Land Area Representation Overview

The Office of Trust Services (OTS), Division of Land Titles and Records (DLTR), Branch of Geospatial Support (BOGS) provides Geographic Information Systems (GIS) support for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), tribes, and other agencies. BOGS is pleased to announce a new Land Area Representation (LAR) which is a new GIS dataset that illustrates land areas for Federally-recognized tribes. (Currently, there are 573 Federally-recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Native entities.) The BIA annually publishes a list of Federally-recognized tribes in the Federal Register. The BIA maintains the LAR dataset as part of the DLTR function. The LAR dataset is the BIA’s official geospatial representation of Federal Indian land areas. It is used in its systems of records. The BIA LAR dataset’s spatial accuracy and attribute information is continuously being updated, improved, and used as the single authoritative land area data for the BIA’s mission. Since the LAR dataset was prepared for public release, it can be used by various organizations, agencies, units of government (i.e. Federal, state, county, and city), and other entities according to the restrictions on appropriate use which can be found in the metadata.

Where is the LAR dataset located?


What data is in the LAR dataset?

The LAR dataset depicts the exterior extent of a Federal Indian land area. Not all Federally-recognized tribes have a designated land area; therefore, they may not have an associated land area represented in the land area dataset.

What is a tribe?

A Federally-recognized tribe is an American Indian or Alaska Native entity that is recognized as having a government-to-government relationship with the United States. Federally-recognized tribes are recognized as possessing certain inherent rights of self-government (i.e., tribal sovereignty) and they are eligible to receive certain Federal benefits, services, and protections because of their special relationship with the United States.

LAR update information?

Future releases will include updates and additional LAR information available at the following weblink: www.bia.gov/bia/ots/dltr.

Please contact the Geospatial Support Help Desk at 877.293.9494 or geospatial@bia.gov for additional questions or assistance.

Where are Indian Land Areas located?

The map to the right titled, “U.S. Domestic Sovereign Nations: Land Areas of Federally Recognized Tribes”, shows Federal Indian Land Areas in orange and BIA Regions outlined in turquoise.

How do you use the LAR dataset?

BOGS staff recommends using the LAR dataset for the following uses: cartographic displays, planning analyses, statistical analyses, and natural resource management. There are also some examples of inappropriate uses listed here, but they are not limited to these. One inappropriate LAR dataset use includes equating the LAR to ownership. Another one is that it should not be used to address easements; it is not a substitute for a survey. Also, the LAR dataset is not for navigation purposes.

Where can a tribe or organization provide feedback about the data?

To provide feedback about the data, please e-mail the Branch of Geospatial Support Help Desk at geospatial@bia.gov.

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