

Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) Update



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FOR
INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
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History—Current Events-Future



- Brief history of the case against USDA
- Recent activities of the NAAF
- Planned and future activities
- Indian Country--and global--agriculture

The Story



- Will be published, in some detail on NAAF website...so today—"high spots" only
 - See also IAC website summary of the NAAF
- Hold questions and discussion for the Q&A session to follow this evening 6:30 – 7:30 in Studio 4 C
- This will not be a legal brief. I'm not a lawyer, nor are most of you. I think there's one in the room, though, that should be enough...

1999-2012

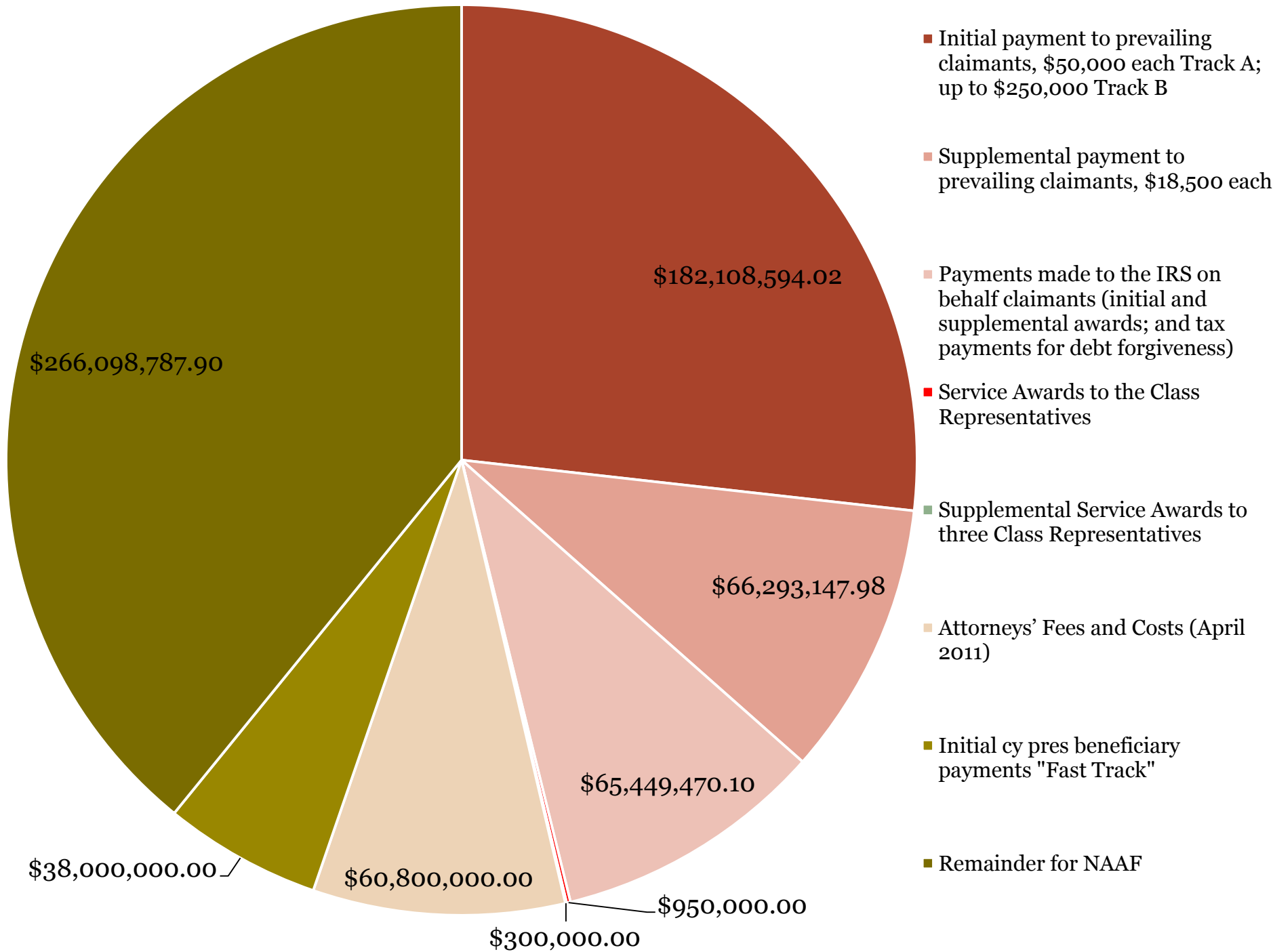


- Brief history: 1999 Claims, class counsel (law firm) recruitment of plaintiffs; lawsuit, court decision
 - Settlement (\$ decided) 2011
- Appeals and delays; delays and appeals. Payments + tax check plus additional payment and tax checks \$ went out in 2012
- More appeals and delays. Trust agreement negotiated and re-negotiated to deal with cy pres
 - Appealed and denied

