

Federally-Recognized Tribes Extension Program
2008 HIGHLIGHTS

FRTEP UNIT: Nez Perce Reservation, Idaho

PROGRAM AREA: Community Development

PROGRAM TITLE: Planning for the Passing of Reservation Lands to Future Generations (American Indian Probate Reform Act, AIPRA)

ISSUE(S) ADDRESSED: The federal government recently passed new rules about how trust land can be inherited and many Indian people have not done estate planning and do not understand how land can be inherited.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The target audience was adults and a four week seminar series was offered in the summer of 2008, free of charge, in two locations, Lapwai and Kamiah. The notebook and class materials were paid for by a grant from Montana State University. The FRTEP Educator partnered with the Nez Perce Tribe's Office of Legal Counsel (OLC). The law student intern, who was providing free will writing services to tribal members, was a co-instructor for the class. There were 34 participants in this program.

PROGRAM IMPACT: The pre-post-class evaluations showed an increase in knowledge about AIPRA, the Nez Perce Inheritance Act, the Dawes Act (allotment), land fractionation, how land can be inherited, and how to obtain and read information from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) regarding their trust land. Extra notebooks were provided to the OLC and BIA for distribution to people who need assistance in estate planning and there have been requests for additional classes.

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