Technical Soil Services Update

2010

NE NCSS CONFERENCE

Technical Soil Services Handbook Now Available

- 23 Sections
- http://soils.usda.gov/technical/tssh/index.html

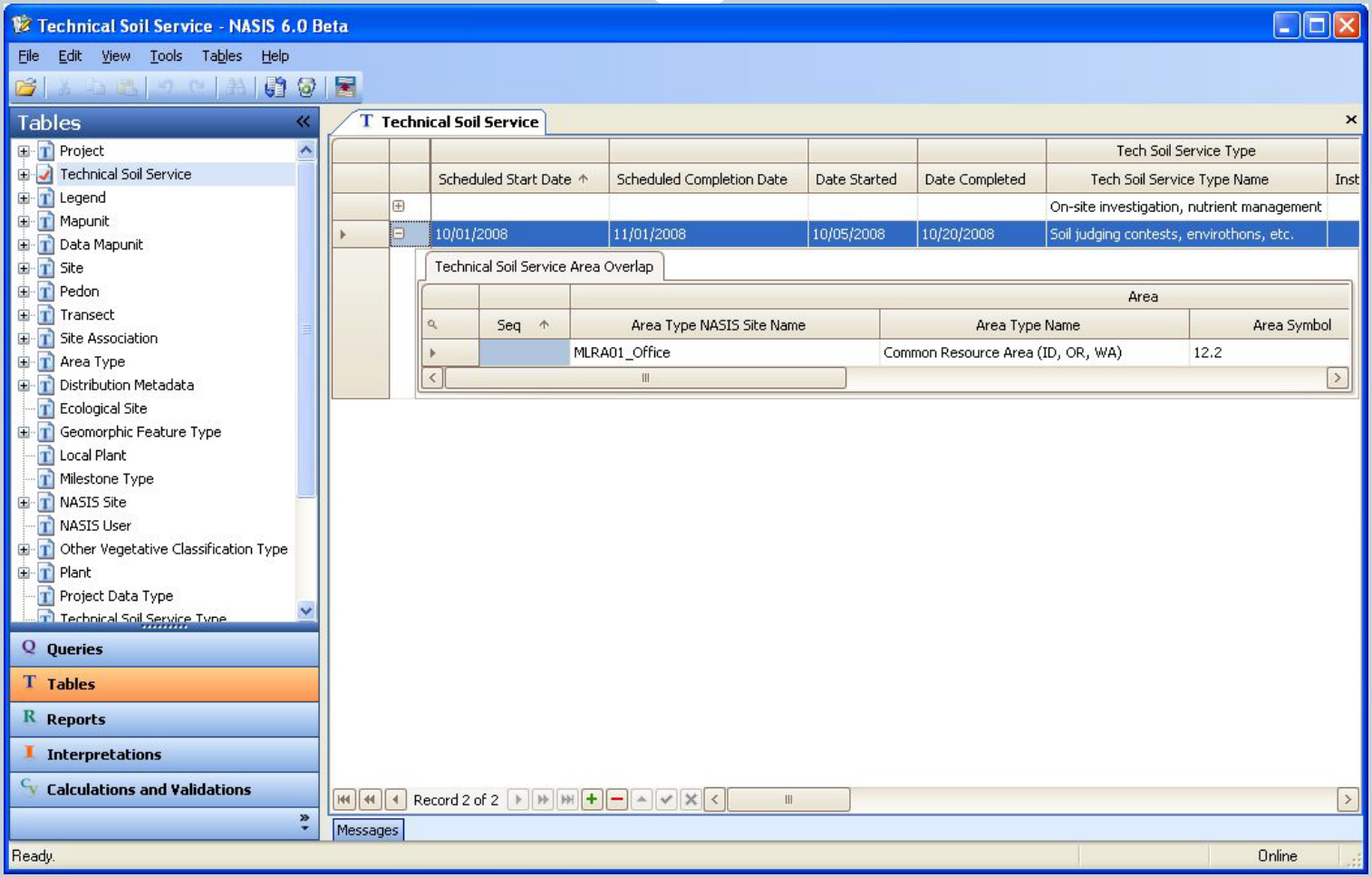
Or go to NRCS>Soils>Technical References

TSS Share Point Site

- **For NRCS Soil Scientists**
- **Post and retrieve materials useful in providing TSS**
- **Use to share drafts for comment**

