**OJT Training Module Cover Sheet**

**Title:** 507 Understand the content and function of the Geomorphic Description System.

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<tr>
<th>Type:</th>
<th>□ Skill</th>
<th>X Knowledge</th>
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**Performance Objective:** Trainee will be able to …
- Understand the function of the Geomorphic Description System.
- Locate information related to physiographic location, geomorphic description, and surface morphometry within the content of the Geomorphic Description System.

**Target Proficiency:**
- □ Awareness  
- □ Understanding  
- □ Perform w/ Supervision  
- X Apply Independently  
- □ Proficiency, can teach others

**Trainer Preparation:**
- Trainer should be familiar with the assigned reading/review material in the lesson plan that follows.
- Have the current version of the GDS available. Request from NSSC if the current version is not available.

**Special Requirements:**
Initiate an external learning request with a SF-182 in Aglearn for this activity. Instructions and a template are located on the training webpages for OJT modules.

**Prerequisite Modules:**
None

**Notes:**
None

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**Approved by:**
Shawn McVey
The Five–Step OJT Cycle for **Declarative** Training (Knowledge)

**Cycle Step 1**
Trainer/Trainee establish shared mental model

**Cycle Step 2**
Trainee reviews materials provided

**Cycle Step 3**
Trainer and Trainee discuss information

**Cycle Step 4**
Trainer observes Trainee perform task provided as feedback

**Cycle Step 5**
Trainer/Trainee debrief

Trainer and Trainee
**OJT Module Lesson**

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>WHAT</th>
<th>WHY, WHEN, WHERE, HOW, SAFETY, QUALITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cycle step 1</td>
<td>Trainer and trainee review the objectives and agree on the purpose of this module.</td>
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| Cycle step 2 | Trainer and trainee should access via the internet and read/review each of the following:  
- Geomorphic Description System.  
- National Soil Survey Handbook 629:  
  - Glossary of Landform and Geologic Terms  
- Field Book for Describing and Sampling Soils:  
  - Geomorphic Description |
| Cycle step 3 | Do the following: |
| 1. Provide overview of the system. | Review and discuss the various parts of the GDS with the trainee. Focus on choices and parts of the system that are relevant to your soil survey area as you review each part.  
- Part 1: Physiographic Location  
- Part 2: Geomorphic Description  
- Part 3: Surface Morphometry  
Discuss how the system is a key component of map unit design.  
- Helps in separation of map units.  
- Helps communicate visualization of a map unit and its place in the world. |
| 2. Locate and use the Glossary of Terms. | Select some landscapes, landforms, and surface morphometry common to your soil survey area and have the trainee locate definitions in the *Glossary of Terms* in NSSH 629. Do this to familiarize the trainee with this source of information. |
| 3. The GDS and NASIS | Discuss how the GDS is required for population of DMU data in NASIS.  
Discuss what you typically populate in NASIS if different from the above and why. |
| 4. The GDS and the *Field Book for Describing and Sampling Soils* | Discuss using the GDS available in the *Field Book for Describing and Sampling Soils* during soil description and sampling activities. |
| Cycle steps 4 & 5 | Answer any questions from the trainee and make sure the trainee is comfortable with the content and function of the GDS. |
**OJT Module Lesson Measurement of Learning**

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<tr>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>Complete the quiz below.</td>
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**SF-182**

Trainee and/or supervisor access Aglearn to verify completion of the module via its SF-182.
Quiz

1. Risers and treads are:
   a. Physiographic location terms
   b. Geomorphic description terms
   c. Surface morphometry terms

2. Geomorphic environments are:
   a. Physiographic location terms
   b. Geomorphic description terms
   c. Surface morphometry terms

3. Backslope is a:
   a. Hillslope position
   b. Geomorphic component
   c. Slope shape
   d. Microrelief

4. Side slope is a:
   a. Hillslope position
   b. Geomorphic component
   c. Slope shape
   d. Microrelief

5. Mountainflank is a:
   a. Hillslope position
   b. Geomorphic component
   c. Slope shape
   d. Microrelief

6. Changes to the Geomorphic Description System are made by:
   a. Sending comments or suggestions to the Director, Soil Survey Division
   b. Sending comments or suggestions to the authors at the National Soil Survey Center