

Soil Management

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- Outline of this presentation:
 - ◆ NRIS-Terra/NASIS Database Integration
 - ◆ Federal Lands Advisory Group
 - ◆ Soil Quality Standards and Monitoring Protocols
 - ◆ Long-term Soil Productivity Program

NRIS-Terra/NASIS Database Integration

- ❖ Forest Service Natural Resource Information System (NRIS)-Terra uses soil map unit data and interpretations down-loaded from NASIS.
- ❖ Integration will reduce redundant data and improve data sharing between the NRCS and the Forest Service.
- ❖ A pilot database interaction project has been recently completed and shows that NASIS and NRIS can interact across Agencies firewalls.
- ❖ NRIS Terra is scheduled for a major revision in FY2007. NASIS will be released in late 2007.

Federal Lands Advisory Group

- ❖ The group was established in 2005 and is composed of representatives from the NRCS, BLM, Park Service, Department of Defense, and Forest Service
- ❖ Commissioned by the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) to develop a cohesive strategy to complete the soil resource and/or terrestrial ecological unit inventory of the United States including:
 - ❖ Identification of priority areas to focus limited funding and staffing,
 - ❖ Identification of potential work sites,
 - ❖ Staffing and funding needed to complete first priority inventory areas in five years.

Forest Service Soil Quality Standards and Monitoring Protocols

- ❖ An interregional work group has been established to develop soil quality standards.
- ❖ EMC is sponsoring this initiative.
- ❖ The Northern Region is leading the development of National SQS:
 - ❖ Several recent appeal decisions have focused on soil quality issues.
 - ❖ The Region has convened a team to develop a set of protocols.

Long-term Soil Productivity Program

- The ten year report has been released, notable findings:
 - ◆ Organic matter removal affected soil carbon in the upper 20cm and in some sites affected soil nitrogen.
 - ◆ Management induced increases in soil bulk density had a greater affect on soils with low to moderate initial bulk densities. Soils with bulk densities of 1.4 g/m³ were not affected.
 - ◆ Induced increases in bulk density recover very slowly if at all.
 - ◆ Vegetation growth response varies with soil texture:
 - Sandy soils increased vegetation growth
 - Clayey soils decreased vegetation growth
 - ◆ The national MOU is being reviewed to see what changes are needed to address current land management issues.

Questions?

Discussion