



Executive Summary: 2026 IAC Caucus Priorities

The Intertribal Agricultural Council was founded in 1987 by a coalition of federally recognized Tribes for the purpose of, among other things, pursuing and promoting the conservation, development, and use of Tribes' agricultural resources, including those within the more than 56 million acres of land that make up Indian Country¹—land under the jurisdiction of Tribal governments.

As a membership-based organization, the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) is accountable to the Tribal governments and their representatives who define our mission and direct our work. Each year, through the regional caucus process, IAC's General Members² identify urgent, recurring, and emerging priorities. These priorities form the foundation of IAC's annual playbook: a living framework that guides our advocacy, coordination, and service across the year.

The 2026 priorities reflect the strength and integrity of this process, with 109 priorities spanning the diverse realities of Tribal agriculture. And while the playbook begins here, it does not end here. IAC remains committed to adapting to meet the moment, while upholding the priorities identified by our Member Tribes. This summary marks the beginning of an evolving roadmap built to advance the collective vision of our Members in real time.

A Membership-Wide Priority for 2026: Knowing What Membership Means

One of the reflections emerging from staff, board, and regional conversations was that many Member Tribes' Delegates are excited to learn more about the full scope of their roles and about the broader function of IAC's membership structure. This excitement points to an important opportunity: in 2026, the IAC will prioritize efforts to build and disseminate clear, accessible resources that help our Member Tribes and their delegates better understand and maximize their role.

Common Threads Across the 2026 Priorities

Across the regional caucuses, shared themes of common structural concerns emerged. These include:

- Persistent barriers to land access and productive use, particularly through BIA-administered systems of title, probate, leasing, and appraisals.
- Ongoing fragmentation and under-coordination between federal agencies, especially USDA and BIA, which impede comprehensive Tribal agriculture development.
- The need for policy modernization—from outdated irrigation cost share structures to conservation programs misaligned with the scale and sovereignty of Tribal production.

¹ 18 U.S.C.A. § 1151 (“(a) all land within the limits of any Indian reservation under the jurisdiction of the United States Government, notwithstanding the issuance of any patent, and, including rights-of-way running through the reservation, (b) all dependent Indian communities within the borders of the United States whether within the original or subsequently acquired territory thereof, and whether within or without the limits of a state, and (c) all Indian allotments, the Indian titles to which have not been extinguished, including rights-of-way running through the same.”).

² IAC Bylaws, § 3.02(A) (“General membership in the IAC . . . is open to all federally recognized Tribes and Native Alaskan Tribes with an interest in the management and development of Indian agricultural resources. General Members in good standing shall have the right to vote on matters before the General Membership meetings and be considered voting members.”).

- Calls for a more consistent and responsive federal presence, including better field staffing, site visits, and timely agency follow-up.
- Broad frustration with access to USDA resources in Indian Country..
- A strong, cross-regional call to invest in Tribal food procurement and aggregation infrastructure, including robust support for the Local Food Purchasing Assistance (LFPA and LFPA+) programs. These were uplifted by Members as essential mechanisms for both economic development and community food security.
- Widespread advocacy for the reinstatement of the USDA's Regional Food Business Centers (RFBCs)—with Members specifically naming the importance of localized, place-based investments in food systems. IAC's brief but effective role in deploying RFBC resources was referenced as proof of the value of Tribal-led food system investment strategies.

Together, these themes reflect a broad and urgent call for federal coordination, capital deployment, and trust in Tribal implementation. Members continue to envision food and agriculture not only as sectors of economic development, but as strategic arenas of workforce development, community health, and building blocks of intergenerational wealth.


Elevating Producer Impacts Within Tribal Agricultural Priorities Throughout this year's caucus discussions and the development of the 109 priorities, many issues were raised through the lens of Tribal sovereignty, Tribal agricultural infrastructure, and the federal trust responsibility to Tribal Nations. This reflects both IAC's governance structure as an organization composed of federally recognized Tribes and the realities of advocating within a government-to-government framework before Congress, USDA, and other federal agencies.

At the same time, IAC recognizes that embedded within many of these broader Tribal priorities are the day-to-day realities experienced by individual Tribal producers. Issues involving land access, agricultural financing, credit, infrastructure, water resources, technical assistance, market opportunities, and federal program delivery directly impact the ability of Tribal producers to sustain and grow their operations. As reflected in IAC's bylaws, the IAC was established to provide a unified effort to promote change in Indian agriculture. IAC remains committed to facilitating forums for Tribes and individual producers to exchange information, identify barriers, and advance policies that strengthen Tribal agricultural economies and local food systems.


In the year ahead, IAC will continue working closely with Member Tribes, Tribal leadership, and individual producers to help further identify and elevate the producer impacts within broader Tribal agricultural priorities. By strengthening the connection between Tribal policy development and producer realities on the ground, we strengthen Tribal food systems, expand agricultural opportunity, and reinforce Tribal sovereignty for future generations.

Closing

At its core, the IAC caucus process is a living mechanism for strengthening coordination among Tribes for the purpose of building the foundation for greater collective influence at the national level, while also



identifying areas where local and regional support can advance a Tribe’s agricultural priorities. IAC’s caucus meetings provide Tribes and Tribal producers dedicated space for identifying mutual concerns, engaging in meaningful discussions, and building consensus on the issues that Tribes want to prioritize for the year ahead. This process results in unified input to inform federal agencies, Congress, and national partners, and creates a roadmap for IAC’s on-the-ground technical assistance and other service offerings..



By aligning around common priorities, our Member Tribes position Tribal agriculture as a collective policy force—not a series of fragmented interests, but a coordinated movement advancing sovereignty through agriculture. In 2026, we remain committed to carrying this work forward with clarity, purpose, and unity.

2025 Caucus Priorities

The following presents a region-by-region detailing of the 2025 Caucus Priorities. A total of 109 proposed priorities were presented to the IAC Membership at the 2025 Membership Meeting, from 66 Tribes in Good Standing.

Rocky Mountain Region

REGIONAL CAUCUS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2025 Rocky Mountain Regional Caucus hosted twenty-four (24) attendees from across the Region. There were six (6) delegates present from the following Member Tribes in Good Standing: Northern Arapaho Tribe, Eastern Shoshone, Fort Belknap Indian Community, Blackfeet Nation, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, and Rocky Boy Chippewa Cree Tribe.

The Rocky Mountain Region carried over two (2) of the 2024 priorities and identified fourteen (14) new priorities, which are outlined in detail below.

REGIONAL CAUCUS ISSUES

Caucus	Rocky Mountain Region		
Issue 1	Getting USDA-NRCS to agree to amend the current conservation enhancements that Native producers must choose from (Carryover from 2024).		
Solution	IAC will support the establishment of Alternative Funding Arrangements with Tribes which will enable the NRCS to tailor enhancements that fit the needs of each Tribe.		
Introduced by:	Leon LaSalle, Rocky Boy	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access; Sovereignty & Resource Stewardship

Caucus	Rocky Mountain Region		
Issue 2	RMA programs do not include Socially Disadvantaged Producers for additional percentage points of premium subsidy.		
Solution	IAC to continue work on Pasture, Rangeland, Forage and Livestock Risk Protection programs for increased opportunities and subsidies for tribal range land and tribal producers.		
Introduced by:	Leon LaSalle, Rocky Boy	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access; Sovereignty & Resource Stewardship

Caucus	Rocky Mountain Region		
Issue 3	Lack of resources and information surrounding how RMA policies are used on Tribal land.		
Solution	IAC to educate Tribes and producers on RMA policies and legal aspects of insurance policies.		
Introduced by:	Leon LaSalle, Rocky Boy	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy

