

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE SOIL SURVEY CONFERENCE 2009 LAS CRUCES NM

http://soils.usda.gov/partnerships/ncss/conferences/2009_national/agenda.html

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

New Technology Recommendations

Suggestions:

1. There should be a survey and review written regarding digital mapping. **WCSS will provide National Committee details of digital surveys.**
2. A forum should be created to discuss the issues. **Should be National forum, but WCSS would be available.**
3. A survey of Land Grant cooperators is needed to get highlights from their programs and try to summarize the current state of the art. **No Land Grant cooperatives at Applied Technology Committee Meeting.**
4. A survey should be conducted from within the agency to find out how people are utilizing digital resources to aid mapping. **Need more detail? Too much here. Survey will be conducted that lists all surveys that have used DSM in their current efforts.**
5. Develop a catalog of band ratios (by land resource areas)/library of spectra. **WCSS will do, and submit details by Dec 31, 2010.**
6. Develop remote sensing curriculum. **Agency specific agenda. WCSS will sponsor objective, but out-of-scope for development.**
7. Publicize success stories in NCSS newsletter or other medium. **Topics presented at WCSS meeting will be summarized and submitted to WCSS newsletter. (Dylan and Matt)**
8. Develop a primer for DSM. **Not WCSS role**
9. Develop a bridge between universities and NCSS DSM process (do universities need to teach DSM and provide training to undergraduate, graduate, NCSS soil scientists, students) Each region could provide a DSM course that captures what technology works. **Universities address.**
10. The USDA-NRCS Soil Survey and University Land Grant Cooperators should develop a publication similar to the Soil Survey Manual to determine standards and methods. Methods for initial soil surveys, as well as, map updates are needed. Currently, soil survey offices are using different methods at different levels. Manual would help standardize the mapping activities. This document should provide guidelines for soil survey evaluation, validation and scales for evaluation techniques. **The ATC of WCSS supports this initiative and willing to participate, particularly for all federal lands.**
11. Provide a 2 week course similar to the current Soil Survey Course. The agency could provide courses for beginners and for advanced training. **Agency specific, not WCSS.**
12. The University Cooperators should provide better undergraduate training of basic GIS skills. This could be accomplished through online courses so that students at institutions where GIS is not emphasized could have access to the information. If GIS were listed as a skill needed in the job description, students would see the need for this type of training. **WCSS supports this initiative**
13. Develop training supplemented with a GIS knowledge resource (GIS hotline) would ensure that training and education would continue. Create a GIS person dedicated to helping field staff. With GIS resources available (personnel), soil scientists will be able to call for help when they are stuck and then move forward and complete projects. Without the resource, projects may stop due to frustration with learning the new tool. **WCSS supports this position.**
14. Fill all MO GIS positions; supplement with centralized position for support to the MOs. **N/A for ATC**
15. Encourage a reward structure which supports scientists to learn new tools. Currently, field soil scientist would not achieve goals of mapped acres if they invested time into learning GIS tools. Giving credit for achievement in gaining knowledge in the new technologies would eventually yield great returns for the Survey. Use training development plan. **Give them a beer!**