

**FY2009 Soil Quality Management  
Program of Work  
12/12/2008**

**\*Inventory**

**Federal Lands Advisory Group (FLAG)** – This effort began in 2005 as a working group sponsored by the National Cooperative Soil Survey and is intended to develop an interagency strategy to complete the soil resource/terrestrial ecological unit inventory of all lands of the United States. FLAG is composed of representatives from the NRCS, BLM, NPS, DOD, Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service. Currently each agency has completed its individual program of work. The Forest Service has completed the review of the NRCS survey database information and established regional priorities of the work to be done. Each agency has prepared a plan to complete the inventory and database population effort by the 2025. FY2009 I will focus on interagency supplemental funding to submit into the FY2010 budget process.

**Status: Departmental leadership has been briefed by the Chief of NRCS and the Director of Soil Survey concerning funding proposal alternatives. A briefing paper is being finalized to brief the FS Chief concerning funding and logistic alternatives of the accelerated SRI/TEUI on National Forest System lands.**

**Interagency Ecological Site Description Manual** – The interagency writing team, comprised of members from NRCS, FS, and BLM, has been in consultation with their related agencies since early 2006. The Rangeland Management staff has represented the FS on the interagency core team. The policy portion of the manual has been finalized and is being reviewed for signature in FY2008. Wayne Padgett, range ecologist, is the Agency representative on the interagency core team.

**Status: The Rangeland Management staff has drafted the FSH 2209.14 Inventory, Monitoring, and Assessment Handbook has been updated to include interagency guidance for the development of ecological site descriptions. The draft Interagency Ecological Site Description Handbook is being developed and the initial draft is due in early FY2009.**

**LIDAR Pilot Project on the White Mountain NF** - In collaboration with the White Mountain NF, I am co-authoring a paper on using LIDAR to conduct soil and ecological resource inventory.

**Status: Co-authored a PowerPoint presentation that was delivered to the 2008 Remote Sensing Steering Committee fall meeting.**

**\*Monitoring**

**National Forest Soil Disturbance Monitoring Protocol** – Work is underway to organize the project being led by a collaboration of the Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) and the Southern Research Station research soil scientists and foresters. The two field seasons have been completed and the results are being evaluated to fine-tune the upcoming field season. A workshop to formulate the publication was held in April 2008 to provide up-to-date scientific basis for soil conservation practices on National Forest System lands.

**Status: A GTR publication is being prepared by the RMRS and is nearing completion. Additional training sessions have been conducted in Regions 3, 9 and 10. The Protocol is scheduled to be released in early FY 2009.**

**National Soil Monitoring Database** – Work continues on a national database to store soil monitoring data. R-1's SoLo and R-8's ONSITE are being combined into a national database.

**Status: RMRS and Region 8 are collaborating on merging the two database structures into one. Funding is being requested to complete the process.**

### **\*Research**

**Role of Glomalin in Forest and Grassland Soil Quality Assessments** - Working with the Southern Research Station on investigating the role of glomalin (an organic protein) in assisting in soil quality determinations.

**Status: A literature search has been conducted and interested universities have been contacted to formulate a research proposal.**

**SOILNET** – Preparing a request for proposals for soil science research proposals to evaluate and recommend to WFWARP and R&D directors.

**Status: A request for proposals is being developed and should be out in early FY2009.**

### **\*Program Administration**

#### **Data Stewardship:**

**NRIS Terra/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 Terra and the NRCS NASIS corporate database systems.

Representatives from the CIO, NRIS Terra and NASIS are working with associated database developers to resolve some of the technical challenges of linking the two systems. NASIS will be the primary location of landtype and landtype phase map unit data. Additional classifications are being investigated for inclusion in the FY2008 release of NASIS including the Forest Service geomorphology classification. I am working with the CIO to resolve firewall issues between NRIS and NASIS.

**Status: CIO has developed a Project Charter with NRCS has been drafted to address USDA fire-wall issues and the NRIS staff is providing assistance in answering RRICs concerns about the implementation of the NRIS-NASIS integration.**

**Revision of FSM 2550** - The scheduled release of the revised directive is planned for early FY2009.

**Status: The completed revised FSM 2550 is being reviewed by the Regional Foresters. The revised FSM 2550 is scheduled to be officially released in January, 2009.**

**Revision of FSH 2509** – Develop a working draft to revise the Soil Management Handbook.

**Status: An initial draft is being prepared for the Regional Soil Management Program Leaders.**

### **\*Subject Matter Expertise**

**Updating the FS WFWARP Soil Program Website** – Improve the WFWARP soil program subject area to better convey the FS soil management program and references.

**Status: Work began in FY2008 to strengthen the soil program’s website. FY2009 will include adding a progress map of SRI/TEUI, improve its organization and add additional reference sites.**

**Continue to coordinate NRCS training opportunities and other training opportunities as they arise.**

### **\*Other Efforts**

**Woody Biomass Utilization Team** – I currently assist the WFW Director on this national team. I continue to assist both teams with the development of program strategies and implementation guidance.

**Status: Strategy has been finalized and published. Work continues to coordinate annual and out year program of work.**

### **Climate Change:**

**Soil Carbon Sequestration** - I am pulling together a white paper that will provide an overview of the role of forest, range and wetland ecosystem soils in mitigating climate change through carbon sequestration. I am working with Forest Service researches and other USDA researchers in this effort.

**Status: The initial draft of the discussion paper will be available early FY2009.**