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Quiz

1) Sampling transects should be?

- a) Used when conducting a routine level 1 delineation
- b) Representative of wetland-upland transition areas
- c) Located systematically using an established grid
- d) Randomly located throughout the evaluation area

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2) What is the maximum average water depth for a special aquatic site to be classified as a wetland?

- 1 foot below the surface
- 8.2 feet below the surface
- 1 foot above the surface
- 3 feet above the surface

3) Wetland boundaries must be delineated using:

- Only the US Army Corps of Engineers 1987 manual for identifying and delineating jurisdictional wetlands
- The hydrogeomorphic method
- The WCA Rulebook
- US Army Corps of Engineers 1987 manual & Regional Supplements



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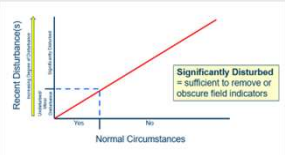
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4) A seasonally flooded wetland on agricultural land is normally plowed and planted in most years. For delineation purposes, which of the following conclusions is most likely true?

- This is not a jurisdictional wetland
- Normal circumstances are not present
- Normal circumstances exist
- A level 2 delineation is required



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5) Explain the concept of a Problem area

- Indicators absent to seasonal, or annual variability; or permanent due to the nature of the soils or species
- Including seasonal wetlands, prairie soils, red parent material etc.

6) Explain the concept of an Atypical Situation

- One or more Indicators absent due to human activity or natural events (beavers, fire, river changing course)



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7) Which of the following can be used for determining the start of the growing season?

- a) Soil temperature at 41 inches below the surface
- b) Soil temperature at the soil surface
- c) Soil temperature at 18 inches below the surface
- d) Soil temperature at 12 inches below the surface

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8) What classification system uses Systems, Sub-systems and Classes?

- a) HGM
- b) Eggers and Reed
- c) Cowardin
- d) Circular 39

9) Which of the following plant communities would be characteristic of a Circular 39 type 6 wetland?

- a) Sedge meadow
- b) Bog
- c) Alder thicket
- d) Shallow marsh



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10) Which of the follow is not a parameter of the Hydrogeomorphic Method classification system?:

- a) geomorphology
- b) plant community
- c) hydrology
- d) hydraulics

11) A natural process in a wetland that can be scientifically assessed can also be described as a:

- a) wetland value
- b) routine assessment method
- c) exemption
- d) wetland function



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### Offsite Resources for TEP members

- Offsite Resources



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### Important Resources for TEP members

- [National Wetland Inventory](#)
- [Web Soil Survey](#)
- County GIS/Land Explorer
- [Enviro Atlas](#)
- [MN Conservation Explorer](#)



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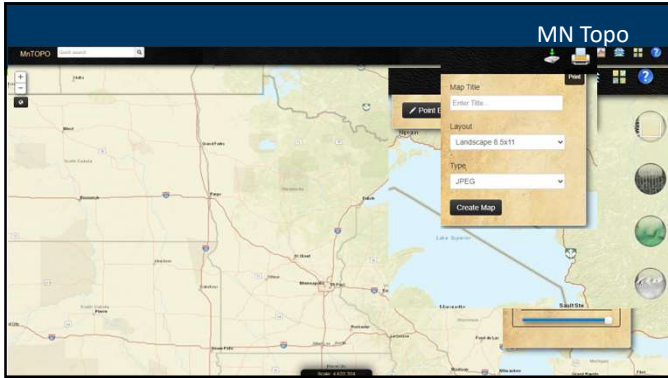
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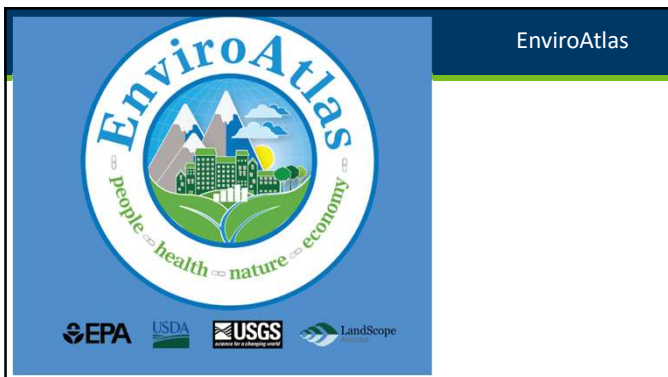
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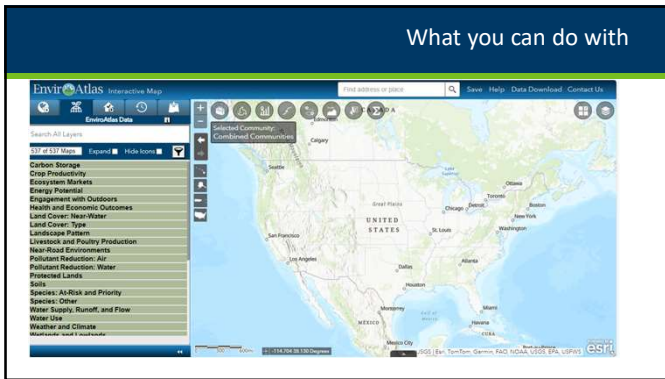
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## What you can do with



