

1. Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) Updates

Nevada Tribal Advisory Committee met on **April 22, 2026**, with strong participation from Tribal Nations, NRCS Nevada staff, and interagency partners. Key themes and issues raised include:

A. Tribal Operational & Project Needs

- Ongoing **engineering design delays** are impacting project timelines and cost compliance. Tribal representatives emphasized the need for timely designs and clarity on cleanup responsibilities after practice installation.
- Recommendation was made to develop a **standardized final grading and cleanup checklist** to address recurring issues across Tribal projects.
- Tribes requested **field visits and direct coordination opportunities** to ensure NRCS support is aligned with local natural resource needs.

B. Interagency Technical Assistance Requests

- Several Tribes (e.g., Duck Valley) expressed the need for **enhanced engineering support**, Duck Valley requested exploring the MOU with Idaho NRCS to supplement technical capacity, namely engineering support.
- Tribes such as Las Vegas Paiute and Fallon requested additional face-to-face coordination going forward.

C. NRCS Program & Partnership Updates

- Tribal program pre-approvals continue to move forward, and leadership is exploring **new agreements** to expand technical capacity in Nevada.
- Resources related to weed management, CEMA 222, and State-provided conservation tools were shared with the committee.

D. Action Items Moving Forward

Key NRCS staff follow-ups include:

- Distributing CEMA 222 presentation materials. (Complete)
- Coordinating engineering cleanup/final grading information.
- Scheduling a **Native Plant Work Session in May**. (Complete & Held May 14th)
- Providing targeted field visit support to Tribes requesting on-the-ground engagement.
- Continuing coordination on alkali soil issues with Fallon.

2. Native Seed Collection & Propagation – Tribal Needs and Opportunities

A consistent theme across Tribes is an **increasing interest in native plant restoration, local seed collection, propagation, and long-term program development**. Discussions across meetings identified clear needs and opportunities:

A. Current Tribal Activities

Tribes are at varying stages—from early interest to established programs:

- **Duck Valley:** Active propagation (sagebrush) for restoration and external contracts; strong expansion interest.
- **Washoe:** Integrated program with a resiliency garden and propagation work (pinyon pine).
- **Summit Lake:** Seed collection and broadcast tied to restoration needs.
- **Fallon:** Planning seed production fields and exploring water requirements.
- **Ft. McDermitt:** No current work, but interest in reviewing past planning documents.

B. Shared Goals Across Tribes

- Build **long-term, self-sustaining seed programs** that support restoration, cultural plant use, and potential commercial or economic opportunities.
- Improve local capacity to reduce reliance on expensive or distant seed sources.
- Strengthening support networks across agencies (NRCS, BLM, State, IAC, UNR Extension, etc.).

C. Identified Barriers

Across Tribes, the most common obstacles include:

- Lack of **infrastructure** (greenhouses, storage, seed cleaning equipment).
- **Staffing and program capacity constraints**.
- Limited access to **technical training** (horticulture, soils, seed storage).
- Need for consistent funding to initiate or maintain seed programs.

D. Assistance Needed from NRCS & Partners

From roundtable discussions and needs assessments:

- **Technical assistance:** site assessments, propagation guidance, species-specific advice, seed cleaning/storage best practices.
- **Capacity support:** developing space, infrastructure, and staffing for seed initiatives.

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- **Financial support:** securing funding for equipment, facilities, and program startup.
- **Partnership building:** facilitating connections with BLM seed programs, TNC, UNR Native Seed Bank, State programs, and the Great Basin PMC.

E. Collaboration Opportunities

Participants highlighted the need for:

- Joint Tribal–Federal–State **native plant work sessions** (We are planning follow-up for June).
- Potential small-lot production, seed orchards, and shared cleaning/storage facilities.
- Expanding awareness of existing programs such as Seeds of Success, the Nevada Native Seed Partnership, and State conservation grants.