

# Soil Science Division

## Soil Survey Region 5



### Lincoln, Nebraska, Soil Survey Office

## Assessing Wetland Conditions on the Kickapoo Reservation

### Purpose

The National Wetland Condition Assessment (NWCA) is a statistical survey conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to identify the ecological condition of the Nation's wetlands and the stressors most commonly associated with poor conditions. The survey is intended to address some of the gaps in our understanding of wetland health.

By request, scientists from the Lincoln, Nebraska, MLRA Soil Survey Office provided training and field assistance with the soil sampling portion of a NWCA project on the Kickapoo Reservation in northeast Kansas. NRCS Soil Scientists Bruce Evans and Casey Latta worked with Kolt Bevan, the Kickapoo Wetlands Program manager for EPA. They sampled the Muscotah soil in June and the Colo soil in July. Resource Soil Scientists Dave Kohake and Matalyn Stark from the Manhattan, Kansas, Area Office, along with Range Management Specialist Intern Courtney Jackson, participated in sampling the Colo soil. The Lincoln soils staff plans to return to the Kickapoo Reservation to assist with sampling 13 more sites this fall.

### Key Outcomes

The Kansas Kickapoo Tribe, who have immeasurable interest in preserving the quality and quantity of wetlands on their reservation, are receiving valuable training and field assistance from NRCS soil and resource scientists and range management specialists and interns at the local levels of *the Agency that helps people help the land*.



*Bruce Evans (NRCS) and Kolt Bevan (EPA) arrive to sample soils on the Kickapoo Reservation.*



*Kolt Bevan (EPA) and Matalyn Stark, Courtney Jackson, and Dave Kohake (NRCS) sample soils in the shade.*