

INDIAN AFFAIRS MANUAL

Part 51

Land Titles and Records

Chapter 1

Overview

Page 1

1.1 Purpose. This chapter identifies the authorities and responsibilities for the Land Titles and Records program within Indian Affairs (IA).

1.2 Scope. This policy applies to all IA employees involved in processing land title documents.

1.3 Policy. The BIA Division of Land and Title Records (DLTR) and the Land Titles and Records Offices (LTRO) are the official Federal offices-of-record for all documents affecting title to Indian lands.

1.4 Authority.

A. Statutes and Regulations.

- 1) 5 U.S.C. § 552(2), The Privacy Act
- 2) 5 U.S.C. § 552, The Freedom of Information Act
- 3) 25 U.S.C. § 5, Record of deeds by Indian requiring approval
- 4) 25 U.S.C. §§ 331-358, Allotment of Indian Lands
- 5) 25 CFR 150, Land Records and Title Documents

B. Handbooks.

- 1) 51 IAM 1-H: Land and Record Titles Office Handbook

1.5 Responsibilities.

A. Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs is responsible for the development of policy affecting land title for Indian lands.

B. Deputy Bureau Director (DBD), Field Operations, BIA is responsible for overseeing the Regional Directors and disseminating policy to them.

C. DBD, Office of Trust Services (OTS), BIA is responsible for assisting in the dissemination of trust resource policy and information to the Regional Directors (RDs).

D. Regional Directors, BIA are responsible for carrying out policy as directed, and for overseeing the implementation of this policy either directly or via Agency Superintendents.

INDIAN AFFAIRS MANUAL

Part 51
Chapter 1

Land Titles and Records
Overview

Page 2

- E. Chief, Division of Land Titles and Records, OTS** is responsible for overseeing the operations of the LTRO to ensure timely processing of trust land titles and title documents.
- F. LTROs** are responsible for determining, maintaining, and certifying reporting of land title ownership and encumbrances on Indian trust and restricted lands; maintaining the Indian Land Record of Title; and for examining and determining the completeness and accuracy of records, certifying the findings of examination, and reporting the status of title to Indian trust and restricted lands.

Approval

Darryl LaCounte

Digitally signed by Darryl
LaCounte
Date: 2022.09.28 14:07:28 -04'00'

9/28/22

Darryl LaCounte
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Date