



Indian Land Tenure
FOUNDATION®



20 19

ANNUAL
REPORT

About the cover

'American Progress' (pictured to the right) was painted in 1872 by John Gast. It depicts Columbia, the female figure of America, leading European Americans into the West and into the future by carrying the values of republicanism (as seen through her Roman garb) and progress (shown through the inclusion of technological innovations like the telegraph), clearing away Native peoples and animals, who are seen being pushed into the darkness. On the front cover of this Annual Report is the powerful image of 'Reversing Manifest Destiny,' an original painting commissioned by the Indian Land Tenure Foundation, which depicts the return of Indian Lands to Indian Hands.



INDIAN LANDS IN INDIAN HANDS

Reversing Manifest Destiny

You can support the work of Indian Land Tenure Foundation by purchasing an item of clothing or a collectible featuring the original 'Reversing Manifest Destiny' painting featured on the cover.



To purchase, visit our website:
www.iltf.org/get-involved
 or scan the QR code



ABOUT ILTF

This 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.

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.

Strategies

Economic Opportunities

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 economical 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 become power when decisions about land assets are made.

Cultural Awareness

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

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In 90 years, the United States property system spread across North America from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and the U.S.-Indian treaties were essential events in this remarkable growth. What motivated such aggressive expansion, and who benefited from it the most? That is the question asked by the Treaty Signers Project, a long-term research effort funded by the Indian Land Tenure Foundation. This project opens a surprising new window on the complicated history of U.S.-Indian relations. The men who represented the federal government at treaties were not there by accident. They personified the powerful interests that directly drove the U.S. acquisition of Indigenous resources.

In 2007, independent scholar Martin Case began to research the identities of men who represented the United States at treaties with Indigenous nations. Some U.S. signers are well-known individuals, including Andrew Jackson, William Henry Harrison, and Zachary Taylor, but the U.S. Treaty Signers Project is the first systematic effort to document who these men were as a group.

To learn more about this project, and explore the many available resources, visit www.treatysigners.org.

TREATY SIGNERS PROJECT

Case demonstrated that the interests represented by the signers, and the networks that connected them to one another, challenged the mythology that surrounds the treaties. ILTF recognized an opportunity to shed more light on the complex process that transferred the continent’s resources to U.S. control.

Launched in 2019, the treatysigners.org website presents information on hundreds of U.S. treaty signers, and on the business, family and social networks that connected them. It also provides basic information on each of the nearly 400 treaties, plus stories that illustrate why it is so important to know who the signers were.

Beyond the American myth

The Treaty Signers Project examines how business interests in land speculation, railroads, the fur trade, mining, forestry and other pursuits heavily influenced the treaty making process and were largely responsible for the loss of so much Indian land. The American myth presents “pioneers” as the driving force of America’s past. By contrast, the Treaty Signers Project explores the economic engines that actually drove U.S. expansion - interests that saw both Indian land and pioneers as sources of personal profit. This project is helping researchers make sense of the vast amount of scattered information on these critical events and is fostering important conversations about our actual history.

The 2,300 men who represented the U.S. in treaty negotiations secured hundreds of millions of acres of land for themselves, their families and their business partners, land that was sold to

pioneers at a profit and includes the original sites for hundreds of cities and towns. On the website there is biographical information on more than 1,600 signers available in a downloadable database. The networks that connected signers are also described. In 2018 the Minnesota Historical Society published Martin Case’s book, ‘The Relentless Business of Treaties: How Indigenous Land Became US Property.’ Now all of this information is available at no cost to scholars, educators and the general public thanks to the Treaty Signers Project.



INDIAN COUNTRY EXTENSION

Successful development of community-based agriculture and food systems is crucial for the long-term health of Native communities, and it is important to foster the growth of these efforts. That's why ILTF created the Indian Country Extension (ICE) Fund. This Fund supports the work of the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP), a successful tribal community outreach model focused on agricultural productivity, youth development, and healthier communities that is designed to meet the specific needs of Native communities. The individual reservation programs provide agriculture-focused education and research-based knowledge to those who might not otherwise receive it. The FRTEP program focuses on three areas:

Farmers and ranchers

Tribal extension agents deliver science-based, culturally relevant production, marketing and financial management information to help Indian producers become more economically successful and help to build the food security of Native Nations.

