

# Soil Survey Standards

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Soil Classification and Standards

# Issues

- Soil Survey Joining Policy
- STATSGO Update
- Human Modified Soils
- Soil Survey Documentation Team

# Joining

- Memo/Issue Paper to State Soil Scientists 7/18/02 requesting comment.
  - Proposed revision NSSH 609:
    - *“Soil survey areas join soil polygon lines and features exactly along common boundaries, and joined polygons share the same basic soil properties and selected soil qualities.”*
  - 15 responses received

# Concepts in Revised Policy

- Exact join:
  - lines join
  - component composition is the same
  - Basic soil properties are the same, including
    - horizon/layer depths
    - low, high, RV values
  - Interpretations will be the same if the same criteria are used to generate them.
  - Required for active soil surveys
    - same scale, order, etc.

# Reintroduces “Acceptable Join”

- Implied to be a join that fails “exact”.
  - Join is improved to the extent resources allow.
  - But the join does not hide underlying correlation problems.
- Example:
  - Digitizing adjacent, previously published survey areas.

# Due to Comments, Policy will

- Stress progressive correlation as part of the process for achieving exact joins.
- Acknowledge that performance data should be coordinated (ie yields, site index, etc).
- For digital development of existing surveys, acceptable joins often are the best we can do.
- MO determines appropriate level of join because it is a correlation issue.
- For MLRA approach to survey, data must be shared across project subset boundaries. Subset survey areas do not “stand on their own”.

# STATSGO Update

- National Instruction 430-302 (July 31, 2002)
- Next Target Dates:
  - March, 2003 - Complete the STATSGO/NASIS component update.
  - March, 2003 - Revise metadata
  - April, 2003 - Update component classifications

# STATSGO Update Team

- New STATSGO UPDATE email list server with state level STATSGO contacts
  - ([statsgo\\_update@ftw.nrcs.usda.gov](mailto:statsgo_update@ftw.nrcs.usda.gov))
- SC File Global Updates in support of STATSGO Update and otherwise
  - Contact me or Bob Engel if you want assistance.
- Plans to develop a NASIS report for STATSGO component taxonomic classification download to conduct check against Soil Classification File
- FY 2003 STATSGO Update Activity Status Map



# ICOMANTH

John Galbraith, VPI - Chair

- CD/Website collection of pedons, data, papers, etc. soon to be released.
- Next step:
  - Discussion of nomenclature and descriptive terms for describing human influenced soils.

# Documentation Standards Team

Al Gienke (Leader)

Marc Crouch

Ron Taylor

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Tom McKay

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# Charges

- Clarify Purpose
- Consider order of soil survey
- Difficult/Remote areas
- Initial vs. Update projects
- Data sharing
- Methods beyond pedons descriptions and transects.