Indian Forest Management Assessment Team report (IFMAT) IV presentation

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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
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.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Inflation Adjusted</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>$40.8 mil</td>
<td>$76.7 mil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>$58.7 mil</td>
<td>$84.5 mil</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$52 mil</td>
<td>$58.8 mil</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$63.6 mil</td>
<td>$63.3 mil</td>
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![Figure C.2. Comparison of number of acres per forestry staff 2019.](image)
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