

INDIAN AFFAIRS MANUAL

Part 54

Agricultural Resources

Chapter 2

Rangeland Resource Inventory and Vegetation Monitoring

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- 1.1 Purpose.** This chapter documents Indian Affairs (IA) policy regarding the inventory and monitoring of rangeland and grazed forestland (together referred to as grazing land) vegetation on Indian lands.
- 1.2 Scope.** This policy applies to all Tribally and individually held trust and restricted Indian grazing land under Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) jurisdiction, and to all IA programs and staff charged with managing 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 support fully informed management and administrative decisions based on currently available data that impacts the maintenance of vegetation productivity and ecological conditions on Indian grazing lands.
- 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. §§ 3701 et seq., American Indian Agricultural Resource Management Act, as amended
 - 3) 25 U.S.C. § 5109, Indian forestry units; rules and regulations
- B. Guidance.**
- 1) Executive Order (EO) 13112, Invasive Species, February 3, 1999
- 1.5 Responsibilities.**
- A. Director, BIA** is responsible for ensuring compliance and capacity to comply with applicable statutes, regulations, IA policy, and Department of the Interior (DOI) policy.
- B. Deputy Bureau Director (DBD), Field Operations, BIA** is responsible for assigning priority to grazing land vegetation survey and monitoring, and supporting budget and staffing to complete this work.

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C. DBD, Office of Trust Services (OTS), BIA is responsible for:

- 1) coordinating Indian grazing land inventory and monitoring activities between OTS programs;
- 2) supporting inventory activities; and
- 3) monitoring budget and staffing needs.

D. Chief, Division of Natural Resources, OTS is responsible for implementing policies, standards and procedures for inventory, and monitoring Indian grazing lands.

E. Regional Director (RD) is responsible for:

- 1) determining budget and staffing needs;
- 2) justifying budget levels and supporting requests through the budgeting process;
- 3) providing regional guidance for grazing land vegetation inventory and monitoring; and
- 4) completing responsibilities under Section 1.5 F. of this policy for agencies and field offices lacking the Superintendent position.

F. Agency Superintendent is responsible for:

- 1) scheduling and ensuring completion of grazing land vegetation survey;
- 2) monitoring grazing land vegetation with sufficient frequency to support and defend grazing management decisions and administrative actions;
- 3) organizing, training, and assigning BIA agency staff and resources to complete grazing land vegetation and invasive weed inventory and monitoring; and
- 4) coordinating these activities with other BIA agency responsibilities.

1.6 Standards and Requirements. The following standards and requirements are followed by the Agriculture and Rangeland Management Program to protect and preserve the natural resources on trust land by improving the management of the land.

A. Current data applicable to vegetation productivity and ecological conditions will be gathered, maintained, and applied to decision-making processes to protect, preserve, and increase productivity of the land.

B. An active inventory of invasive weed species infestations will be included as part of all vegetation surveys funded by the BIA.

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- C. Indian grazing lands will be monitored to determine vegetation utilization and livestock distribution.
- D. BIA agency staff will monitor grazing land health and progress toward identified resource management objectives in support of land use management decisions.
- E. Indian grazing land vegetation surveys and monitoring records, including records of invasive weed infestations, will be maintained in a Geographic Information System (GIS).

Approval

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Date: 2020.09.28 14:44:11 -0400

Darryl LaCounte
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Date