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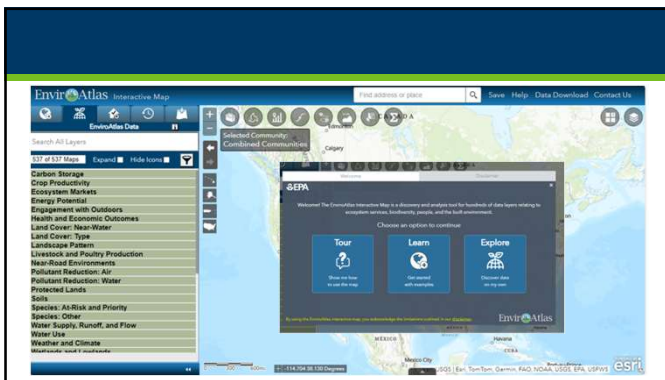
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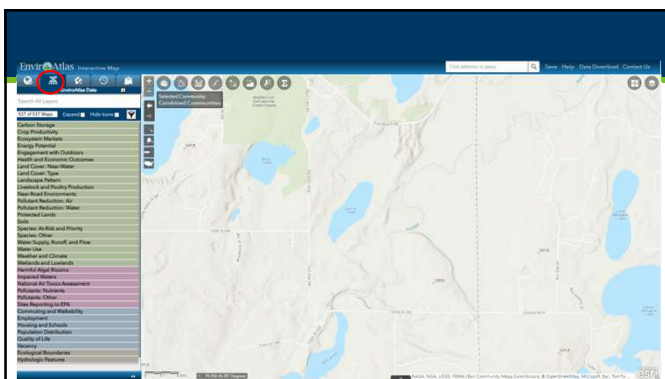
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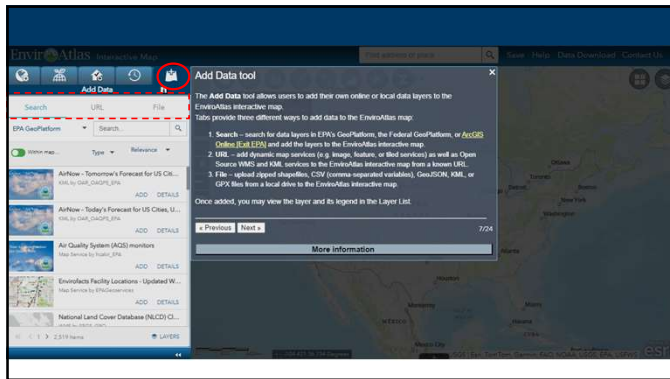
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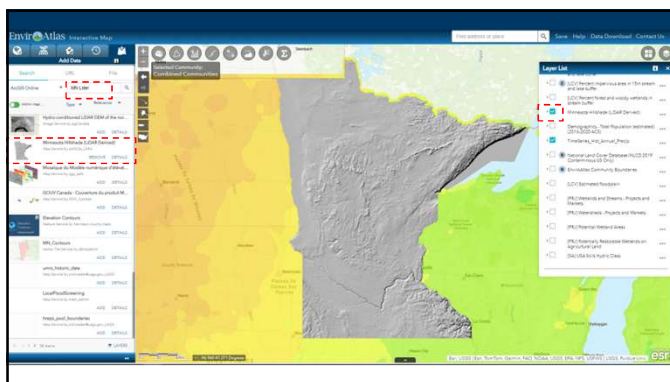
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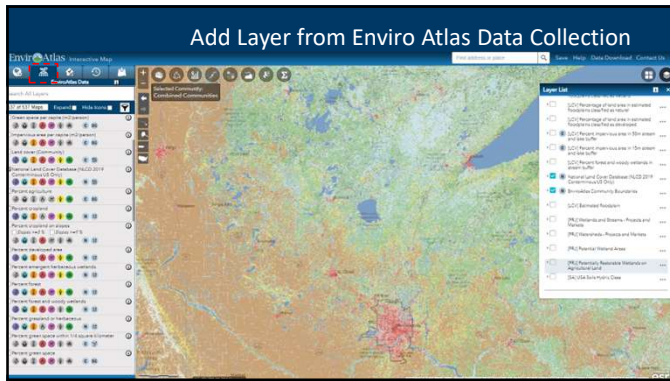
