



# 2017

Annual Report



Indian Land Tenure  
FOUNDATION®



# ABOUT ILTF

## Our Mission

Land within the original boundaries of every reservation and other areas of high significance where tribes retain aboriginal interest are in Indian ownership and management.

## INDIAN LANDS IN INDIAN HANDS™

### Strategies

#### Economic Opportunity

Increase economic assets of Indian landowners by gaining control of Indian lands and creating financial models that convert land into leverage for Indian landowners.

#### Legal Reform

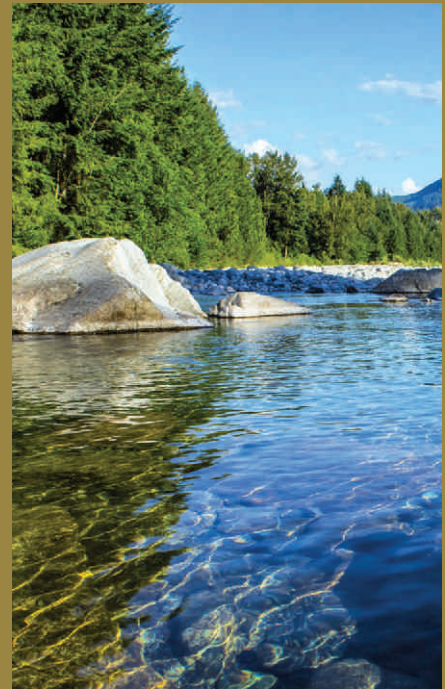
Reform the Legal mechanisms related to recapturing the physical, cultural and economic assets for Indian people and strengthening sovereignty of Indian land.

#### Education

Educate every Indian land owner about Indian land management, ownership and transference issues so that knowledge becomes power when decisions about land assets are made.

#### Cultural Awareness

Use Indian land to help Indian people discover and maintain their culture.



## About ILTF

The Indian Land Tenure Foundation is a national, community-based organization serving American Indian nations and people in the recovery and control of their rightful homelands.

### Board of Directors

Staci Emm, *Board Chair*

Joseph Brewer II, *Vice Chair*

Hans-Dieter Klose, *Secretary/Treasurer*

Jeannie Benally

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*Grants Administrator and Administrative Support*

Grant McGinnis

*Communications Officer*

Cris Stainbrook

*President*

Bryan Van Stippen

*Program Director for National Indian Carbon Coalition*

Jim Wabindato

*Program/Development Officer*

*Through innovative programs, initiatives and grants, ILTF is making a positive impact on the lives of Native Americans.*





# TRIBES

## Recovering Sacred Sites

ILTF is committed to helping tribes recover their ancestral homelands, including sacred sites such as Pe' Sla, a high mountain prairie in the Black Hills that is sacred to the Lakota/Dakota/Nakota Tribes. Pe' Sla means "The Heart of Everything" and is central to the Oceti Sakowin (Great Sioux Nation) traditional star knowledge and understanding of our place in the universe. The land had been reserved for the exclusive use and occupation by the Oceti Sakowin by the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 with the U.S. government. Once gold was found in the Black Hills, however, the U.S. illegally seized the lands. Even though the gold is gone, the Hills still hold great natural, cultural and spiritual value. Since 2012, ILTF has been assisting the Oceti Sakowin Nations to purchase and protect more than 2,300 acres at Pe' Sla. The Tribes continue to raise money to pay off a loan and acquire more land to protect Pe' Sla for future generations.

In 1961, the cultural and holy site Bear Butte was designated as a state park, but much of the immediate surrounding area was left in private ownership. Located near Sturgis, S.D., this sacred site has been under siege in recent years by encroaching commercial development fueled by the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally and other growth in the region. The Cheyenne and Lakota tribes and people have been struggling to acquire private properties in the area so that religious ceremonies held on Bear Butte can be conducted without disruption from other land uses. The Bear Butte Land Recovery Fund helps support the tribes in these acquisitions and management of the land, including the 2016 purchase at auction of 270 acres at a cost of \$1.3 million. Much more land still needs to be protected.

