New Director Selected for the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service

Jolene Lau, NRCS Public Affairs Specialist

Many of you have been anxiously awaiting and we are pleased to announce that a permanent Director has been named. Previously the Nevada State Conservationist, Bruce Petersen was selected by Chief Jason Weller to serve as the Director for the Pacific Islands Area.

Bruce Petersen worked for the Soil Conservation Service, now called the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for 28 years, working in Minnesota, Wyoming, and Nevada. He earned a degree in Agriculture Business Management from the University of Minnesota and served in several field and state office positions.

Bruce brings a history of success and experience to his new position as the director for the Pacific Islands Area.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to work with the NRCS staff, and excited to help advance agriculture profitability, protect resources, and improve the quality of life for producers and partners in the Pacific Islands Area,” said Petersen.

Prior to this new appointment, Bruce Petersen served as the Nevada state conservationist since January 2009. He started his career as a soil conservation technician in Minnesota, working his way up to soil conservationist then district conservationist. He also worked for several years as a technician for conservation districts in Minnesota and Wisconsin. He worked for the NRCS in Wyoming for 11 years, serving as assistant state conservationist for operations, programs, and partnership liaison, before coming to Nevada. We welcome Bruce and his wife Cindy to the islands in March 2015.