Caucus	Rocky Mountain Region		
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Issue 4	NRCS Targeted Implementation Plans exclude certain conservation projects on reservations.		
Solution	IAC will inform the agency of Tribal resource concern priority areas, advocate for necessary revisions to the Targeted Implementation Plans, and identify additional paths that model conservation reaching the ground through the old system of EQIP.		
Introduced by:	Leon LaSalle, Rocky Boy	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy

Caucus	Rocky Mountain Region		
Issue 5	BIA continues to fall short on consistent in-person interactions and broader communications. Face-to-face interaction, on site, is a top priority. This has been a long issue and ongoing issue (Carryover from 2024).		
Solution	IAC will continue to raise the issue of understaffing with BIA leadership and will seek to establish regular in-person meetings throughout the Rocky Mountain Region.		
Introduced by:	Jayne Lamebull, Fort Belknap	Mission Themes:	Communications & Convening

Caucus	Rocky Mountain Region		
Issue 6	Irrigation districts cost went up, districts that were never completed, get congress to pass legislation to have our irrigation districts to be subsidized (Building on Issue #6 from 2024).		
Solution	IAC will advocate for irrigation districts to be subsidized through the BOR or any other federal agencies. IAC will seek to identify irrigation funds to upgrade Tribal irrigation systems for food security and sovereignty. IAC regional staff will offer TA to fully understand those agreements and move forward.		
Introduced by:	Clinton Glick, Eastern Shoshone	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy, Economic Development & Market Access

Caucus	Rocky Mountain Region		
Issue 7	Invasive species of various plants, aquatic & animals.		
Solution	IAC to continue educating BIA & USDA on where their policies do not align. IAC to advocate for BIA to address these issues at local, regional and national tribal advisory forums.		
Introduced by:	Jayne Lamebull, Fort Belknap	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy, Sovereignty & Resource Stewardship

Caucus	Rocky Mountain Region		
Issue 8	The lack of Country of Origin labeling on food items.		
Solution	IAC will support MCOOL to be added into the Farm Bill and advocate for Country of Origin labeling on food items to include transparency and consumer trust and accountability to be prioritized on Native Farm Bill Coalition.		

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Introduced by:	Jayne Lamebull, Fort Belknap	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy
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Caucus	Rocky Mountain Region		
Issue 9	The Local Food Purchasing Assistance (LFPA) program is underfunded and unstable.		
Solution	For IAC to advocate to reestablish or expand the Local Food Purchasing Assistance (LFPA) program, as a permanently funded program within the Farm Bill.		
Introduced by:	Pete White, Confederated Salish & Kootanai Tribes	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy, Economic Development & Market Access

Caucus	Rocky Mountain Region		
Issue 10	Lack of support from BIA when developing Agricultural Resources Management Plans (ARMP) and how ARMP's can advantageously leverage funding and resources.		
Solution	IAC to support the development of resources, alternative funding arrangements, tribal set asides, etc., to create and understand tribal conservation districts and work on interfacing BIA's Agricultural Resources Management Plans (ARMP).		
Introduced by:	Pete White, Confederated Salish & Kootanai Tribes	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy, Sovereignty & Resource Stewardship

Caucus	Rocky Mountain Region		
Issue 11	Appraisal, probate, land transactions are slow and adding to land fractionation issues.		
Solution	IAC to advocate for a better process and establish more training for estate planning of Wills and understanding of AIPRA.		
Introduced by:	Pete White, Confederated Salish & Kootanai Tribes	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building

Caucus	Rocky Mountain Region		
Issue 12	Idle land issue, tribal members still liable to pay water while not making revenue off of the land. The lands deteriorate, downed fences, land becomes fallow.		
Solution	IAC to continue advocacy on BIA's fulfillment of its federal trust natural resource management responsibilities, including coordination with the OTS office in pursuit of expanding leases where opportunities exist.		
Introduced by:	Clinton Glick, Eastern Shoshone	Mission Themes:	Communications & Convening

Caucus	Rocky Mountain Region		
Issue 13	Need more MPPTA support and marketing sales and distribution hubs, cold storage, marketing, and procurement technical assistance.		

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Solution	IAC to increase MPPTA support related to marketing sales and distribution hubs, cold storage, marketing, and procurement. A 2026 MPPTA Tribal fly-in is being planned in the Rocky Mountain region.		
Introduced by:	Pete White, Confederated Salish & Kootanai Tribes	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access

Caucus	Rocky Mountain Region		
Issue 14	Tribes do not receive the correct allocation for funding when the actual number of producers are not included.		
Solution	IAC to support NASS census efforts via outreach, technical assistance on reservations in 2030 and Census of Agriculture in 2027.		
Introduced by:	Pete White, Confederated Salish & Kootanai Tribes	Mission Themes:	Communications & Convening

Caucus	Rocky Mountain Region		
Issue 15	Lack of enforcement with BIA trespassing on Tribal lands.		
Solution	IAC to advocate for policy change within BIA on trespassing cattle immediately without continuous time limit and address damages.		
Introduced by:	Clinton Glick, Eastern Shoshone	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy, Sovereignty & Resource Stewardship

Caucus	Rocky Mountain Region		
Issue 16	The absence of workforce and resource development for agriculture education in schools on reservations.		
Solution	Support from IAC on workforce development through expanding youth and professional development opportunities and continued coordination with FRTEP to expand youth mentorship in agriculture education across Indian Country and Native serving institutions.		
Introduced by:	Joe Crazy Thunder, Northern Arapaho	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building

Eastern Oklahoma Region

REGIONAL CAUCUS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
<p>The 2025 Eastern Oklahoma Regional Caucus hosted twenty-two (22) attendees from across the Region. There were three (3) delegates present from the following Member Tribes in Good Standing: Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Cherokee Nation, and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.</p> <p>The Eastern Oklahoma Region carried over one (1) of the 2024 priorities and identified three (3) new priorities, which are outlined in detail below.</p>	

REGIONAL CAUCUS ISSUES

Caucus	Eastern Oklahoma Region		
Issue 1	Concern around unconfirmed continuation of Farm to School lunch program (Carryover from 2024).		
Solution	IAC will continue to advocate in support of the Farm to School Lunch Program and will monitor the Farm Bill legislative process to share updates to regional Tribes.		
Introduced by:	Lane Kindle, Cherokee Nation	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy

Caucus	Eastern Oklahoma Region		
Issue 2	Bring back the Youth activity at the annual conference.		
Solution	Sponsoring youth from their Tribes. IAC Advancement team securing funding for youth.		
Introduced by:	Trenton Kisse, Muscogee (Creek) Nation	Mission Themes:	Communications & Convening

Caucus	Eastern Oklahoma Region		
Issue 3	Reduce registration rates for Youth Participants at Annual Conference.		
Solution	Sponsoring youth from their Tribes. IAC Advancement team securing funding for youth.		
Introduced by:	Lane Kindle- Cherokee Nation	Mission Themes:	Communications & Convening

Caucus	Eastern Oklahoma Region		
Issue 4	Eastern Oklahoma Regional Youth Summit, planned by IAC programming and E Ok Technical Assistance.		
Solution	IAC will work to identify opportunities for further youth engagement in Eastern Oklahoma, including hosting a youth summit.		
Introduced by:	Trenton Kisse, Muscogee (Creek) Nation	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building, Communications & Convening

Great Plains Region

REGIONAL CAUCUS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
<p>The 2025 Great Plains Regional Caucus hosted twenty-three (23) attendees from across the Region. There were six (6) delegates present from the following Member Tribes in Good Standing: Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, .Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, and Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate.</p> <p>The Great Plains Region identified eight (8) new priorities, which are outlined in detail below.</p>	

