

Recommendations of the Soil Interpretations Committee

North-Central Soil Survey Work
Planning Conference

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Participants:

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Initial Agenda Items

- Explore the recommendation of a new standing committee in the North Central Region for soil and ecosystems dynamics.
- Review the benchmark soils in the region and recommend those soils which would have the most value added from ecological sites.

Initial Agenda Items (Continued)

- Explore the adaptation of the state & transition model for use on cropland. Can soil dynamic properties be integrated into such a model.
- Risk assessment.

Initial Agenda Items (Continued)

- Review North Dakota Interpretations on sub surface water management for national use.
- How can the carbon data from RaCA project best be incorporated into database for use in conservation planning?

Initial Agenda Items (Continued)

- Urban interpretations-What soil properties need to be populated for effective Urban Interpretations?

Recommendations

- Development of needed inputs into making sound, effective interpretations.
- Initiation of a National Interpretations Advisory Committee.
- Emphasize the importance of soil function in developing interpretations.

1. Input Needs for Development of Interpretations

- Ksat is the most lacking but greatest needed input for many interpretations.
- Need to leverage/target existing data and sampling areas where we can go back and get Ksat and other needed inputs.
- Get Ksat measurements from well defined areas then interpolate for similar geographically associated areas

1. Input Needs for Development of Interpretations (continued)

- Need for soil data to develop > 2 m interpretations for activities such as pipeline installation, catastrophic events, etc.
- Minimum information needed from 2m to either regional water table or bedrock would be: texture, rock fragments, and density of the “critical zone”.

Development of a National Interpretations Advisory Committee

- Comprised of professionals within NRCS, Cooperators, and “outside” professions that need interpretations.
- “Non-traditional” professions which could be on the committee include consulting engineers, consulting soil scientists, land-use planners, etc.

Development of a National Interpretations Advisory Committee

- Committee would assist in delineation of needed interpretations by the public as well as the needed inputs for making sound, effective interpretations
- Committee could assist in delineating how interpretations are developed and formatted. (i.e. use of predictive models and risk assessment development)
- Could function similar to Research Needs Committee.

Emphasis of Importance of Soil Function

- Take a holistic systematic soil profile-soil landscape approach to development.
- Could apply this approach to interactive interpretations for ESDs, Soil Health, and DSPs.
- Will need to delineate the Reference State

Emphasis of Importance of Soil Function

- Will place a great emphasis on the need to obtain more biological soil data, supplemented by limited additional physical and chemical data.
- Will assist in development of carbon sequestration oriented interpretations.