



FORT BELKNAP INDIAN COMMUNITY LAND DEPARTMENT

Stewarding Tribal Lands and Resources for Current and Future Generations

The Fort Belknap Land Department would like to encourage all ranchers, farmers, producers, and lessees to begin preparing for potential drought conditions this season.

As drought conditions continue to impact Montana and surrounding areas, it is important for all agricultural operators to take proactive steps to protect livestock, water resources, grazing lands, and agricultural operations. We encourage producers to begin evaluating pasture conditions, water availability, forage supplies, fencing, and overall herd management plans early.

The Land Department will continue doing all we can to assist producers through drought monitoring, water development projects, grazing management efforts, communication updates, and coordination with state and federal partners. However, drought preparedness is a shared responsibility, and we strongly encourage all operators to prepare in advance for difficult conditions.

The Land Department also encourages all producers to make sure their agricultural records and documentation are current and organized, including:

- Grazing leases or revocable permits
- Land use authorizations
- Livestock records
- Water hauling documentation
- Grazing plans and pasture records
- Any other records related to agricultural operations

Proper documentation may be required when applying for USDA drought assistance programs, including the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and other federal disaster assistance programs. Having current lease documents and operational records available may help prevent delays during the application process.

Some recommended drought preparation measures include:

- Monitoring stock water sources and wells
- Planning for reduced forage conditions
- Evaluating stocking rates and grazing rotations
- Repairing fences and water infrastructure
- Developing emergency feeding or hauling plans
- Staying informed on drought conditions and available assistance programs

The Land Department will continue providing updates regarding drought conditions, water projects, grazing information, and available resources as conditions change.

We appreciate the continued cooperation of our producers and community members as we work together to protect our lands, livestock, and agricultural future.

Fort Belknap Land Department