

Ad-hoc Committee on Soil Change Agenda

- The Soil Change Guide: Procedures for Soil Survey and Resource Inventory, Version 1.1, Sept, 2008. A. Tugel
- Soil Change Strategic Plan---send comments to Karl.Hipple@lin.usda.gov K. Hipple
- Cooperator and Agency Needs for Dynamic Soil Property Data P. Biggam
- Group Discussion (23 attendees) All

Discussion

- Be realistic, integrate dynamic soil property work with other work.
 - Benchmark soils data collection
 - Benchmark Ecological Site inventory
 - Soil quality programs, such as in Forest Service

These all involve concepts of soil change and soil quality.

Discussion

- One way to cut back on costs is to collect data at a higher taxonomic scale, e.g. orders. This has a place in research, to identify broad relationships, but for agency assistance to land managers, scale of information needs to match scale of use.

Information delivery

- Current NASIS data base is constrained. Can't show what is involved in the transition. For example, permafrost thaw. In NASIS can show end members- with permafrost and without--but not what the causes are. State and transition models would be ideal to show what is needed.
 - Need a way to display the soil-transition information in a format other than a tabular database report.
 - New version of ESIS will allow storage of transition descriptions as well as state information.
 - Other methods need to be explored.

Initial surveys and updates

- New procedures for comparison studies are geared toward soil survey updates. Initial mapping is also an opportunity to get dynamic soil property data, but because of the high spatial variability of DSP, sampling without replication may not get us what we need.
- Therefore, should provide information upfront about what it takes to get good dynamic soil property data. Spell out the needs for numbers of samples, staff time, vegetation specialist time and lab expenses.

Costs

- Need to consider cost of analysis for the minimum data set. NSSL costs may be different from University or other labs.
- Could replace some of lab methods with field methods, but need to remember that the customers want more measured properties.

Recommendations

1. Motion by R. Davis.

Set up the Soil Change Committee as a new standing committee.

1. Passed by majority vote.
2. Would also like to see a National Committee on Soil Change

Revised motion: Set up a Soil Change Task Force at the West Regional and national levels.

2. Motion by R. Davis

An initial charge for the new committee will be to review the NRCS Vision, Mission and Objectives for soil change work and expand or modify them for the West Regional Cooperative Soil Survey. (Soil Change Strategic Plan)

1. Passed by majority vote.



SSSA symposium, October 2008
S6 and S5, S3, S7

Pedology, Soil Change and Management Effects on Soil Quality

Organizers:

Susan Andrews, Arlene Tugel and Larry West