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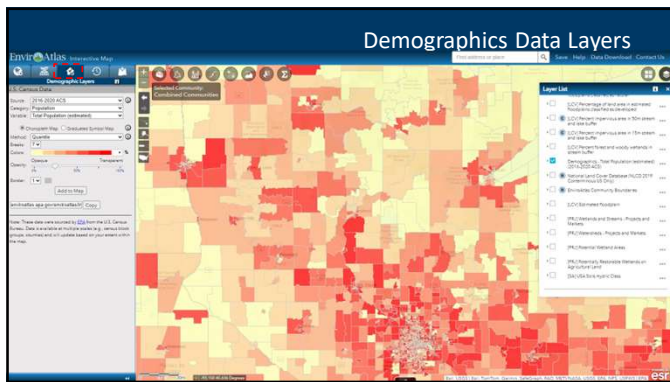
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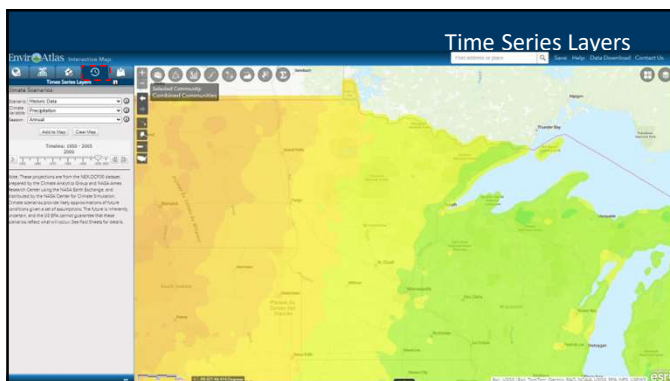
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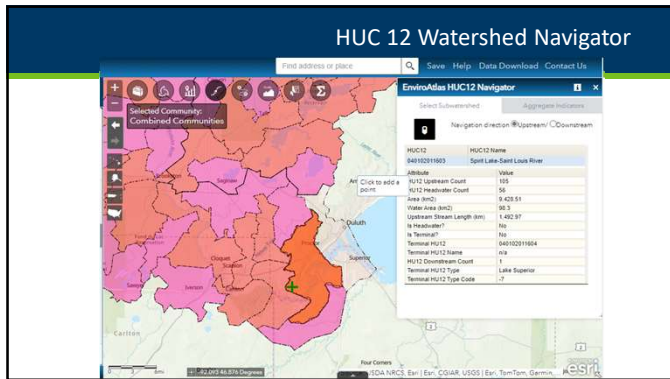
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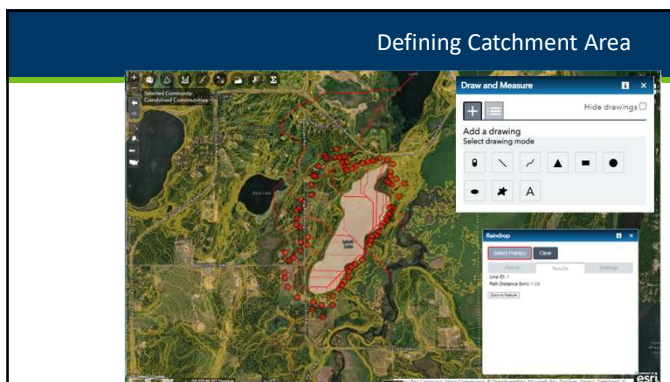
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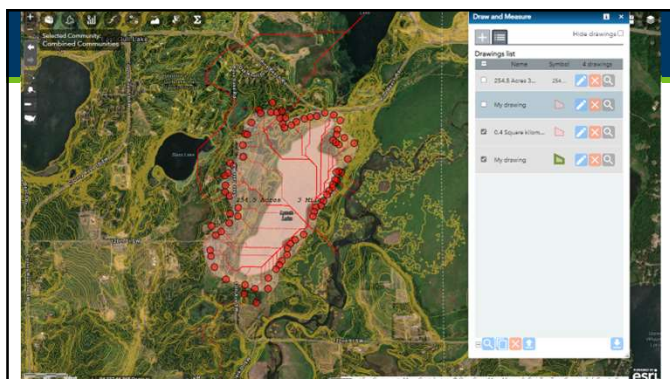
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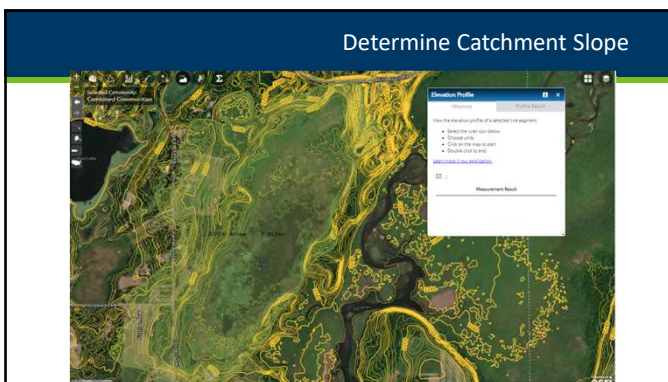
