

Exhibit A

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013

SUBJECT: SOI – National Coordinated Common Resource Area Map August 13, 2003

TO: Regional Conservationists File Code: 430
State Conservationists
Directors of Pacific Basin and Caribbean Areas
Center and Institute Directors
NHQ Division Directors and Above

ACTION REQUIRED BY: SEPTEMBER 12 AND OCTOBER 12, 2003

The National Soil Survey Center (NSSC) is coordinating the development of a digital Common Resource Area (CRA) map for the Nation. This national map is an important component of a new initiative to develop guidance documents for Section III of the electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG). The digital CRA map will provide map-based Web access to the eFOTG and CRA specific guidance documents, conservation plans and resource management systems, making this valuable information easily accessible to NRCS clients, partners, and technical service providers ([GM 450 C 401](#)).

States are requested to provide the information detailed in the attached timeline for the development of the digital Common Resource Area map of the Nation.

A CRA is a geographical area where resource concerns, problems, or treatment needs are similar. It is considered a subdivision of an existing MLRA map delineation or polygon. Landscape conditions, soil, climate, human considerations, and other natural resource information are used to determine the geographical boundaries of the common resource area ([GM 450 C 401.21](#)). The CRA naming convention is the MLRA symbol followed by a dot and a numeric code (for example 102C.3 or 72.6). The National CRA Map will be developed at a 1:250,000 scale.

NSSC will provide the states with MLRA map coverage and the State Soil Geographic Database (STATSGO) at 1:250,000 scale as map base materials. The STATSGO is considered useful in the MLRA subdivision process.

If you have any questions, please contact Robert J. Ahrens, Director of the National Soil Survey Center (402) 437-5389; bob.ahrens@nssc.nrcs.usda.gov or Sharon Waltman (402) 437-4007; sharon.waltman@nssc.nrcs.usda.gov.

/s/ Thomas A. Weber
 for
 BRUCE I. KNIGHT
 Chief

Attachment

cc:

- P. Dwight Holman, Deputy Chief for Management, NRCS, Washington, DC
- Jose Acevedo, Deputy Chief for Programs, NRCS, Washington, DC
- Lawrence E. Clark, Deputy Chief for Science and Technology, NRCS, Washington, DC
- Maurice J. Mausbach, Deputy Chief for Soil Survey and Resource Assessment, NRCS, Washington, DC
- Katherine C. Gugulis, Deputy Chief for Strategic Planning and Accountability, NRCS, Washington, DC
- Wayne M. Maresch, Director, Soil Survey Division, NRCS, Lincoln, NE
- Robert J. Ahrens, Director, National Soil Survey Center, MS 32, NRCS, Lincoln, NE
- National Leaders, National Soil Survey Center, NRCS, Lincoln, NE
- Sharon W. Waltman, Soil Scientist, NSSC, MS 35, NRCS, Lincoln, NE

Task	Start date	End date	Who	Where
1. NSSC sends states CRA map base information (MLRA and STATSGO maps @ 1:250,000)	8/05/2003	9/12/2003	NSSC	States
2. States having current CRA maps provide them to NSSC, and tell NSSC if they plan to use those as they are or if they plan modifications	8/12/2003	9/12/2003	State Conservationist	NSSC
3. States having current CRA maps provide modifications, others provide new CRA maps to NSSC. All CRA maps must be matched to surrounding states.	9/12/2003	10/12/2003	State Conservationist	NSSC
4. NSSC drafts National CRA Map and sends to states for review	10/12/2003	11/12/2003	NSSC	States
5. Final National CRA map is prepared	11/12/2003	1/1/2004	NSSC	States