REGIONAL CAUCUS ISSUES

Caucus	Great Plains Region		
Issue 1	The lack of communication and technical assistance from government agencies–Bureau of Indian Affairs and United States, specifically–has been extremely difficult for producers in this region.		
Solution	IAC can serve as a bridge to ensure regular, meaningful updates and technical assistance are provided for agencies such as FSA, NRCS, and BIA.		
Introduced by:	Mike Faith, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe	Mission Themes:	Communications & Convening Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy Education & Capacity Building

Caucus	Great Plains Region		
Issue 2	There is a lack of communication between USDA and BIA, specifically with their established MOU. Both agencies must be aware of the MOU at every level and should be implementing this MOU.		
Solution	IAC will continue to coordinate with USDA and the BIA at all levels to ensure increased coordination and alignment around the MOU is realized.		
Introduced by:	Wayne Frederick, Rosebud Sioux Tribe	Mission Themes:	Communications & Convening Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy

Caucus	Great Plains Region		
Issue 3	The FSA falls short on technical assistance. Unlike NRCS, there is no Tribal Liaison, which means producers are often having to advocate and find information on their own.		
Solution	IAC will continue to expand its technical assistance offerings in 2026 to support Tribal producers with FSA-specific questions and will continue to advocate for the establishment of FSA Tribal Liaisons.		
Introduced by:	Wayne Frederick, Rosebud Sioux Tribe	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy Education & Capacity Building

Caucus	Great Plains Region		
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INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
2025 Membership meeting - Caucus Priorities

Issue 4	FSA fell very short of their part of their agreements for Tribal Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (Tribal CREP).		
Solution	IAC will continue to advocate for a Farm Bill provision that excludes Tribal CREP agreement acres from the national CRP acreage cap, removing barriers to enrollment of Tribal CREP acres.		
Introduced by:	Wayne Frederick, Rosebud Sioux Tribe	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy

Caucus	Great Plains Region		
Issue 5	The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has extremely outdated policies/procedures in their Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). This leads to a lack of stewardship on allotted lands that impacts all Indian/Tribal trust land, degrading our natural resources.		
Solution	IAC's Policy Team will continue to advocate for updates to outdated policies and advise on revisions to CFRs as opportunities are presented to further the administration of BIAs trust responsibility of stewarding our natural resources.		
Introduced by:	Mike Faith, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy

Caucus	Great Plains Region		
Issue 6	There is a lack of education/opportunity for our future ranchers and producers. There needs to be targeted technical assistance for new Native/Tribal producers. Land and capital/credit access (leases, grazing permits, complications with trust land) for new producers is particularly difficult to navigate.		
Solution	IAC will target technical assistance efforts to new and beginning Native producers, creating resources that support them with the particular challenges facing Native producers, like land and credit education. IAC will continue collaboration with Tribal colleges or local Tribal land offices to help with some of these barriers.		
Introduced by:	Mike Faith, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building

Caucus	Great Plains Region		
Issue 7	There are complexities amongst different Tribes' Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO) procedures, which leads to delays and confusion for producers, Tribes, and THPOs.		
Solution	IAC will continue to take the guidance of each sovereigns' THPO procedures in order to support producers with navigation of these inherent complexities.		
Introduced by:	Mike Faith, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe	Mission Themes:	Sovereignty & Resource Stewardship

Caucus	Great Plains Region		
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Issue 8	IAC will work to increase awareness of programs and resources associated with increasing the number of weather stations on Tribal lands. The IAC will monitor opportunities to advocate for USDA resources for weather station infrastructure. (carryover from 2024).		
Solution	IAC will continue advocating for USDA and other entities to fund and build weather stations on Tribal lands. While progress has been made, IAC will work to hold USDA accountable to continuing these efforts; this includes: 1) check up on the progress of these past efforts, 2) identify the short falls, and push for progress in these short fall areas, and 3) advocate for continued funding of these weather stations.		
Introduced by:	Jesse Baker, Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access Sovereignty & Resource Stewardship



Alaska Region

REGIONAL CAUCUS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
<p>The 2025 Alaska Regional Caucus hosted twenty-three (23) attendees from across the Region. There were three (3) delegates present from the following Member Tribes in Good Standing: Knik Tribe, Native Village of Tyonek, and Native Village of Atka.</p>	
<p>The Alaska Region carried over twelve (12) of the 2024 priorities and identified four (4) new priorities, which are outlined in detail below.</p>	

REGIONAL CAUCUS ISSUES

Caucus	Alaska Region		
Issue 1	There is a lack of conservation planner certification course opportunities in Alaska.		
Solution	IAC will work with NRCS-AK to identify opportunities for Tribal staff to participate in conservation planning certification courses required for certification.		
Introduced by:	Laurie Stuart, Native Village of Tyonek	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building

Caucus	Alaska Region		
Issue 2	Regional Tribes/AK Native Villages have concerns about impacts to LFPA, FDPIR, and SNAP. Continued access to these programs is a key advocacy priority. and want to see the program a key priority for advocating for these programs for Tribes and Alaskan Villages.		
Solution	IAC will continue to advocate for the expansion of LFPA, FDPIR, and SNAP as a priority for Tribes and Alaskan Villages.		
Introduced by:	Laurie Stuart, Native Village of Tyonek	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy

Caucus	Alaska Region		
Issue 3	AK members/participants consistently describe urgent needs: non-plant subsistence that stretch the bounds of many NRCS programs. IAC should assist in agriculture issues related to regulations that also involve the state of Alaska, commercial fishers, and non-amenable species.		
Solution	IAC will continue to explore existing resources with local AK tribes and partners, such as with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. IAC will focus on direct technical assistance to navigate these resources to expand non-plant subsistence.		
Introduced by:	Laurie Stuart, Native Village of Tyonek	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access, Education & Capacity Building, Communications & Convening

Caucus	Alaska Region		
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INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
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Issue 4	There's a conflict of interest between the Alaska pollock industry subsidies and food sovereignty for many of the Alaska tribes that rely on the bycatch species.		
Solution	IAC staff reach out to the appropriate Alaska stakeholders to determine what solution should be advocated for.		
Introduced by:	Theo Garcia, Knik Tribe	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy, Sovereignty & Resource Stewardship

Caucus	Alaska Region		
Issue 5	Barriers and inability to access insurance for reindeer and fishers. (Carryover 2023, 2024)		
Solution	IAC will explore strategies to introduce indigenous livestock into pre-existing and new federal and local programming. The IAC will engage FSA and RMA to gain insights into possible avenues for reindeer herders and fishers.		
Introduced by:	Theo Garcia, Knik Tribe	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access, Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy

Caucus	Alaska Region		
Issue 6	There is limited funding and/or resources to support national Legal & Policy department growth and limited opportunities for regional support. (Carryover 2023, 2024)		
Solution	IAC will continue to support a national awareness of Alaska priorities in partnership with the Policy team and obtain more resources from them specific to AK and include regional specific outreach efforts.		
Introduced by:	Theo Garcia, Knik Tribe	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access, Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy

Caucus	Alaska Region		
Issue 7	Increase Capital Access for Region Through CDFI Outreach. (Carryover 2022, 2023, 2024)		
Solution	Increase the region's access to CDFIs and capital access by continuing to research and build connections with Alaska CDFIs and other similar models to implement in the region.		
Introduced by:	Theo Garcia, Knik Tribe	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access

Caucus	Alaska Region		
Issue 8	There is a lack of representation of AK tribes across the agriculture industry and stakeholder organizations. (Carryover 2023, 2024)		
Solution	Leverage IAC's national network to increase opportunities for Alaska producer involvement in the agricultural sector. The IAC will continue advocacy to help improve representation and outreach to AK Tribes by increasing staff presence in AK in 2026.		

