This compilation of essays from Native American women represents a further dissection of an existing and complex dilemma: the long-term sustainability of tribal rangelands. In a previous publication, we discussed challenges for managing tribal rangelands in general, which include historical separation from the land, complex governmental and tribal regulation, resulting land tenure patterns, and educational needs. These essays further discuss causes and effects on Native women, but also highlight the important role of women in streamlining processes to ensure rangeland sustainability on tribal lands. In fact, their role is likely a critical factor of its success.

Diana Doan-Crider: Invest in Native Women Because They Are Experts at Overcoming Obstacles

I am honored to present the perspectives of several indigenous women who serve as leaders and mentors in their tribal communities. 

On the Ground

- Native women are the fastest growing demographic among Native farmers and ranchers and have the ability, creativity, and cultural wealth to transform and restore the relationship to the land.
- However, these women must be empowered in a western agricultural world that is male dominated.
- Tribal self-sustainability will require changes in policies for land tenure and inclusion of women.
- Native women will need to keep abreast of local and national land issues that affect our resources and that increase their knowledge and skills.
- Education will give Native women and our youth the freedom to choose what is best for the future.

Keywords: Chickasaw Nation, Crow (Apsáalooke) Nation, Mandan/Hidatsa/Arikara Nation, Navajo Nation, fractionated, indigenized, land tenure policy, tribal college.