



## United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service



### – Kagat McQuillen

- *Northern California Tribal Liaison*
  - (NRCS California Areas 1 & 2)
- *acting Southern California Tribal Liaison*
  - (NRCS California Areas 3 & 4)

Presentation for the:

**2021 Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) Pacific Region Virtual Summit 2021**

# Biography

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- BS Environmental Studies, Sacramento State University
- Ongoing: Master of Science, Natural Resources, Humboldt State University.
- My previous position with
  - Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, Del Norte County
  - *Traditional Plants Restoration* through IAC and NRCS
  - Remove invasive plants and reintroduce culturally significant plants

# Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Service Areas and Office Locations



# NRCS California leadership



# NRCS California tribe-centric positions

- State Conservationist,
  - Carlos Suarez
- Deputy State Conservationist,
  - Gayle Barry

- Northern California Tribal Liaison & acting southern California Tribal Liaison, Kagat McQuillen
- Auburn Office Tribal Planner & acting southern California Tribal Liaison, Jennifer Johnson
- Redlands Office Tribal Planner, Benjamin Cody Leslie
- Eureka Office Tribal Planner, vacant



# NRCS Assistance for Producers

- Conventional Agricultural
- Crops
- Rangelands
- Orchards
- Forestry (non-industrial)
- Traditional Tribal Agriculture



# Tribal Conservation Work

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- Tribes
  - federal and state recognized
- Tribal members
- Intertribal groups
- Tribal Conservation Districts



# Programs

- **Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)**
- **Working Lands**
  - **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**
    - **Conservation Incentives Program (CIC)**
  - **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**
- **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) [Farm Service Agency, FSA]**
- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)**
  - **Agricultural Lands Easements**
  - **Wetlands Reserve Easements**
- **Partnerships**
  - **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**
  - **Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)**
- **Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (UAIP) Competitive Grants Program**
- **Watershed Programs**
  - **Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)**
  - **Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Program (WFPO) PL-566 Conservation Outreach Grants or Agreements**
- **Conservation Outreach Grants or Agreements**
- **Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program**





# Tribal Resource Conservation Districts (TRCD's) & other RCD's





# Lockeford Plant Materials Center (PMC)



Native Plant area includes:

- Whiteroot Sedge
- Deergrass
- Willow
- Nettles
- Elderberry

# California Tribal Advisory Committee



## Mission:

To promote the conservation and preservation of natural resources on Native American land, to educate, advise, and inform American Indian land owners, tribes, and tribal groups of available assistance to promote strong and stable tribal resource management programs, and to assist the Natural Resources Conservation Service in fulfilling its trust responsibilities by maintaining communication about how Natural Resources Conservation Service programs can better meet their needs.



# Other tribal trainings & opportunities

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- Working Effectively With American Indians training
- Tribal Heritage Month
- Tribal Speaker Series: Tribal Fire Management
- 1994 Tribal Scholars Program
- Direct Hire Positions
- Conservation Planning for Tribes
- Food Sovereignty Summit



# USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA)

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## Youth Loans

FSA makes loans to individual young persons to start and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, FFA, a Tribal youth group, or similar agricultural youth organization. The project being financed with an FSA Youth Loan needs to provide an opportunity for the young person to acquire experience and education in agriculture-related skills.

The Youth Loan application requires a recommendation from a project advisor who verifies that he/she will sponsor the loan applicant, has the correct training and experience to supervise your project, and is available to help whenever needed.

If you are between the ages of 10 and 20 years at the time of loan closing, parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) must consent to the loan application. Young people applying for a Youth Loan are personally responsible for repaying the loan. A co-signer is required only if the project shows possible difficulty in repaying the loan or does not meet security requirements.



## CRP Grasslands

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands is part of the CRP program, a federally funded voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched, but instead used for conservation benefits.

FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 14 and 15 years. CRP Grasslands helps landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland, and pastureland, and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands.

The program emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal

# USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA)

## Crop Insurance and COVID-19



- Pandemic Cover Crop Program
- Information for Approved Insurance Providers
- Information for farmers at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus)

## Highlighted Initiatives



Cover Crops



Natural Disaster Resources



Nursery Value Select



Pasture Rangeland Forage



Prevented Planting



Specialty Crops



Whole-Farm Revenue Protection

# Intertribal Agriculture Council



- Outreach Agreement

- Internship Agreement

- Conservation Planning for Traditional Plant Management Scenarios

- Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation plants restoration

- Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, inventory culturally significant plants at Stewarts Point

- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, restore riparian plant in cultural area



# Questions

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**United States Department of Agriculture**  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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