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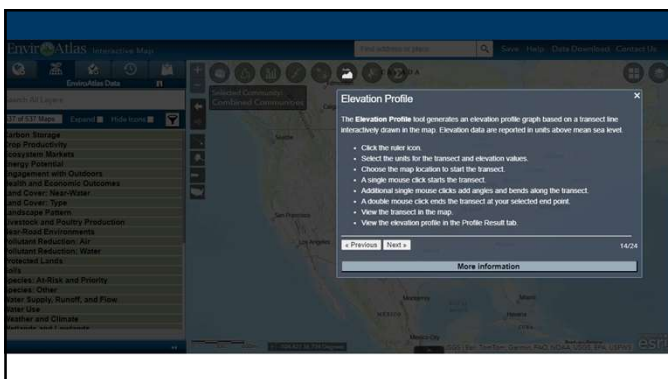
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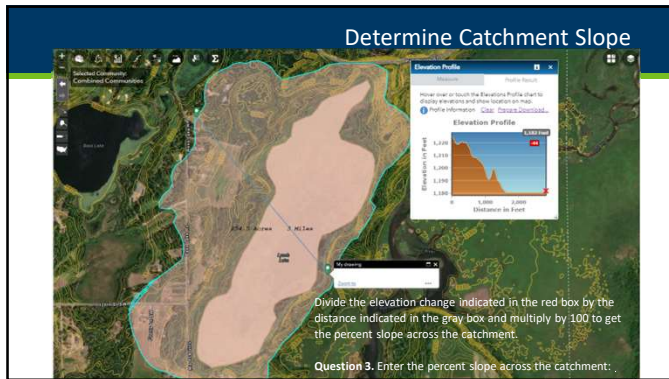
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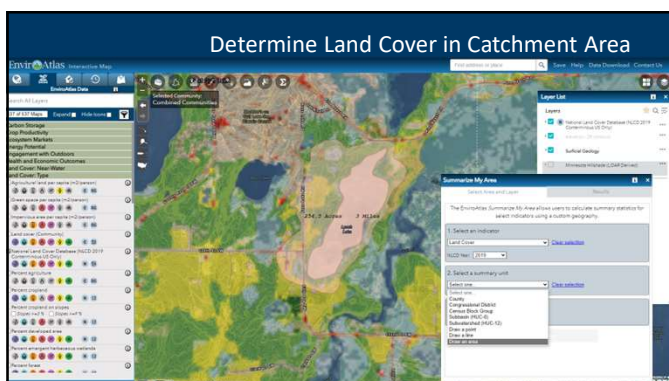
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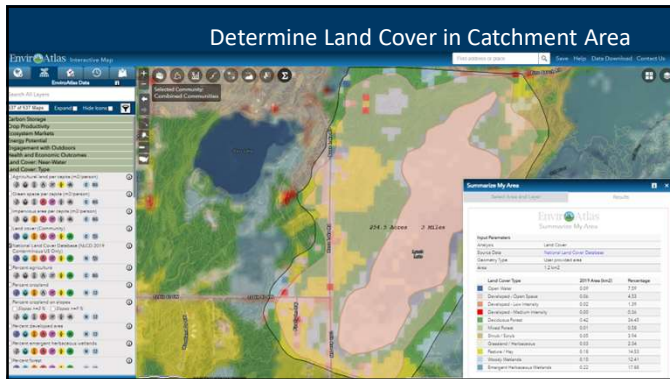
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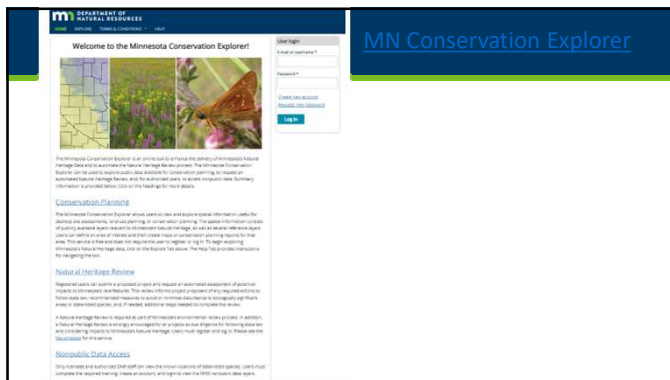
