

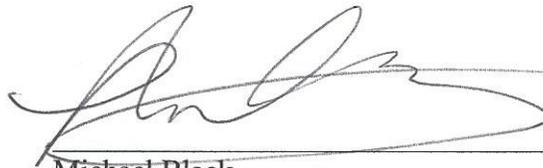
# INDIAN AFFAIRS DIRECTIVES TRANSMITTAL SHEET

(modified DI-416)

DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER <b>54 IAM 1</b>	SUBJECT <b>Agricultural Resources</b>	RELEASE NUMBER # 13-74
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION Office of Trust Services, Branch of Ag & Rangeland Management	<b>Overview, Authorities and Responsibilities</b>	DATE <b>SEP 26 2013</b>

**EXPLANATION OF MATERIAL TRANSMITTED:**

This chapter establishes the authorities and responsibilities for the protection and beneficial use of trust and restricted Indian lands managed for agricultural production; and an overview of the IA Agriculture and Rangeland Management program.



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Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

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**FILING INSTRUCTIONS:**

Remove: None

Insert: 54 IAM 1, Release # 13-74

- 1.1 Purpose.** This chapter establishes the authorities and responsibilities for the protection and beneficial use of trust and restricted Indian lands managed for agricultural production; and an overview of the Indian Affairs (IA) Agriculture and Rangeland Management program.
- 1.2 Scope.** This policy applies to programs participating in the management, accountability, or protection of trust and restricted Indian agricultural lands and resources, and to tribal entities acting for the United States through contracts issued under Public Law 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 to take part in the management of Indian agricultural lands and related resources, with the participation of the beneficial owners of the land, in a manner consistent with the trust responsibility of the federal government; to protect and conserve Indian agricultural resources; and to promote the sustained-yield use of Indian agricultural resources.

For the purposes of this policy, Agriculture means both farm/pasture and grazing activities.

**1.4.1 Authority.**

- A. 25 U.S.C.§415, Act of August 9, 1955.** Allows Indian Landowners to lease their restricted lands, subject to approval of the Secretary, for purposes of the development or utilization of natural resources.
- B. 25 U.S.C.§3701 et seq. Act of December 3, 1993, as amended.** Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to take part, with the participation of the beneficial owners, in the management of Indian agricultural lands.
- C. 25 U.S.C.§450, Act of January 4, 1975, PL-93-638.** Enables tribes to assume management of eligible federal programs through self-determination contracts or self-governance compacts.
- D. 25 CFR 162, *Leases and Permits***
- E. 25 CFR 166, *Grazing Permits* [General Grazing Regulations]**

- 1.5 Agriculture and Rangeland Management.** Under the authority of the American Indian Agricultural Resource Management Act, P.L. 103-177, and the Indian Self Determination Act, P.L. 93-638, IA Agriculture and Range specialists work with tribal governments and entities to promote the protection, conservation and

utilization of Indian agricultural lands and to maintain their highest productive potential through sound multiple-use planning, development, inventory, classification, and management of agricultural resources, and to fulfill federal trust responsibilities and mandates of federal laws, Executive Orders, and federal policies.

Through direct implementation and through tribal programs under self-determination agreements, IA provides oversight and technical assistance to tribal programs and to individual Indian landowners and land users in the following activities:

- A. Inventory** Rangeland inventories needed to determine current forage productivity, range condition and ecological trend are conducted to enable managers to make informed recommendations concerning proper stocking rates, seasons of use, and livestock class, and to evaluate the results of previous management decisions.
- B. Programmatic and Permit/Lease-level Planning** Programmatic management plans that identify the agricultural resources of a tribe, express the critical values and resource goals of the tribe, and outline actions to be taken to reach those goals in a sustainable, multiple-resource-focused manner are developed and implemented. Conservation Plans are written to define landowner, land user, and land administrator objectives, activities, and responsibilities at the permit/lease level.
- C. Rangeland and Cropland Improvements** Increases in agricultural productivity and improvements in soil and moisture conservation are achieved through the planning, design, and implementation of rangeland and cropland improvements. Technical and administrative assistance are provided to tribal and individual land owners and land users.
- D. Resource Protection** Rangeland and cropland resource protection activities include fuels management, fire suppression and burned area rehabilitation; insect and disease monitoring and control; and investigation and response to trespass agricultural and grazing activity and other unlawful actions on Indian agricultural lands.
- E. Leasing and Permitting Services** Services include issuance and administration of leases and permits, monitoring of the activities of lessees and permittees under the lease/permit, monitoring the condition of resources under lease/permit, acting in response to findings, and modifying leases/permits as appropriate.
- F. Contract Oversight** Contracts and grants issued or proposed under PL 93-638 are reviewed to ensure that the full range of Program responsibilities are addressed in contracted or retained responsibilities and that contractor

performance requirements are specified. Program specialists serve as Awarding Official's Technical Representatives (AOTR) and Subordinate Awarding Official's Technical Representatives (SAOTR).

**G. Noxious Weed Management** In compliance with the American Indian Agriculture Resource Management Act, the Federal Noxious Weed Act, and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, technical and cost-share support is provided for cooperative inventory, prevention and control of noxious weeds in Indian country.

## 1.6 Responsibilities

- A. Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs** is responsible for overseeing IA Agriculture and Rangeland Management programs to ensure compliance with statutes, regulations, and DOI policy. Director maintains working relationships and approves agreements with other federal agencies, and negotiates with tribes and tribal organizations to determine areas of concern and to address conflicts.
- B. Deputy Bureau Director, Trust Services** coordinates Agriculture and Rangeland Management Program activities with other Trust programs and supports program budget and staffing.
- C. Chief, Division of Natural Resources** is responsible for policies, standards and procedures for conduct of Agriculture and Rangeland Management.
- D. Regional Directors** provide regional guidance for Agriculture and Rangeland Management Program and address appeals from decisions issued by Agency Superintendents.
- E. Agency Superintendents**
1. Ensure that Agriculture and Rangeland Management program activities are in compliance with all applicable statutory, regulatory, and policy requirements.
  2. Ensure that program activities advance goals expressed in tribal planning documents.
  3. Organize and assign Agency staff and resources to coordinate program activities with other Agency responsibilities.