

Francis, Ronald - Salt Lake City, UT

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UTAH/ARIZONA NRCS LEADERS MEET ON JOINT ISSUES

NRCS state leadership from Arizona and Utah met last week in Page, Arizona, for a one-day meeting to discuss joint issues and unique commonalities among the two neighboring states. State Conservationist Sylvia Gillen said they found much in common and agreed upon increased efforts to work jointly on these three areas of concern:

1. The need for an internal and external training and communications plan to improve communications and effectiveness with American Indian tribes, especially with tribal leaders managing resources on Navajo Nation lands that cross the Utah/Arizona border.
2. Increased emphasis on the quality standards for conservation planning that support contracting.
3. Maintaining conservation delivery integrity between the two states



State leadership staff attending from Utah were State Conservationist Sylvia Gillen, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs Lisa Coverdale, Assistant State Conservationist for Operations Juan Hernandez, State Resource Conservationist Ron Davidson, State Engineer Eric Fleming, State Public Affairs Officer Ron Francis, and Assistant State Conservationists for Field Operations Barry Hamilton from Area II and Vane Campbell from Area III. The accompanying photo shows (left to right) Arizona SRC Steve Baker, Arizona STC David McKay, Utah SRC Ron Davidson and Utah STC Sylvia Gillen discussing

joint resource issues.

The group agreed to form teams and meet again on these major issues. A net conference is planned for March 12.

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