

Indian Forest Management Assessment Team report (IFMAT) IV presentation

Cody Desautel
ITC President



Current Forest Condition

IFMAT Overview

- **National Indian Forest Resource Management Act (NIFRMA) of 1990 mandated an independent national assessment of Indian forests and forest management once every 10-years.**
- **“conduct an independent assessment of Indian forest lands and Indian forest land management practices.”**
- **Findings of the IFMAT report must be prepared and reported to Congress.**
- **The report covers eight tasks mandated in NIFRMA, and any additional tasks at ITC’s request**
- **The IFMAT IV team visited 41 reservations, and BIA Regional and Central offices over a 2 years period to inform the results of IFMAT IV**

Findings of the IFMAT report

- There is a unique tribal vision of forest management including a focus on stewardship and non-timber forest products as self governance increases
 - 1991- 66% BIA/34% Tribal
 - 2019- 24% BIA/76% Tribal
- Tribes continue to question Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) as the measure of success.
 - Tribes are shifting from a priority on timber revenues to cultural and ecosystem services
 - Harvest volume has dropped from more than 1 billion board feet (1975) to approximately 400 million

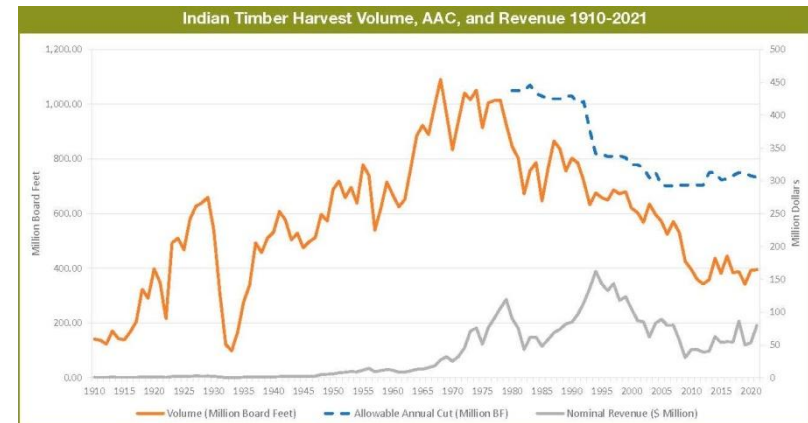
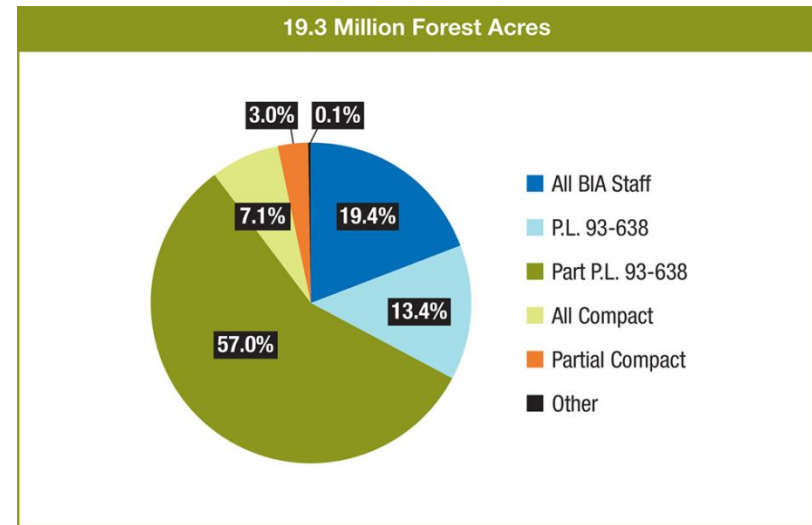


Figure Intro.5. Indian timber harvest, allowable annual cut, and revenue.

Findings of the IFMAT report

- **Funding to support tribal forest management is limited**
 - Increases are not keeping pace with inflation
 - Shift from recurring to non-recurring funding sources (7% reduction since 2011)
 - In addition to reduced funding, Tribal trust forest acres have increased by more than 20% since 1991
 - Quote from IFMAT focus group participant “I only got a \$2 raise from 1996 to 2022 but I am here to serve my tribe.”

Year	Funding	Inflation Adjusted
1991	\$40.8 mil	\$76.7 mil
2001	\$58.7 mil	\$84.5 mil
2011	\$52 mil	\$58.8 mil
2019	\$63.6 mil	\$63.3 mil

