



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
Washington, DC 20240

MAY 07 2015

IN REPLY REFER TO:

## Memorandum

To: All Regional Directors  
Attention: Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

From: *Acting* Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Subject: Reserved Treaty Rights Lands National Implementation

This memorandum establishes Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) policy for the new Reserved Treaty Rights Lands (RTRL) program and will apply to all Wildland Fire Management programs receiving RTRL funding.

### Purpose:

Ancestral rights associated with non-trust, non-reservation land is of critical importance to many American Indians and Alaska Natives across the United States. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2015, Wildland Fire Management funding was appropriated for the purpose of treating and restoring tribal priority landscapes within and adjacent to ancestral and reserved treaty right lands. This resulted in the establishment of the RTRL program. The RTRL program will provide funding to enable American Indian Tribes and Alaskan Natives to participate in collaborative projects with other landowners (federal, state, private, and others) to enhance the health and resiliency of priority tribal natural resources at high risk to wildland fire.

### Reserved Treaty Rights Lands Plan:

This Memorandum and the attached Plan serve as the Bureau's established policy for RTRL program implementation. The Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire's Branch of Wildland Fire Management has projected regional funding levels for this fiscal year and has developed a process for budget submission, distribution of funding, and project monitoring that will ensure long-term program success.

Attached are pertinent documents related to the RTRL program.

1. Reserved Treaty Rights Lands Plan: Plan approved by Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs (DBIA) and concurred by Office of Wildland Fire (OWF).
2. 2015 RTRL Regional planning levels and budget submission distribution schedule: Spreadsheet outlining key dates for project and regional funding submissions.
3. Wildland Fire Potential map.

Conference calls will be scheduled to clarify expectations regarding management of this program by the Regions. For information or questions please contact Mark Jackson, Assistant Director, Fuels Management, at (208) 387-5041 or email [james.jackson@bia.gov](mailto:james.jackson@bia.gov).

Attachments