

Federal Breakout Session

1st Proposal—

NRCS would like to put a bulletin that lays out criteria for the Soil Science Institute and Geomorphic Institutes and put out a call to ask for proposals for who wants to host the Institutes from the NCCS University community

2nd Proposal—

The universities would like to want to know what we would like as minimum criteria for new employees. They might not be able to handle classes within one university but could create a consortium with distance learning.

Discussion—

Core classes

More Plant/Ecology classes

Communication Classes

Work with HR to identify nontraditional soils courses in related departments (eg non-traditional courses might include soil biology, terrestrial biogeochemistry, etc.)

3rd Proposal—

Resource Soil Scientists supervision—NCCS State Soil Scientists don't always supervise RSS. This creates a problem for training and keeping RSS within the Soil Survey program.

Discussion:

In the official PD there is now a clause that RSS will be involved in Soil Survey.

How we conduct the work for each MLRA SS Area there is a Management Team where the RSS is engaged in the plans and operation of the SSO.

State Soil Scientists are the lead on Technical Soil Services –they need to have more control over their program if they are responsible for that aspect of the program.

4th proposal—

Other Federal Agencies—

Database integration/Toolkit with the USFS both in ESIS and NASIS; TIUE is used for analysis and should be integrated in Toolkits; leveraged resources

Federal Lands need to be more incorporated in Long Term Plans; Federal Lands will be remote difficult mapping (different protocols) and over 200 million acres of initial acres

BIA—every state does things differently—MOU BIA/NRCS/FSA states that we will work together—BIA would like to be treated in each state as a full member of the NCSS which includes data sharing and long term planning

General NRCS Comments and Discussion

Technical Services Handbook—collating edits and posting the document on the web.

Regional supplements for Field Indicators (ACOE) this year; With this in mind, National Hydric Soil Indicators will be republished end of 2010.

Options for reporting progress for RSS tech service work are being developed in NASIS in 2010

Dynamic Soil Properties—Soil Change Guide by CD was just distributed—it is available on the Web—

Technical Advisory team is being put together to support the use of the Guide and kick off for the Guide in Long range plans

Long Range Plans—need look for essential needs

Field Lab Manual is under review and is almost ready for Web publication—comprehensive and indexed—will be available June/July 2009 for download or reference

Also we will produce lab safety factsheets for download

Check in Check out for Field Carbon Kit from the Lab

Iris Tubes will be available from the Lab—need must be in the Work Plan.

Infiltration Rates are being automated. Lab wants to decide easiest and most economical systems for use in the field. These are different than Amoozameters.

Need training for Hydric Soil Indicators that are being incorporated into Regional ACOE Guide.

Training Groups for raster products; Need to think more about added value to SSURGO

Feedback on Distance learning—need dual monitor for GIS courses; pluses outweigh the minuses for cost; Need Adobe—teleconference ok tech difficulties. In state groups are more effective—taking the course together—Ag learn is difficult to signon.

Networking is important to learning. 5 hours on the computer doesn't work well—we need smaller time slots. BIA cannot access with the training..can't get into AgLearn. Should contact Marc Crouch to sign up for training.

New Strategic Plan is almost completed—Need to go through a review.

Need to establish an aggressive Marketing plan for Soil Survey with new customers and under served customers. NSSC has been attending alternative Society meetings from other disciplines. Electronic media are being developed.

Shared position with USFS/NRCS in Lakewood CO is on the USjobs

Advertised 3 positions at the NSSC in Lincoln NE soon on the USAjobs