.L.) 93-638.

Compact 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 the policy of IA:
- A.** To provide technical assistance to, and participate with, tribal governments in order to develop, update, and amend programmatic resource management plans under the principles of sustained-yield and multiple-resource management, and to manage each tribe's agricultural resources in accordance with the goals and objectives set forth in the tribe's approved programmatic resource management plan(s).
 - B.** To promote efficient and cost-effective programmatic resource management planning by requiring that Integrated Resource Management Plans (IRMP) written or funded by BIA meet the process and content requirements for Agricultural Resource Management Plans (ARMP) set forth at 25 USC 3711.
 - C.** To work with authorized land users, Indian landowners, and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA), where indicated, to develop conservation plans for each agricultural lease and permit.
 - D.** To 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.** To 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 Department of the Interior (DOI), BIA, USDA NRCS, and FSA.

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Chapter 3

Agricultural Resources
Agricultural Resource Management Planning

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1.4 Authority.

- A. 25 U.S.C. § 3711 Management of Indian Farmlands and Rangelands
- B. 25 CFR Part 162
- C. 25 CFR Part 166

1.5 Responsibilities

- A. **Director, BIA** ensures compliance and capacity to comply with applicable agricultural resource management statutes, regulations, IA policy, and DOI policy.
- B. **Deputy Director, BIA Field Operations** assigns priority to programmatic resource and conservation planning, and supports budget and staffing to complete this work.
- C. **Deputy Bureau Director, BIA Office of Trust Services (OTS)** coordinates programmatic resource management planning support activities as well as conservation planning among and between OTS programs, and supports programmatic and conservation planning budget and staffing.
- D. **Chief, Division of Forestry, OTS** consults with the **Chief, Division of Natural Resources, OTS**, and is responsible for policies, standards and procedures in support of integrated resource management planning on Indian lands.
- E. **Regional Directors (RDs)** determine planning budget and staffing needs, justify budget levels, and support requests through the budgeting process; and provide regional guidance and staff support for programmatic and conservation planning.
- F. **BIA Agency Superintendents** organize, train and assign Agency staff and resources to ensure completion of programmatic resource management and conservation plans, and coordinate these activities with other Agency responsibilities.

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.
- B. **Agricultural Resource Management Plan (ARMP)** means a plan developed under section 3711(b) of the American Indian Agricultural Resource Management Act.
- C. **BIA Conservation Plan** means a statement of management objectives for grazing or other agricultural use, including contract stipulations defining required uses, operations, and improvements.
- D. **NRCS Conservation Plan** means a written record of the management decisions and the conservation practices and systems planned for the use, development, and maintenance of a lease or permit area.
- 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. **Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP)** means a comprehensive plan that describes a tribe's natural and related resources, reservation-level goals for those resources, and approved management activities designed to reach those goals.
- G. **Programmatic resource management plan** means an ARMP, IRMP or Forest Management Plan.