Tribal Youth and 4-H

Tribal 4-H clubs and community programs are delivered through a culturally adapted model for Native youth, providing a safe, positive environment, fostering healthy choices and sparking interest in agriculture. Thousands of young people participate in 4-H programs across Indian Country.



Tribal communities

Providing outreach programs to safeguard water quality, food system development, certify pesticide applicators, preserve traditional plants and facilitate community engagement and leadership.

From the Colville Reservation in Washington State to the Seminole communities of South Florida; from the Mashantucket Pequot in Connecticut to the Hopi, Hualapai and Navajo in Arizona, tribal extension programs impact more than 30 Native communities in so many important ways. Unfortunately, federal funding of these efforts is never certain nor sufficient.

Unlike county extension agents whose work is ensured by consistent government support, tribal extension funding is a competitive process on a four-year cycle. The Indian Country Extension Fund supports FRTEP extension agents and offices so that they can expand programming to meet community needs and move to funding cycles to match implementation of important programs with local partners, including tribes, tribal colleges, local governments and other institutions.



To learn more about the work of FRTEP agents in Indian Country visit www.tribalexextension.org.

CO-OWNER MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The General Allotment Act of 1887 marked the beginning of the federal trust relationship and its all-powerful control over transactions involving individually-owned Indian land. Since that time, additional layers of federal, state and tribal laws regarding the probate of trust and restricted fee land has led to a highly-fractionated state of ownership. ILTF has been working for several years to help families navigate the complexities.

A project has been focused on the development of “Co-Owner Management Entities,” an opportunity created by an opening in federal law that allows for the development and recognition of legal entities such as private or family trusts, partnerships, corporations, or other organizations that would improve the management of highly-fractionated ownership in trust or restricted lands. ILTF has met with landowners on multiple reservations to determine their priorities and develop strategies to use their trust assets more

effectively. Two families in particular – one in Oklahoma and the other in Oregon – have taken significant steps forward in the past year.

The Oklahoma family has had a long tradition of teaching their children and grandchildren about the history of their lands and has been striving to be more informed on how to work effectively with the federal and Tribal governments to better manage that land. The objective is to meet the family’s goals, which include farming for income and creating job opportunities. The family has created a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) under Muscogee Creek Nation Tribal Law. They are pursuing a pathway to putting the land into trust status that will enable the family to pursue their business interests with minimal external interference.

In Oregon, the family has aggregated four adjoining parcels of land to create one larger, more economically productive tract, a 640-acre spread suitable for commercial development. They have formed a cooperative under Oregon state law and are pursuing ‘owner-managed interest’ status under federal law which will lessen the burden of government interference. The family has received two grants from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) totaling \$225,000 for a feasibility study, creation of a business plan, and project development, and are now seeking investors.

More detailed information on this topic is available in Volume 9 of ILTF’s *Message Runner* publication titled, “Managing Indian Land in a Highly Fractionated Future.” It is available on the Publications page at www.iltf.org.



ILTF GRANTS

2019 GRANTS

In 2019, \$629,374 in grants were made by ILTF to the following recipients:

Allies, LLC – \$31,250 for the Treaty Signers Project

American Indian Law & Sovereignty Center – \$60,000 for Estate Planning Services for tribal members

Big Fire Law & Policy Group – \$60,000 for Estate Planning Services for tribal members

Montana Legal Services Association – \$60,000 for Estate Planning Services for tribal members

Oglala Sioux Tribe – \$15,000 for No Uranium Summit

Project H3lp! – \$30,000, Regenerative Grazing Proposal

Rock Creek Buffalo Project - \$100,000 for the establishment of a community buffalo herd

Silver Bullet Productions – \$17,000 for production of the film, ‘Power of Place’

Tanana Chiefs Conference – \$19,396 for travel for the Interior Land Caucus

University of Arizona – \$48,268 for ‘Mapping Paiute Places: Connecting Generations across Paiute Lands’

Village Earth – \$188,460 for Phase II funding of the Village Earth Agricultural Lands Mapping Project.

During the 2018-19 period, a total of \$195,787 was granted to tribes for the Tribal Land Office Internship Program. Grantees included the following tribes and pueblos: Acoma, Blackfeet, Burns Paiute, Mescalero Apache, Native Village of Ruby, Pala Band of Mission Indians, Round Valley, San Felipe, Salt River Pima-Maricopa, Shawnee, Spirit Lake, Tesuque, Yakama, Yurok and Zuni.

