



United States Department of Agriculture



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Conservation  
Service



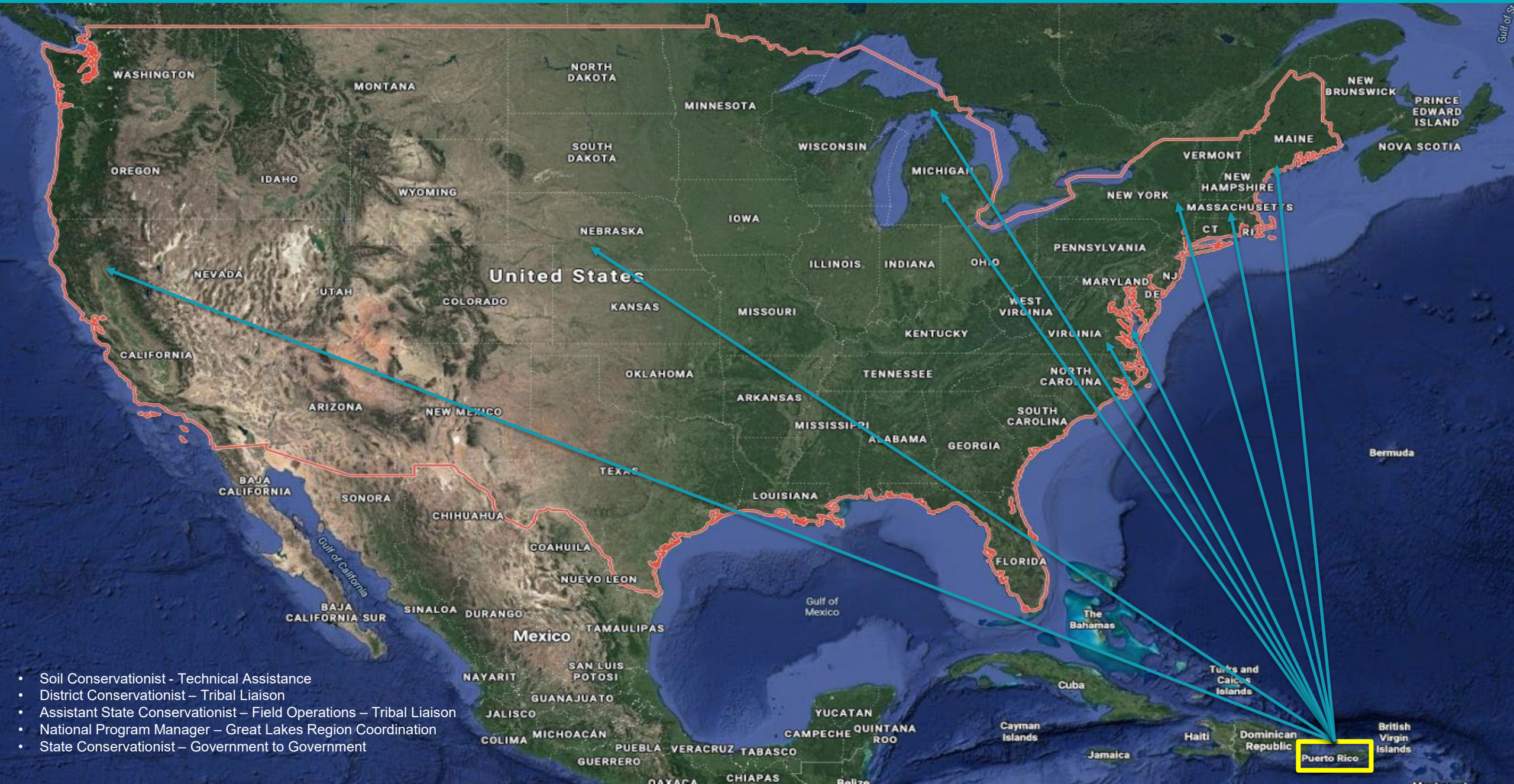
Dr. Edwin Martinez Martinez  
State Conservationist, Virginia  
March 16, 2022  
USDA NRCS Team