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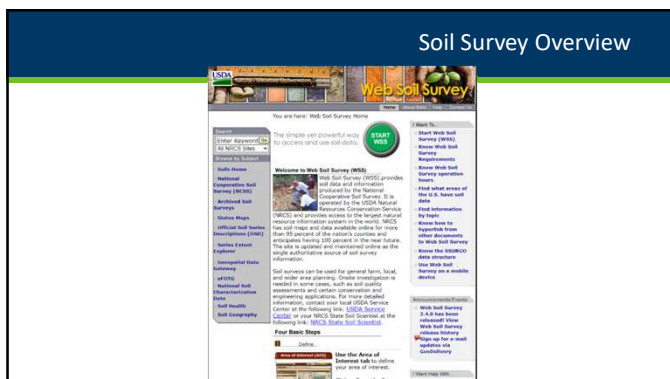
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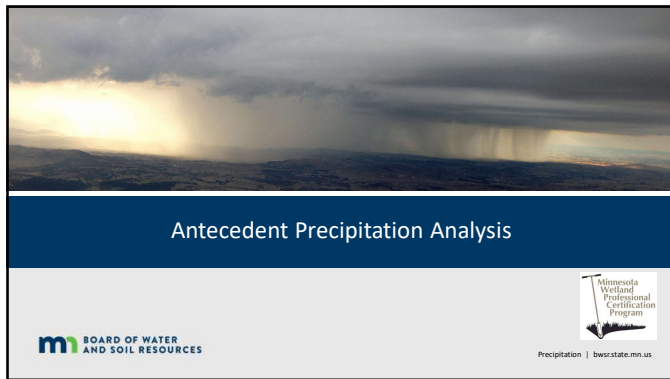
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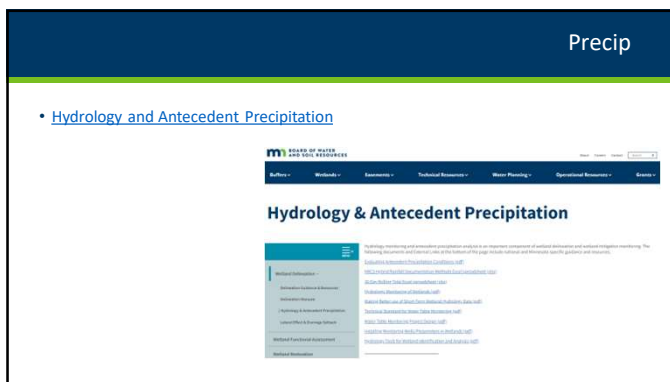
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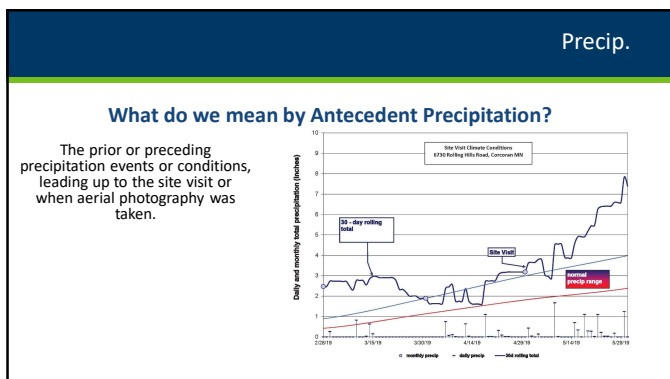
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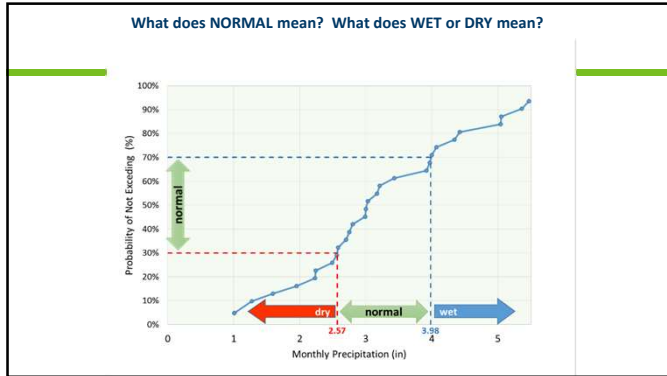
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When in the process is it needed?