## Recovering Traditional Lands

As European settlers moved westward, Native Nations ceded vast territories to the United States government in exchange for much smaller but secure reservations. Unfortunately, the federal government very quickly reneged on its obligations. Beginning in the 1880s, the U.S. enacted legislation that resulted in Native Americans losing ownership and control of two-thirds of their reservation lands. About 90 million acres — equivalent to the size of Montana — was sold, transferred to non-Indians, or lost due to forced sales.

Today, more than half of the land within reservation boundaries is privately held by non-Indians. Many Native nations are now reclaiming these lost lands through legal transfers and purchases with assistance from ILTF and its subsidiary, Indian Land Capital Company, which provides grant funding and financing to support various aspects of land recovery with a focus on reacquiring alienated reservation lands. Returning lands to Indian ownership and control is important to ensure that Indian people have, at minimum, access to the financial and natural resources within their own reservations.

***Returning lands to Indian ownership and control is important to ensure that Indian people have access to the financial and natural resources within their own reservations.***



## National Tribal Land Association

The National Tribal Land Association (NTLA) was founded by ILTF and a group of tribal land professionals to create opportunities for land and natural resources staff to learn from, share with and network with their colleagues from other tribes. In 2017, NTLA held its seventh Tribal Land Staff National Conference in New Mexico, an annual event that provides educational opportunities on the latest issues facing tribes, as well as opportunities for networking with other land professionals in Indian Country. Staff from more than 160 different tribes have attended the conference since inception. In addition, NTLA completed the development of the first module in its national certification program for tribal land professionals. Learn more at [ntla.org](http://ntla.org).

## National Indian Carbon Coalition

As climate change increasingly threatens our environment and way of life, governments, corporations and individuals are seeking viable solutions to reduce carbon emissions. One such solution is the emerging carbon sequestration market, which requires vast areas of open space and undeveloped land to capture carbon emissions. Indian Country contains some of the largest tracts of undeveloped or underdeveloped land in the nation. Formed by ILTF and the Intertribal Agriculture Council, the National Indian Carbon Coalition (NICC) assists tribes and individual Indian landowners in understanding carbon credits, sequestration processes and the carbon markets. NICC is helping Indian people maintain control of their assets and use carbon credit profits to empower their families and communities while preserving the environment.





## Indian Country Extension

The development of community-based agriculture and food systems is important for the long-term health of Native communities, and it is important to foster the growth of these efforts. The Federally-Recognized Tribal Extension Program (FRTEP) is a successful tribal community outreach model focused on agricultural productivity, youth development, and healthier communities, and is designed to meet the specific needs of Native communities. The individual reservation programs provide education and research-based knowledge to those who might not otherwise receive it. Examples include 4H and tribal youth development, agriculture and natural resource management, and entrepreneurship and business development. The Indian Country Extension Fund (ICE) at ILTF supports FRTEP extension agents and offices so that they can expand programming and move to multi-year funding cycles in implementing important programs with local partners, including tribes, tribal colleges and other institutions.

## Rock Creek Buffalo Project

Many Native Nations relied on the sacred buffalo (Tatanka) to meet their basic needs for food, shelter, clothing and ceremony. In the 19th century, more than 50 million buffalo were deliberately destroyed in order to starve Native people onto reservations, resulting in dire poverty and ill health. ILTF supports efforts to bring back the buffalo along with healthy lands, diets and economies to American Indian People. In 2017, ILTF supported the Rock Creek Buffalo Project on the Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota. The Rock Creek District, comprised of nearly a million acres, is the most isolated of the eight districts on the reservation. It includes the 15,000-acre Shambo Ranch, where a community buffalo herd has been established. ILTF's support provided the resources to build fencing in a section of the ranch to contain at least 100 members of the growing herd. Among the additional impacts of the project are job training, employment opportunities, community sharing and a youth engagement program that is helping young people explore a future in buffalo ranching.

***ILTF supports efforts to bring back the buffalo along with healthy lands, diets and economies to American Indian People.***



A wide-angle photograph of a lush green field filled with numerous pink and white flowers, likely Echinacea, stretching towards a distant treeline under a clear, light blue sky. The word "PEOPLE" is overlaid in large, semi-transparent white capital letters across the center of the image.