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
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Introduced by:	Theo Garcia, Knik Tribe	Mission Themes:	Communications & Convening, Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy
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Caucus	Alaska Region		
Issue 9	Need more opportunities for delegates, board members, and IAC staff to interact and touch base throughout the year. (Carryover 2023, 2024)		
Solution	Increase and prioritize opportunities for interaction and meetings throughout the year leading up to the conference. This will help delegates be better prepared and organized for the caucus meeting. This also will help the TAs and delegates to be able to update on caucus issues throughout the year.		
Introduced by:	Theo Garcia, Knik Tribe	Mission Themes:	Communications & Convening

Caucus	Alaska Region		
Issue 10	There's a need to protect ACs (advisory councils) TEK holders so there are not unanticipated changes if/when there is a new administration. (Carry over from 2024)		
Solution	IAC to provide advocacy support to increase awareness of the need for ACs and appointed positions for TEK holders at all levels of the USDA.		
Introduced by:	Theo Garcia, Knik Tribe	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy

Caucus	Alaska Region		
Issue 11	Need training on completing the Census of Agriculture for Tribal Corporations, Tribes, Producers, and TCDs in Alaska along with interpretation and technical assistance pertaining to food production on Native Land Allotments. (Carryover 2023, 2024)		
Solution	IAC will provide education and training on how to complete the Census of Agriculture from NASS to ensure Alaska is being represented best as possible with the current Census of Ag. Continue to facilitate conversations with FSA about establishing campaigns around getting the allotments enrolled as farms based on harvesting practices that have occurred. Continued the IAC advocacy in this space		
Introduced by:	Theo Garcia, Knik Tribe	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building, Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy, Sovereignty & Resource Stewardship

Caucus	Alaska Region		
Issue 12	It is cost-prohibitive to bring reindeer products to market due to USDA certification requirements. (Carry over from 2024)		

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Solution	IAC will explore leverage points to introduce a replication of the Tribal Voluntary Bison Inspection Fee Coverage Program for reindeer. Advocate to extend Tribal 638 compact authority to all USDA programs including the meat inspection requirements (support Senator’s work). 3) Support language flexibility for more Tribal commodities in FDIPR.		
Introduced by:	Theo Garcia, Knik Tribe	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access, Education & Capacity Building

Caucus	Alaska Region		
Issue 13	USDA is not utilizing its marketing support programs for seafood products. (Carry over from 2024)		
Solution	IAC will explore opportunities to further advocate for extending USDA commodity purchase programs to support small producers.		
Introduced by:	Theo Garcia, Knik Tribe	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access

Caucus	Alaska Region		
Issue 14	USDA EQIP and CSP formulas are not effective for AK-based projects. NRCS has an interest in updating and potentially ‘zoning’ across the state. (Carry over from 2024)		
Solution	IAC will draw upon existing relationships with NRCS-AK to advocate for the evaluation of remote/Tribal EQIP/CSP contracts in Alaska. The IAC will also explore other strategies for informing NRCS of actual implementation costs to support data collection to inform/advise NRCS Alaska and NRCS National cost analyses.		
Introduced by:	Theo Garcia, Knik Tribe	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access

Caucus	Alaska Region		
Issue 15	Lack of fish in the area, because of overfishing and climate change. (Carry over from 2024)		
Solution	Increase collaboration with other regions fish commissions, Tribal consortia, village and regional corporations along with state and federal agencies.		
Introduced by:	Theo Garcia, Knik Tribe	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy

Caucus	Alaska Region		
Issue 16	Lack of advocacy and advocates for AK tribes concerning moose. (Carry over from 2024)		
Solution	IAC will leverage training and educational opportunities specific to state and federal subsistence regulations.		
Introduced by:	Theo Garcia, Knik Tribe	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building, Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy

Southern Plains Region

REGIONAL CAUCUS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
<p>The 2025 Southern Plains Regional Caucus hosted sixteen (16) attendees from across the Region. There were three (3) delegates present from the following Member Tribes in Good Standing: Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Camanche Nation</p>	
<p>The Southern Plains Region carried over one (1) 2024 caucus priority and identified four (4) new priorities, which are outlined in detail below.</p>	

REGIONAL CAUCUS ISSUE

Caucus	Southern Plains Region		
Issue 1	We need funding solutions for culturally repurposing rendered parts (Carryover from 2024).		
Solution	IAC will work with Tribes to develop operational and funding strategies for culturally repurposed rendered animal products.		
Introduced by:	Ronald Wahweotten, Prairie Band of Potawatomi	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access

Caucus	Southern Plains Region		
Issue 2	We are currently exercising food sovereignty and attempting to grow our herd development with domestic livestock, bison/buffalo and all wild game processing. We are challenged with not having sufficient natural resources, infrastructure for water, adequate fencing, holding facilities, staff, etc. Other areas of distress are high fertilizer cost, noxious weeds control on pasture lands. Earlier concerns brought up a year ago are rendering efforts and repurposing programs while processing our livestock and produce.		
Solution	Create a funding bill for planning and programs that recognizes food and sovereignty, supplies, equipment, infrastructure and identifying qualified staffing and ranch hands.		
Introduced by:	Ronald Wahweotten, Prairie Band of Potawatomi	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access, Sovereignty & Resources Stewardship

Caucus	Southern Plains Region		
Issue 3	The Southern Plains Region has had a hard time keeping a TA program specialist. One of the biggest issues is that the Region is quite large and one TA is expected to cover it all. Request that IAC hire two program specialists in the TA Network specific to the Southern Plains Region.		
Solution	IAC will hire two program specialists under the TA Network to support the Southern Plains Region.		
Introduced by:	Tonya Turnpaugh, Citizen Potawatomi Nation	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building

Caucus	Southern Plains Region		
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INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
2025 Membership meeting - Caucus Priorities

Issue 4	In the past, we have had regional summits at least once a year. Without a TA specialist in the region, it has been a few years without yearly regional summits and Tribes utilize those convenings to talk about our issues, and make progress on those things.		
Solution	IAC will prioritize, to the maximum extent possible, a yearly regional Summit in the Southern Plains region.		
Introduced by:	Tonya Turnpaugh, Citizen Potawatomi Nation	Mission Themes:	Communications & Convening

Caucus	Southern Plains Region		
Issue 5	Putting together a database that is utilized in other parts of the country where producers and consumers are linked up. We would like that to be brought to the Southern Plains region and expanded to include rendered products.		
Solution	IAC will assist in the creation of a database that connects producers and consumers in the Southern Plains region to directly support market access and economic development.		
Introduced by:	Tonya Turnpaugh, Citizen Potawatomi Nation	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access

Midwest/Great Lakes Region

REGIONAL CAUCUS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
<p>The 2025 Midwest/Great Lakes Regional Caucus hosted twenty-eight (28) attendees from across the Region. There were five (5) delegates present from the following Member Tribes in Good Standing: Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Red Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Ho-Chunk Nation, Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.</p>	
<p>The Midwest/Great Lakes Region identified seven (7) new priorities, which are outlined in detail below.</p>	

REGIONAL CAUCUS ISSUES

Caucus	Midwest/Great Lakes Region		
Issue 1	Highly fractionated land ownership remains a barrier to agricultural development.		
Solution	Create land-buyback program for Tribal members to protect trust lands for farming and ranching.		
Introduced by:	Maria DeFoe, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access, Sovereignty & Resource Stewardship

