

STANDARDS AND TAXONOMY

North Central Regional Soil Survey Conference
June 14-17 2010

Standards and Taxonomy

Charges

- ▣ Review proposals for changes to Soil Taxonomy, the National Soil Survey Handbook, the Field Guide for Describing and Sampling Soils, and the Soil Survey Manual and recommend adoption or denial.

Standards and Taxonomy

- ▣ Identify needed changes and review proposals for changes to the National Soil Survey Handbook, Field Guide for Describing and Sampling Soils, and Soil Survey Manual to accommodate subaqueous soil survey activities, dynamic soil property data collection, and ecological site inventory.
- ▣ Review NSSH Section 627.04 (d) – Miscellaneous Areas

Standards and Taxonomy

- ▣ NSSH Section 627.04 (d)
 - Better defines and expands descriptions of Miscellaneous components/units
 - Eliminates gullied land, blownout land, scoria land and slickspots as miscellaneous units.
 - Presents data columns appropriate to be populated in miscellaneous units

The North Central Committee endorses the changes made.

- Discussions on Miscellaneous Units

Discussion



Urban Land Miscellaneous Unit

Urban Land - The Problem

- Without data population, this most intensively used miscellaneous land unit has no interpretations in soil survey.
- Explored methods of populating some data and generating some interpretations

Urban Land

- ▣ Recommend population of Parent Material characteristics if above 2.5 meters in depth– Phases
 - Urban Land, Till; Urban Land, Fill
- ▣ Phase series that have Urban “Dynamic soil properties’ – (High Bulk Density, low OM, etc)
 - Alpha Loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, urban
 - Beta Loam, impervious surface
- ▣ Urban Land is defined as having an impermeable surface – populate impermeable Ksat and Hydrologic Group Interpretation D
- ▣ Use Jefferson Co., Kentucky model for urban lands

Cemeterys



Opinion and Discussion

- ▣ Some Soil survey areas are using a unit called “Cemetery” as a de facto miscellaneous Unit – committee views as inappropriate because:
 - In many urban areas, last vestige of natural landscape, landform and soils
 - Is not “not-soil” - supports plant growth
 - Interpretations for saturation depth, water movement, green space, flooding , horticulture, paths and trails are useful for this land use.

Legacy Field Notes and 232s



Legacy Data – The Issue

The NC Taxonomy and Standards Committee requests guidelines and minimum data standards to consider legacy notes and 232s for transcription into an electronic database (Pedon PC or NASIS)

- Location Parameters?
- Dates
- Nomenclature – as written and described or translated to current nomenclature? (Bca to Bk, A2 to E)
- Pre Taxonomy classification (Podsol, Chernozem)?
- Field note content – minimum standard?
- A way to evaluate reliability of legacy data.

Other Needs and discussion

- ▣ NSSL Access data sets are a useful tool but – need a guide or roadmap on what data columns correlate to what data columns in NASIS as an aide in population
- ▣ Rural Interstate as a component or Map Unit
 - May affect adjoining map units – water movement
- ▣ Appropriate use of “channelled” map units
 - Water appropriate minor component?
 - Guidelines for use

Standards and Taxonomy

- ▣ Committee North Central Region
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 - Danielle Balduff NRCS Ohio
 - Tim Gerber DNR Ohio
 - Neil Martin NRCS Ohio
 - Scott Hoover NRCS Ohio
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