2012-present



- Fast track RFA and awards \$38M to 34 institutions with history of service to Indian agriculture
- Establishment of trust “NAAF” 2018
- NAAF Legal briefings, investments, election of officers and appointment of committees
- Strategic planning, ongoing briefings—legal, investment, financial, managerial



Purpose	Amount
Initial \$50K (A) up to \$250K (B)	182,108,594.02
Supplemental \$18.5K each	66,293,147.98
IRS (initial, supplemental and loans)	65,449,470.10
Service awards to Class Reps	950,000.00
Supplemental service awards (3 each)	300,000.00
Attorneys, accountants, fees and costs	60,800,000.00
Initial Cy Pres “Fast Track”	38,000,000.00
Remainder to NAAF	266,098,787.90
Total	\$680,000,000.00

Mission



- To make grants to eligible recipients to fund the provision of:
 - ✦ **business assistance, agriculture education, technical support and advocacy services**
 - ✦ to Native farmers and ranchers and promote their continued engagement in agriculture

Structure



- Trustees/Board oversee CEO; all court-appointed
- CEO oversees NAAF staff
- Board Chair, Vice Chair and committees (done)
- Establish operating charter for NAAF and each committee (in progress)
- Trustee terms: First--(2,3,4 years); two terms max. Second term 3 years and all after. Staggered.
- So...we will be recruiting trustees in the future, but not for at least 2, probably 5 years.

Committees



- Develop and recommend to the full Board; fiduciary/oversight role for NAAF operations
- **Financial/Investment**
 - Budgets, expenditures, investments
- **Audit**
 - Accountability, reporting
- **Human Resources**
 - Staffing, hiring
- **Grantmaking**

Speedbumps



- Legal: Insurance and Investments
- Insurers VERY difficult to find; rejected 4 times so far
- Banking VERY difficult to find--too much money; sourced from a protracted lawsuit so...reluctance to operate with NAAF

Future--staffing



- CEO
- Investments, managerial accounting, bookkeeping, communications, information technology, grants management
- Program manager(s)
- Contracts (office space, website, etc.)
- Administrative support
- All in various stages

Hiring



- **BY THE BOOK**
- We are beginning to recruit the most talented individuals and best qualified contractors and firms we can find—the very best
- NAAF must be constantly vigilant about nepotism and self-dealing—we are developing policy and procedures to: Identify, report, stop it; and implement remedies to prevent it.
- But...determined people and organizations can be pretty resourceful, innovative and persistent
- PLEASE don't feed that bear

Grants



- Organizations: If your organization is not a 501©(3), make that happen now. The decree is specific about qualifications for organizations
- Get established, do diligence and develop a good track record of accomplishments and accountability
- Remember, no grants allowed to individuals

Future



- Cannot release \$\$ until we are “stood up”, audited and have a full staff on hand
- Need input from you as we design and test potential program areas for funding
- Will hold periodic public/virtual meetings for such activities as training for writing proposals, grants administration, progress and annual reports
- Website schedule to go live late this week

Beef cattle



Agriculture--defined



- Origin of the word: Latin agrīcultūra, equivalent to agrī, meaning “field” + cultūra “cultivate”
- ...the cultivation of land and breeding of animals and plants to provide food, fiber, medicinals and other products to sustain and enhance life

Corn



Types of agriculture



- Pastoralism
- Cultivation
- Subsistence
- Intensive

Sheep



Related...



- Production systems
- Marketing
- Transportation
- Land and Water
- Climate
- Sustainability
- Manufacturing
- Processing
- Breeding

Winter vegetables



Native Agriculture



- ...is the interaction with an environment, by Native/Indian/Indigenous people to produce, gather, harvest and preserve plants and animals for **food and fiber** - including those used for ceremonial, traditional or medicinal purposes– to sustainably support subsistence, family, community, tribe and nation

Salmon



Agriculture broadly defined



- So in practice, we have broadened the term and definition, to include subsistence lifestyle activities that provide food and fiber; and we include other activities traditionally practiced by Indigenous peoples since the beginning...
 - Such as fishing, gathering, hunting

Rice



Food security



- ...all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”. (World Food Summit, 1996)

Causes of global food insecurity...