# PEOPLE



## Lessons of Our Land Curriculum

Most U.S. public schools fail miserably when it comes to teaching American Indian history and culture. Students learn little about the Indian nations and people who originally inhabited this continent, their diverse values or customs when it comes to ownership of land, or how land in the U.S. was “acquired” from the tribes. This is changing thanks to ILTF’s *Lessons of Our Land* curriculum, which brings culturally appropriate, locally relevant materials into the classroom. *Lessons of Our Land* gives educators the opportunity to incorporate relevant materials about American Indian land tenure into pre-existing curriculum while satisfying state and federal educational requirements. The curriculum provides all students with broader understanding of land, cultures, inherent rights and tribal sovereignty and enables students to appreciate our nation’s history and the importance of our relationship to the land. Perhaps more importantly, Indian students will see themselves and their ancestors reflected in their classroom materials, often for the first time.

## Native Children’s Holiday Program

Meeting the basic needs of our families, communities, and tribes is of paramount importance in Indian Country. We also want our kids to experience opportunities for growth, happiness and joy just like other children. The Native Children’s Holiday Program offers supporters a unique opportunity to help make the holidays special for Indian children who live in some of our most challenged communities. Thanks to the generosity of individual and corporate contributors, the toys, clothing and food many people may take for granted during the holidays can become reality for hundreds of thankful children and their families.

*Lessons of Our Land provides educators with a unique opportunity to incorporate relevant materials about American Indian land tenure into pre-existing curriculum.*



## Youth Internships and Camps

As part of its leadership role in coordinating the recovery and preservation of the sacred site Pe' Sla in the Black Hills of South Dakota, ILTF supports the use of the site to introduce Native youth to its cultural and historic significance and to help expand their traditional language skills. In 2017, ILTF provided a three-year grant to the Rosebud Sioux Tribe to operate the **Youth Cultural Camp** at Pe' Sla which is led by tribal elders and cultural leaders. Some 50 young people attended the two-week camp while many more were unable to attend because of staffing limitations. The grant enables the Tribe to cover the cost of the camp, including transportation for participants.

ILTF also supports the **Tribal Land Office Summer Internship Program** which provides grants of up to \$15,000 to tribes to hire high school students as summer interns to work in their land office. Students commit 400 hours over an 11-week period to the internships. They are required to keep a daily log of their activities to be submitted at the end of the internship, along with a report to the Foundation that details the student's activities and what they learned. Students are exposed to a work environment and aspects of land management as a possible career choice.

## Spirit of Sovereignty Scholarships

When Indian students have access to quality education and real-world job training in a culturally relevant environment, they can go far in life. For many, the greatest barrier to education is the cost. Established in 2002, the Spirit of Sovereignty — a National Indian Gaming Association-advised fund at the Indian Land Tenure Foundation — provides college scholarships for well-qualified students at 36 tribal colleges. Funds can be used for any education-related expense, including tuition, books, housing, travel and childcare. The program is designed to provide scholarships to at least one deserving student at every tribal college, where Native American students are encouraged to learn more about their history, culture and languages. The Spirit of Sovereignty is supported by the generosity of Indian tribes, corporations doing business in Indian Country, charitable foundations and Indian and non-Indian individuals who care about the future of youth.





## Estate Planning and Will Writing

For more than a century, Indian families have seen valuable land resources diminish as fractionated ownership increases with each passing generation. The Indian Land Tenure Foundation supports estate planning as one of the most effective ways to stop the continued division of Indian land titles and ensure that Indian lands are controlled and managed by Indian people. ILTF has funded projects that provide education and free estate planning services for Indian landowners, including direct legal service and will writing assistance, as well as training programs for tribal councils, landowners, attorneys and Indian land heirs. As a result, several thousand people have been served through ILTF-funded estate planning programs. ILTF is now developing more efficient, cost-effective models to help Indian people safely transfer their lands to the next generation.

