

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between
THE FOREST SERVICE
And
THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Relative to
The Making of Soil Surveys on
Lands Administered by the
FOREST SERVICE

It is recognized that the Forest Service in discharging its obligations in the management of lands under its jurisdiction, including National Forests, National Grasslands and land utilization projects, has a need for information on the nature and distribution of soils in such Federal lands and their potential suitabilities and limitations for different uses and activities.

The Soil Conservation Service in discharging its obligations is concerned with soil correlation and with obtaining a national inventory of soils. This inventory is being developed by means of a soil survey program carried on in cooperation with other Federal and State agencies.

Considering the broad responsibilities of both agencies it is desirable and mutually beneficial to cooperate and integrate certain of the technical phases of the soil survey work of the Forest Service with the National Cooperative Soil Survey of the Soil Conservation Service. The program of both agencies will derive considerable benefits from such cooperation.

This memorandum will guide the actions of each agency with respect to the operations of standard soil surveys.

In consideration of the above, it is mutually agreed that:

1. Standard soil surveys as used in this memorandum include the determination of important characteristics of soils, the classification of soils into defined and described taxonomic units, the establishment and plotting of the boundaries of these units on maps, the interpretation of the maps, and the publication of the maps and reports.
2. Standard soil surveys on lands administered by the Forest Service, will meet the technical standards of the National Cooperative Soil Survey.
3. A cooperative soil survey work plan will be developed for each area containing lands administered by the Forest Service for which a standard soil survey is to be made. It will set forth the efforts of cooperating agencies for that area with respect to all activities pertaining to the survey and with respect to the limits established by this memorandum. Work plans will be reviewed and signed by the Regional Forester, the State Conservationist, Director of the State Agricultural Experiment Station, the Soil Conservation Service Assistant Administrator for Soil Survey, and other agencies that may be cooperating in a specific area. It is recognized that cooperation is a matter of working together to a common end and is not dependent on or in proportion to the financial contribution of the cooperating agencies.
4. Although the work plans described in point 3 above will define the specific cooperative efforts of each agency, in general, for areas consisting predominantly of land

administered by the Forest Service, the Forest Service will take the leadership in conducting the field surveys, providing a party leader, and such crew members as are available; gathering data needed for soil interpretations for different uses of such Federal lands and making those interpretations for preparations of a report acceptable for publication as a Department Bulletin, in the Department Soil Survey Series. In areas of mixed ownership where lands administered by the Forest Service are of minor occurrence the party leader and most crew members may be from the Soil Conservation Service or from one of the cooperative State Agricultural Experiment Stations. And, in general, the Soil Conservation Service will take the leadership in correlation and naming of soils; laboratory analyses of soils; map preparation; report editing and publication.

5. Initiation of soil surveys on areas composed predominantly of lands administered by the Forest Service will usually be by the Forest Service. In other areas where such Federal lands are limited, initiation may be by the Soil Conservation Service or by some State agency, with the Forest Service as a cooperating member.

6. The agencies, jointly or separately, as set forth in the work plan, will gather and analyze basic data required for soil interpretations. Each agency will be responsible for the interpretive groupings of soils as developed for use in its individual program. Interpretive groupings in the published soil survey reports that apply to all the lands included in a survey will be agreeable to the cooperating agencies. The Forest Service, however, can include such groupings as it determines to be appropriate for the lands under its administration and the Soil Conservation Service can include such groupings as it determines to be appropriate for other lands.

7. Each of the cooperating agencies shall have full opportunity to cooperate in the planning, execution, and publication of the results of all standard surveys conducted as a result of this agreement. It is recognized that the Forest Service will probably make in-Service use of maps and interpretations prior to final report publication; and that such maps may contain delineations of land features other than soils; and further, to facilitate practical use in the hands of land managers, the Forest Service will be free to interpret the maps as to the occurrence of soils and soil properties and make necessary delineations to this end on maps prepared for in-Service use.

8. Parties to this agreement shall be free to use in official correspondence any of the results obtained in the surveys made under this agreement, giving due credit to the other agency. It is understood that the publishing of maps, reports, and data on surveys made by the cooperating agencies will be agreed

upon in individual work plans, but each agency has the right to use or publish interim information as may be required, provided appropriate credit is given to the other agencies involved in making the surveys, and further provided that interpretive groupings for soils on lands administered by the Forest Service are acceptable to the Forest Service.

9. In furtherance of these cooperative efforts the Forest Service will be invited to attend the annual soil survey work planning conferences in each State containing lands administered by the Forest Service, and will participate in development of annual and long-range soil survey plans where such lands are involved.

10. This memorandum of understanding is to define in general terms the basis on which the agencies concerned will cooperate, and is not intended to be sufficiently specific to constitute an obligation for expenditure of funds. Commitments of funds will be covered in specific working agreements entered into as provided under item 3.