- **https://nrcs.sc.egov.usda.gov/ssra/ssd/tss/default.aspx**

NASIS Reporting of Technical Soil Services



Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative (CDSI)

MAXIMIZING

SOILS INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE FOR CONSERVATION PLANNING

- This is one of the top priority initiatives within the agency
- Led by Lane Price, Raleigh, NC
- Team members from SSD
  - Chris Smith - Core Team, Resource Inventory Team
  - Jim Fortner – Business Analyst liaison
  - Henry Ferguson – Resource Inventory Team
  - Jon Vrana (honorary SS) – Lane's staff
  - Alan Price - Business Analyst, ITC

Three **overarching objectives** were identified for this effort:

1. **Simplified Conservation Delivery** – *The new business model must be easier for both customers and employees.*

2. **Streamlined Business Processes** – *must increase efficiency and be integrated across business lines.*

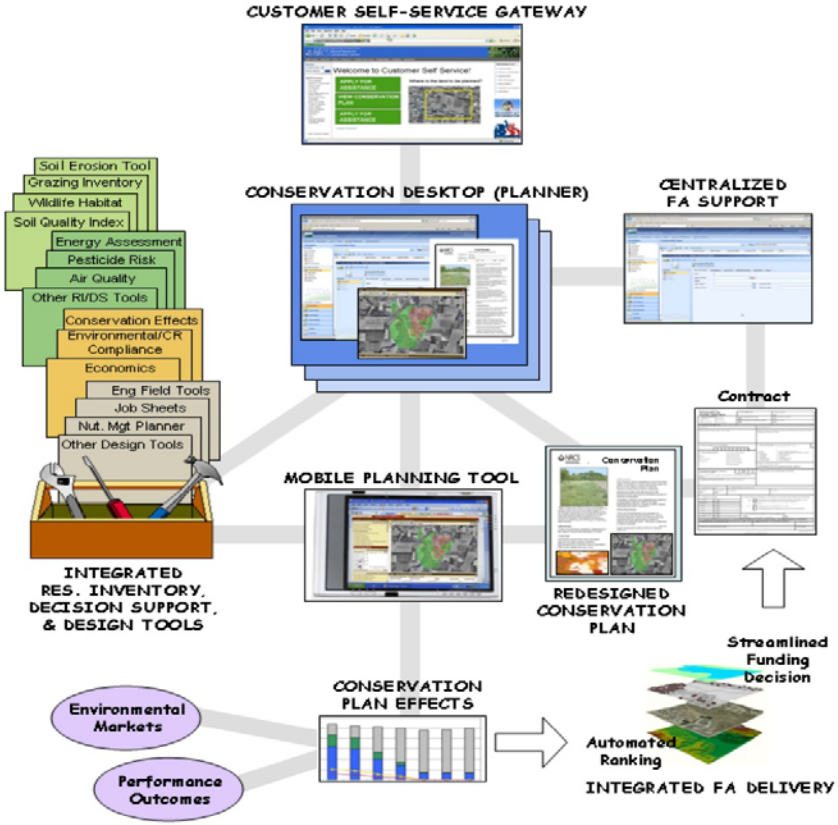
3. **Reinforced Science-based Assistance** – *must reinforce the continued delivery of technically-sound products and services.*

INITIATIVE 2

Prioritize and deploy information technology that effectively supports and aligns with the delivery of conservation assistance.

