OJT Training Module Cover Sheet

Title: 001 Understand the MLRA concept for doing soil survey.

Type: □ Skill **X** Knowledge

Performance Objective: Trainee will be able to…

- Understand the MLRA concept for doing soil survey.

Target Proficiency:
□ Awareness **X** Understanding □ Perform w/ Supervision
□ Apply Independently □ Proficiency, can teach others

Trainer Preparation:
None

Special Requirements:
Initiate an external learning request with a SF-182 in Aglearn for this activity. Instructions and a template are located on the training webpages for OJT modules.

Prerequisite Modules:
None

Notes:
None

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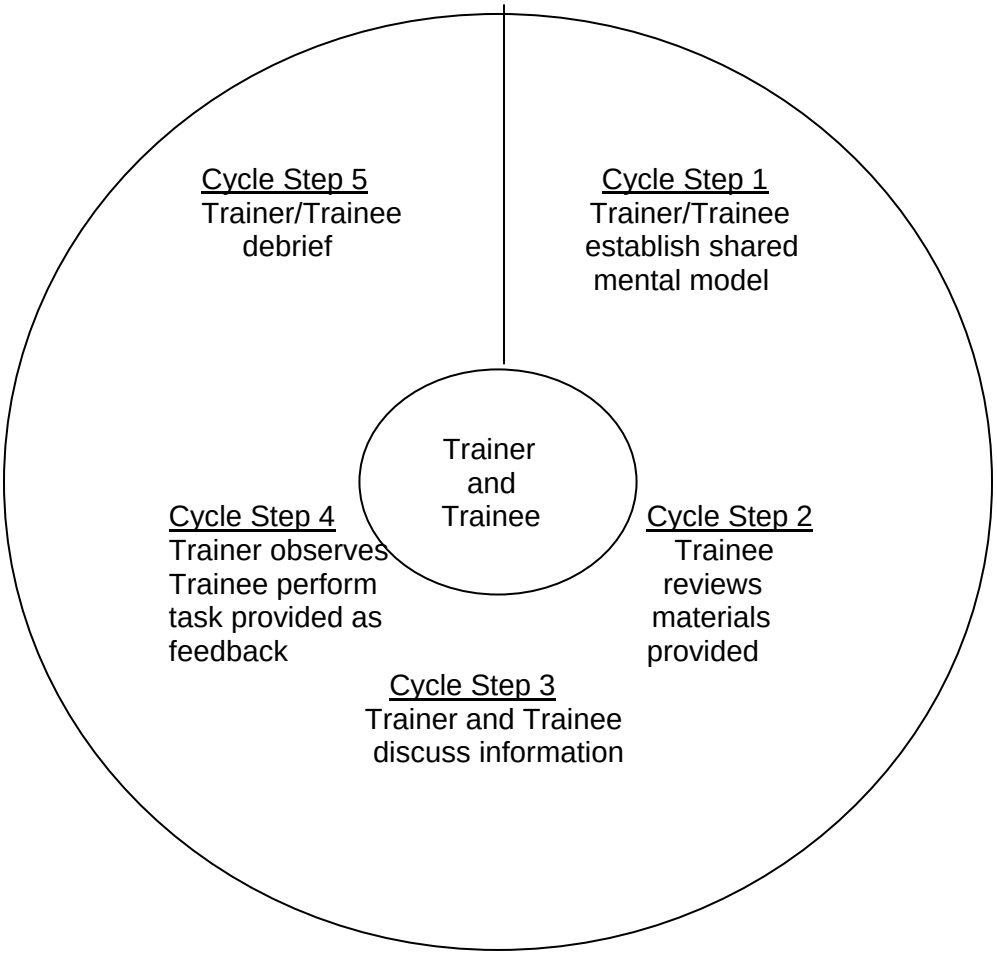
The Five-Step OJT Cycle for Declarative Training (Knowledge)



