

# Training Requirements: Ecological Site Specialist Group

## Preface

The following list is a recommended progression of official trainings grouped within broad career advancement stages. Courses are listed within recommended career timeframes, to which there is no requirement implied, simply a guide to supervisory expectations of job duty skill acquisition with experience.

Elective courses are highly recommended, but not required within the curriculum. Nor are electives limited to those courses listed on this curriculum -- individuals are encouraged to tailor their trainings to fit their needs.

Offerings are not restricted to the level in which they occur and should not be used as a means of determining promotion eligibility.

These curricula do not in any way reflect the training necessary to fulfill the requirements for specific OPM job series, nor do they serve in any way to change the existing OPM-defined requirements for the specific job series.

## Beginner

### CORE COURSES

#### Year 1

- Conservation Planning 1 (NRCS-NEDC-000019)
- Conservation Planning 2 (Offered by State)
- Conservation Planning Bootcamp (NRCS-NEDC-000164)
- Ecological Site Descriptions for Management, Monitoring and Assessment – NRCS ESD Webinars
- Ecological Site Fundamentals (New Course)

#### Year 2-3

- Basic Soil Survey – Field and Lab (NRCS-NEDC-000012)
- Digital Soil Survey Data Editing (NRCS-NEDC-000250)
- How to Use DigiTop (National Agricultural Library interface)
- Introduction to ArcGIS (ESRI Virtual Campus)
- NASIS Basic (New Course?)
- Plant ID (Local and Regional Field Botany Courses)

#### Year 4

- Soil Geomorphology Institute (NRCS-NEDC-000110)

### SELF-STUDY AND ON THE JOB TRAINING (OJT)

- OJT Modules
  - 701-734 Ecological Inventory
- ESIS/EDIT User's Guide
- Field Inventory Methods
- Plant Taxonomy and Plants Database

- Soil Spatial and Tabular Data
- Soil Survey Conventions
- Vegetation Science/plant community ecology (including local short courses and webinars)

## **RECOMMENDED ELECTIVE COURSES**

### *Agency Knowledge*

- Introduction to the Field Office Technical Guide (NRCS-NEDC-000149)
- NRCS Mentor and Protégé Training (NRCS-NEDC-LOCAL-000003)
- Orientation for New Employees (NRCS-NEDC-000013)

### *Basic Skills*

- Becoming an Effective Presenter (TBD)
- MS Excel Series (AgLearn Web-based learning)

### *Work Life*

- Emotional Intelligence 2.0 (Audio book USDA-BOOK-49926)
- What is Emotional Intelligence? (AgLearn Web-based learning)

## **Intermediate**

### **CORE COURSES**

#### **Early mid-career**

- Ecohydrology (New Course)
- Ecological Site Projects (New Course)
- Effective Ecological Site Collaborations (New Course)
- Interpreting and Measuring Indicators of Rangeland Health (NEDC-NRCS-000155)
- Statistics for Soil Survey Part 1 (NRCS-NEDC-000400)
- Technical Writing for ESDs (New Course)
- Working with Ecological Datasets (New Course)

#### **Mid-career**

- ArcGIS Pro: Essential Workflows (ESRI Virtual Campus)
- Digital Soil Mapping with ArcSIE (NRCS-NEDC-000273)
- Introduction to Digital Soil Mapping (NRCS-NEDC-000333)
- NASIS Understanding Soil Interpretations (NRCS-NEDC-000279)
- Remote Sensing for Soil Survey Applications (NRCS-NEDC-000244)
- Science of Interpretations (NRCS-NEDC-000288)
- Soil Correlation (NRCS-NEDC-000036)

## **RECOMMENDED ELECTIVE COURSES**

### *Basic Skills*

- Conquering the Challenges of Public Speaking (AgLearn Web-based learning)
- Managing for Excellence (NRCS-NEDC-000010)

### *Leadership*

- USDA Aspiring Leader Program (AgLearn Self-assigned curriculum)

*Technical Skills*

- Cultural Resources Training Series, Part 1 (NRCS-NEDC-000141)
- Discipline Specific Ecology (Range, Pasture, Forestry – depending upon SSO/MLRA needs)
- Introduction to Water Quality (NRCS-NEDC-000033)
- Hydric Soil for Wetland Delineation (NRCS-NEDC-000022)
- Wetland Identification for Food Security Act purposes – Phase 1: Basic Concepts (NRCS-NEDC-000268)

*Work Life*

- Emotional Intelligence at Work (AgLearn Web-based learning)
- Emotional Intelligence: Building Self-Management Skills (AgLearn Web-based learning)
- Time Management (AgLearn Web-Based books)

## **Advanced/Leadership**

### **CORE COURSES**

- ArcGIS4 Sharing Content on the Web (ESRI Virtual Campus)
- Management of Soil Survey by MLRA (NRCS-NEDC-000248)
- Soil Erosion Course (New Course?)
- Spatial Analysis for Ecological Applications (New Course)

### **RECOMMENDED ELECTIVE COURSES**

*Agency Knowledge*

- Capitol Hill Workshop (NRCS-NEDC-000001)

*Leadership*

- Emotionally Intelligent Leadership (AgLearn Web-based learning)
- Everything You Need to Know About Leadership in 60 Seconds (AgLearn Web-based learning)
- 151 Quick Ideas for Delegating and Decision Making (AgLearn Web-based learning)
- 151 Quick Ideas to Improve Your People Skills (AgLearn Web-based learning)
- USDA Team Leader program (AgLearn Self-assigned curriculum)
- USDA Leadership Essentials Certificate Program (Self-assigned curriculum)

*Technical Skills*

- Cultural Resources Training Series, Modules 7 & 8 (Offered by state)
- NASIS – Designing and Developing Soil Interpretations (NRCS-NEDC-000302)
- Statistics for Soil Survey Part 2 (NRCS-NEDC-000332)

*Worklife*

- Just Listen: Discover the Secret of Getting Through to Absolutely Anyone ((AgLearn Web-based learning)
- 100 ways to Motivate Yourself (AgLearn Web-based learning)