

TECHNICAL NOTES

October 01, 2014

MO-1 Technical Note Number 51

Re: NASIS – Populating the Technical Soil Service Table

This technical note provides detailed guidance in:

- a. The definition of a technical soil service.
- b. The definition of the fields in the technical soil service table.
- c. The required fields to populate in the technical soil service table.

Overview of Technical Soil Services

Definition

Any and all activities that assist customers (both internal and external to NRCS) with understanding and properly using soil survey data and information and/or provide users with predictions and interpretations about the behavior of soil(s) mapped or identified under defined situations.

Why Report Technical Soil Services?

1. Federal budgets are tight and will most likely get tighter. This means, that we, the Soil Survey Division, need to get credit for technical soil services (TSS) rendered and we need to sell the TSS work we are doing at the local, state, and national levels
2. All MLRA Soil Survey Offices have 15% of their time allocated for TSS and this time needs to be accounted for. State Conservationists and Area Directors are already asking how state and local soils staff personnel are supporting CTA and Farm Bill programs.
3. Consistent and reliable reporting will allow for more accurate and efficient planning and allocation of staff and dollars.

Who Populates the Technical Soil Services Table?

Any NRCS soil survey staff who provides technical soils assistance to internal and/or external customers. This includes:

1. MLRA Regional Office Staff
2. State Soil Scientists
3. Assistant State Soil Scientists
4. Resource Soil Scientists
5. MLRA Soil Survey Office Staff
6. Ecological Site QA/QC personnel

Technical Soil Service Table

The technical soil service table provides a consistent method for tracking TSS rendered. It is used to report TSS provided to internal and external customers. Examples of technical soil services include:

- Wetland determinations/delineations
- Creating custom soil survey maps
- Providing interim soil survey geodatabases/shapefiles and SSURGO access templates

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- Providing assistance with web soil survey or soil data viewer
- Providing soils consultation on projects
- Assisting with soil judging or land judging competitions
 - Onsite soil or ecological investigations
- Providing assistance to walk-in customers

Below are all the fields in the technical soil service table. **Those highlighted in green must be populated.** Population of all other fields is optional.

| | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Scheduled Start Date | Date the technical soil service is scheduled to begin. |
| 2 | Scheduled Completion Date | Date the technical soil service is scheduled to be completed. |
| 3 | Date Started | Date the technical soil service was initiated. Actual start date. |
| 4 | Date Completed | Date the technical soil service was completed. Actual end date. |
| 5 | Tech Soil Service Type Name | Choose the type of technical soil service from the choice list. "Technical Consultation" is a good choice if the other options are not appropriate. |
| 6 | Hours | Amount of time devoted to the Technical Soil Services activity (in hours, rounded to the nearest 0.1 hours) |
| 7 | Instances | The number of times the corresponding type of technical soil service was provided. Typically will be 1. |
| 8 | Provider | Choose the name of the person who provided the technical soil service. Only NASIS users will be available in this choice list. |
| 9 | Recipient | Choose the type of recipient from the drop-down list. |
| Fields 10, 11, and 13 quantify the TSS provided. You are required to populate at least one them. You can populate more than one if appropriate. | | |
| 10 | Plans Affected | The number of conservation plans affected by the technical soil service provided. Only populate this field if your technical soil service affected at least one conservation plan. |
| 11 | Program Benefited | The USDA or NRCS program that benefited from the technical soil service. Unless your technical soil service benefited a specific program, enter "all programs." Typically will enter "all programs." |
| 12 | Acres Benefited | The number of acres directly benefitted by the technical soil service. |
| 13 | People Served | The number of people served, or directly benefited, by the technical soil service. |
| 14 | Outcome | Choose the outcome from the choice list. |
| 15 | Impact | This is a text entry that allows for description of the impact of the technical soil service. Please be concise. |
| The fields below provide location information for the technical soil service. At this time, it is optional to populate these fields. | | |
| 16 | State Symbol | Enter the state where TSS occurred. If it occurred in multiple states, than create and entry for each state and split hours accordingly. |

| | | |
|----|-----------------|--|
| 17 | State Name | |
| 18 | County Symbol | Optional to enter County where TSS occurred. |
| 19 | County Name | |
| 20 | MLRA Symbol | Optional to enter MLRA where TSS occurred. |
| 21 | MLRA Name | |
| 22 | Std Latitude | Optional to record location of TSS event. COORDIANES MUST BE IN WGS84. |
| 23 | Std Longitude | Optional to record location of TSS event. COORDIANES MUST BE IN WGS84. |
| 24 | Lat. Degrees | DO NOT POPULATE. Only use Std Latitude/Longitude to record the location. |
| 25 | Lat. Minutes | DO NOT POPULATE. Only use Std Latitude/Longitude to record the location. |
| 26 | Lat. Seconds | DO NOT POPULATE. Only use Std Latitude/Longitude to record the location. |
| 27 | Lat. Direction | DO NOT POPULATE. Only use Std Latitude/Longitude to record the location. |
| 28 | Long. Degrees | DO NOT POPULATE. Only use Std Latitude/Longitude to record the location. |
| 29 | Long. Minutes | DO NOT POPULATE. Only use Std Latitude/Longitude to record the location. |
| 30 | Long. Seconds | DO NOT POPULATE. Only use Std Latitude/Longitude to record the location. |
| 31 | Long. Direction | DO NOT POPULATE. Only use Std Latitude/Longitude to record the location. |
| 32 | Datum Name | DO NOT POPULATE. Only use Std Latitude/Longitude to record the location. |
| 33 | UTM Zone | DO NOT POPULATE. Only use Std Latitude/Longitude to record the location. |
| 34 | UTM Northing | DO NOT POPULATE. Only use Std Latitude/Longitude to record the location. |
| 35 | UTM Easting | DO NOT POPULATE. Only use Std Latitude/Longitude to record the location. |

Technical Soil Service Area Overlap Table

This table is used to identify the areas where the technical soil service occurred. Population of this table is not required.

The area information comes from the area table in NASIS. Notice the Area in bold and italics above the four fields. That indicates that the drop-down menus for these four fields come from the area table.

AT A MIMIMUM, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO POPUALTE THE STATE IN WHICH THE TSS OCCURRED.

Area Type NASIS Site Name Auto-populates when an area symbol or area name is chosen.

Area Type Name Auto-populates when an area symbol or area name is chosen. If this table is populated, at a minimum the following four area type names are required.