OJT Module Lesson

Title: **001 Understand the MLRA concept for doing soil survey.**	
WHAT	**WHY, WHEN, WHERE, HOW, SAFETY, QUALITY**
Cycle step 1	Trainer and trainee review objective and agree that this is an overview of the concept and how it relates to the work done in the National Cooperative Soil Survey.
Cycle step 2	Have trainee access ecopy or hardcopy and read the Preface and Introduction (pages 1-3) of USDA Handbook 296 – Land Resource Regions and Major Land Resource Areas of the United States, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Basin and the description(s) of the MLRA(s) of your survey area.
Cycle step 3	Trainer leads the following discussions:
1. The political (county) based soil survey of the initial soil survey era.	Trainer include the following in your discussion with the trainee: • Reasons for the county soil survey o Primary customer was the SWCD and our service centers based on county lines. o Funding and agreements in the form of dollars and/or in-kind services often came from county governments o Others that you know of in your survey area • Reasons that surveys in adjoining counties often did not join data across boundaries. o Changes occurred over time in: ▪ Needs of the customer ▪ Our classification system • Changes in series control section Changes in Soil Taxonomy • Other ▪ Directives from National or State offices ▪ Personnel (some people just have different colored glasses) ▪ Correlation and quality-control or quality-assurance procedures and the personnel responsible for these • They often had different colored glasses in use at the time. • Minimum acreage requirements for correlation • Other ▪ Other reasons that you know of in your survey area
2. What are LRRs, MLRAs, and CRAs in general?	Trainer could reference the assigned reading in AH 296 to accomplish this step. Discuss how NRCS may be using CRAs (Common Resource Areas) in your MLRA(s).

3. What are the MLRAs of your survey area and where are the boundaries?	Trainer could reference the assigned reading in AH 296 to accomplish this step.
4. What are advantages of soil survey by MLRA?	**Trainer should use the following to lead this discussion and elaborate as needed for local point of view:** **TECHNICAL ADVANTAGES TO SOIL SURVEY BY MLRA [quoted here from MLRA Soil Survey Restructuring Plan, October 2006]** NRCS Soil Survey Division has led the development of MLRA's. MLRA's have soil type as a fundamental, and some would say the underlying framework. The 1995 Soil Survey reorganization chose to use MLRA boundaries as the spatial framework because they are, in as much as possible, areas of like kinds of soils, geology, ground water, temperature, precipitation, vegetation, wildlife, and land use. As such, they are the best spatial framework for conducting inventories such as the Soil Survey. Mapping concepts must change somewhere and MLRA's provide a better break point than artificial state, county or watershed boundaries. MLRA soil survey areas increase productivity because soil scientists will map similar catenas of soils and become expert in those soils' mapping and interpretation. Provide brief summary of how your office is currently addressing soil survey by MLRA.
Cycle step 4	Have trainee complete the quiz provided.
Cycle step 5	Review quiz and answer any remaining questions.

OJT Module Lesson Measurement of Learning

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WHAT	**WHY, WHEN, WHERE, HOW, SAFETY, QUALITY**
Quiz	Complete quiz found below. See answer sheet attached.

SF-182

Trainee and/or supervisor access Aglearn to verify completion of the module via its SF-182.

Quiz

1. Common Resource Areas are subdivisions of MLRAs based on common topography, landscape features, hydrologic units, resource concerns, resource uses, and human considerations affecting use and soil and water conservation treatment needs.
    a. True
    b. False

2. Natural vegetation and the crops that our farmers grow are related to geography, soils, and climate.
    a. True
    b. False

3. Land Resource Regions (LRRs) are groupings of MLRAs.
    a. True
    b. False

4. Which one or more of the following are characteristics included in descriptions of the MLRAs in USDA Handbook 296?
    a. Physiography
    b. Geology
    c. Climate
    d. Water
    e. Soils
    f. Biological resources
    g. Land use

5. Soil survey by MLRA equates doing soil survey work across natural landscape and landform bodies regardless of how civil boundaries occur.
    a. True
    b. False