

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior

§ 166.805

the assessment of civil penalties and costs under subpart I of this part.

Subpart I—Trespass

§ 166.800 What is trespass?

Under this part, trespass is any unauthorized occupancy, use of, or action on Indian agricultural lands. These provisions also apply to Indian agricultural land managed under an agricultural lease or permit under part 162 of this title.

§ 166.801 What is the BIA's trespass policy?

We will:

- (a) Investigate accidental, willful, and/or incidental trespass on Indian agricultural land;
- (b) Respond to alleged trespass in a prompt, efficient manner;
- (c) Assess trespass penalties for the value of products used or removed, cost of damage to the Indian agricultural land, and enforcement costs incurred as a consequence of the trespass.
- (d) Ensure that damage to Indian agricultural lands resulting from trespass is rehabilitated and stabilized at the expense of the trespasser.

§ 166.802 Who can enforce this subpart?

(a) The BIA enforces the provisions of this subpart. If the tribe adopts the provisions of this subpart, the tribe will have concurrent jurisdiction to enforce this subpart. Additionally, if the tribe so requests, we will defer to tribal prosecution of trespass on Indian agricultural lands.

(b) Nothing in this subpart shall be construed to diminish the sovereign authority of Indian tribes with respect to trespass.

NOTIFICATION

§ 166.803 How are trespassers notified of a trespass determination?

(a) Unless otherwise provided under tribal law, when we have reason to believe that a trespass on Indian agricultural land has occurred, within five business days, we or the authorized tribal representative will provide written notice to the alleged trespasser, the possessor of trespass property, any

known lien holder, and beneficial Indian landowner, as appropriate. The written notice will include the following:

- (1) The basis for the trespass determination;
- (2) A legal description of where the trespass occurred;
- (3) A verification of ownership of unauthorized property (*e.g.*, brands in the State Brand Book for cases of livestock trespass, if applicable);
- (4) Corrective actions that must be taken;
- (5) Time frames for taking the corrective actions;
- (6) Potential consequences and penalties for failure to take corrective action; and
- (7) A statement that unauthorized livestock or other property may not be removed or disposed of unless authorized by us.

(b) If we determine that the alleged trespasser or possessor of trespass property is unknown or refuses delivery of the written notice, a public trespass notice will be posted at the tribal community building, U.S. Post Office, and published in the local newspaper nearest to the Indian agricultural lands where the trespass is occurring.

(c) Trespass notices under this subpart are not subject to appeal under 25 CFR part 2.

§ 166.804 What can I do if I receive a trespass notice?

If you receive a trespass notice, you will within the time frame specified in the notice:

- (a) Comply with the ordered corrective actions; or
- (b) Contact us in writing to explain why the trespass notice is in error. You may contact us by telephone but any explanation of trespass you wish to provide must be in writing. If we determine that we issued the trespass notice in error, we will withdraw the notice.

§ 166.805 How long will a written trespass notice remain in effect?

A written trespass notice will remain in effect for the same conduct identified in that written notice for a period of one year from the date of receipt of the written notice by the trespasser.