REPORT OF THE
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

West Region Conference
National Cooperative Soil Survey
Telluride, CO   July 2002
Committee members participating

- Duane Lammers, FS, Chair
- Randy Southard, UC Davis
- Chad McGrath, NRCS
- Tom Hahn, NRCS
- Bill Johnson, NRCS
- Neil Peterson, NRCS
- Mike, McArthur, FS
1. **What roles and function should this committee have in the West Region?**

- **a)** The West Regional Standards Committee serves as a technical advisory committee to the National Leader for Standards. Committee tasks are assigned by the Conference Steering Committee of the West Region.

- **b)** The Committee represents West Regional interests on proposed changes to standards.

- **c)** The Committee reviews proposals on changes to NCSS standards (ST, NSSH, SSM) and makes a recommendation on approval.
1. What roles and function should this committee have in the West Region?

- d) The Committee evaluates the success (or not) of recently implemented changes to standards
- e) The Committee serves as a forum for new issues and recommends action to address these issues
- f) Two members of the Committee represent the West Region on the National Standards Committee.
2. Does the West Region Conference Bylaws specifically address this committee and its membership?

- Not specifically!
- Bylaws - Conference Steering Committee determines the standing committees and appoints a Chairperson.
- The Chair in-turn selects committee members.
- Not necessary for the Bylaws to specifically address this committee and its membership.
3. Review and discuss findings and recommendations of Soil Crust Task Force.

Concerns raised:
- Additional workload to describe crusts
- Relationship of bio-crusts to other surface features
- Need standard protocol to describe soil crusts
- Soil or potential crust community
- Soil survey or vegetation (range) function
3. Review and discuss findings and recommendations of Soil Crust Task Force.

Recommendations:

- Appendix 2 - Biological Soil Crusts; should be distributed as a proposed addition to SSM.
- Appendix 3 - Guides for Describing Soil Surface Features; needs additional study.
4. Review and discuss current proposals to amend Soil Taxonomy and make recommendations.

- Comments of the proposed changes to Soil Taxonomy have been distributed.
- A recommendation on approval will be prepared following additional discussion.
5. Prepare committee report.