*ILTF supports estate planning as an effective way to stop the division of Indian land titles and ensure that Indian lands are controlled and managed by Indian people.*

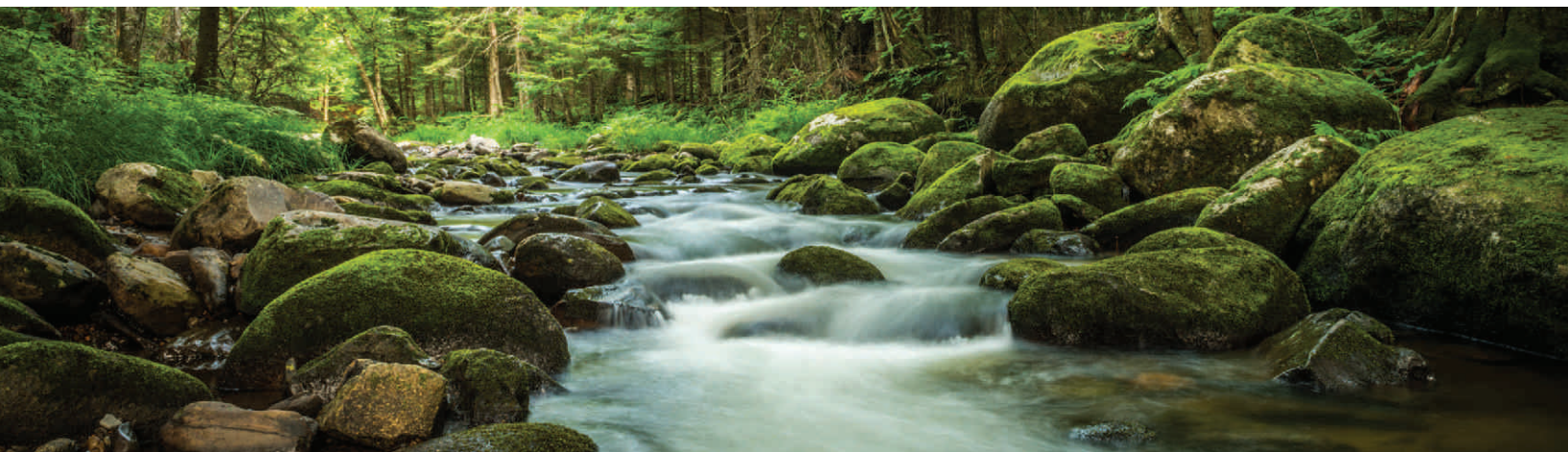


# CONTRIBUTORS

## Partnering with the NoVo Foundation

In 2017 ILTF received a \$1.5 million operating grant from the NoVo Foundation to support ILTF's innovative programs and initiatives that are helping return Indian Lands to Indian Hands. The grant will enable ILTF to provide direct support and services to Native nations and individual Indian landowners as they work toward that end.

Based in New York, the NoVo Foundation is dedicated to building a more just and balanced world. Founded in 2006 by Jennifer and Peter Buffett, NoVo ([novofoundation.org](http://novofoundation.org)) supports Indigenous communities and organizations in North America as they determine their own priorities for the future; works to end violence and discrimination against girls and women; advances social and emotional learning in schools; and promotes healthy and sustainable communities.





## Tribes

- Crow Creek Sioux Tribe
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe
- Oglala Sioux Tribe
- Rosebud Sioux Tribe
- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
- Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate of Lake Traverse
- Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
- Yankton Sioux Tribe

## Individuals

- \$53,802 from 215 individuals

## Foundations and Corporations

- Assoc. of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers
- Cottonwood Foundation
- Donner Foundation
- Everi Holdings
- HGB Design
- I-5 Design & Manufacture
- Image Spigot LLC
- Indian Gaming Magazine
- International Game Technology
- K Foundation
- Klas Robinson
- Mennonite Foundation
- Merkur Gaming
- Minneapolis Foundation
- Mirabelle Plum Foundation
- Mississippi Market Cooperative
- Modern Vintage Pictures
- NoVo Foundation
- Roanoke Natural Foods
- RSF Social Finance Fund
- Rymax Marketing Services
- Stoke Family Foundation
- Sycuan Casino Resort
- Southern California Gaming Guide
- TFA Capital Partners
- Tribal Media Holdings
- VizExplorer
- Xcel Energy Foundation

## Giving Opportunities

- Bear Butte Land Recovery Fund
- Clyde Bellecourt Scholarship Fund
- Estate Planning and Probate Fund
- Indian Country Extension Fund
- Indian Land Capital Company Fund
- Land Recovery (general) Fund
- Lessons of Our Land Fund
- National Indian Carbon Coalition Fund
- National Tribal Land Association Conference Fund
- Native Land Law Fund
- Pe' Sla Fund
- Spirit of Sovereignty Fund
- Treaty Signers Fund

Plus nine other designated and donor-advised funds.



