



# Helping People Help The Land

The NRCS mission is "Helping People Help the Land" by providing leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment. Our vision is "Productive lands – Healthy Environment." NRCS is making special efforts to provide conservation programs services to American Indians in a manner that improves their understanding of USDA programs and services, increases their participation in USDA programs, and encourages them to participate in resource planning and the decision making process.



Another NRCS priority has been to increase the diversity of its workforce through the hiring of students from various colleges and universities. SD NRCS makes concerted outreach and recruitment efforts at high schools and colleges to increase the number of students studying in agriculture and Agency-related disciplines, and to inform them about employment opportunities.



- ### 2006 TRIBAL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES
- SD NRCS continues to employ 5 Tribal Liaisons who provide full-time technical assistance to 6 tribes in South Dakota; another Tribal Liaison who is a ND NRCS employee provides full-time technical assistance to one tribe whose reservation lies in both North and South Dakota; a state outreach coordinator assists with all facets of program outreach; and, and a State Tribal Liaison who assists in State wide tribal outreach coordination and information dissemination
  - EQIP and CSP listening/program sessions throughout SD
  - NRCS program outreach to Limited Resource and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Unity in 2006 – Helping Hands Tribal Agriculture Meeting, Spearfish, SD
  - 27th Annual Ranchers Workshop, Mission, SD
  - Women in Sciences Conference (Aberdeen, Watertown, Pierre, Sioux Falls & Hot Springs, SD)
  - Women in Blue Jeans Conference, Mitchell, SD
  - Recruitment information sent to Tribal Colleges in US
  - Program and career information at Lake Traverse Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribal Fair (Pow Wow), Sisseton, SD
  - Tiopa Zina High School Career Day, Sisseton, SD
  - Todd County School District Annual Career Fair, Mission, SD
  - Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Area High School Career Day, Fort Yates, ND
  - Multi-state Tribal Youth Leadership Conference, Rapid City, SD
  - Fond du Lac College Job Fair, Cloquet, MN
  - Wakpala High School NRCS Career Day, Wakpala, SD
  - NRCS Range inventory training for Cheyenne River BIA Land Operations and Tribal Employees
  - 2006 South Dakota Tribal Activities Poster for the American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for the NRCS
  - Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) councils and staff provide technical assistance for community development and resource issues to people of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Oglala Sioux Tribe, Yankton Sioux Tribe and Rosebud Sioux Tribe
  - North Central RC&D and NRCS working with Lower Brule Sioux Tribe on a Carbon Sequestration/Tribal Capacity Project
  - North Central RC&D assisted with the organization of the Dakota Plains Weed Management Area which includes both Lower Brule and Crow Creek Sioux Tribes
  - SD & ND State Conservationists met with new Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Chairman and Standing Rock Tribal Conservation District to discuss NRCS programs, services, partnerships and consultation
  - Successful recruitment of Native American employees under Career Intern program and with the National Resources Inventory (NRI)
  - Continue the development of consultation protocols for cultural resource concerns with Tribal governments
  - Employee development includes cultural awareness training such as in-state "Harmony" workshops which utilize NRCS cadre and local tribal members and cultural resources training that discusses the importance of traditional cultural properties and archeological sites



NRCS conducts diverse program outreach and provides conservation educational activities. Samples of these activities include information booths at Tribal fairs and participation in career fairs.

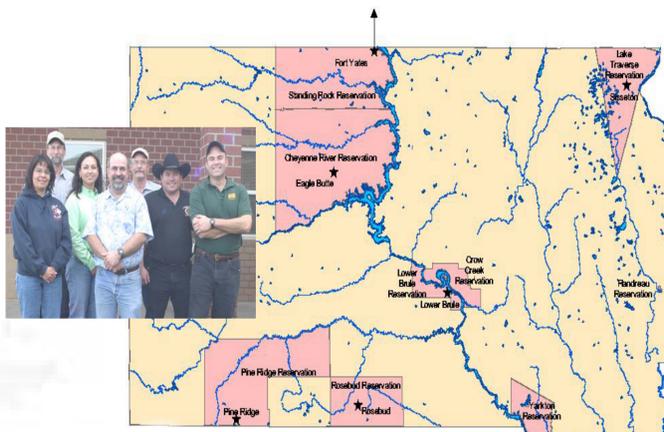


### SD NRCS EQIP EARMARK FUNDS to AMERICAN INDIAN CUSTOMERS & OTHERS WITHIN RESERVATION BOUNDARIES

FY	Allocated (Total)	Actual
1998	\$439,000 (12.5%)	\$512,129
1999	\$450,000 (13.2%)	\$453,813
2000	\$460,000 (13%)	\$464,162
2001	\$410,000 (10.8)	\$499,425
2002	\$1,207,123 (15.1)	\$1,476,368
2003	\$1,702,890 (17%) *	\$1,639,593
2004	\$2,510,033 (17%) *	\$4,639,773+
2005	\$2,659,162 (17%) *	\$2,581,936
2006	\$2,839,872 (17%) *	\$2,856,121

(All eligible Earmark applications were funded in 2005 and 2006)

\*The Tribal Advisory Committee recommended the earmark to include all land and operators within reservation boundaries in 2003-2005 (17%). +In 2004, additional EQIP funds beyond the Earmark were allocated to projects in target locations.



- TRIBAL LIAISON LOCATIONS  
South Dakota NRCS Tribal Liaisons (began 1997)
- Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation (David L. Psutka)
  - Pine Ridge Oglala Sioux Reservation (Michael J. Schmidt)
  - Rosebud Sioux Reservation (Mary A. Scott)
  - Lake Traverse Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe (Robert "Beaver" Bartelton/ACES)
  - Lower Brule Sioux Reservation/Crow Creek Sioux Reservation (Kari Jo Hall)
  - Standing Rock Sioux Reservation (Dwight Teske, Fort Yates, ND)
  - State Tribal Liaison (Dana R. Vaillancourt)

**Legend**

- Reservation
- Stream
- Lake
- Tribal Liaison

### Tribal Advisory Committee

A Tribal Advisory Committee (a sub-committee to the USDA State Technical Committee) was formed in 2003 and provides technical assistance to the NRCS State Conservationist in identifying and addressing conservation issues and tribal needs on Tribal lands. The Tribal Advisory Committee was instrumental in the development of an EQIP American Indian Earmark Local Evaluation Worksheet in FY 2004 and continues to annually review the effectiveness of the worksheet.



NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to producers and Tribal Conservation Districts to improve the productivity and health of Tribal natural resources. NRCS also assists in the identification and protection of cultural resources in consultation with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices and Tribal Elders.

