

Soil Change Working Group Report

NSCC Conference
Asheville, NC
May 26, 2011

Co-Chairs: Susan Andrews, NRCS
Mike Duniway, USGS

Activities This Week

- Soil Change/Ecological Sites Forum
- Joint Business meeting with:
 - Interpretations Committee
 - Subaqueous Soils Working Group
- Soil Change Business Meeting
- Assisted with ES stop on the field trip

Forum

- Well attended; ~75 attendees
- Excellent Discussion
- Mix of topics:
 - Two talks on soil quality: mapping in AU and assessment in CA
 - Two talks on the relationship between dynamic soil properties & ecological sites
 - Comparison of spatial hierarchies for ES's
 - Overview of NRCS ESD acceleration

Joint Business Meeting

- Presented Overview of the new NSSC National Soil Ecology Branch
 - Three Mission Areas:
 - Soil Quality
 - Dynamic Soil Properties
 - Ecological Site Inventory
 - How these areas intersect with Interpretations (and Research, New technology & Standards)
 - Presented three recommendations

Soil Change Business Meeting

- 15 in attendance
- Opened with overview of the new Soil Ecology Branch mission
- Charges:
 - Consider broadening focus to include ES's
 - Discuss possible Standing Committee Status
 - Explore research and interps needs, including 2009 recommendations

Soil Change Working Group Recommendations

- Move Ecological Site Descriptions out of Interpretations Committee and into Soil Change Working Group
- Recommend Changing Name to:
Soil and Ecosystem Dynamics
- Convert to Standing Committee
-each motion passed unanimously-

Recommendations, continued (honed from 2009 recommendations)

- Use new standing committee as reviewers
- NSEB (and S&T) complete ESD standards and send to committee for review
 - Criteria for minimum data sets for both DSPs and ESs
 - Plan to address cropland and plantations in ecological site State and Transition Models

Recommendations, continued

(plans to work with NCSS regions)

- Ask NCSS Regions to adopt new standing committee recommendation
- Create charges for the regions regarding:
 - Inclusion of partners in DSP and ES efforts
 - Recommendations for minimum data sets
 - By region
 - By dominant landscape
 - Recommendations for prioritizing work
 - By landscape, T&E species, benchmark soils, etc.

Questions and Discussion

To be on our email list contact:

Susan Andrews
National Leader for Soil Ecology
susan.andrews@lin.usda.gov
402-437-5687