

Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants Staff



Soil Management Program FY2011 POW January 2011

Program Administration – A close-out notebook has been put together that includes a list of potential program detailers and contacts in the Regions and R&D, program area briefing papers and guidance for the administration and program continuity of the national soil management program. Other program area notebooks have been developed to provide more detailed information on major soil management program areas.

Terrestrial Ecological Unit Inventory (TEUI) Implementation Plan – A plan has been developed to complete the TEUI on the remaining 60 million acres of NFS lands. The plan includes the maintenance of the National Hierarchy of Ecological Units sections and subsections, the implementation of field work to support the development of ecological site descriptions, and the maintenance of the 133 million acres of TEUI that has been completed on NFS lands.
Status: The draft plan is being reviewed by NRCS and the Region Offices and will be finalized in early FY2011.

NRIS/National Soil Information System (NASIS) Integration - This initiative has been underway since 2003. The effort is to reduce the data redundancy between the Forest Service NRIS and the NRCS NASIS corporate database systems. NASIS will be the primary location of landtype and landtype phase map unit data. The CIOs of FS and the NRCS have resolved firewall issues between NRIS and NASIS. **Status: Plans are underway with NRCS (Dorn Egley) to develop a data migrate template and transfer R-3 TEUI map unit data into NASIS in FY2011.**

Forest Soil Disturbance Monitoring Protocol (GTR WO-82a and WO-82b) – A database is underway to store field data collected. **Status: RMRS – Moscow ID has tested the database and is working with regions to populate the database. NRIS - Martin Ferwerda has been providing assistance with the database structure. Additional database development is needed to refine output products.**

Conservation Education – Working with WFWARP and CE on ideas to further the understanding of soil in ecological processes and watershed function. I have also updated the WFARRP soil webpage to reflect updates in the soil management program.

2010 National Field Soil Scientist - A nomination has been selected and the awardees have been sent to the AD for approval (George Robertson and Steve Stringer, R-3). **Status: Current plans have been developed to formally award the recipients in May 2011 at a “Rise to the future” ceremony.**

Policy Development – Clarify FSM 2522 Watershed Protection and Management with regards to soil productivity enhancement. FSM 2500 is being reviewed with focus on water rights and municipal watersheds, changes to the 2522 would be included as the revision moves forward. **Status: ORMS has obtained the background file from Archives to review the history of this section of the FSM 2500 manual.**

R-3 NRI Data Request – A multi-state data request has been received from R-3 Ecologist (Jack Triepke). I have been working with Miles Hemstrom (PNWRS) and representatives of NRI (Marjorie Harper, 301-504-2331) to refine the data request. **Status: A letter has been drafted and data specifications have been obtained by Hemstrom. NRI is reviewing the information Hemstrom provided to develop a specifications attachment to the formal request letter.**

TEUI Geospatial Toolkit – This computer application has been developed and support by the Remote Sensing Applications Center since 2001 and the IRB since 2004. A recent update of the application (4.1) was certified by NRCS for use with the Soil Survey Toolbox. This version completes the update that began in 2008 and reduces the need for two versions, i.e., one for the USFS and another for the NRCS. **Status: The USFS is still evaluating the 4.1 version for recertification. It is expected to be recertified in early 2011. A user-board has been discussed with NRCS to assist with future development of the toolkit, but they have made no decision to date.**

Soil Public Display – I am working with Office of Communications and NRCS to develop a public display for the soil program.

National Strategic Plan for Soil Management – The current plan was developed in the early 2000’s and signed in 2004. It has become abit dated with the inception of a new FS Strategic Plan and the revision of the FSM 2550. Additionally, the ecological site description (ESD) program has become a focal point for land management agencies and was not an active program when the program strategic plan was conceived. The strategic plan needs to update the inventory, monitoring and research needs sections to better articulate how they will support soil quality in the Agency.

Wildland Forest Soil Carbon Management – A compilation paper has been written that provides an overview of the role forest soils play in mitigating climate change through soil carbon sequestration. 38 papers and associated publications were reviewed to complete this

paper. NFS and R&D staffs collaborated on this effort. **Status: A PowerPoint presentation has been developed to brief USFS leadership and others. The co-author is reviewing the paper and pursuing clearance my R&D for publication. I am in the process of requesting permission from associated authors to use their figures and tables in the paper.**