

# **Western Regional Cooperative Soil Survey Standing Committee on New Technology**

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**Report to the Western Regional Cooperative Soil Survey  
Conference  
Telluride, Colorado  
July 8-12, 2002**

**Co-Chairs:**

**Pete Biggam, NPS, Lakewood, CO**

**Bill Ypsilantis, BLM, Lakewood, CO**

# Committee Members

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- ✓ Janis Boettinger, Utah State University
- ✓ Alan Busacca, Washington State University
- ✓ Ed Bulloch, BIA
- ✓ Jan Cipra, Colorado State University
- ✓ Hayes Dye, NRCS
- ✓ Haans Fisk, FS
- ✓ Chuck Gordon, NRCS
- ✓ Charles Hibner, NRCS
- ✓ David Hoover, NRCS
- ✓ Janelle Jersey, BIA
- ✓ Earl Lockridge, NRCS
- ✓ Tommie Parham, NRCS
- ✓ Alan Price, NRCS
- ✓ Doug Ramsey, NRCS
- ✓ Tom Reedy, NRCS
- ✓ Ken Scheffe, NRCS
- ✓ Peter Scull, UC Santa Barbara
- ✓ Dave Smith, NRCS

# Background

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- ✓ This is a new Committee for the Western Region Cooperative Soil Survey, however, at the National Cooperative Soil Survey level, there is a Standing Committee on New Technology currently active

# **Charges of Standing Committee on New Technology**

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“To develop and document procedures, processes, and standards that will be used to integrate GIS, remote sensing, landscape modeling, and other similar technologies into the mainstream of the soil mapping and landscape inventory program”

# Activities

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✓ **Confirmed that the Western Region Conference Bylaws do specifically address the establishment of this committee and its membership?**

As stated, even though “new technologies” have been widely used in the Western Region for some time, a a standing committee has never before been enacted to address these issues.

Committee agreed to operate similar to other standing committees currently in place

# Activities

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- ✓ **Determined what/how issues regarding New Technologies can be adopted or included in the Western Region**

Reviewed the 2001 report of the NCSS New Technology Standing Committee and determined which recommendations we might implement in the Western Region.

Also identified “new charges” which the group felt were needed to pursue for the initial stages of this committee’s development.

# “New Charges”

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1. Develop interest-oriented work groups charged with identifying new technologies that can be used to facilitate soil resource inventory, interpretation, information delivery, and agency implementation strategies (*Potential for 4 work groups*)
2. Each interest-oriented work group will also be tasked with identifying specific needs in soil resource inventory, interpretation, information delivery, and agency implementation strategies.

# “New Charges”

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3. Compile, regularly update, and communicate to committee members a list of conferences, training sessions, workshops, etc. on development and implementation of emerging new technology.
4. Develop and implement methods for interagency technology transfer in NCSS and report to the National Standing New Technologies Committee.
5. Charge all task forces/work groups in recruiting members, specifying objectives, and developing realistic time lines for meeting objectives

# “New Charges”

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6. Evaluate progress of work groups and redefine charges as needed, at minimum of every two years at WRCSS conferences.

7. Committee Chair will recruit/appoint/solicit members from NCSS to participate in appropriate work groups as needed

# Recommendations

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- ✓ This committee needs to aggressively pursue the recommended “new charges” in a timely manner, to “strike while interests are still high”
- ✓ Communicate to the Standing Committee on New Technology with what the Western Region is pursuing, and coordinate with other Regional Cooperative Soil Surveys in regards to what they are doing regarding new technology.