Caucus	Midwest/Great Lakes Region		
Issue 2	Subsistence farmers who harvest wild rice, maple syrup, berries, and fish lack the resources to acquire funds to purchase items for subsistence farming. They are looking to feed their families through the next season and not necessarily looking to create a business plan.		
Solution	Create a program to help subsistence farmers acquire the resources needed to feed their families throughout each season, and to engage in a gift economy of economic activity.		
Introduced by:	Maria DeFoe, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access, Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy

Caucus	Midwest/Great Lakes Region		
Issue 3	There is a decline in young Native farmers entering the field.		
Solution	Create programs for Tribes to provide apprenticeships and leadership programs to sustain agricultural knowledge and careers for future generations.		
Introduced by:	Maria DeFoe, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building, Communications & Convening

Caucus	Midwest/Great Lakes Region		
Issue 4	Lack of infrastructure for long term seed and food storage and access to traditional seeds.		
Solution	Create infrastructure funding and a program for seed rematriation.		
Introduced by:	Maria DeFoe, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Mission Themes:	Sovereignty & Resource Stewardship

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
2025 Membership meeting - Caucus Priorities

Caucus	Midwest/Great Lakes Region		
Issue 5	Protections in relation to Data Centers on Tribal lands.		
Solution	With conflicting perspectives on this issue, IAC is deferential to Tribes as sovereign nations to determine what is best for their respective communities. IAC will not take a policy position on issues where member Tribes take conflicting positions, however, IAC will seek to provide educational resources to member Tribes upon request as to the potential impacts of Data Centers on agricultural and natural resources.		
Introduced by:	Maria DeFoe, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Mission Themes:	Resource Stewardship

Caucus	Midwest/Great Lakes Region		
Issue 6	Regional food business center funding programming and granting for food infrastructure has been terminated, causing lack of access to infrastructure and processing funding.		
Solution	Advocacy to restore that funding and have it added in the Native Farm Bill Coalition priorities and put into Farm Bill or other legislative vehicles that would lead to statutory codification of regional food business center funding.		
Introduced by:	Hinu Smith, Ho-Chunk Nation	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy

Caucus	Midwest/Great Lakes Region		
Issue 7	The Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access Program is stalled due to the USDA refusing to review grant beneficiary plans		
Solution	Advocate for reviewing and approving these plans so that increasing land capital can move forward with implementation.		
Introduced by:	Hinu Smith, Ho-Chunk Nation	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access, Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy



Pacific Region

REGIONAL CAUCUS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2025 Pacific Regional Caucus hosted thirty (30) attendees from across the Region. There were seven (7) delegates present from the following Member Tribes in Good Standing: Walker River Paiute Tribe, Quechan Indian Tribe, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Pit River Tribe, Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe, Alturas Indian Rancheria, and the Bishop Paiute Tribe.

As quorum was not met, the 2024 caucus issues carry forward and stand as the proposed 2025 Pacific Regional priorities.

REGIONAL CAUCUS ISSUES

Caucus	Pacific Region		
Issue 1	There are issues with forestry on Tribal lands that are landlocked which creates right of way issues (carryover 2023, 2024).		
Solution	IAC will support discussions as they arise with USFS and federal agencies to advocate for recognizing traditional trails as a right of way before the 1800s. Ongoing discussions with federal agencies aim to secure solutions and resources to support Tribal access and land management needs.		
Introduced by:	Frank Mazzetti, Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy, Sovereignty & Resource Stewardship

Caucus	Pacific Region		
Issue 2	There is conflict between BIA and USDA-USFS with regard to their recognition of burn bosses due to their definitions differing. This is an issue that limits the prescribed burning to be implemented on Tribal lands. BIA seems to be absent from meetings where these issues are discussed (carryover 2023, 2024).		
Solution	IAC will work to facilitate conversations between the BIA, NRCS, and USDA-USFS to support recognition of Tribal burn bosses and burn bosses identified by Tribes.		
Introduced by:	Rick Napoles, Bishop Paiute Tribe	Mission Themes:	Sovereignty & Resource Stewardship

Caucus	Pacific Region		
Issue 3	Lack of support from the BIA and specifically from Brian Newland's office (carryover from 2024).		
Solution	IAC will continue to grow relationships with various departments within BIA to help to support Tribal interface. Specifically, there is a need for increased advocacy to support Tribal conservation practice implementation within South Fork Band's territory.		

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
2025 Membership meeting - Caucus Priorities

Introduced by:	Dallas Smales, South Fork Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy, Sovereignty & Resource Stewardship
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Caucus	Pacific Region		
Issue 4	The responsibility for maintaining irrigation infrastructure is falling on Tribes when BIA is claiming jurisdiction over the infrastructure making it impossible to address failing systems (carryover from 2024).		
Solution	IAC can liaise between BIA, Tribes, USDA agencies, and various jurisdictions that may have claim over portions of irrigation canals/ditches. IAC will identify resources available to support any stage of the process once Tribe-developed plans are in place.		
Introduced by:	Rick Napoles, Bishop Paiute Tribe	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access

Caucus	Pacific Region		
Issue 5	There are challenges with competitive grants. There is a lot of irrigation infrastructure support that is needed and NRCS is a key player. A primary issue is the lack of irrigation engineering technical assistance capacity in the state of Nevada, which is slowing projects and decreasing the incentive for adoption of NRCS practices due to inflation. With costs going up, delays due to engineering shortages increase costs to the producer to implement contracted practices (carryover from 2024)		
Solution	IAC will continue to engage with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation and both NRCS Nevada and NRCS Idaho to support an increase in coordination. The IAC will also raise this issue nationally through new cooperative agreements established in 2025 that are geared towards increasing agencies' capacities to work with Tribal producers.		
Introduced by:	Yvonne Powers, Shoshone-Paiute Tribe of Duck Valley	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access, Education & Capacity Building

Caucus	Pacific Region		
Issue 6	There are issues identifying supplemental resources for irrigation infrastructure repair and updating on the Duckwater Indian Reservation, Walker River, South Fork Band, Fort McDermitt, Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians, Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians, and Pacific region Tribes generally (carryover from 2024).		
Solution	IAC teams will identify strategic and supplemental resources to support irrigation infrastructure updating and repair. Coordinate directly with above listed Tribes as a starting point, and identify specific opportunities that may be relevant across the Pacific region.		
Introduced by:	Annette George, Duckwater Shoshone Tribe	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
2025 Membership meeting - Caucus Priorities

Caucus	Pacific Region		
Issue 7	There is a lack of frontline staff capacity (realty, engineering) servicing Tribes in Nevada for both BIA and USDA agencies (carryover from 2024).		
Solution	IAC will raise the issue at higher levels of agency leadership to highlight the lack of staffing is impacting producer capacity to implement practices under existing programs.		
Introduced by:	Natalie Hernandez, Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy

Caucus	Pacific Region		
Issue 8	The 1993 IRMP mandate by Congress was unfunded and there is a lack of development of IRMPs on Tribal lands and jurisdictions (carryover from 2024).		
Solution	IAC will advocate for greater funding for resource management planning, including for IRMPs and ARMPs.		
Introduced by:	Yvonne Powers, Shoshone-Paiute Tribe of Duck Valley	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access, Sovereignty & Resource Stewardship

Caucus	Pacific Region		
Issue 9	Wild Horse Reservoir, adjacent to Duck Valley Indian Reservation, has been taken off-line by USGS, disabling the Tribe’s ability to monitor water levels (carryover from 2024).		
Solution	IAC will research appropriate points of contact with USGS and other applicable agencies to seek greater understanding of the issue and to identify where the funding constraints lie, and what supplemental resources exist to support irrigation delivery for agricultural operations in Duck Valley.		
Introduced by:	Yvonne Powers, Shoshone-Paiute Tribe of Duck Valley	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access