Off-site/Level 1 wetland delineation

On-site/Level 2

- Recommend this be done prior to site visit if possible
- Puts better perspective on site data collection

Other Observations Types

- For interpreting Well or Stage Gauge Data
- Establish baseline conditions for a potential wetland bank/monitoring post construction
- Further defining a wetland boundary/questionable wetland area in difficult/are cases
- May not be needed in advance but will be when interpreting data set.

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How to do it...

- **Three-Prior Month Method**
  - Using State Climatology Tool
  - Manual Completion
- **Thirty Day Rolling Total**
  - Summing the prior 30-day precipitation totals for each day and plotting this "rolling total" on a daily basis
- **Hybrid Method**
  - Essentially combines above methods

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# With the State Climatology Tool

## Minnesota State Climatology Office

State Climatology Office - DNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources University of Minnesota

**Quick Links**

- Twin Cities Climate Data
- Mark Seeley's WeatherTalk
- Climate Journal
- MNpage (report data)
- CoCoRaHS
- NWS Data Retrieval
- Data Summary Tables
- NWS Text Products

**Other Topics**

- Kuehnast Lecture Series
- Climate Change
- Heat Island Study

**Present Climate Conditions**

**Retrieve Past Climate Data**

**Summaries & Publications**

**Agricultural Climate Data**

**Related Web Sites**

**Latest Developments**

- June Hydroclim
- Warm Drought Ends
- May 17 Tornadoes
- May 16 Wisconsin Tornado
- Lake Ice Out
- Spring Phenology
- March 6 Tornadoes

**Precipitation Worksheet Using Gridded Database**

Precipitation data for target wetland location:  
county: Aitkin township number: 40N range number: 20E nearest community: Moleen section number: 6

