

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE AUTHORITIES AND POLICIES
CONCERNING THE USE OF SOIL SURVEYS FOR
THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM**

AUTHORITY FOR SOILS SURVEYS AND SOILS INFORMATION

The authorization for a Federal Soil Survey Program dates to the establishment of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Title 7 USC 2201 in the year 1862. This authority was delegated to the Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service) by Title 7 CFR 2.61. Title 7 CFR Chapter VI, Subchapter B, Parts 610 and 611 are the basis for using soil survey information in setting policy and making decisions about land use, environmental concerns, and conservation treatments.

NON APPEALABLE ISSUES

Matters that are applicable to all producers are non appealable (7 CFR 614.5). Non appealable issues include published soil surveys, soil boundary lines, soil map unit symbols, soil factors, and soil interpretive legends (FSA 1-APP-24b).

MAKING CORRECTIONS IN SOILS INFORMATION

It is Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) policy to correct soil survey errors when they are discovered. "Obvious" errors can be corrected for site-specific situations. They include:

- a) Map symbol incorrectly assigned due to cartographic errors
- b) Missing map unit symbols
- c) Map units incorrectly assigned to a given landform
- d) Adjacent polygons with the same map unit symbol

(More)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

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Eliminating the possibility of an "obvious" error may or may not require a field visit depending on the evidence available.

Guidance for changing the soil survey is contained in the General Manual, Title 430, Part 402, Subpart A, Section 402.5, "Official Copy of Soil Survey Information":

(a) The "Official Copy of Soil Survey Information" is the most current soil information for a survey area that is certified for official use within the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) by the state soil scientist.

(b) The NRCS and the United States Department of Agriculture programs use the "Official Copy of Soil Survey Information" referenced in the FOTG. All improvements and additions to the soil survey are to be officially added to the "Official Copy of Soil Survey Information."

(c) The "Official Copy" of the soil survey should be changed only if the need for the revision is identified and supported in a documented evaluation of the entire soil survey area performed by the NRCS as detailed in the National Soil Survey Handbook (NSSH), Parts 610.04 and 610.06.

(d) **Any supplemental changes to the "Official Copy of Soil Survey Information," whether maps or data, must be made official by certification of the state soil scientist.** Certification of soil data elements as part of the FOTG are described in the NSSH, Part 638.08. Proposed revisions, modifications, and supplemental mapping are documented and maintained in the field office. When determined appropriate by an evaluation of the soil survey, this information will be used to revise the "Official Copy of Soil Survey Information."

Revisions will follow the guidance found in the NSSH, Part 610.06. A proposed revision will be reviewed and incorporated into the "Official Soil Survey" after:

* An evaluation has been completed for the survey area

* The map unit, for the survey area, has been evaluated following the guidance in NSSH, Part 627.04(d)

* The survey evaluation and map unit evaluation are documented in the National Soil Information System (NASIS) database