Caucus	Pacific Region		
Issue 10	Greater support is needed for Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe with more of a comprehensive array of assistance by IAC (carryover from 2024).		
Solution	Increase direct coordination with IAC’s Technical Assistance Specialist to identify the various teams that would be most applicable to support Fort McDermitt priorities. The IAC will interface with FRTEP-Nevada as the next iteration of the hoop house initiative comes online in 2025.		
Introduced by:	Clifton Smart, Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building

Caucus	Pacific Region		
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INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
2025 Membership meeting - Caucus Priorities

Issue 11	The Bishop Paiute Food Sovereignty Initiative needs assistance in navigating the complexities around procurement by internal Tribal departments and resources for training staff in Food Safety Modernization Act protocols (carryover from 2024).		
Solution	Aid the Bishop Paiute Food Sovereignty Initiative with direct purchase and procurement strategies, along with increased exposure to training opportunities in food safety, assistance in navigation of Tribal food code adoption resources, and research into the complexity of USDA inspection.		
Introduced by:	Rick Napoles, Bishop Paiute Tribe	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building



Eastern Region

REGIONAL CAUCUS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
<p>The 2025 Eastern Regional Caucus hosted twenty-two (22) attendees from across the Region. There were three (3) delegates present from the following Member Tribe in Good Standing: Seminole Tribe of Florida, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and Rappahannock Tribe.</p>	
<p>The Eastern Region carried over six (6) of 2024 priorities and identified two (2) additional priorities, all of which are outlined in detail below.</p>	

REGIONAL CAUCUS ISSUES

Caucus	Eastern Region		
Issue 1	Need funding and Tribal oversight of programs to address environmental injustices and need assistance with remediation efforts of toxic soil and polluted water to prevent contamination of the food chain (Carry over from 2023 & 2024).		
Solution	IAC will engage with Tribal EPA/Environmental departments when appropriate to support agriculture related education and to support identification of applicable resources.		
Introduced by:	Ronald “Chumper” Walker, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access, Education & Capacity Building

Caucus	Eastern Region		
Issue 2	There needs to be efforts directed at seeking funding for a seed bank. (Carry over from 2023 & 2024).		
Solution	IAC will continue to identify new/emerging resources and opportunities to support Tribal seed bank efforts.		
Introduced by:	Ronald “Chumper” Walker, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access

Caucus	Eastern Region		
Issue 3	Eastern Region is facing a myriad of climate change issues (Carry over from 2022, 2023, & 2024).		
Solution	IAC will engage with Tribal EPA/Environmental and/or applicable departments to support agriculture and land management related education and the identification of applicable resources.		
Introduced by:	Ronald “Chumper” Walker, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building, Sovereignty & Resource Stewardship

Caucus	Eastern Region		
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INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
2025 Membership meeting - Caucus Priorities

Issue 4	400-mile purchasing restriction limits Tribal trade opportunities in the Local Food Procurement Assistance (LFPA) and Food Distribution on Indian Reservations programs. Improvements are also needed specifically for funding for storage, infrastructure, and personnel (Carry over from 2024).		
Solution	IAC will identify opportunities to encourage trade between Tribes nation-wide to address this restriction. IAC will advocate for increased Tribal purchasing authorities and to eliminate the 400 mile restriction specifically for the purpose of promoting trade among Tribal producers. IAC will also advocate for increased funding for storage, infrastructure, and personnel.		
Introduced by:	Ronald “Chumper” Walker, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access

Caucus	Eastern Region		
Issue 5	Due to NRCS guidelines varying from state to state, Tribes do not have access to funding to purchase equipment for their Tribal practices (Carry over from 2024).		
Solution	IAC will meet with NRCS-CT to discuss available resources that may be applicable to equipment purchasing in certain scenarios. IAC will also seek to identify supplemental opportunities and resources beyond NRCS that may meet similar needs.		
Introduced by:	Ronald “Chumper” Walker, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access

Caucus	Eastern Region		
Issue 6	Tribes need assistance with logistics regarding bringing back a traditional bartering system instead of relying on the Federal and state government programs (Carry over from 2024).		
Solution	If requested, IAC will support network development through introductions, convening space at upcoming regional events, and resource identification to further Tribe-to-Tribe alternatives.		
Introduced by:	Ronald “Chumper” Walker, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	Mission Themes:	Communications & Convening, Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy

Caucus	Eastern Region		
Issue 7	Termination of NIFBC & LFPA negatively impacted Tribal operations across the Eastern Region.		
Solution	IAC will work to identify supplemental opportunities and resources beyond NIFBC & LFPA that may meet similar needs.		
Introduced by:	Ronald “Chumper” Walker, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy

Caucus	Eastern Region		
Issue 8	Lack of technical assistance in the Eastern Region		

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Solution	Hiring/filling vacant NE & SE TA positions with individuals who are knowledgeable in regional tribal agriculture and reside in the region as soon as possible to ensure adequate service delivery in these specific areas (possible mid-atlantic addition).		
Introduced by:	Amyrose Miller-Foll, Rappahannock Tribe	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building



Diné Region

REGIONAL CAUCUS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2025 Diné Regional Caucus hosted thirty-nine (39) attendees. The delegate was present from the Member Tribe in Good Standing: Diné.

The Diné Region identified ten (10) new priorities, which are outlined in detail below.

REGIONAL CAUCUS ISSUES

Caucus	Diné Region		
Issue 1	USDA reorganization plan		
Solution	IAC will continue to monitor for updates on the USDA reorganization plan and continue to advocate for the incorporation of Tribal feedback into any reorganization.		
Introduced by:	Ray Castillo, Navajo Nation	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy

Caucus	Diné Region		
Issue 2	ILA dollars re-releasing		
Solution	IAC will continue to advocate for USDA's approval of Land, Capital, and Market Access Initiative funding.		
Introduced by:	Ray Castillo, Navajo Nation	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy

Caucus	Diné Region		
Issue 3	The Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program (FRTEP) grant cycle renews in 2026. A renewed agreement with the Navajo Nation is required (last approved in 1990) to compete for the grant.		
Solution	Continue to collaborate with FRTEP at the national and local level. Priority to hire outreach staff to serve the Diné/Four Corners area.		
Introduced by:	Ray Castillo, Navajo Nation	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building

Caucus	Diné Region		
Issue 4	Re-ignite the youth component of the IAC Annual Conference		
Solution	IAC Membership will help to support IAC in bringing forth a larger youth component of the IAC Annual Conference.		
Introduced by:	Ray Castillo, Navajo Nation	Mission Themes:	Communications & Convening

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
2025 Membership meeting - Caucus Priorities

Caucus	Diné Region		
Issue 5	Needing support in the Many Farms community with erosion/flossing damage and issues. Reports indicate canals were built in incorrect areas, forcing farmers to repeatedly purchase irrigation pipes due to flood damage		
Solution	IAC will prioritize hiring technical staff to support the creation of outreach materials to address erosion/flooding damage.		
Introduced by:	Ray Castillo, Navajo Nation	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building

Caucus	Diné Region		
Issue 6	Concerns were raised regarding helium drilling near farm land. Disturbing and contaminating water ways and springs.		
Solution	IAC will continue to advocate for the conservation and development of Tribal agricultural resources.		
Introduced by:	Ray Castillo, Navajo Nation	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy

Caucus	Diné Region		
Issue 7	Needing access to farming equipment.		
Solution	IAC will continue to support Tribal producers in assessing options for purchasing farming equipment.		
Introduced by:	Ray Castillo, Navajo Nation	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building

Caucus	Diné Region		
Issue 8	A major barrier for farmers accessing USDA/NRCS funds is the tax burden on individual signers (often elders). There is a need for non-profits to act as fiscal sponsors to manage funds/equipment.		
Solution	IAC will continue to support producers in financial decision making and offer further education on the considerations of USDA program engagement.		
Introduced by:	Ray Castillo, Navajo Nation	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building

Caucus	Diné Region		
Issue 9	Offer support and advocacy opportunities for the youth through USDA programing, specifically internships and workshops to preserve our culture and language.		
Solution	IAC will continue outreach and engagement opportunities for Tribal youth in 2026.		