Aerial photograph or site visit date:  
Wednesday, June 16, 2015

Score using 1981-2010 normal period:

value are in inches	1st prior month	second prior month	Third prior month
	May 2015	April 2015	March 2015
estimated precipitation rate for this location	1.87	2.76	2.88
How is 20% chance this location will have less than:	2.14	3.03	3.16
How is a 50% chance this location will have more than:	2.00	2.97	3.00
How is 80% chance this location will have more than:	2.26	3.23	3.34
monthly score	3.71 x 3	2.72 x 4	1.73 x 3
multi-month score	10 (Normal)		

100% (Dry) 70% to 100% (Wet)

<http://climate.umn.edu/>

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# Hybrid Method

## 30-day rolling total

with

## 3-prior-month method

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# Precip.

"Hybrid" method - ERDC/EL TR - WRAP 00 - 01

Date: 15-Jun-2014

Location: Farmington, MN

County: Dakota

Soil Name:

Photo/obs date: 15-Jun-2015

Project: WDCP

State: MN

Growing Season:

Prior Period	Condition	Dry, Wet, Normal	Condition Value	Period Weight Value	Product of Previous 2 Columns
1st prior 30 days	W		3	3	9
2nd prior 30 days	N		2	2	4
3rd prior 30 days	N		2	1	2
Sum					15

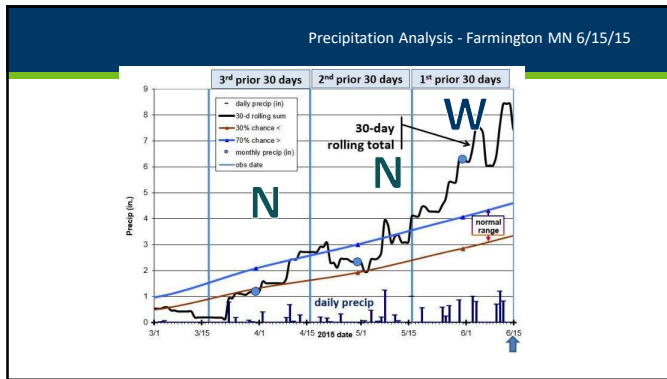
Note: If sum is:

- 6 - 9 prior period has been drier than normal
- 10 - 14 prior period has been normal
- 15 - 18 prior period has been wetter than normal

Condition value:

- Dry -1
- Normal -2
- Wet -3

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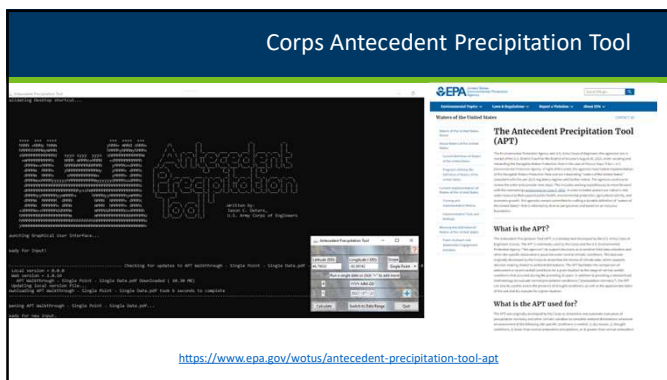
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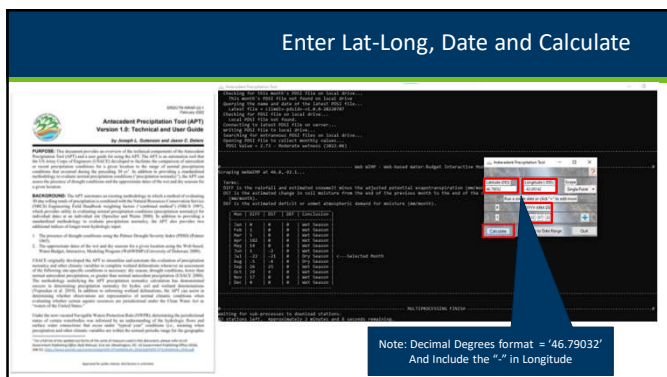
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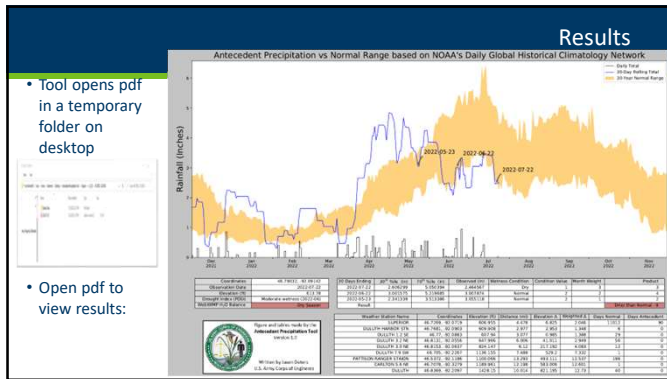
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### Antecedent Precipitation Evaluation Review

