



Tribal Provisions in the 2008 Farm Bill

Nutrition: Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (Sec. 4211)

- Allows for the purchase of bison meat from (a) Native American bison producers, and (b) producer-owned cooperatives of bison ranchers.
- Establishes a “Traditional and Locally Grown Food Fund” that allows the purchase of foods designated “traditional” or locally grown, and supports the procurement of the foods by Native American farmers and ranchers up to 50% where practicable.
- Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to submit a report to Congress, within 180 days of enactment, that assesses the nutritional value of the FDPIR food package, how foods are selected, and how the Secretary plans to update the packages, and if not, why.

Credit: Sec. 5501: Allows FSA loans to be extended to individual Indians to purchase “highly fractionated” parcels of land according to the Indian Land Consolidation Act amendments of 2004.

Rural Development:

- Sec. 6007 Tribal College and University Essential Community Facilities: the Secretary may not require non-Federal support greater than 5% of the total cost of the facility.
- Sec. 6009 reauthorizes Water Systems For Rural and Native Villages in Alaska program, and authorizes \$1.5 million in funding to the Denali Commission to provide assistance to municipalities.
- Sec. 6105- Creates a discretionary initiative to improve services and programs in a “Substantially Underserved Trust Area” by: making RUS loans available with interest rates as low as 2 percent; non-duplication restrictions and matching funds requirements may be waived by the Secretary; and, the Secretary may give the highest funding priority to designated projects in SUTAs.
- Sec. 6110 – Creates a new broadband fund to provide loans and loan guarantees for the development of broadband service in rural areas. Priority goes to areas with no incumbent providers. The broadband fund is authorized for \$25 million a year.

Conservation Sec. 2704 - Provides set-asides in conservation programs to benefit socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and beginning farmers and ranchers, and an EQIP cost share rate of up to 90% for socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers and ranchers, and allows advance payments up to 30% for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.



Forestry: Sec. 8101-8107 - Cultural and Heritage Cooperation Authority authorizes reburial of human remains and cultural items on National Forest System land, including human remains and cultural items repatriated under NAGPRA; prevents disclosure of information regarding reburial sites as well as other culturally sensitive information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA); allows the temporary closure of Forest System land for traditional and cultural purposes with Secretarial approval; allows free gathering of forest products for cultural and traditional purposes; increases the availability of Forest Service programs and resources to Indian tribes; aims to strengthen support of traditional practices in accordance with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

Miscellaneous

- Sec. 14001- Extension Indian Reservation Program: removes clause that requires tribes to provide office space to EIRP agents, and directs extension agents to be placed in areas “where there has been a need demonstrated”.
- Sec. 14004 – 2501 Program: Provides \$15 million annually in mandatory funds for the program and strengthens its ability to assist socially disadvantaged producers to participate in agriculture programs. The program is relocated to the Office of Outreach and Advocacy.