

Community Outreach in the Context of AIARMA & ARMPs



The American Indian Agricultural Resource Management Act (AIARMA) establishes the statutory framework for Tribal management of agricultural lands and requires the development of a 10-year Agricultural Resource Management Plan (ARMP)¹. Under AIARMA, ARMPs must reflect tribal goals, community priorities, and public input.²

AIARMA and accompanying guidance emphasize that ARMPs must be developed through public meetings and review processes, ensuring community-driven decision-making.³ An ARMP must also align with tribal laws, ordinances, and long-term goals, which requires broad engagement to accurately capture community expectations.⁴ ARMPs actively support self-sustaining Tribal communities by promoting agricultural productivity, conservation, and the protection of cultural resources.⁵

Effective ARMP outreach includes a wide range of Tribal stakeholders: landowners, producers, grazing permittees, Tribal Departments (Agriculture, Natural Resources, Planning, Cultural Resources, Water), elders and TEK knowledge-holders, youth, Tribal college students, Tribal leadership, land boards, legislative committees, and community members affected by agricultural and rangeland decisions.

To meet statutory expectations and best practices, an ARMP should consider including public scoping meetings and listening sessions, open houses, or ARMP clinics for producers, producer advisory groups, surveys, and participatory mapping workshops during the ARMP creation period.

Community engagement actively strengthens the ARMP by identifying real conditions affecting producers, integrating TEK and cultural values, building legitimacy for future enforcement or policy updates, and documenting statutory compliance under AIARMA.

¹ 25 U.S.C. § 3711(b).

² Id.

³ 25 U.S.C. § 3711(b); Indian Affairs Manual (IAM) 54 IAM 3, U.S. Department of the Interior.

⁴ Id.

⁵ Id.

