

## **Ross Racine**

### **Presentation:**

I have 2 roles in forums such as this:

- 1) Indian Land Tenure Foundation = Education of Indian land owners & retention of and expansion of Indian ownership
- 2) Intertribal Agriculture Council = Advocate for positive change in Indian agriculture while promoting the Indian use of Indian resources.

*Solutions to the problems created by fractionation of lands must be created by those who are impacted most, the land owners or in the words of Einstein, solutions can not be created with the same thinking that created the problem!*

Agriculture production remains the primary source of income on the remote Reservations especially those without profitable casinos

Montana's Indian producers market raw agriculture products in excess of 35 million dollars annually. However management must insure sustainability and long term productivity of Indian resources.

1993 American Indian Agricultural Resource Management Act (PL 103-177)

- Management of resources consistent with identified Tribal goals
- Management plans would give rise to land use ordinances, land use planning  
Zoning, and Tribal land use regulations
  - Recognition of Tribal authority to set management direction
  - BIA will manage in accordance
  - Assist trust & restricted landowners in leasing their agricultural lands for a reasonable annual return.
  - The act does not limit or alter the right of individual to use their own land
  - Majority of owners can bind the minority in lease agreements providing all are paid equitably based on % ownership
  - Majority of owners can exclude their lands from Tribal management plans, again binding the minority

Assistance to producers including education is needed. This assistance is not nor do I project it will in the future come from the BIA. We must rely on US Department of Agriculture thus it is imperative that Tribal resource management plans facilitate participation in USDA programs.

Leasing and permitting are an integral part of the viability of Indian agriculture. Thus attempts by the present administration to amend AIPRA by making administration of fractionated lands on the shoulders of the landowners would negatively impact Indian agriculture and decrease income to landowners.