

**Soil Taxonomy Committee Report  
to the  
Northeast Soil Survey Work Planning Conference 2012  
University of Maine, Orono**

#### Charges and Actions

The following proposals to Soil Taxonomy and the Soil Survey Manual were reviewed, discussed and recommended for approval:

- The final proposal of ICOMANTH, the International Committee for Anthropogenic Soils
- A proposal to clarify the mineral soil surface
- Proposed amendment to add nearly continuous, horizontally oriented, human-manufactured layer to soil depth classes of ST and root restricting depth of SSM
- A set of proposals to expand the definition of the abrupt textural change and add mention of its presence as a standalone criterion in certain taxa of the Aridisol, Mollisol, and Alfisol orders of Soil Taxonomy
- Proposal for adding anhydrite soils to USDA Soil Taxonomy
- A set of proposals to improve the classification of Udolls in Argentina
- Changes to Chapter 3: Horizons and Characteristics Diagnostic for the Higher Categories – definition of Melanic Epipedon and Munsell value

The following proposal to Soil Taxonomy was reviewed, discussed and approved with recommendation.

- A proposal to add a new subgroup of Petrocalcic Calcudolls to Soil Taxonomy. Further analysis of the development and separation of these diagnostic horizons in both arid and humid environments should be pursued.

#### Interpretations

- The development of an interpretations generator as a standalone or other application environment outside the NASIS environment has merits for customers and should be pursued.
- Interpretations issues can continue to be handled through the Soil Taxonomy Committee. By Laws allow for the establishment of ad hoc committees by the conference committee as participant interest and needs warrant.

#### 2014 Committee Chair

- It is recommended that the Soil Taxonomy Chair continue to follow the recent current practice of rotation between MLRA Offices. Committee membership should be reviewed.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn M. Finn  
Committee Chair  
June 21, 2012