



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Soil  
Conservation  
Service

*File National Standard*  
National Soil Survey Center  
Federal Building, Room 152  
100 Centennial Mall North  
Lincoln, NE 68508-3866

Subject: SOI -Operations - NASIS - Soil Business  
Area Analysis Group (SBAAG)

Date: July 28, 1992

To: C. Steven Holzhey, Assistant Director  
Soil Survey Division, NSSC  
SCS, Lincoln, Nebraska

File Code: 430-14

Because Jim Culver was in travel status and the short turn-around time requested, I reviewed the letter to you from Jim Fortner regarding SBAAG. Comments follow:

1. It is proposed that we store map unit component data and generate interps based on land use/land cover. What exactly does this mean? Would woodland be interpreted differently from cropland based on properties of the vegetation community, or is it assumed that the soils will have different properties? Which interps will be affected and in what way? An issue paper or oral presentation is needed outlining this idea/proposal in detail, i.e., giving the underlying rationale and explaining how it will work.

2. Information Specialist Proposal - The intent is unclear. Will an information specialist be used to inform the states of the progress of NASIS development? Is the intent to use an existing staff person or to hire someone and dedicate them to this? Is the intent here to keep the interest in NASIS at a fever pitch? There is a danger here. Usually, when developing new technology, it is better to promise less than you can deliver and, once you have management's support, keep a low profile. Then everyone will be pleasantly surprised. With NASIS, the opposite has been done - it has been hyped quite a bit. The National Leaders might want to discuss the relative merits of continuing the high profile stance, or downplaying things a bit until most of the spade work is done. A marketing plan is fine, once you have something to market.

3. I have no comments concerning the insertions or rewording.

4. National Standard. What is SBAAG's position on including soil interpretations as part of National Standard? We have a strong preference to have a soil interpretation component in our National Standard. The SBAAG seems to avoid this issue.

BERMAN D. HUDSON  
Supervisory Soil Scientist  
Soil Survey Quality  
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cc:

J. R. Culver, National Leader, SSQA Staff, NSSC, SCS, Lincoln, NE



1992-10