2010 State Soil Scientist Workshop
Columbia, SC

Urban Interpretations – 31 March 2010
National Soil Survey Center

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Urban Interpretations

Agenda

• - Introduction/Reintroduction
• - By the Numbers
• - Initial Impressions
• - Challenges in Urban Interpretations
• - Way Forward
Urban Interpretations

Introduction

• Soil Scientist – > 30 yrs
• Mapped in Michigan & Florida – 1979 → 1989
• Worked on PEDON – 1989 → 1995
• Liaison to the US Army – 1995 → 2009
  – (firing/maneuver ranges)
• Interpretations Staff – 2009 → Present
  – (grazing on rangeland)
Urban Interpretations

By the Numbers

- ~12,500,000 - acres of urban land units*
- ~900 - SSAs with urban map units; from 0 – 316,000 ac
- ~4,700 – map units with URBAN in the name
- ~4,200 – Urban Land complexes
- ~400 – Urban Land map units: ~2,000,000 ac
- 1 - state with no urban land units; from 7,500– 1,330,000 ac

* This doesn’t include the stealth urban areas in small towns that we mapped through as soil.
Urban Interpretations

Initial Impressions

- When does a soil area become Urban, really?
- Can urban areas become Soil again?
- What is an urban interpretation?
- Initial impression of the types of urban interpretations
  - DEWELLINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE
  - STORM WATER MANAGEMENT
  - RECREATION
  - WASTE MANAGEMENT (solid/liquid)
  - VEGETATIVE MANAGEMENT
  - OTHER URBAN USES
Urban Interpretations

Challenges for Urban Interpretations

• Develop additional national level urban interpretations
  – Promote appropriate state/regional interpretations
• Develop interpretations for use on urban soils
  – Lack of data to support interpretation development from urban soils
• Urban areas undergoing De-development will need new interpretations developed based on their properties
Urban Interpretations

Way Forward

• Request help from you as State Soil Scientists
• Indentify soil surveys with significant urban area
• Establish an ad hoc committee to be a source of urban interpretation needs
• Implement new urban soil interpretations in NASIS
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