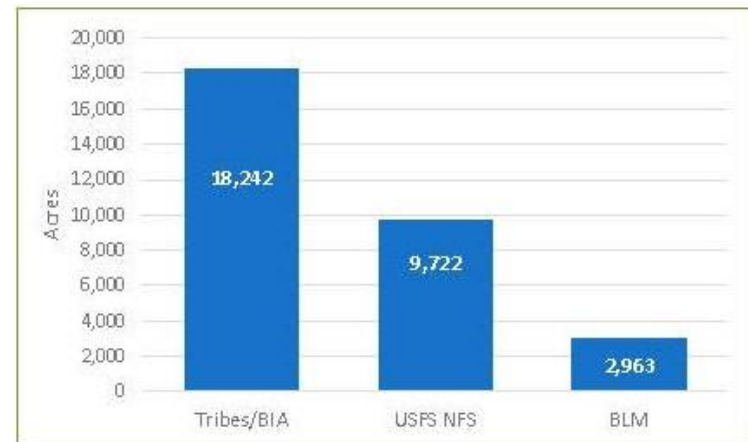
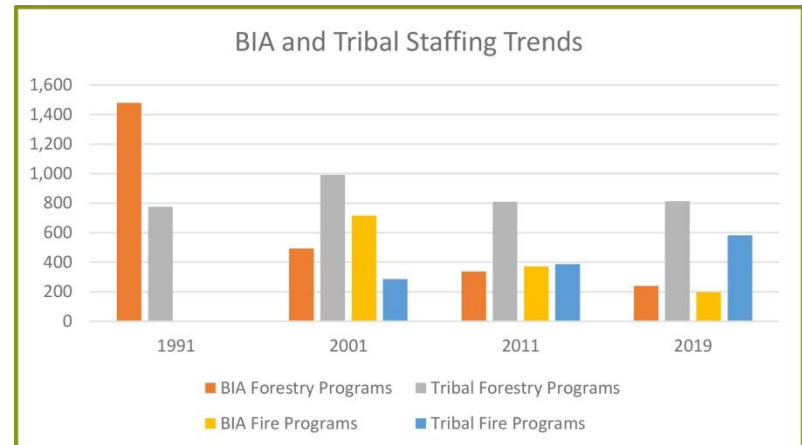
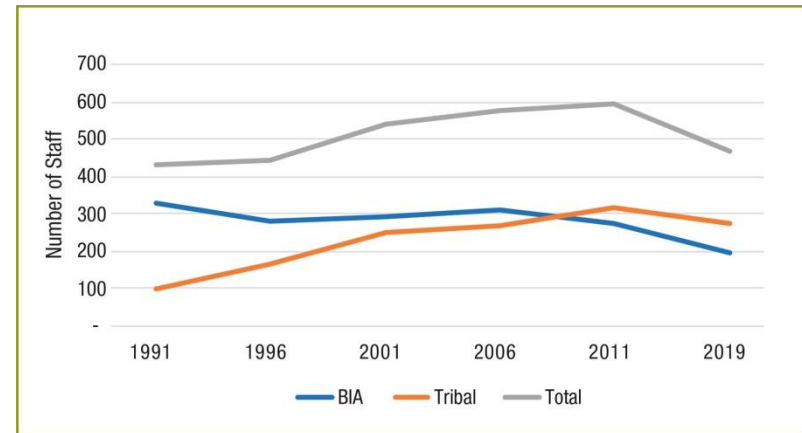


Figure C.2. Comparison of number of acres per forestry staff 2019.

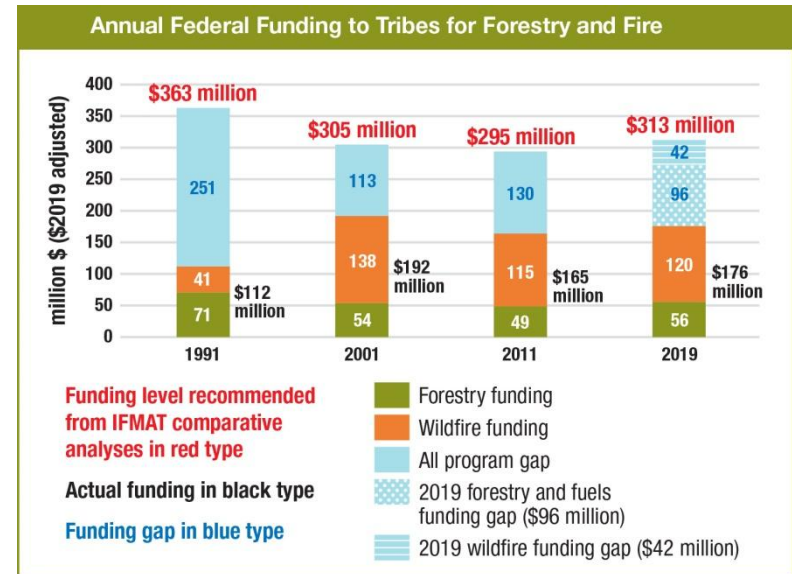
Findings of the IFMAT report

- **Limited staffing and issues around workforce capacity are impacting tribal forest management**
 - 51% of the workforce is over 50
 - 33% less than 40
- **Increased complexity including climate change adaptation, cross-boundary co-management, and growing interest in carbon management**
- **Roads, facilities, and enforcement on tribal forests are in a dire state**



Major Recommendations

- **Achieve funding parity**
 - An annual increase of \$96 million is needed to reach per-acre parity with National Forest and BLM funding
 - Multiple compacted programs reported annual funding from BIA had not increased in 20 years
- **Defining the governance structure of tribal forestry for the future**
 - P.L. 93-638
 - ITARA
- **Address immediate threats to tribal forests**
 - Includes both on reservation needs, and capacity to use co-management authorities on adjacent federal land



Next Steps

- **Implementation Plan**
 - Based on the finding and recommendations in the report an implementation plan is being developed to address the issues
- **Field hearing to present the report findings to Congress**
 - Working with committee staff to schedule in the next few months
- **Brief Congressional staff and the Administration**
 - ITC is scheduling meetings with Administration staff and Departments to brief them on the findings of the report

The report will be available on the ITC website soon

