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Issue Paper - Fundamental Principles for the NSSCI

National Standard for Soil Classification and Interpretations

Summary

The National Standard for Soil Classification and Interpretations, hereafter known as the NSSCI, is a relational database of estimated and measured soil properties that serve to assist in defining soil series and coordinating soil series concepts. Heretofor, this information has been contained in the OSD, SC, and/or the SIR databases.

The purpose of the NSSCI is basically two-fold, soil correlation/coordination and soil component/pedon naming.

Its primary customers are those soil scientists at the field, state, regional, and national levels involved in progressive soil survey and technical soil services.

The MUIR's soil property ranges and representative values will be validated against the NSSCI's soil property ranges. MUIR RVs will fall within the NSSCI's ranges.

Purpose

The major purpose of the NSSCI is to assist the field soil scientist in properly correlating and correlating soil properties within a soil survey area and between soil survey areas. The NSSCI is intended to assist the state office, national technical center, and national soil survey center soil staffs in facilitating soil correlation and soil survey coordination and quality assurance. The NSSCI is intended to serve as a tool to assist the field soil scientist in verifying the naming of components and pedons.

The NSSCI will assist in, but not be limited to,:

- Quality Control
- Quality Assurance
- Correlation
- Corelation/coordination of Soil Series concepts and primary soil properties
- Coordination of soil interpretations between soil survey areas through the coordination of soil properties and soil interpretation criteria

What the NSSCI is

- A correlation tool to assist the field, state, regional, and national soil scientist involved in progressive soil survey, soil survey updating, and technical soil services
- A replacement for the OSD, SC, and SIR databases
- A tool for testing soil taxonomic changes

What the NSSCI isn't

- A database to generate MUIR and/or SSURGO-MUIR
- A database to generate STATSGO-MUIR
- An electronic Soil Taxonomy system
- A set of policies and procedures to enforce Quality Control and Quality Assurance
- A replacement for common sense and an adequate understanding of soil geomorphic principles and ecosystem-based management concepts
- A soil productivity database
- A source for generation of the National Hydric Soils List
- A source for generation of soil survey manuscript tables

Content (see attached logical data model)

- Estimated and measured soil properties (in relational format)
- Data by horizon, not layers
- Competing and Geographically Associated Soils (in relational format)
- Typical Pedon (in text format)
- Landscape setting and climate information
- Soil Taxonomic classification
- Remarks
- Footnotes
- Links to the SSLRDB, MUIR, PRODUCTIVITY, and PEDON databases