# Virginia Tribal Summit

## Successful Tribal Collaborations Across the Country

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- Soil Conservationist - Technical Assistance
- District Conservationist – Tribal Liaison
- Assistant State Conservationist – Field Operations – Tribal Liaison
- National Program Manager – Great Lakes Region Coordination
- State Conservationist – Government to Government



# FY 2022 Agency Priorities



- Ensure **equity** in the delivery and implementation of all NRCS programs and services.
- Increase assistance for **climate-smart agriculture and forestry** to support producers in building resiliency across their operations.
- Expand conservation tools and support to address the unique needs of **urban farmers** and communities nationwide.
- Cultivate a complete and **diverse workforce** that has the right tools, technologies and training to uphold the scientific integrity of NRCS.
- **Leverage innovative partnerships** to expand NRCS' ability to get conservation on the ground effectively and efficiently.





# USDA NRCS Conservation Authorities



- Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)
- Technical Assistance (TA)
- Financial Assistance (FA)
- Soil Survey Program (Soils)

# USDA NRCS Conservation Programs

- Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)





# Consultation/Outreach/Education Mechanisms

- **Government to Government Consultation**
- Tribal Advisory Committee
- Tribal Liaisons
- Partnership Agreements
- State Technical Committee
- Local Working Groups
- Outreach Coordinator
- Technical Trainings and Partnership Events



# Successful Tribal Collaborations Across the Country

- California
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Wisconsin
- Maine
- Virginia





# California Tribes

- California is home to **110 federally recognized tribes**, many other tribal communities, and to one of the largest populations of Native Americans in the United States.
- Tribal lands are found across all of California can vary considerably by size and natural resource concerns. **Many face challenges due to their remote location, lack of water for irrigation or soils that are unsuitable for conventional agriculture.**
- **Resource concerns include forest and rangeland health, access to culturally important plants, creating suitable subsistence food production and supporting habitat for various animal species.**



# NRCS California Tribal Program

## California Tribal Advisory Committee

- Provides program input directly to the State Conservationist
- Meets twice per year

## California Tribal EQIP Funding Pools

- Tribal Forestry
- Tribal Rangeland
- Tribal Diversified Farms
- Tribal Traditional Plants

## Agreements with Tribes and Intertribal Groups

- Provide training for NRCS and Tribes
- Provide outreach to Tribes
- Tribal Scholar Internship Program





# Michigan

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- Twelve federally recognized Tribes
- **Tribal Liaisons** across the state
- **Conservation Technical Assistance Tribal Agreement** – Soil Conservationist
- **Wild rice planting** on tribal and public lands
- Several Michigan tribes have utilized EQIP to construct **seasonal high tunnels**.





# Michigan





# Minnesota

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- Eleven federally recognized Tribes
- **Tribal Soil and Climate Analysis Network (TSCAN)**
- *Working Effectively With American Indians* training
- Involved with NRCS' **Earth Team Volunteer Program**
- Developed a Tribal Local Work Group as part of the State Technical Committee





# Minnesota



## Stream Crossing Projects



**Before**



**After**



# Wisconsin

- Eleven federally recognized tribes
- Wisconsin **Tribal Conservation Advisory Council**
- All Tribal nations participate in NRCS' Farm Bill conservation programs.
- NRCS and the Oneida Nation developed an **agreement** that supports conservation staff time needed to develop plans with tenants.
- Oneida Nation Landscape Scale Conservation in the Lake Michigan Watershed:
  - **Phosphorus reduction**
  - Riparian restoration
  - **Soil health improvement**
  - **Controlling aquatic invasive species**



# Wisconsin

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# Maine

- Five federally recognized tribes
- **Aquatic Organism Fishway Passage**
- **High Tunnel** that's called "the people's garden," growing important native foods for members of the communities.
- **Stream Crossing Bridge**
- Sustainable forestry practices
- **Farm Energy Management Plan**



# Maine

- *Working effectively with American Indians training.*
- Native Youth Food Sovereignty Summit
- Farm visit and soil health training.







