

# Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)

## What is the Boundary and Annexation Survey?

The Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) is the primary way that tribal, local, and county governments ensure that their legal boundaries—and consequently, the official population counts within those boundaries—are correctly recorded with the federal government. Every year, tribal governments use the BAS to update their federal reservation and off-reservation trust land boundaries.

In the BAS, tribal governments report new land and update boundaries, features, and landmarks for:

- Federal reservations
- Off-reservation trust lands
- Tribal subdivisions
- Roads

## How does the BAS benefit you?

Accurate legal boundaries are part of the foundation of good decision-making for tribal governments. For example, they help determine your community's population count every year in the American Community Survey. Many government agencies and other groups use population counts to determine their allocation of funds. Responding to the BAS ensures that your tribe has the best data available in its decision-making processes, and that it receives all of the funds for which it is entitled.

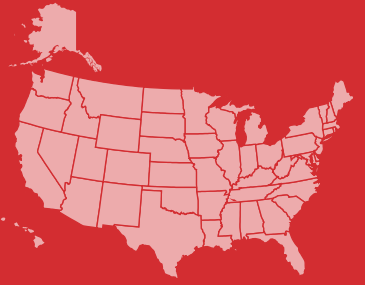
In addition, our boundary records are publicly available and used by many other federal agencies, researchers, and the public. Because the U.S. Census Bureau is responsible for tracking America's legal boundaries and population data, geographic updates that you provide to us ripple out in numerous important ways.

## Accurate boundary records directly affect the quality of life in your community.

Accurate boundaries allow us to count all of the residents of your reservation and off-reservation trust land correctly.

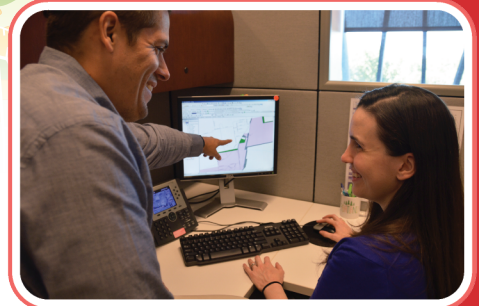
Your participation in the BAS helps the Census Bureau continue to produce accurate data, which directly affects the quality of life in your community.

An accurate count helps the federal government allocate more than \$400 billion in federal funds annually for programs and services—including education, housing, health care services for the elderly, job training, transportation, and more.



Find forms, information, and materials about the BAS online at [www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/bas.html](http://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/bas.html).

Contact us at [geo.aiana@census.gov](mailto:geo.aiana@census.gov)  
1-800-796-3748.



## Responding to the BAS is easy.

The Census Bureau provides multiple free, user-friendly methods for responding to the BAS.

### **Paper option**

Tribes can request free paper maps from the BAS Web site.

### **Basic digital option**

The Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) is a free, customized Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tool that will be available during the 2016 BAS. It was specifically developed for people who do not have geographic training or are not experienced GIS users.

### **Advanced digital option**

Experienced GIS users can update boundaries in their own GIS. The Census Bureau provides free GIS files in shapefile format on its Web site, along with digital update guidelines. Governments can update those shapefiles in their GIS and use them to respond to the BAS.



To make responding to the BAS as easy as possible, we've created a YouTube channel with videos to walk you through the survey.

Visit <[http://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/bas/bas\\_videos.html](http://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/bas/bas_videos.html)>



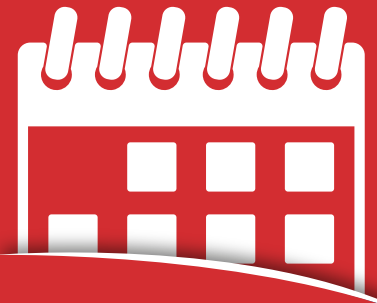
To see the existing boundaries that we have on file for your community, visit the Census Bureau's online map application at

<[http://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerwebmain/tigerweb\\_main.html](http://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerwebmain/tigerweb_main.html)>.

## Will the Census Bureau contact my tribe for the BAS program?

In recognition of tribal sovereignty, the Census Bureau works government to government with federally recognized tribes and contacts the following every year.

- The tribal chairperson.
- A GIS staff, planner, clerk, or other contact that the tribe instructs us to contact.
- National American Indian Housing Council members



### **BAS Schedule**

**December:** The Census Bureau e-mails annual response information to BAS contacts with instructions for participation.

**March 1 (first deadline):** Legal boundary updates sent by this date are included in the next American Community Survey shapefiles and population estimates.

**May 31 (final deadline):** Boundary updates sent by this date will appear in the next year's BAS shapefiles and maps.