



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service



- **Kagat McQuillen**
- **State Tribal Liaison**
- **Primarily serve Northern California**
 - *NRCS California*
 - Areas 1 & 2*

NRCS Spring 2026

California Tribal Advisory Committee

NRCS California

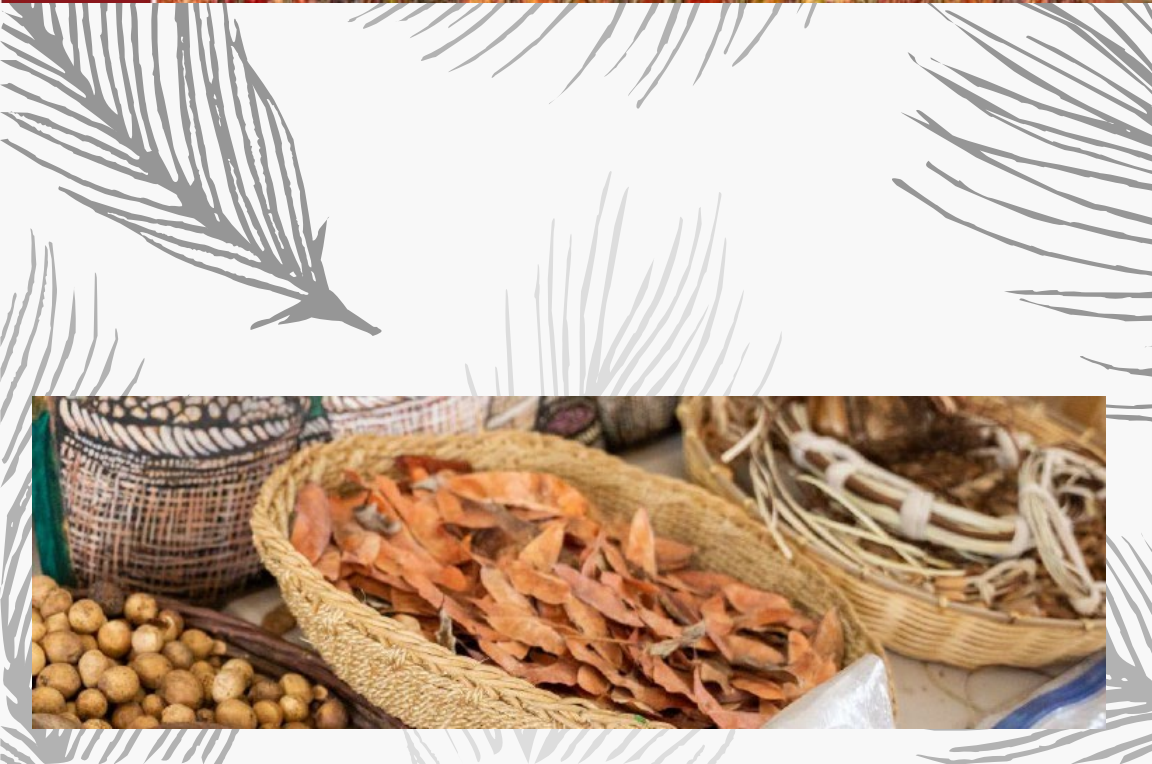


Tribal Assistance

- Tribal Liaison (Northern California) Kagat McQuillen, 530-737-5225
- Tribal Liaison (Southern California) Benjamin Cody Leslie, 760-843-6882



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.

Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (RTCAC)

- Discuss opportunities with NRCS programs that are particularly relevant to tribes
- improving targeted communications about NRCS programs to Tribes



Financial & Technical Assistance

- Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)
- Working Lands Financial Assistance (FA) Programs:
 - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - *Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activities (CEMAs) Indigenous Stewardship Methods (ISM) Evaluation*
CEMA 222
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Alternative Funding Arrangement (AFA)
 - Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
 - Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership program (JCLRP)



Growing Tribal Forests:

How to Access NRCS And Partner Funding & Expertise

- Participation by
 - 12 tribes
 - 8 non-profits
 - Industry:
 - waste wood
 - burner
 - company



Questions



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Kagat McQuillen

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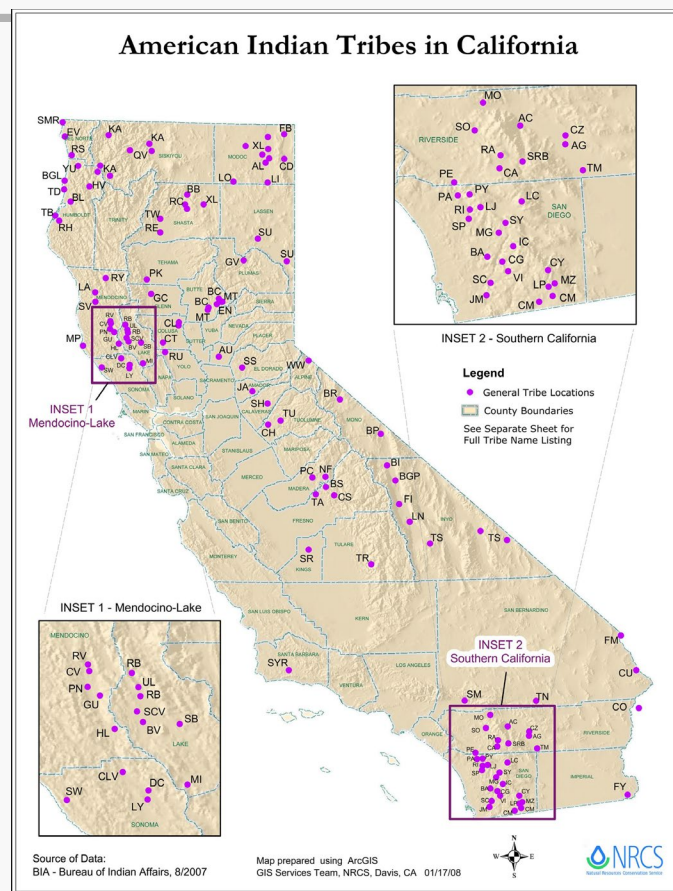
Southern California and Sierra Nevada Regions

- Benjamin Cody Leslie
- State Tribal Liaison
- Primarily serves
Southern California
and Sierra Foothills
- *NRCS California*
Areas 3 & 4

Office: San Bernardino ,CA



NRCS CA Areas and Federally Recognized Tribes



FY 25-26 Updates

- Government Shutdown- Led to Postponement of Fall 25 TAC, and NRCS Conservation Planning Workshops
- DRP/VERA- Loss of Two Tribal Planners (Eureka, Auburn, and Redlands)
- Field Office Support- Continue working with FO's on applications, certifications, and TA
- Agreements: Intertribal Agriculture Council- facilitation of IAC Intern, development of Conservation Planning Workshops for Tribes
- Working Effectively with American Indians- lead cadre instructor for CA session, working on finalizing host Tribe participation, location in Southern California.
- Outreach- Tribal Earth Day Events, Intertribal Burn Planning Workshop, BIA Forest Management Plan Workshop

Tribal Recognition- Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians of the Pauma and Yuima Reservations



Tribal Recognition- Pauma Band



Thank You!



Cody Leslie

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<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/state-offices/california/california-tribal-advisory-committee>