2018 GRANTS

In 2018, \$762,953 in grants were made by ILTF to the following recipients:

Allies, Inc.

Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission

Cherokee Medicine Keepers

College of Menominee Nation

Karuk Tribe

Michigan State University Games for Entertainment & Learning Lab

Mohawk Nation/Friends of Akwesasne School

Oglala Sioux Tribe

Rosebud Sioux Tribe

San Xavier Allottees Association of the Tohono O’odham Nation

St. Croix Institute, LLC

Stewards of Indigenous Resources Endowment

University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc.

During the 2018-19 period, the Indian Country Extension fund made grants totalling \$1,350,000 to Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP) projects operating on 35 reservations across Indian Countryw.

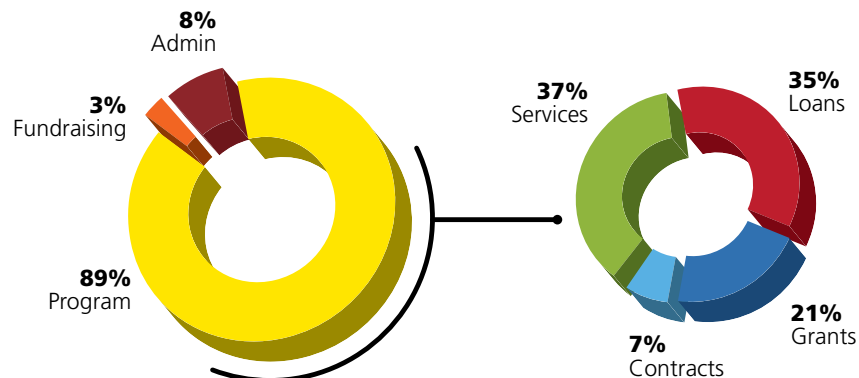
Statement of Financial Position - 2019

Assets		2019
Cash and Cash Equivalents		\$1,981,707
Investments		\$13,609,986
Accounts Receivable		\$27,942
Contributions Receivable		-
Grants Receivable		\$45,240
Interest Receivable		\$134,676
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assests		\$11,343
Notes Receivable, net allowance for uncollectible notes of \$2,591,469 and \$1,021,819		\$13,515,468
Property and Equipment, Net		\$469,096
Total Assets		\$29,795,458
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		\$132,249
Grants Payable		\$409,928
Funds Due to Others		\$4,285,165
Accrued Payroll Expenses		\$32,877
Deposits		-
Notes Payable		\$5,393,207
Total Liabilities		\$10,253,426
Net Assets		
Unrestricted		\$18,186,018
Unrestricted - Non-controlling interest		\$573,607
Total Unrestricted		\$18,759,625
Total Restricted		\$782,407
Total Net Assets		\$19,542,032
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		\$29,795,458

Statement of Activities - 2019

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Totals
Public Support			
Contributions	\$932,655	\$27,717	\$960,372
Government Grants	\$65,186	-	\$65,186
Total Public Support	\$997,841	\$27,717	\$1,025,558
Other Revenue			
Program Fees	\$53,818	-	\$53,818
Investment on Program-Related Loans	\$905,918	-	\$905,918
Origination Fees on Program-Related Loans	\$55,366	-	\$55,366
Investment Income	\$2,120,034	\$14,877	\$2,134,911
Other	\$218,164	-	\$218,164
Special Events	\$89,525	-	\$89,525
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$2,677,907	(\$2,677,907)	-
Total Other Revenue	\$6,120,732	(\$2,663,030)	\$3,457,702
Total Public Support and Other Revenue	\$7,118,573	(\$2,635,313)	\$4,483,260
Expenses			
Program Services	\$5,856,713	-	\$5,856,713
Management and General	\$516,413	-	\$516,413
Fundraising	\$177,206	-	\$177,206
Total Expenses	\$6,550,332	-	\$6,550,332
Change in Net Assets	\$568,241	(\$2,635,313)	(\$2,067,072)
Net Assets (Beginning of Year)	\$18,191,384	\$3,417,720	\$21,609,104
Net Assets - End of Year	\$18,759,625	\$782,407	\$19,542,032

Expenses





Indian Land Tenure
FOUNDATION.

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.

Indian Land Tenure Foundation

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