

Greetings Agency Leaders,

Chief Cosby is pleased to announce that Wyoming State Conservationist Astrid Martinez has been offered and accepted the position of director for the NRCS Conservation Planning and Technical Assistance Division (CPTAD).

Astrid brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Programs deputy area and is looking forward to working with state and national leadership to advance conservation and technical assistance with the agency's private landowners and partners.

Astrid's NRCS career spans positions as a soil scientist, soil conservationist, state soil scientist, acting national Hispanic Emphasis Program Manager for the Civil Rights Division, acting Arizona state conservationist, and acting Southeast Region regional conservationist. Astrid was selected Wyoming state conservationist in May 2012.

Astrid also joined a specially assigned team to assist with Hurricanes Irma and Maria recovery in Puerto Rico in 2017. She served a temporary assignment with the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, Global Programs Division, as senior director for the Country Strategy Support Fund as criteria for her Senior Executive Service Candidacy Development Program. Astrid also served as the USDA Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) manager for the 2021-22 CFC campaign. Most recently, she served as program manager for the USDA COVID Coordination Team for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and acting CPTAD director.

A native of San Germán, Puerto Rico, Astrid received her Bachelor of Science from the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez, with a major in agronomy and soils, and her Master of Science in soils from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. She completed the Leadership for a Democratic Society as part of the Office of Personnel Management Federal Executive Institute in 2019, graduated from the USDA Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program, and was certified for Senior Executive Service in 2020.

Astrid belongs to numerous professional organizations and served as president for the NRCS National Organization of Professional Hispanic Employees for two terms. She has received numerous recognitions, including the 2018 USDA Under Secretary Award for assisting with recovery efforts after Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Please congratulate Astrid on her selection as the new director of the Conservation Planning and Technical Assistance Division.