- Drought, extreme weather; climate
- Pests, livestock disease
- Military conflict
- Lack of emergency plans/capabilities
- Corruption and political instability
- Cash crop dependence
- Internally displaced persons/refugees
- Rapid population growth
- Failing infrastructure

Food sovereignty



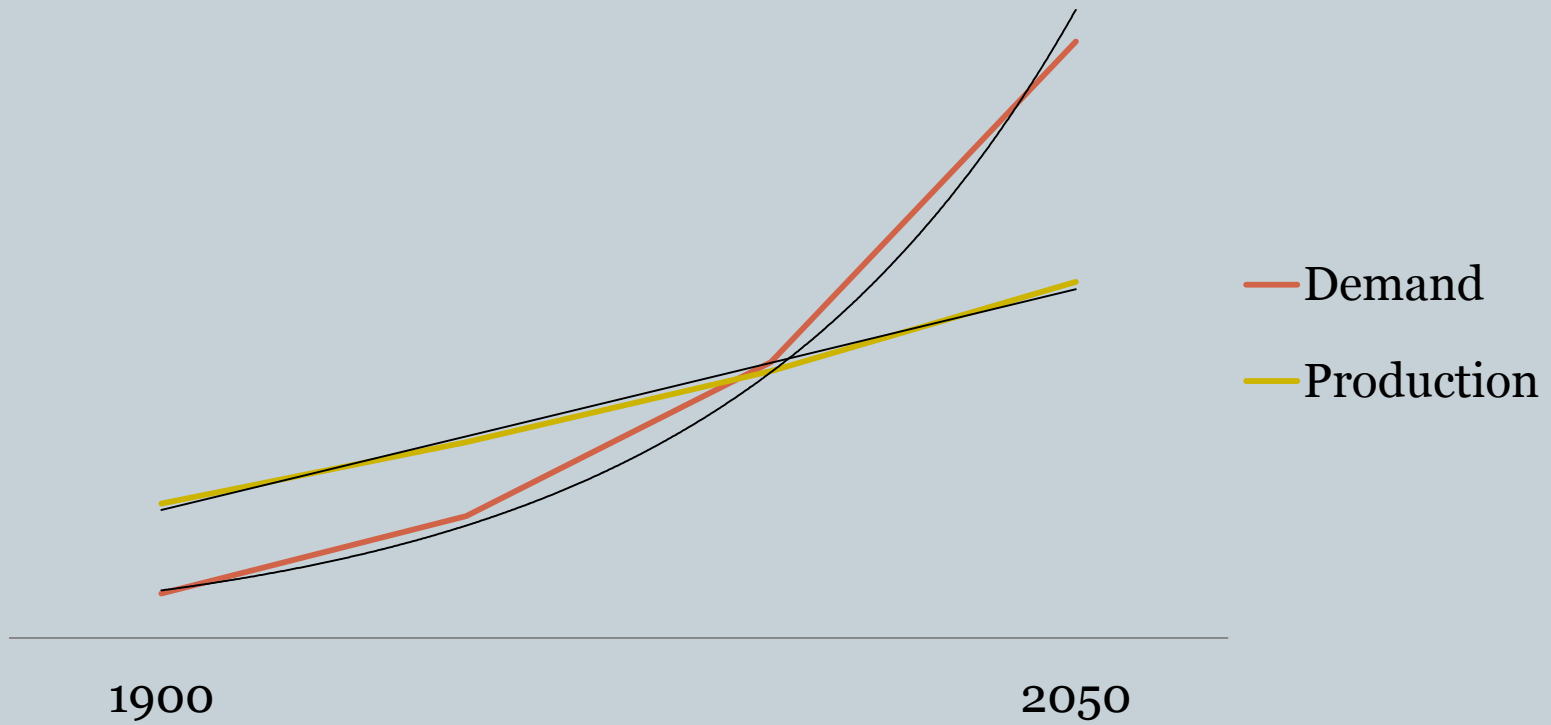
- ...people who produce, distribute, and consume food exert control over the mechanisms and policies of food production and distribution
- ...the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food (World Food Summit, 1996)

NAAF Programmatic Future—a start



- Enabling work in:
 - Food sovereignty
 - Food security
 - Closely related areas
- Remember how NAAF came about and why we are...where we are...and what we must do
- Clean hearts, clear heads and focus on the mission

US food production vs. world demand



Read, read, read



- ***When Indians Became Cowboys: Native Peoples and Cattle Ranching in the American West*** Peter Iverson 1997
- ***One Hundred Million Acres*** Kirke Kickingbird and Karen Ducheneaux 1973
- ***Native Land Law*** Robert Coulter/Indian Law Resource Center/Indian Land Tenure Foundation 2012
- ***Indian Agriculture In America: Prehistory to the Present*** R. Douglas Hunt 1987

Q & A



- Studio 4 C
- 6:30-7:30
- For additional questions about the NAAF, please contact:
 - Executive Director Janie Hipp at: 479-313- 3339
or nativeamericanagriculturefund@gmail.com