NRCS
National Conservation Delivery
Streamlining Initiative

Business Systems Perspective: Streamlined Conservation Assistance Business Model



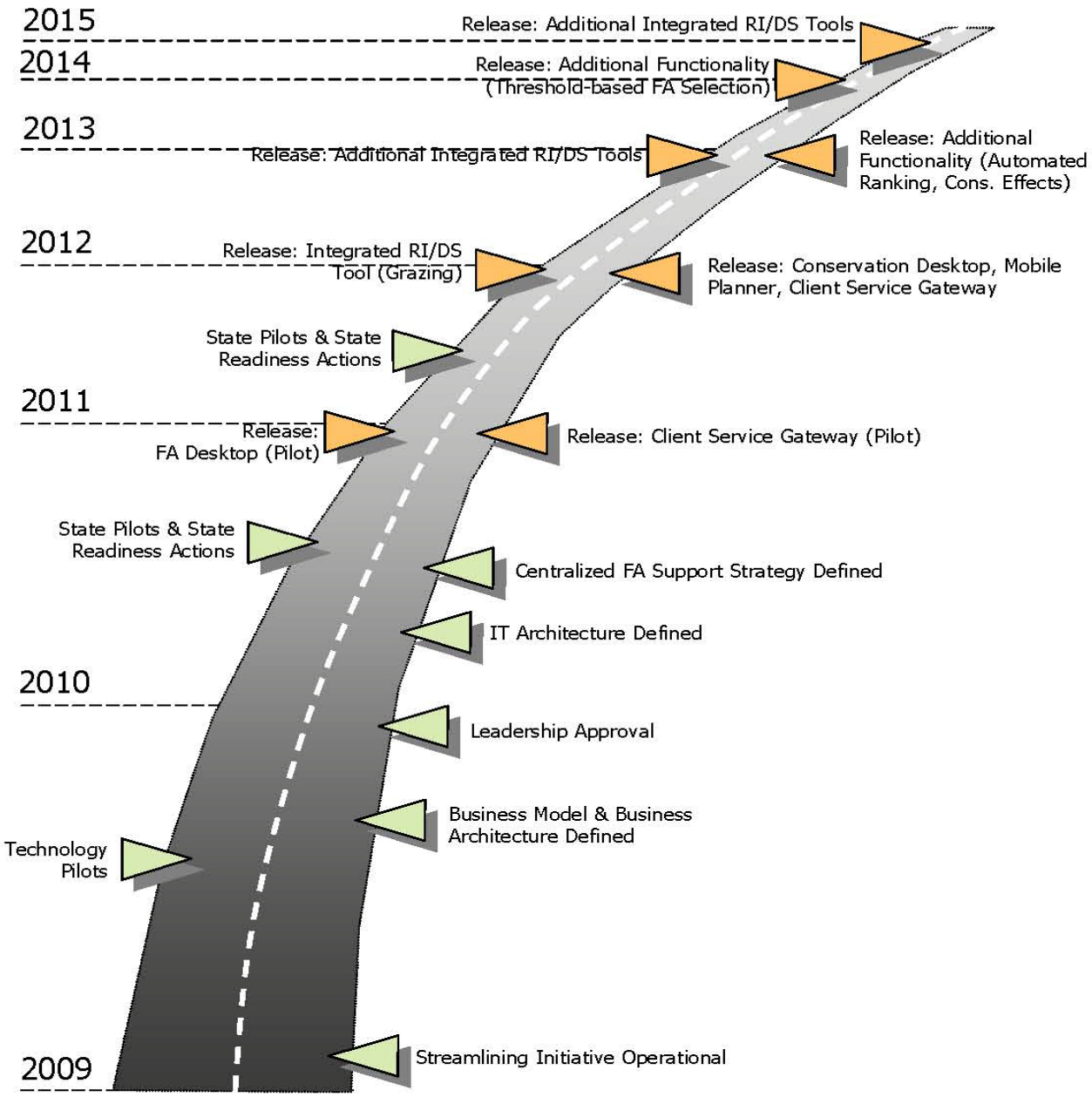
Areas of Improvement related to Soils

- ENHANCE RSS INTERACTION WITH F.O. PLANNER
- ENCOURAGE IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIALIST TEAMS
- IMPROVE HOW AND WHAT SOILS INFORMATION IS POPULATED IN A PLAN
- PRE-POPULATE PLAN WITH SOIL PROPERTIES AND INTERPRETATIONS TAILORED TO PRACTICES FOR SOIL IN THE AOI
- CREATE INTEGRATED FIELD DATA COLLECTION TOOL
- CREATE ABILITY TO MODIFY DATA IN THE FIELD TO ADDRESS FIELD CONDITIONS
- EXPORT FIELD DATA TO SOIL SURVEY /VEG STAFF AND NASIS/ESIS IN ADDITION TO THE PLAN

