



A restoration forestry crew member from the Klamath Tribe of Oregon works in a controlled burn operation. Tribal certified wildland fire fighters have the advanced skills to monitor controlled burn operations in addition to responding to emergency wildland fires. Photo credit: NRCS Oregon

## Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Tribal governments continue to monitor their lands with their own very limited resources for the benefit of all tribal community citizens, Native and non-Native. States continue to receive all but a very small percentage of available Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant funding for states and tribes. The tribally-directed Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program is extremely underfunded at \$6 million for 566 federally recognized tribal governments. Disparate funding hampers public safety assistance responders who are sometimes the only governmental presence in rural and isolated jurisdictions, serving as the first and only emergency medical response or law enforcement authority. Tribal law enforcement responsibilities include border security, illegal immigration, smuggling, and potential terrorist threats on their lands. Tribal jurisdictions also include national vital infrastructure including missile sites, dams, nuclear facilities, and national oil pipelines. Financially-strapped tribal governments also are facing unfunded mandated compliance with the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative to issue a secure enhanced tribal identification card for tribal citizens.

## Key Recommendations

### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

#### *Homeland Security Appropriations Bill*

##### **Tribal Homeland Security Direct Grants**

- Provide \$20 million annually in additional funding for tribal direct grants for the next five years.

This appropriation will enable tribes to fulfill the crucial role as first-responders and border security officials in a broad array of key jurisdictions throughout the nation.

### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

#### *Homeland Security Appropriations Bill*

##### **Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative**

- Provide \$10 million to enable tribal governments to work cooperatively with DHS in developing tribal identification cards.

Tribal governments are faced with the cost-prohibitive unfunded mandate to comply with the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative for enhanced tribal identification (ID) cards. Funding for these tribal ID cards will enable tribal government officials to continue to cross borders in accordance with longstanding treaty rights and agreements and enter into federal offices where they regularly conduct business.

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