



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Soil  
Conservation  
Service

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Subject: SOI - Operations - Implementation of the  
Recommendations of the Official Series  
Description Database Committee Report

Date: June 25, 1991

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File Code: 430-14-3-5

We recommend follow up on the Official Series Description (OSD)  
Committee report as follows:

Establish a permanent task force to resolve issues that revolve  
around development of the OSD and to act as primary application  
analysts. The development of this database will be a long-term  
effort, probably involving several iterations. There needs to be  
a permanent group of select people who can guide this evolution.  
The issues involved with the development of an automated database  
are complex and require knowledge of the data as well as an  
understanding of the basics of automated systems.

1. a. The first product of this task force would be to  
establish the exact purpose of the database and how it would be  
used operationally. It has been discussed at length in the NASIS  
Core meetings that the OSD would be a standard for defining the  
allowable ranges in properties and discrete property values of a  
series. This will allow component data records and pedon  
descriptions to be electronically compared to the standard. If  
this is the purpose of the database, a decision needs to be made.

2. The second step would be to develop a detailed project plan  
for the development of the first phase of the database. The plan  
should identify the resources needed and the timing of events.  
The execution of the plan would follow.

  
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1991-9

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