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
2025 Membership meeting - Caucus Priorities

Introduced by:	Ray Castillo, Navajo Nation	Mission Themes:	Communications & Convening
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Caucus	Diné Region		
Issue 10	Reiterated the need to follow up on issues raised in previous years. There is still a great deal of work to be done and many conversations that need to happen with USDA. Significant funding is sitting there, and we need clarity on how it will be used.		
Solution	IAC will continue to advocate for USDA funding for Tribal priorities to increase resilience through shifting federal funding realities.		
Introduced by:	Ray Castillo, Navajo Nation	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy



Northwest Region

REGIONAL CAUCUS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2025 Northwest Regional Caucus hosted twenty-two (22) attendees from across the Region. There were seven (7) delegates present from Member Tribes in Good Standing: Spokane, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Colville Confederated Tribes, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation and Klamath Tribes.

The Northwest Region identified ten (10) new priorities, which are outlined in detail below.

REGIONAL CAUCUS ISSUES

Caucus	Northwest Region		
Issue 1	The commercial picking of huckleberries in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, which is now a commercial allowance. This past year was the first year of the ban. Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla, Confederated Tribes and Bands of Yakama Nation & Nez Perce Tribe; pushing for a continued ban.		
Solution	IAC to leverage and facilitate inter Tribal agreements to augment enforcement capacity (referencing Hand Shake Agreement). IAC will propose to host and facilitate trainings with USDA & Forest Service to educate non-Tribal people, as well as federal employees, on Indigenous Foods i.e., huckleberries.		
Introduced by:	Caseymac Wallahee, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Mission Themes:	Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy Education & Capacity Building

Caucus	Northwest Region		
Issue 2	Developing a Tribal food code to market within the Tribal nations, a State processor		
Solution	IAC to share information specific to Tribal food codes for Tribal nations to standardize a use of custom cut processor, state processor, or USDA approved processor for Meats; including buffalo and cattle.		
Introduced by:	Katherine Minthorn, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access

Caucus	Northwest Region		
Issue 3	Does IAC consider having a track of teaching agriculture to future farmers through the Native American Community College/Tribal Schools settings or Indian Boarding Schools?		
Solution	IAC to utilize the IAC youth program to brainstorm involvement/collaboration.		

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
2025 Membership meeting - Caucus Priorities

Introduced by:	Katherine Minthorn, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building
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Caucus	Northwest Region		
Issue 4	USDA NIFA funding for federally recognized tribes extension has remained flat at 4 million dollars, this funds 37 FRTEP projects nationwide. The Indian country as whole would benefit by having more funds dedicated toward funding the FRTEP projects.		
Solution	IAC will continue to advocate for more funding to be put toward the USDA NIFA FRTEP program.		
Introduced by:	Patrick Tonasket, Colville Confederated Tribes	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access

Caucus	Northwest Region		
Issue 5	4-H positive youth development programs serve youth ages 5-19, the 4-H program is how our Tribal youth gain agriculture knowledge and experience as with many Tribal communities Colville Reservation experiences high rates of unemployment and high rates of low income families, funding is limited for youth to explore agriculture projects.		
Solution	IAC LEAP project is a great opportunity to financially support youth ages 14-25, request IAC lower the age requirement on the LEAP project to include the younger 4-H members ages 8-13 or create a younger youth funding assistance opportunity. The older teens and young adults can work summer jobs, or even full time jobs to offset their expenses, the younger youth do not have similar opportunities to gain funding assistance for their projects.		
Introduced by:	Patrick Tonasket, Colville Confederated Tribes	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building

Caucus	Northwest Region		
Issue 6	Funding for FRTEP, 4-H programs are limited, writing grants can be cumbersome and time consuming for the FRTEP agents. Working through their respected university. This makes it difficult for local 4H programs to host larger scale events focused on agriculture, i.e youth field days, ag enrichment events, small exhibition shows, etc.		
Solution	IAC will continue to advocate for more FRTEP funding and will partner with local FRTEP to engage Tribal 4H participants in IAC membership-informed programming.		
Introduced by:	Patrick Tonasket, Colville Confederated Tribes	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building

Caucus	Northwest Region		
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INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
2025 Membership meeting - Caucus Priorities

Issue 7	The difficulty to market and process Bison, not related to a USDA process. Cattle producers wanting to market beef/bison to restaurants or retail stores need to be shipped to USDA facilities, some facilities do not want to shut down processing plants to process beef or buffalo. This makes it difficult as a producer to sell product outside of USDA inspected facility		
Solution	IAC will explore and advocate for the creation of funding opportunities and/or develop training for tribes to have their own meat inspection certification that meets or exceeds USDA standards. Advocate for funding for more Tribal processing facilities.		
Introduced by:	Monty Ford, Spokane	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access

Caucus	Northwest Region		
Issue 8	Continuation of Feral Horses, they continue to be an ongoing detriment to reservations, documentation of damage, numbers, etc need to be collected and placed in a central location. To be utilized in statements at the national level.		
Solution	Continuing with IAC support to collaborate with NTHC to create documentation needed to tell the story, the department of BIA Portland area office allocated \$60,000 for the creation of a documentary to showcase various reservations with high impact from feral horse degradation. Seek additional funding to assist in supporting completion of the documentary project.		
Introduced by:	Caseymac Wallahee, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Mission Themes:	Communications & Convening Economic Development & Market Access

Caucus	Northwest Region		
Issue 9	Rates of diabetes and cardiovascular disease continue to be disproportionate, highlighting collaboration in agriculture efforts. Interest in Tribal food garden, there is a want from Tribal health program staff to be included in agriculture efforts for cattle production, food garden, or Tribal food sovereignty to connect depts/efforts in a holistic way.		
Solution	Find a way to integrate the various systems and collaborate more on food sovereignty initiatives. Bringing the connection back to agriculture and health. IAC will offer information and support to feasibility study development for these purposes.		
Introduced by:	Caseymac Wallahee, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Mission Themes:	Sovereignty & Resource Stewardship

Caucus	Northwest Region		
Issue 10	Majority of agriculture production on the reservation is by non-Tribal producers on Tribal lands. There is currently little authority present to enforce lease information transparency.		
Solution	IAC will offer educational resources to Tribal producers to support the increase of revenue generation derived from Tribal lands.		