# FINANCIALS

## Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS		2017
Cash and Cash Equivalents		\$2,047,965
Investments		\$11,990,773
Accounts Receivable		\$28,840
Contributions Receivable		\$1,629,590
Funds Held for Others		\$1,118,034
Interest Receivable		\$104,462
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets		\$26,219
Notes Receivable, net allowance for uncollectible notes of \$1,021,819 and \$886,394		\$10,676,489
Property and Equipment, Net		\$577,411
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>\$28,199,783</b>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable		\$52,153
Grants Payable		\$210,777
Funds Due to Others		\$1,118,034
Accrued Payroll Expenses		\$41,082
Accrued Interest		\$2,969
Notes Payable		\$5,946,830
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>\$7,371,845</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted		\$19,284,134
Unrestricted - Non-controlling interest		\$523,476
Total Unrestricted		\$19,807,610
Temporarily Restricted		\$1,020,328
<b>Total Net Assets</b>		<b>\$20,827,938</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		<b>\$28,199,783</b>

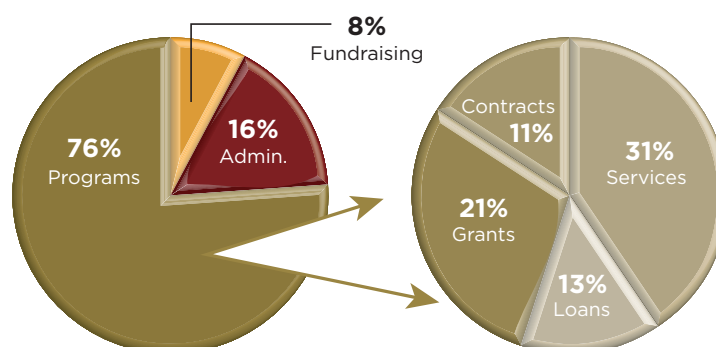


# Statement of Activities

2017

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Totals
<b>Public Support</b>			
Contributions	\$1,492,812	\$895,484	\$2,388,296
Government Grants	\$698,989	-	\$698,989
<b>Total Public Support</b>	<b>\$2,191,801</b>	<b>\$895,484</b>	<b>\$3,087,285</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>			
Program Fees	\$11,209	-	\$11,209
Interest On Program-Related Loans	\$872,588	-	\$872,588
Origination Fees On Program-Related Loans	\$15,250	-	\$15,250
Investment Income	\$2,047,110	-	\$2,047,110
Membership	\$4,600	-	\$4,600
Royalties	\$1,436	-	\$1,436
Other	\$65,414	-	\$65,414
Special Events	\$130,960	-	\$130,960
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$1,307,312	(\$1,307,312)	-
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$4,455,879</b>	<b>(\$1,307,312)</b>	<b>\$3,148,567</b>
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT AND OTHER REVENUE</b>	<b>\$6,647,680</b>	<b>(\$411,828)</b>	<b>\$6,235,852</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Program Services	\$3,232,662	-	\$3,232,662
Management and General	\$516,206	-	\$516,206
Fundraising	\$413,529	-	\$413,529
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,162,397</b>		<b>\$4,162,397</b>
Change in Net Assets	\$2,485,283	(\$411,828)	\$2,073,455
Net Assets (Beginning of Year)	\$17,322,327	\$1,432,156	\$18,754,483
<b>NET ASSETS — END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$19,807,610</b>	<b>\$1,020,328</b>	<b>\$20,827,938</b>

## Expenses





# 2017

## Annual Report



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FOUNDATION.

### INDIAN LANDS IN INDIAN HANDS™

The Indian Land Tenure Foundation (ILTF) is a national, community-based organization focused on American Indian land recovery and management. ILTF's primary aim is to ensure that all reservation and important off-reservation lands are owned and managed by Indian people and Indian nations.

As a community foundation, ILTF relies on funding from private foundations and donations from Indian nations, corporations and individuals to support its programming in Indian Country. Please consider making a donation to the Indian Land Tenure Foundation today.

To learn more about our work and programs, and to make a donation, visit our website at: [www.iltf.org](http://www.iltf.org) or email [info@iltf.org](mailto:info@iltf.org).

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