# Virginia NRCS Tribal Conservation Technical Assistance



# A Promising Start in Virginia

- NRCS staff from eight states joined representatives from six tribes to install a **Tribal Soil Climate Analysis Network (TSCAN)** weather station on Pamunkey land in 2018.
- It was only the fourth such station set up nationwide through a partnership with NRCS and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).



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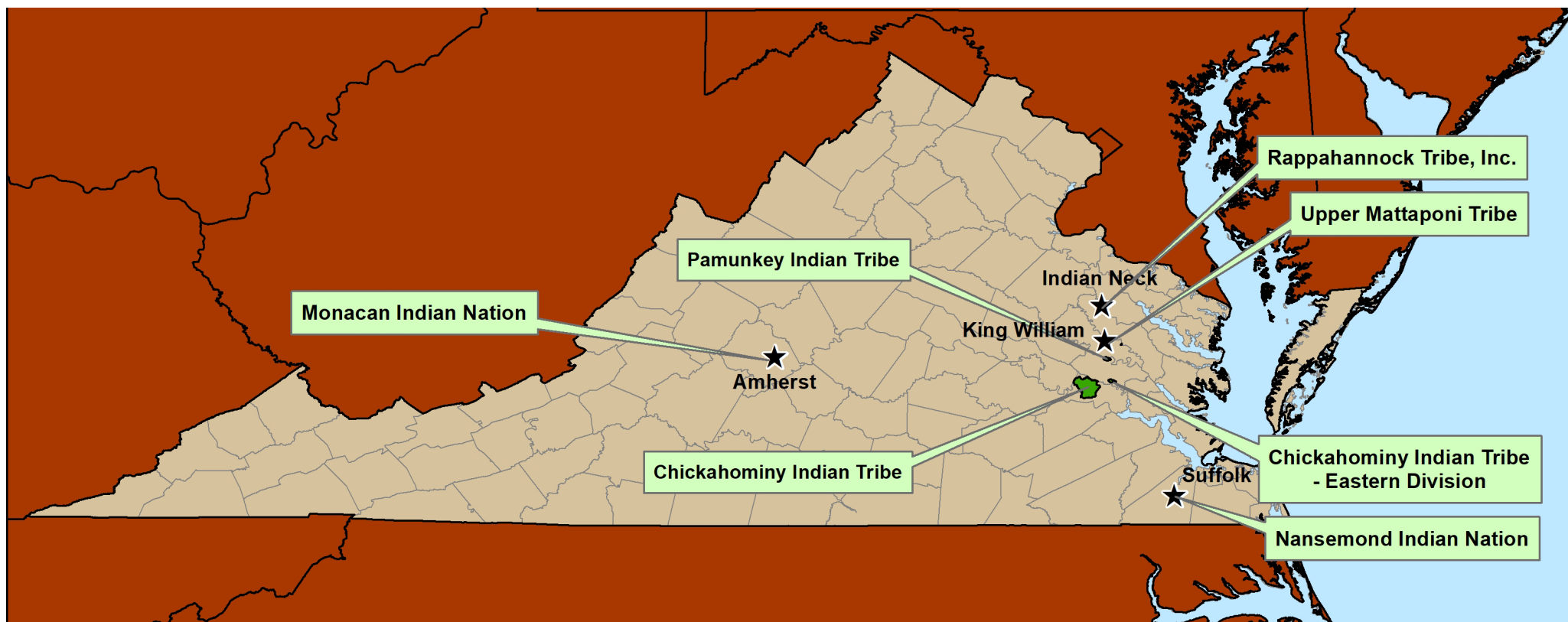


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# Expanded Opportunities in FY2022

## Special funding pool for federally recognized tribes



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# Financial Assistance

## Past Contracts

- FY2020 **Forest Management Plan**  
(Upper Mattaponi)
- FY2021 High Tunnel (Upper Mattaponi)

## FY2022 EQIP Applications Received & Preapproved

- Nansemond Tribe – **Invasive Species Control**
- Upper Mattaponi Tribe - Forest Management Plan, Grade Stabilization Structure (2 applications)
- Rappahannock Tribe –Forest Management Plan

## FY2022 EQIP Remaining Potential Application

Nansemond Tribe – **Oyster restoration**





# Thanks to our Tribes for their commitment to conservation!



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