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
2025 Membership meeting - Caucus Priorities

Introduced by:	Monty Ford, Spokane	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building Economic Development & Market Access
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Southwest Region

REGIONAL CAUCUS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
<p>The 2025 Southwest Regional Caucus hosted eight (8) attendees from across the Region. There were three (3) delegates present from the following Member Tribes in Good Standing: Jicarilla Apache Nation, Pueblo of Santa Clara and Southern Ute Indian Tribe.</p> <p>As quorum was not met, the 2024 caucus issues carry forward and stand as the proposed 2025 Southwest Regional priorities.</p>	

REGIONAL CAUCUS ISSUES

Caucus	Southwest Region		
Issue 1	Lack of BIA funding for irrigation practices. Non-involvement of BIA and lack of willingness to engage with Tribal representatives (Carry over from 2023, 2024).		
Solution	IAC will maintain regular check-ins with BIA leadership and encourage BIA engagement with Tribal representatives in the Southwest Region on infrastructure funding for irrigation.		
Introduced by:	Mel Tafoya, Pueblo of Santa Clara	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access

Caucus	Southwest Region		
Issue 2	Inability to use fractionated trust lands and allotments so lands sit idle (Carry over 2023, 2024).		
Solution	IAC will continue to work with BIA to advocate for improved processes involving fractionated inherited lands and leasing permits. IAC will meet with BIA and Southwest Tribes to advocate for producer needs. In addition, IAC received an increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access Program grant, which will provide regranteeing opportunities to support producers in purchasing highly fractionated lands.		
Introduced by:	Mel Tafoya, Pueblo of Santa Clara	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access, Sovereignty & Resource Stewardship

Caucus	Southwest Region		
Issue 3	USDA programs support individual Tribal members but not Tribes (carryover 2023, 2024).		
Solution	IAC will grow collaboration with USDA agencies to enhance outreach and educational efforts that clarify program eligibility and benefits for both Tribes and individual Tribal producers. IAC will provide applicable resources and materials for engaging USDA programs and services especially through field days and summit events in the Southwest Region.		
Introduced by:	Mel Tafoya, Pueblo of Santa Clara	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building

Caucus	Southwest Region		
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INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
2025 Membership meeting - Caucus Priorities

Issue 4	Weather stations are far apart, and FSA accesses weather data from different microclimates that are either not on Native land or are far from where a particular producer is located, which makes producers ineligible for the livestock indemnity program when they have been adversely affected by drought and should qualify (carryover 2023, 2024).		
Solution	IAC will share resource information and support coordination among Southwest Tribes. IAC will continue to prioritize opportunities that further new weather station development throughout Indian Country.		
Introduced by:	Mel Tafoya, Pueblo of Santa Clara	Mission Themes:	Communications & Convening, Sovereignty & Resource Stewardship

Caucus	Southwest Region		
Issue 5	Federal funding for conservation projects, specifically EQIP and CSP, is only available to producers as a reimbursement, meaning even when Native producers are successful in applying for and receiving funding they have to find the money up front for infrastructure projects, which creates a significant financial burden (carryover 2023, 2024).		
Solution	IAC will work to alleviate the financial burden of NRCS practice implementation on Native producers by increasing outreach, TA, and supplemental financial incentives available through various Climate Smart Commodities initiatives. IAC will also share about options such as the EQIP 50% advance payment for approved project implementation costs. The IAC will engage NRCS directly to further support producers in navigating these funding mechanisms.		
Introduced by:	Mel Tafoya, Pueblo of Santa Clara	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access, Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy, Sovereignty & Resource Stewardship

Caucus	Southwest Region		
Issue 6	Paperwork required by federal funders such as FSA is intimidating and invasive to Native farmers and ranchers (carryover 2023, 2024).		
Solution	IAC will conduct outreach and leverage educational opportunities to grow awareness of FSA programs and resources to build a bridge to greater engagement with Tribal producers. The IAC stands ready to support Tribal agriculture operations in the Southwest with navigating all aspects of required paperwork and to support Native farmers and ranchers in gaining confidence with engaging local service center staff. IAC will follow Tribe-specific outreach protocols.		
Introduced by:	Mel Tafoya, Pueblo of Santa Clara	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building, Federal/Tribal Policy & Advocacy

Caucus	Southwest Region		
Issue 7	Wildfires adjacent to or on Tribal land can wash debris into Tribal water bodies and significantly reduce their capacity, reducing the availability of water for irrigation (carryover 2023, 2024).		

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
2025 Membership meeting - Caucus Priorities

Solution	IAC will collaborate with USDA agencies and other partners to advocate for support in wildfire mitigation and water resource protection for Tribal lands. TA staff will engage with USDA, BIA, and US Forest Service to discuss mitigation programs and supplemental resources. The IAC will host a Southwest Regional Summit to inform Tribes of available resources. In addition, through its role with the Native Farm Bill Coalition, IAC will advocate for increased wildfire mitigation and response on and near Tribal lands.		
Introduced by:	Mel Tafoya, Pueblo of Santa Clara	Mission Themes:	Sovereignty & Resource Stewardship

Caucus	Southwest Region		
Issue 8	There needs to be more funding for more competitive wages for jobs through BIA and other agencies (Carry over from 2024).		
Solution	IAC will continue to maintain regular meetings with BIA to elevate concerns received around competitive wages among other agricultural issues.		
Introduced by:	Marvin Pinnecoose, Southern Ute	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access



Western Region

REGIONAL CAUCUS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2025 Western Regional Caucus hosted seventeen (17) attendees from across the Region. There were no delegates present from the Member Tribes in Good Standing.

As quorum was not met, the 2024 caucus issues carry forward and stand as the proposed 2025 Western Regional priorities.

REGIONAL CAUCUS ISSUES

Caucus	Western Region		
Issue 1	Pasture, Rangeland, Forage Insurance (PRF) Tribal policies do not afford transparency on how the funding from those practices are transferred to producers (Carry over from 2024).		
Solution	IAC will identify opportunities to advocate for Tribal producer priorities and develop resources that provide information to Tribal departments and decision makers.		
Introduced by:	Francis (Oncho) Munoz, Hualapai Tribe	Mission Themes:	Economic Development & Market Access, Sovereignty & Resource Stewardship

Caucus	Western Region		
Issue 2	Need more on the ground TA support (Carry over from 2024).		
Solution	IAC will prioritize filling the Western Regional TA Specialist position in early 2025.		
Introduced by:	Francis (Oncho) Munoz, Hualapai Tribe	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building

Caucus	Western Region		
Issue 3	Agency practices in the Western Region are making it harder for independent producers to grow and advance (Carry over from 2024).		
Solution	IAC will advocate to FPAC agencies for independent producer utilization of programs and services. IAC will provide information to Tribal producers that seek to address priorities and concerns, as well as share best practices and working models when requested.		
Introduced by:	Francis (Oncho) Munoz, Hualapai Tribe	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building

Caucus	Western Region		
Issue 4	Increasing baseline education around agriculture, starting at a young age and continuing into high school years (Carry over from 2024).		
Solution	IAC will work towards increasing our Native youth programming and beginning farmer and rancher education and outreach in the region.		

Introduced by:	Francis (Oncho) Munoz, Hualapai Tribe	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building
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Caucus	Western Region		
Issue 5	Need access to commercial kitchens (Carry over from 2024).		
Solution	IAC will work to provide educational information on USDA-Rural Development and other information that can support commercial kitchen infrastructure development.		
Introduced by:	Francis (Oncho) Munoz, Hualapai Tribe	Mission Themes:	Communications & Convening, Economic Development & Market Access, Education & Capacity Building

Caucus	Western Region		
Issue 6	Address invasive species (including weeds) (Carry over from 2024).		
Solution	IAC's Natural Resources team will broaden focus on education around invasive species and ecological restoration in the Western Region.		
Introduced by:	Francis (Oncho) Munoz, Hualapai Tribe	Mission Themes:	Education & Capacity Building, Sovereignty & Resource Stewardship



Youth Caucus

YOUTH CAUCUS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The 2025 Youth Caucus hosted 8 attendees from across the Country. Additionally, each of the 8 NYAC participants joined their relevant regional caucus to provide input to the regional caucus priorities.