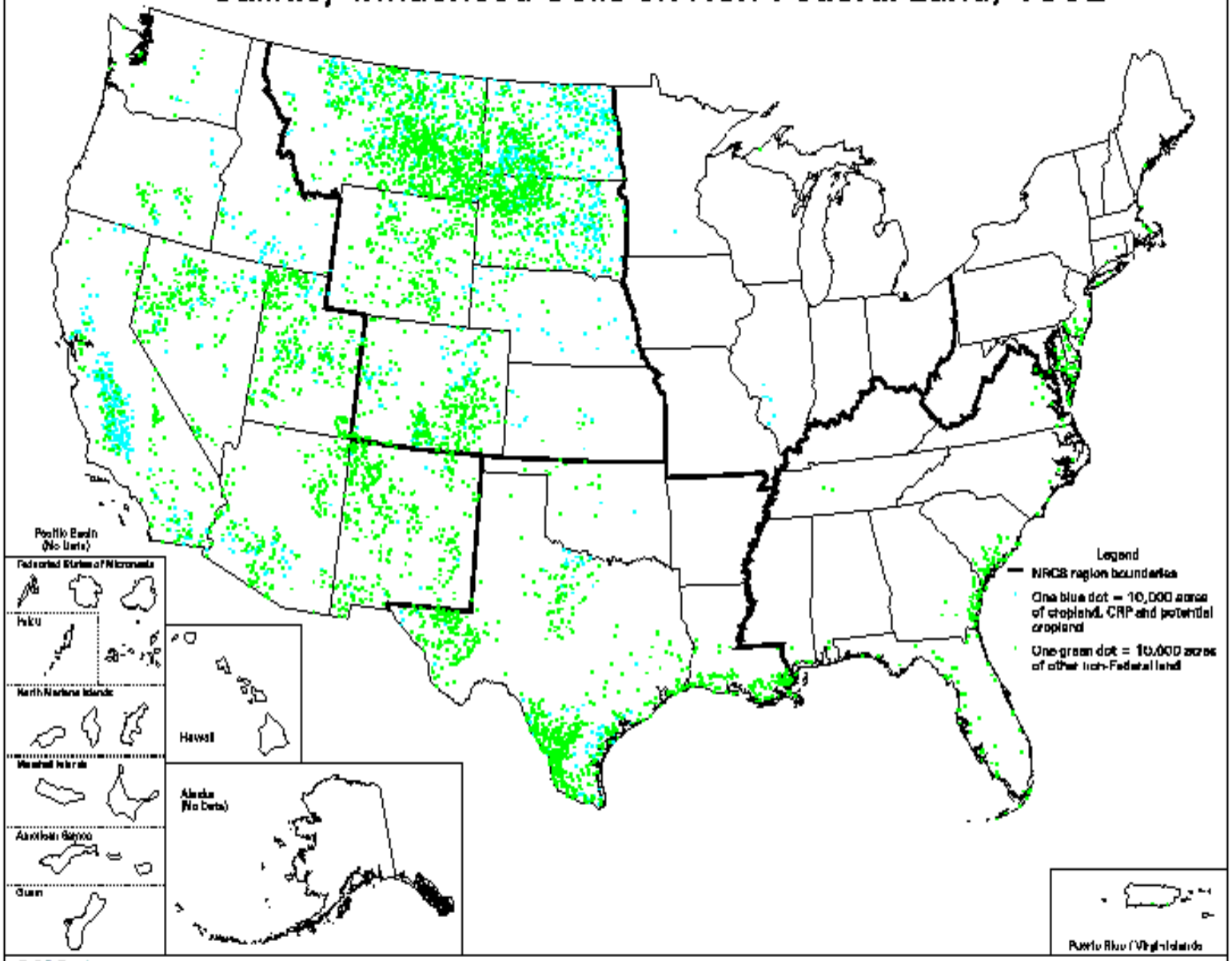
Crop - Perennial

Client Service Gateway	Pre-Planning Analysis (Back Office)	Rev/Edit Prelim Client Data (Kitchen Table)	Soils (On Site)	Water (On-Site)	Animals (On-Site)	Plants (On-Site)	Air (On-Site)	Human - socioecon (On-Site)	Farmscape/ Ecosystem View (On-Site)
Client Identification	Moisture/Rainfall		Ephemeral Erosion	Nutirent Mgt Data (Pathogens)	Wildlife Species	Nutrient Mgt Data	Pest Mgt	Ecosystem Market Participation	Habitat Assess. (wildlife habitat suitability index)
General Objectives	Salinity		Gullies	Irrigiation System Data	T and E Species	Plant Pests	Nutrient Mgt	Rotation Changes	Landscape Connectivity
Type of Operation (e.g. livestock, crop, etc.)	Stream Proximity - Shoreline/Streambank Erosion (Riparian Areas)		Verify Soil Type	Irrigiation Metrics Data		Pollinators	Particulate Matter	Enterprise Diversification	Stream Assessment
Historic Planning Information	H2O Quality Impairment (303D Zones, TMDL, etc.)		Soil Components	Data to Satisfy Irrigation Schedule		Air Drainage	Odor	Utilities Locations	
Location (point, AOI, planned CLU's)	Water/Wind Erosion Zone		Data Elements for RUSLE2/WEPS	Excess Water		Frost Protection	Burning		
Irrigated vs. Non-Irrigated	Local Wildlife Concerns		Soil PH	Insufficient Water					
Yield	Forage Suitability Group		Infiltration Rate	Pesticide Management Data/Products					
Rotation	Emissions Area		Available Water Capacity	Pathogen Tool - Missing (Manure Management)					
Field Operations Information	Threatened and Endangered Species		Soil Permeability	Subsurface Drainage					
Pesticide Application Rates	Special Environmental Concerns		Soil Compaction	Surface Water Drainage					
Fertilizer Application Rates	Organic Matter		Concentration of Salts						
Organic vs. Non-Organic	Available Water Capacity		Data for Soil Quality Assessment						
Socioeconomic Data from CPA-52	Drainage Class		Soil Carbon Data (Soil Carbon Tool)						
Land Cover (Land Use)	Crop Soil Interpretations		Base Saturation						
Ecosystem Market Goals/Objectives	HEL/Hydric Soils (Cons. Compliance)								
Third Party Certifications	Hay Species Descriptions (If Hay is in Rotation)								
Other Enterprises/Associated Businesses	Utilities Locations								
Utilities Locations									

VI. ROADMAP TO IMPLEMENTATION



Salinity-Influenced Soils on Non-Federal Land, 1992



USDA

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Resource Assessment and Strategic Planning Division
