



# **Working with Tribal Governments on Coop Agreements**

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# Sovereign Dependent Nations

- 565 federally recognized tribes today
- About 1.5 % of the U.S. population
- Actively farming / ranching on millions of acres, especially out West
- Economically challenged
- Historically exploited
- Deeply tied to the past
- Planning for the “Seventh Generation”

# How APHIS Works with Tribes

- Overall planning: the NAPDM
- VS, PPQ, and BRS tribal liaisons
- The APHIS Native American Working Group (ANAWG)--Voting reps and Field Coordinators
- Coop agreements: our mechanism for moving money to tribal governments to do work for us

# Safeguarding Natural Heritage:



# **Animal Disease Surveillance Agreements**

- Managed by Dr. Terry Clark (VS)
- Involving individual tribes and also the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
- Chronic wasting disease
- Tuberculosis in wildlife
- Aquaculture surveillance per the 2008 Farm Bill

# Animal Disease Traceability

- The big new push in VS
- VS grants dollars with some tribal setasides



# Will We Be Doing More or Less with Tribes?

- President Obama: much more
- Tribal consultation—What is it? Who consults for APHIS? Why and When?
- Redeeming the Federal Government's “Trust Responsibility”

# Why Does Everything Take So Long?

- Tribal understandings about time
- Tribal governmental structures
- The need to build a personal relationship with the Indians you deal with
- Becoming culturally smarter
- Higher levels of hand-holding









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