11. Either party may terminate this memorandum of understanding by providing 90 days written notice to the other. Unless terminated by written notice, this memorandum will remain in force indefinitely.

2/20/61
Date

/s/D.A. Williams
Administrator, Soil Conservation Service

2/28/61
Date

/s/R.E. McArdle
Chief, Forest Service

AMENDMENT NUMBER 1
to the
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
THE FOREST SERVICE
and
THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Related to
The Making of Soil Surveys on
Lands Administered by the
FOREST SERVICE

The February 28, 1961, Memorandum of Understanding between the Forest Service (FS) and the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) relative to soil surveys is amended as follows:

1. Each SCS State Conservationist and the SCS Director, Caribbean Area, and FS Regional Foresters shall, in each State and in the Caribbean Area:
 - a. Jointly prepare long-range statewide plans and schedules for implementation of soil surveys of the National Forest System and of counties with significant acreages of National Forest System lands. This process shall include joint review of existing uncorrelated inventories and soil resource inventories and a determination as to the need for and type of soil correlation or updating procedures.
 - b. Determine jointly the soil survey area boundaries for those parts of the State which are within the National Forest System.
 - c. Negotiate, if needed, additional agreements and/or arrangements for either agency to prepare and reproduce for its own needs soil surveys and/or interpretive maps and reports for small areas within an established soil survey area (county soil survey or National Forest System soil survey area).
2. The SCS State Conservationists and FS Regional Foresters shall sign the initial work plan or memo of understanding (MOU) for each county or other soil survey area in the State that includes National Forest System lands. This work plan or MOU shall indicate each agency's responsibilities for: provision of personnel, supplies, and funds for the soil survey including provision of imagery (field sheets) and base maps; field reviews and correlations; map and report preparation; and editing and publishing. The work plan shall also indicate which agency will be responsible for providing the party chief. These work plans or MOU's shall be revised as necessary when impacted by significant budget reductions and personnel ceiling adjustments.

The State Conservationists shall arrange for review of a draft of work plans or MOU by the appropriate Director of an SCS Technical Service Center.
3. Both agencies shall continue to support the objective of including all lands of the U.S. in National Cooperative Soil Survey publications, and set a goal of completing the national soil survey "once-over" by the year 2000.

4. The agencies agree to support each other's soil survey programs, including the following understandings:
- a. The FS agrees to provide and report to SCS National Forest System soil survey acreage accomplishment by counties within National Forests.
 - b. The FS agrees to provide to SCS descriptions of physical and chemical properties of soils in National Forest soil survey areas appropriate to the level of taxa of Soil Taxonomy used in the survey and to supply other data as may be needed for forest management. For surveys using soil series, descriptions shall be provided to the extent needed to complete the "estimated properties" section of Form SCS-SOILS-5.
 - c. The FS may produce supplements to the NCSS soil survey report for agency and cooperator use as needed, consistent with the published survey.
 - d. The SCS agrees to distribute as soon as possible revisions and modifications of these portions of the National Soils Handbook dealing with soil surveys of public lands.
 - e. The SCS agrees to furnish an adequate number of review copies of drafts of National Soils Handbook revisions and additions to the FS lead soil scientist in Watershed and Air Management for comment. SCS also agrees to supply the FS lead soil scientist sufficient final printed copies of the National Soils Handbook and the Soil Survey Manual for distribution to FS soil scientists. This arrangement shall also include additions and replacement revisions of these publications.
 - f. The SCS, in consultation with its cooperators, shall establish correlation, interpretation, and reporting procedures for order 3, 4, and 5 soil surveys, including consideration of procedures for correlation of phases of soil families and higher categorical levels of Soil Taxonomy.
 - g. The SCS agrees to take early additional steps to separate the internal SCA policy portions from the technical procedures portions of the National Soils Handbook, thereby making it easier for the FS and other agencies to use the technical portions. From these initial steps, SCS shall move to preparation of a handbook or manual on soil survey operational procedures.
 - h. The FS and SCS jointly agree to take steps for expediting the resolution of technical and administrative differences between the personnel of the two agencies in matters pertaining to soil survey, and to establish provision for resolution of such differences at the national level, if necessary.
 - i. SCS agrees to provide for involvement of the appropriate SCS Assistant Chief(s) in improving cooperation and communication between State Conservationists and Regional Foresters, and in resolution of interagency differences at the multistate and subregional level.
 - j. The SCS and FS jointly agree to arrange for additional technical and/or administrative meetings between the annual State and biennial regional soil survey work planning conferences, if needed.

Except as otherwise stated, all other provisions of the agreement dated February 28, 1961, between the parties shall remain in full force and effect.

/s/

R. MAX PETERSON
Chief, Forest Service

Date

/s/

NORMAN A. BERG
Chief, Soil Conservation Service

Date