

### Subpart A—General

#### § 611.1 Purpose and scope.

(a) This part sets forth policy on soil survey operations of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

(b) NRCS is responsible for soil survey activities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). A soil survey provides (1) an orderly, on-the-ground, scientific inventory of soil resources according to their potentialities and problems of use, and (2) information about each kind of soil in sufficient detail to meet all reasonable needs of farmers, agricultural technicians, community planners, engineers, and scientists in planning and transferring the findings of research and experience to specific land areas.

#### § 611.2 Cooperative relationships.

(a) Soil surveys on nonfederal lands are carried out cooperatively with state agricultural experiment stations and other state agencies. The cooperative effort is evidenced in a memorandum of understanding setting forth guidelines for actions to be taken by each cooperating party in the performance of soil surveys. Similar cooperative arrangements exist between NRCS and other federal agencies for soil surveys on federal lands.

(b) Arrangements for nonfederal financial participation in the cost of soil surveys may be made with states, counties, soil conservation districts, planning agencies, and other local groups.

### Subpart B—Soil Survey Operations

#### § 611.10 Standards, guidelines, and plans.

(a) NRCS conducts soil surveys under national standards and guidelines for naming, classifying, and interpreting soils and for publishing soil surveys in the USDA series.

(b) A soil survey work plan of a county or area of similar size that is to be completed for publication is prepared prior to the start of each soil survey. The work plan provides information relevant to the conduct and publication of the soil survey. The plan is signed by representatives of NRCS, land grant universities, and in some

states representatives of other state agencies. Federal land administering agencies also sign the work plan if federal lands are included in the survey.

#### § 611.11 Reproduction and distribution of soil survey information.

(a) *Published soil surveys.* (1) When soil survey field work is completed on a designated area, NRCS publishes the soil survey as soon as possible so that the information will be available to the public. The published soil survey includes soil maps, soil descriptions, and soil interpretations for appropriate uses such as farming, engineering, range, woodland, recreation, and wildlife.

(2) Each party cooperating with NRCS in a soil survey will receive without cost 50 copies of the published soil survey. Prior to publication each may order additional copies at printing cost by preparing a special amendment to the soil survey work plan.

(3) The number of copies to be published and the distribution of a published soil survey are coordinated by NRCS with those cooperating in the survey and with the U.S. Senators from the state and the U.S. Representative from the congressional district in which the survey was made.

(4) Copies of published soil surveys are sent by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, to depository libraries that have requested them. Copies also are sent to interested agencies that have requested them.

(5) Published soil surveys may be obtained without charge if available, from NRCS field and state offices, and from respective members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives. Land grant universities also may have copies. When the supply is exhausted, reference copies generally are available from libraries or on inter-library loan.

(b) *Interim soil reports.* (1) State and local units of government and others may need soil survey information for subdivision, town, or county planning, tax assessment, and other uses prior to the time a soil survey is published. NRCS may prepare interim reports to provide soil survey information to meet these needs.