

"WATER IN THE FUTURE: 208 AND YOU"

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(The 208 Water Quality Planning Program is another example of Federal legislation creating programs that fail to include Indian Tribes).

Today's society is faced with the growth of public decision making, matters of public concern which public authorities must resolve. The fact is that Governmental Administrative efforts have yet to develop effective mechanisms to deal with increasing social problems, particularly in the areas which enhance quality of life, health, education, social opportunities, recreation and land use.

The 1960's brought with it governmental awareness and commitment to normative social policies which included, civil rights, housing, health care, income support, and environmental policy. The Federal government also undertook to redress the impact of all economic and social inequalities. Such commitments have created new concerns and conflicts in today's society. Present issues of direction of the economy, priorities, and goals, all have become matters of debated social policy. Public policy concerns have become the area for expressions of both private wants and public needs. The sociological dilemma for public policy is that it has to provide for public needs and must attempt to fulfill private and group wants as well.

The demand for society for equality has changed into demands for rights, political, civil, and social, by all groups within the Society. This has resulted in an expansion of human, professional, and technical services by Government. In the present decade health and education, along with government employment is becoming the fastest growing sector in society. Because of increasing roles of government, the major aspect of the public concern is the federal budget, the level of revenues and expenditures, as the mechanism for allocation of funds to support the new programs. How much should be spent and on whom becomes the major political question of the decade. The question also is being asked under whom's regulation and supervision should programs and funds be administered.

The question of utmost importance of Indian tribes has to be the quest for public policy, establishing regulation and procedures to allow adequate support systems and services along with direct funding for tribal program initiatives.

The Indian Tribes of Arizona represents approximately 40% of the national Indian population and 40% of the total Indian land base. Indian land resources make up 27% of the land base within the interior boundaries of the state of Arizona. The Navajo Tribal land consists of approximately 25,000 square miles or 16+ million acres or one-fifth of all Indian lands in the United States. The Navajo Tribe is an independent, self-governing dependent sovereign under the Constitution of the United States as are the other tribes of Arizona and New Mexico. In this regard none of the tribes are subject to the jurisdiction of the states, or any political subdivision of the state(s).

Identification of Problem Areas

1. There is a lack of adequate public policy for Indian self-determination and self-reliance. Funds are unavailable for the development of codes, regulations, and standards. The absence of such instruments limit opportunities in housing, education, renewable resource development and management, and various services to people.
2. Funding sources through various federal organizations are very minimal and insufficient to run existing programs.
3. Environmental standards and policies for the protection and development of Indian natural resources, both non-renewable and renewable have yet to be developed.
4. Indian lands are continually referred to as private lands. This improper designation has prevented the development of policy to initiate multiple use management. Indian lands are public lands of Indian people and should be so reflected in policy.
5. Recent trends of the Federal Government to fund programs through states present real problems for reservations. Such issues as jurisdictional problems, water rights, state monitoring and possibility of state taxation. Administration of programs by states interferes with the tribal right of self-government, the right to govern and administer the affairs of persons residing within the exterior boundaries of the reservation and the jurisdiction with the tribe.

Problem solving cannot be achieved by the separation of one component from all its integrated parts. Man is a integrated part of his surroundings, and has to be a useful segment of his environment with purpose and meaning. In this respect the renewable resources of the Reservation represents an important means for addressing social problems of unemployment, education, juvenile delinquency and malnutrition. Human problems have become a major factor affecting the use,

development, and management of land resources on Indian Reservations. It is man not nature who determines the potential of resources.

Water resources will determine present and future potential of total resources because water dictates growth and development. The 208 program may prove to be an effective mechanism for land use planning. Since water represents the very existence of people, water rights becomes an issue that cannot be taken lightly by any Indian tribal group.

Direct funding to Tribes is needed to provide independence for Indian people to become involved in their own affairs and to take on immediate concerns and responsibilities that belong to tribal governmental organizations.