

NCSS National Cooperative Soil Survey Conference
Annapolis, Maryland June 2013

NCSS Standards Committee

Committee Breakouts

- Standards Proposals
 - Field Guide to Soil Taxonomy
 - Update of Soil Survey Manual
 - Bylaws
-
- Plenary Session on USC

Committee Charges-Proposals

- Proposal on horizon nomenclature for soils with vesicular surface layers,
- Resolution of a number of pending proposals to Soil Taxonomy
- Describing and documenting anthropogenic features in soils (ICOMANTH)
- Clarify the process to propose, review and approve proposals to the NCSS standards

Proposals

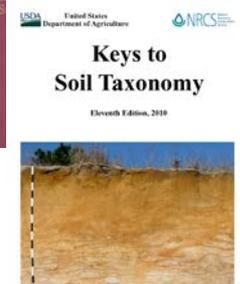
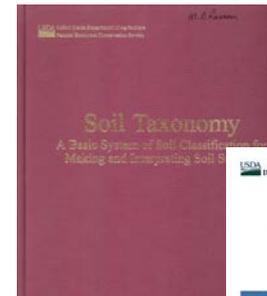
- Master V horizon proposal for near surface horizons with vesicular porosity
 - Reviewed committee recommendation and draft of supporting document
 - Discussion identified a need to provide more explanation, technical rationale, and documentation to support recommendation.
 - Will address in following weeks.

NCSS Standards – Soil Taxonomy Proposals

- Recognize anhydrite soils
- Color requirements of the melanic epipedon
- Expanded definition of abrupt textural change
- Add Petrocalcic Calciudolls subgroup
- Add manufactured layers to soil depth classes
- Improve Udolls taxa in Argentina
- Clarify the mineral soil surface
- ICOMANTH final recommendations and anthropogenic features (more discussion needed)
- Keys to ST – 12 edition – out in 2014

Field Guide to Soil Taxonomy

- Working group as Adhoc to NCSS advisory :
Purpose
 - Develop a simplified key for soil classification to the great group level
- Customers of product
 - Field soil scientists
 - University students
 - Scientists in other disciplines
 - Soil science practitioners



Field Guide to Soil Taxonomy

- Key to soil orders
- Key to greatgroup for each of 12 orders
 - Distribute August 2013
 - Teaching
 - Soil Judging
 - Field soil scientists



In the works...

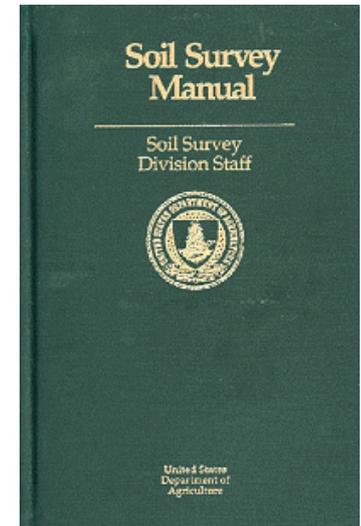
- Key to diagnostic horizons and features
- Consider some family level criteria..

Soil Survey Manual update

- Technological advances in soil survey methods, procedures, and tools
- New emphasis in emerging soil environments (subaqueous, anthropogenic)
- Manual serves as:
 - guide to those making and interpreting soil surveys
 - technical source of nomenclature, methods, and procedures
- Original source or primary reference to many other standard documents of soil survey

Soil Survey Manual

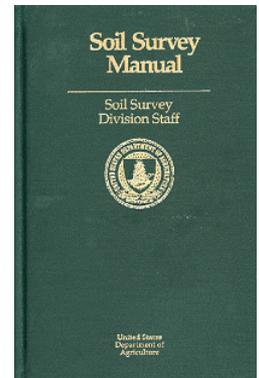
- Efforts by NSSC in 2002,
 - retirements/staff changes
- Resurrected with workgroup in August, 2012
 - CESU agreement with Dr. J. Boettinger Utah State University who is helping to lead the effort
 - Janis coordinating guest authors in the development of new subject areas.



Soil Survey Manual Update

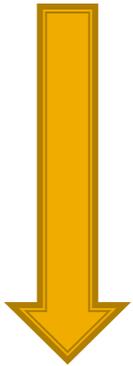
- **Digital Soil Mapping/Remote Sensing**
- **Geophysical Techniques**
- **Anthropogenic soils**
- **Subaqueous soils**
- **Soil Climate**
- **Soil Databases (NASIS)**
- **Revisions and update to all chapters**

- **Delivery Format**



Process to Propose changes

- Recent work has identified a need to have a clear process for
 - Proposing
 - Documenting
 - Evaluating, accepting
 - Distributing
- Recommend committee draft revisions to NSSH to address this need.



Bylaws of the NCSS Conference

- Charges:
- 1.) Review NCSS conference bylaws and bring current with decisions from past meetings
- 2.) Prepare report or proposals to bring before the business meeting of entire group

Bylaws of the NCSS Conference

- **Process and proposals:**
- 1.) The members used a track changes copy (Word) version of Part 602 of the NSSH. This contains the bylaws of the NCSS (exhibit 602-1) and the bylaws for the 4 regional conferences (exhibits 602-2 to 602-5).
- 2.) Proposed edits of the 4 regional bylaws from 2012 served as a guide for review of the NCSS bylaws.
- 3.) Pending changes to position titles (e.g., Soil Science Division director) and office names (MO to SSRO) are entered in all bylaws exhibits.

Bylaws of the NCSS Conference

- Process and proposals:
- 4.) The number of members (17) of the steering committee, as outlined in article VI, section 1.1, is too large and unrealistic. A 50% quorum (article VI, section 6.0) requires 9 members to transact business. *Edits were made to allow the number of members to drop below the 9 needed to meet a quorum.*
- 5.) *The meeting site rotation through the 4 NCSS regions was added to encompass years 2007 through 2029, in article VII, section 2.0.*

Bylaws of the NCSS Conference

- Process and proposals:
- 6.) Process to amend the NCSS bylaws in article IX, section 1.0 specifies use of a ballot with a majority vote of permanent members. This is unrealistic and unused. *Need concurrence for a change to a simple majority voice vote to change.*
- 7.) The date the bylaws were amended should be added if these proposals are approved.

Universal Soil Classification

- IUSS working group
- Descriptive standards
- Cold Soils
- Horizon nomenclature
- Moisture/Temperature regimes
- WRB / ST

- If have an interest: Don't be shy

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