Washington DC July 1997

Map ID: 2142
For proper interpretation, see Explanation of Analysis for this map at our web site:
www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/maps.html

Data Source: National Resources Inventory, 1992

National Conservation Practices Subcommittee

- Provide input to Conservation Practice Standards revisions where soils information is an important consideration
  - Chris Smith
  - Ed Griffin
  - All NCSS Soil Scientists

New Staff in TSS

- Steve Campbell, West National technical Support Center, Portland, Oregon
- These are **National** Support Centers, assistance can be obtained from other National Centers depending on expertise required if that expertise does not exist in your NTSC.

TSS Training

- Two sessions have been held remotely via Adobe Connect
  - Advantage:
    - Training can be conducted even if no travel funds
- Last session was held in Lincoln, NE
  - Advantages:
    - more interaction
    - Field exercises:
      - Field Resource Inventory DSP/SQ
      - Wetland/Salinity determinations (IRIS Tubes/EM-38)
- Next Session: Lincoln, April 18 week

Web Soil Survey Communications Plan

- Improve web search key words
- ID other underserved user groups
- Improve home screen for new users
- Improve Tutorial screens
- Improve choice option menus (alphabetical pull down list?)

National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils

Update

- Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States version 7.0 posted available at

  http://soils.usda.gov/use/hydric/

- (no hardcopies yet available)

Site Investigations
Hydric Soils

- The NFSAM requires that the Corps Delineation Manual and Regional Supplements with a few modifications be used for wetland delineations and determinations.

- Hydric soils lists and Field Indicators of Hydric Soils (version 6.0, 2006) in the United States can be used to identify hydric soils for agricultural purposes in the NFSAM.

NTCHS Web Site Updates

THE WEB SITE IS WILL BE UPDATED TO DELETE OBSOLETE TECH. NOTES AND PROVIDE MORE COMPLETE AND UP-TO-DATE INFO ON HYDRIC SOIL ISSUES.

Other Stuff

- Adjunct soil scientist on Science and Technology staff
- Consult to Programs staff (CSP, WRP)
- Lead for the Afghanistan Soil Sampling Report
- POC for the Rapid Carbon Assessment Project in NHQ. Larry West and Skye Wills do the heavy lifting (I owe them great quantities of beer)
- Liaison to Business Tools Council