

Western Region Standards Committee

- Members:
- Ed Tallyn, NRCS-CA, Chair
- Mike Regan, NRCS-OR, Co-Chair
- Brenda Buck, UNLV
- Mike Domeier, NRCS-CO
- Leslie Glover, NRCS-AZ
- Bob Graham, UC Riverside
- Eva Muller, NRCS-MT
- Randy Southard, UC Davis

Status of Proposals (2010)

- Miscellaneous Areas - Accepted, NSSH 627.04(d) and Exhibit 627-1
- Use of si Suffix for Presence of Sulfides – Accepted, Chapter 3 Soil Survey Manual, changed to se
- Proposal for Master V Horizon – Tabled, Resubmit for 2012

- Proposal for Master V Horizon
- The final proposal of ICOMANTH
- Clarification of the Mineral Soil Surface
- Amendment to the Soil Depth Class, Root Restrictions
- Expand the Definition of Abrupt Textural Change
- Anhydrite Soils in USDA Taxonomy
- New Subgroup – Petrocalcic Calciudolls
- Improve the classification of Udolls in Argentina
- Melanic Epipedon Characteristics
- Field Guide to Classify Biological Crust for Ecological Site Descriptions

Master V Horizon

Proposal:

- Addition of Master Horizon V for the description of near surface horizons with vesicular pores

Submitted by: Judith Turk, UCR

Carrie-Ann Houdeshell, NRCS

Robert Graham, UCR

Master V Horizon

Tabled in 2010 and resubmitted to committee for reconsideration

- Definition: Minor punctuation changes
Generalize structure requirement
and lack of rock structure
- Description: Add specific soil structures
Water limiting features
Transitional or combination horizon

Master V Horizon

The Committee Recommends Approval as
Written

Alternatives

- Propose suffix *ve*, or *vv*
- *Av* was first used in 1958 (Springer), propose using suffix *v* for vesicular horizons and finding an alternative for plinthite.
- Where do we go from here?

Final Proposal for ICOMANTH

(International Committee for Anthropogenic Soils)

- Vague language that requires interpretation
- “intentional alteration”, “made to enhance”
- Adds process into the rules of Taxonomy
- Landform in addition to soil properties (pedon)
- 18 material classes added, examples?
- Aquadensic
- Extremely weakly cemented to indurated particles
- Too much to review in one proposal, split?
- Committee Recommendation: Reject proposal as written.

Clarification of the Mineral Soil Surface

- Clarification of “the mineral soil surface”
- Problem – Mineral soils can include soils with organic horizons
- Solution -(top of)”the first mineral horizon”
- Committee Recommendation: Submit for approval without change.

Amendment to the Soil Depth Class, Root Restrictions

- Clearly define the M layer as a root-limiting layer in the Keys to Soil Taxonomy (pg 300) and different types of physical root restrictions in the Soil Survey Manual (pg 134-135).
-a nearly continuous, horizontally orientated, human-manufactured layer.
- Physical root restriction may be from a nearly continuous, horizontally orientated, human-manufactured materials.....
- Committee Recommendation: Submit for approval without change.

Expand the Definition of Abrupt Textural Change

- Part 1: Revised definition
- Part 2: Revised criteria for Abruptic subgroups of Aridisols, Mollisols and Alfisols
- Currently 9 Abruptic subgroups in the KST 11th edition, 81 soil series, no need to re-classify
- Part 3: Add subgroup of Abruptic Natrudolls
- Part 4: Revised criteria for 5 “pale” great groups in Aridisols, Mollisols, and alfisols
- Part 5: Revised criteria for “pale” subgroups of Durixerolls
- Committee Recommendation: Submit for approval without change.

Anhydrite Soils in USDA Taxonomy

- Proposal 1: Anhydrite Mineralogy Family Class
- Proposal 2: Anhydritic Diagnostic Horizon
- Proposal 3: Modification of Soil Order and Subgroup criteria for Aquisalids and Haplosalids
- Proposal 4: Modification of Designation of Horizons and Layers-Suffix Symbols (aa)

Anhydrite Soils in USDA Taxonomy

- First submitted 2008
- Coastal sabkha, Emirate of Abu Dhabi
 - (Sabkha is the local Gulf Arabic word for flat, salt-crust desert)
- What in particular is unique about the behavior or properties of anhydrite as compared to a soil horizon dominated by other anhydrous salts such as thenardite?
- Instructions for the transport and treatment of samples
- Committee Recommendation: Reject proposal as written.

New Subgroup – Petrocalcic Calciudolls

- Documented to occur in the Everglades
- Committee Recommendation: Submit for Approval without change

Improve the classification of Udolls in Argentina

- Reasoning, to add consistency to udolls
- Is there an interpretive difference?
- How does this affect currently classified soils?
- Committee Recommendation: Submit for approval with change

Melanic Epipedon Characteristics

- Clarification due to changes in the Munsell Color charts
- Only the 10YR page goes to 2. Others darkest is 2.5
- Committee Recommendation: Submit for Approval without change

Field Guide to Classify Biological Crust for Ecological Site Descriptions

- We added the review of the Field Guide to Classify Biological Crust for Ecological Site Descriptions. The intent here, as a group recognize the need for a coordinated regional (Nationally probably won't work) system for identifying, describing and documenting (in NASIS, ESIS etc.) biological crusts.
- Committee Recommendation: Submit for Inclusion in the ESI