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Levi Montoya is a native to Las Animas County located in southern Colorado. He graduated from Branson High School in 1980 and from Trinidad State Junior College in 1982. At this time he started his NRCS Career with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS). He started his full time career as a Soil Conservation Technician, and work in the Kiowa and Castle Rock Field Offices until 1992. At this time he moved to Idaho as a Soil Conservation Technician and worked in the Pocatello Field Office, and had collateral duties on the Shoshone-Bannock Indian Reservation located in Fort Hall, Idaho. In 1994 Levi was promoted to a Soil Conservationist located on the Nez Perce Indian Reservation, located in Craigmont, ID. In 1995 he was promoted to a District Conservationist in Montpelier, ID. Levi has now been a District Conservationist for over 11 years in 3 different field offices, including Montpelier, ID, Emmett, ID and in November of 2004 Levi moved back to Trinidad, CO as the District Conservationist.



Since 1992 Levi has been involved with providing products and services to Indian Country. In 1992 Levi was introduced to the NRCS's Harmony Workshops and later became a National Employment Development Center (NEDCs) Instructor for the "Working Effectively with American Indians" workshop. To date Levi has been involved with eight workshops held in Idaho, Utah and Washington. Levi served 7-years on the Idaho-NRCS Civil Rights Committee as Vice Chairperson, than a dual position as the American Indian SEPM and Idaho American Indian Liaison. Levi was instrumental in working with the 5-Federally recognized tribes located in Idaho and establishing NRCS services on the reservations, and assisting the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe in forming the Sho-Ban Tribal Conservation District, and establishing the Fort Hall NRCS Field Office.

Levi has been a member of the AIANEA since its origination, and has participated in the AIANEA Drum Group since 2004. For the last 2-years Levi has been a member of the Colorado Civil Rights Committee. He has held the position of the Colorado American Indian SEPM and works directly with the NRCS Liaisons on the Ute Mountain and Southern Ute Tribes located in Colorado.

Other assistance outside of Indian Country, Levi has provided services over the last 25 years on many natural resource concerns. Levi has work with private landowners, irrigation districts and companies, cattlemen associations, partners, and others to implement farm bill programs such as EQIP, WHIP, WRP, CRP and GRP, as well as state conservation programs. He has assisted Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the implementation of their business plans, and had written and implemented EPA-319 Grants on Non-Point Source Pollution that specifically addressed water quality concerns on agricultural land uses. Levi served as a member and Co-Chair of the Cascade Technical Advisory Committee, which made recommendations to the specific State Watershed Advisory Groups, Basin Advisory Groups, and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality in regard to the implementation of the Clean Water Act on 303d listed streams and rivers.

Levi is not a tribal member, but has American Indian ancestry from Taos Pueblo, Jicarilla Apache, and the Navajo tribes, as well as French and Spanish decent. Levi's dedications to Indian Country have been some of the most satisfying and awarding experiences in his career.