

Training Curriculum – First Three Years: Resource Soil Scientist 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.

RESOURCE/STATE SOIL SCIENTIST TRACK

Beginner

CORE COURSES

Year 1

- Basic Field Conservation Orientation (Detail in field service center for 2-3 weeks)
- Conservation Planning Part 1 (NRCS-NEDC-000019)
- Conservation Planning Part 2 (NRCS-STATE)
- Conservation Planning Part 3 (NRCS-STATE)
- Fundamentals of Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Provisions Training (OJT)
- Introduction to ArcGIS (ESRI Academy)
- Introduction to the Field Office Technical Guide (NRCS-NEDC-000149)
- NASIS Basic (Guides)

Years 2-3

- Introduction to Digital Remote Sensing (NRCS-NEDC-000028)
- Introduction to Image Interpretation (NRCS-NEDC-000275)
- NASIS – Understanding Soil Interpretations (NRCS-NEDC-000279)
- Soil Health and Sustainability for Field Staff (NRCS-NEDC-000050)
- Soil Technology – Application of Soil Data Viewer and ArcGIS in Technical Soil Services (NRCS-NSSC-000001)
- Technical Soil Services (NRCS-NEDC-000249)
- USDA Cross Training Programs: NRCS Wetland and Highly Erodible Land Compliance (USDA-CTP-NRCS-006)

- Wetland Identification for Food Security Act purposes – Phase 1: Basic Concepts (NRCS-NEDC-000268)
- Wetland Identification for Food Security Act purposes – Phase 2: Applications (NRCS-NEDC-000254)

SELF-STUDY AND ON THE JOB TRAINING (OJT; All recommended to be completed within the first two years of employment with NRCS)

- Technical Soil Services Handbook
- National Soil Survey Handbook
 - Part 600 Introduction
 - Part 601 National Cooperative Soil Survey Organization
 - Part 608.1 Responsibilities and Organization
 - Part 621 Soil Potential Ratings
 - Part 624 Soil Quality
 - Part 655 Technical Soil Services

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVE COURSES

Agency Knowledge

- NRCS Mentor and Protégé Training (NRCS-NEDC-LOCAL-000003)
- Orientation for New Employees (NRCS-NEDC-000013)

Basic Skills

- MS Excel Series (AgLearn Web-based learning)
- Technical Writing in the SPSD (Online)

Technical Skills

- Conservation Planning Bootcamp (NRCS-NEDC-000164)
- Introduction to Digital Soil Mapping (NRCS-NEDC-000333)
- Plant ID (Local and Regional Field Botany Courses)

Work Life

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