

Contact

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Top Skills

Community Outreach

Leadership

Military

Honors-Awards

National Defense Service Medal

Noncommissioned Officer

Professional Development Ribbon

Army Service Ribbon

Air Assault Badge

Oregon Commendation Medal

Rudy Soto

Acting Director - USDA Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs

Nampa, Idaho, United States

Summary

Rudy Soto has served as USDA's Rural Development State Director for Idaho since January 2021. In this role, Soto has been instrumental in promoting economic development, increasing access to healthcare, and improving infrastructure in Idaho's rural communities. Before that, Soto served as a legislative staffer in the U.S. House of Representatives, covering energy, environment, agriculture, and tribal affairs. Previously, he worked for Western Leaders Network, a nonprofit organization of local and tribal elected officials across the Interior West focused on protecting public lands, water, and air.

Soto was born and raised in Nampa, Idaho, and is a proud member of the Shoshone Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation and a veteran of the United States Army National Guard. He earned a bachelor's degree from Portland State University.

Experience

USDA

Acting Director

June 2023 - Present (3 months)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

USDA Rural Development

State Director for Idaho

January 2022 - June 2023 (1 year 6 months)

Boise, Idaho, United States

The USDA Idaho State Director for Rural Development leads a team of 30 specialists delivering a comprehensive suite of more than 60 programs designed to help local people improve the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs, and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas.

This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, tribal and high-poverty areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov/id.

Western Leaders Network
Indigenous Leaders Organizer
May 2021 - January 2022 (9 months)
Idaho, United States

Rudy for Congress
Democratic Nominee for US Congress | ID-01
November 2019 - November 2020 (1 year 1 month)
Idaho

National Indian Gaming Association
Legislative Director
April 2018 - September 2019 (1 year 6 months)
Washington, District Of Columbia

U.S. House of Representatives
Legislative Assistant
April 2016 - March 2018 (2 years)
Washington D.C. Metro Area

Portfolio includes: Agriculture, Transportation / Infrastructure, Energy / Natural Resources, Education, Military / Veterans issues, and Indian Affairs.

District of Columbia Army National Guard
Military Police
2014 - February 2018 (4 years)
Joint Force Headquarters - District of Columbia

Military Police support battlefield operations through circulation control, providing area security, conducting prisoner of war operations, supervising civilian internee operations, and carrying out law and order operations. Military Police train to protect lives and property and to preserve order in support of civil authorities in times of domestic unrest or natural disaster. Available for short notice mobilization in case of national emergency.

National Council of Urban Indian Health

Policy Analyst

September 2014 - March 2016 (1 year 7 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

Served in the National Council of Urban Indian Health's Department of Legislation and Policy and carried out congressional outreach and education. The policy analyst assists in the development of outreach and training materials, research, and administrative duties as necessary for legislative advocacy.

U.S. House of Representatives

Legislative Fellow

November 2013 - August 2014 (10 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon established the Mark O. Hatfield Fellowship as a lasting tribute to Senator Hatfield. The Fellowship is meant to honor Mark O. Hatfield for his accomplishments as Governor of Oregon, United States Senator, and for his support to the Grand Ronde Tribe, Native Americans, Oregonians, and all Americans.

The Hatfield Fellowship ensures that Mark Hatfield's legacy of integrity, strength, and effectiveness in public service will endure. Each year, it enables a Native American to serve as a member of the staff of one of Oregon's congressional delegation.

The Hatfield Fellow serves as a liaison between the congressional member and the Tribes on issues that affect Native Americans and as a resource for the entire Oregon congressional delegation.

Oregon Army National Guard

Field Artillery

August 2008 - January 2014 (5 years 6 months)

Portland, Oregon Area

The mission of the Field Artillery is to destroy, neutralize, or suppress the enemy by cannon, rocket and missile fire and to help integrate all fire support assets into combined arms operations.

National Indian Child Welfare Association

Youth Engagement Specialist

June 2011 - October 2013 (2 years 5 months)

Served as a resource and point of contact for youth coordinators in urban and reservation based American Indian communities. Promoted positive leadership development, learning opportunities, and life skills. Assisted with planning for youth involvement at meetings and conferences.

Democratic National Committee

Community Outreach Intern

2011 - 2011 (less than a year)

Capitol Hill, Washington DC

Worked on Native American community outreach and voter protection issues

Military Funeral Honors

Honor Guard

2009 - 2010 (1 year)

Served as honor guard at burial services for military veterans. Duties included folding and presenting the United States flag, casket bearing, casket watch and firing detail.

City of Portland

Intern, Office of Commissioner Nick Fish

2009 - 2009 (less than a year)

Native American Rehabilitation Association

Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Program, Project Assistant

2008 - 2008 (less than a year)

Education

Portland State University

Liberal Studies, Leadership · (2004 - 2010)

The George Washington University

Native American Political Leadership Program, Applied Politics and Political Management · (2011 - 2011)