To NCSS South Region Cooperators and NRCS:

The Soil and Ecosystem Dynamics Committee is looking for your participation as we prepare for the NE-S Joint Regional Soil Survey Conference in Summersville, West Virginia in June 2018. Please consider participating in an upcoming teleconference, scheduled on February 15, 2018 to discuss new agenda items and develop a meeting schedule. We would also welcome your membership on the Soil and Ecosystem Dynamics Committee. Please let us know if you are interested in that by emailing Belinda Ferro: Belinda.Ferro@tn.usda.gov by February 8, 2018. Proposed agenda items are welcome. Current and past agenda items include:

### 2016 Southern Region Ecosystem Dynamics Committee Report:

1. Top-down approach to cooperation between NRCS and USFS. Follow-up on MOU between NRCS and USFS in an attempt to foster collaboration between Forest Inventory and Analysis and Soil Science Division for the purpose of better land descriptions that could be used by both agencies. Look at forming a committee with members of USFS and NRCS within the Region. This committee would work to set the standards for the creation of ESDs that work for both agencies. If this can be worked out, a collaborative effort involving other public and private agencies and potential users could be considered. Let’s get everyone using soils information as their base for ESDs.

2. Bottom-up: Workshop of FIA and NRCS GIS and database personnel to explore tools available for potentially merging data for mining by each USDA agency.

3. Move quickly to provide ESDs for existing and planned Subaqueous / Coastal Zone mapping projects. As this new data is being populated into NASIS and published to WSS, it would be good for corresponding ESDs to be populated as well.

4. How can we make ESDs more useful or needed? It appears the conversation needs to start that educates NRCS conversation planning staff and other users. Start or start again, selling ESDs.

5. What are the SSD’s plans or priorities to hire ESI staff? With many recent openings, more staff is need to replace those that have left.

6. Explore ways to make ESDs available in as raster format, especially as we move toward approved and correlated ESDs.

### 2017 Soil and Ecosystem Dynamics Agenda (National NCSS Conference):

1. Forestland inventory methods/database elements

2. Inclusion of additional cooperators

3. Ecological Sites in Urban Areas

Since this is a joint conference between the Northeastern and Southern regions, we have been advised to prioritize the topics that both have listed. That includes:

1. Ecological site cooperation with USFS

2. Marketing/Public Relations/Training plan for ESDs
Soil health and dynamic soil properties are also technically covered by this committee but an issue at past conferences has been finding time to cover all topics with equity. We welcome your suggestions on this and also any additional agenda items that may fall under those two topical areas.

Please keep in mind that the duration of the meeting at the NCSS Regional Conference is limited so we will aim to keep the agenda to 5 or 6 main items.

We are aware that everyone has limited time and we will not require much of yours, should you choose to participate. Teleconferences will be no longer than 2 hours and only held as necessary. You are not required to attend the NCSS Regional Conference to participate in the committee, but we certainly hope you do!

Thank you in advance for your consideration and hopefully, your participation.

Best regards,

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