

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
- Identify 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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