

Federal Interagency Native Economic Development Workshop

**Bureau of Land Management
Federal Programs and Partnerships
in Indian Country**

By Elaine Raper

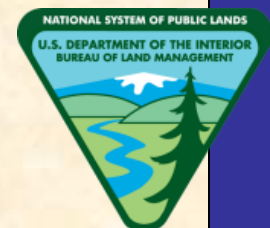
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Key Contributions to Indian Country

- **Key programs managed by the BLM-Montana/Dakotas State Office are important to Indian Country**
- **Branches of Solid Minerals, Oil and Gas, Lands, Cadastral Survey, Biological Resources & Planning, Fire & Recruitment/Outreach work with Tribes**
- **BLM employees in these disciplines are technical experts & specialists (geologists, adjudication specialists, petroleum engineers) & train for Tribal Trust responsibilities**



BLM Takes

Trust Responsibilities Seriously

- **Trust responsibilities in the Oil & Gas Program both on individually owned (allotted) lands & Tribal lands**
- **Responsibilities start prior to lease issuance & extend through every phase, including plugging & final reclamation**
- **Both BLM & BIA's roles outlined in national & regional Memorandums of Understanding**
- **BLM helps ensure correlative rights are protected, royalty payments are made & all operations are conducted according to laws & regulations**



Solid Minerals Program

- **BLM works with BIA & Tribes on the development of coal & other solid minerals, such as bentonite**
- **BLM provides technical expertise for Indian Mineral Development Act Agreements & works closely with BIA & Tribes to ensure mining operations are conducted according to laws & regulations**
- **BLM State & Field Office specialists conduct inspections on mineral material operations on reservations throughout Montana, North Dakota & South Dakota**



Cadastral Survey Program

- **BLM conducts cadastral surveys to ensure accurate Tribal land ownership boundaries on 15 reservations throughout Montana/Dakotas**
- **BLM has Bureau Indian Land Surveyors (BILS) who coordinate this work & State Office Cadastral Survey staff is involved in these surveys**
- **Establishing accurate land ownership is fundamental to ensuring that land owners receive benefits**



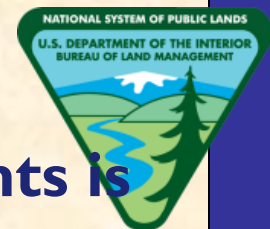
Cadastral Survey Program

- **As the agency responsible for issuing patents for all federal agencies, including BIA, BLM lands adjudicators process hundreds of Indian patents annually**
- **Tribal members make requests through BIA for Trust and/or fee patents. The issuance of a fee patent allows an individual to receive full fee title to the land, rather than the land being held in Trust by the BIA**
- **Sometimes this process triggers the need for a cadastral survey, so these staffs work closely together. In FY2011, BLM has processed 600 Indian patents in the Montana/Dakotas**



Recruitment, Outreach & Partnerships

- **National & local recruitment efforts aim to increase public awareness & representation of minorities, women & people with disabilities**
- **Employs about 750 employees at the height of field season--30 employees are Native American**
- **Economic impact of employing these 30 individuals is \$1,297,000 per annum**
- **Student Program recruits Native Americans into the BLM--total of 39 students this year & 10 are Native Americans**
- **Economic impact of employing these 10 students is \$277,000 per annum**



Recruitment, Outreach & Partnerships

- **BLM Native American Program Managers attend job/career fairs & visit Tribal schools, colleges & organizations**
- **Partnerships allow Native American students to learn about BLM, provide valuable job experience & opportunity to earn college credit**
- **BLM benefits too--needed field work gets done & maybe one day they'll choose a career with us**



Tribal Consultation

- **20 Tribal governments in 3-state area & additional 10 Tribal governments from other states have aboriginal territories or other interests in BLM-administered lands in Montana/Dakotas**
- **Facilitates economic development by learning about Tribal concerns, needs & opportunities--helps BLM make sound decisions that may impact Tribes**
- **Goals in consultation are:**
 - **1) Ensure federally recognized Tribal governments have opportunity to contribute to decisions,**
 - **2) Foster a good working relationship between BLM & Tribes &**
 - **3) Work with Tribal partners to develop protocols for effective and efficient consultation that will assist BLM managers in making informed decisions.**



Thank You!

Questions?

