

WHY IT MATTERS TO INDIAN COUNTRY

- Title II helps producers and landowners implement proven conservation practices based on technical standards on agricultural and forest lands
- Conservation programs provide financial support for producers who want to implement land stewardship activities on their lands.
- For decades, Indian Country has expressed needs for improved conservation and land stewardship support from the USDA

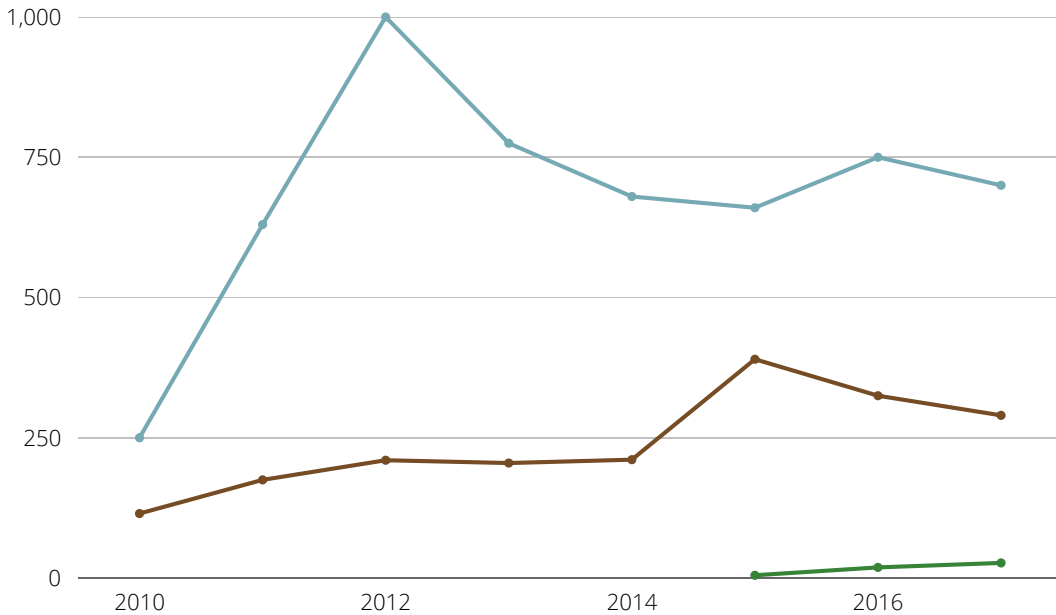
When federal policy continues to apply state and local standards to Indian Country lands where the same circumstances, markets, governance structures, and land holdings simply do not exist, Indian Country will continue to struggle with accessing critical conservation programs contained in this title.

INDIAN COUNTRY PRIORITIES

- Enhance Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programming for Tribal producers
- Provide more support for Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFAs)
- Increase alternative models of program delivery — 638 self-determination and self-governance, and other flexibilities for Tribes
- Allow funding flexibility and the use of other federal funds to make match requirements
- Recognize traditional, ecological, and knowledge-based conservation
- Include Tribal priorities in definition of priority resource concerns

Number of NRCS Contracts Received by AI/AN Operators

The chart below shows the number of USDA conservation program contracts awarded to farms with American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) operators over time.



Key:

EQIP contracts
RCCP contracts
CSP contracts

Source: USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

Historically, Tribal lands have suffered from a lack of conservation practices due to lack of tailored federal legislation that incorporates the challenges and unique nature of Tribal agricultural lands.

CHECK OUT THE NATIVE FARM BILL COALITION'S REPORT [GAINING GROUND](#) TO FIND MORE INFORMATION ON INDIAN COUNTRY'S PRIORITIES: www.nativefarmbill.com/gaining-ground.



The Native Farm Bill Coalition (NFBC) brings together the voices of Tribes, intertribal organizations, other Native organizations and non-Native allies around the country to advocate with a strong, unified voice in Washington, D.C., to advance investments in Native agricultural production, rural infrastructure, economic development, conservation, and forestry.