- Important for accurate interpretations/observations
- Done by the delineator
- Included in the report
- Should support your conclusion.
- Not always clear...Best Professional Judgement needed.
- Several methods available, each with certain strengths/weaknesses...
- Discussed in detail via BWSR and other Guidance Documents.

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**87 Manual Definitions:**

- Normal Circumstances
- Atypical area
- Problem area

Midwest and NC/NE require aerial review per Chapter 5:

- "Agricultural lands"
- "Wetlands that periodically lack indicators of wetland hydrology"

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**Guidance**

March 4, 2015

Guidance for Submittal of Delineation Reports to the St. Paul District Army Corps of Engineers and Wetland Conservation Act Local Governmental Units in Minnesota, Version 2.0

3.7.6 Using Aerial Imagery to Assess Wetland Hydrology

Procedures have been updated and improved for the assessment of wetland hydrology based on aerial imagery. The interagency approach to off-site wetland determinations on agricultural lands (also referred to as the state "Mapping Conventions") is required for CWA and WCA purposes. Refer to the guidance

Guidance for Offsite Hydrology

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**Guidance**

July 1, 2016

**Guidance for Offsite Hydrology/Wetland Determinations**

This document replaces all previous Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and St Paul District Corps of Engineers (District) issued versions of guidance concerning wetland mapping conventions.

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Guidance

- Always use all\* imagery in putting the pieces together, and place greatest reliance on more recent years; they tend to best reflect current conditions.

\*Use only high quality/good resolution slides. Much better to focus on image quality than normalcy of antecedent conditions.



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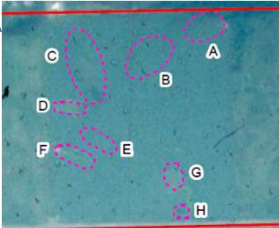
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Guidance


Moving away from FSA images 1979 – 2000

Using more recent and clearer images: 5 normal years

1997 FSA



2010 MnGEO



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Variables

Vegetation Tolerance


Hydrophytic Veg.



Corn



Soybeans



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Guidance

Vigor and stress responses to wetland conditions



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Evaluating Images

Signatures:

- CS: Crop stress
- DO: Drowned Out
- NC: Not cropped
- SW: Standing water
- NV: Normal vegetative cover
- NSS: No soil wetness
- AP: Altered pattern
- SS: Soil wetness signature
- CS/DO... (can have multiple, use the /)

Wetland Signatures are a positive "hit"

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Evaluating Images

Crop Stress (CS)



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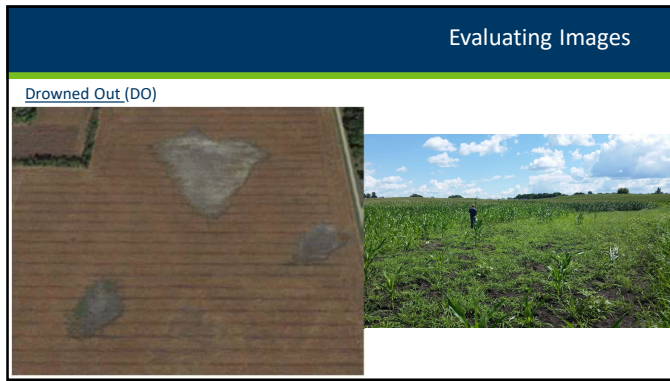
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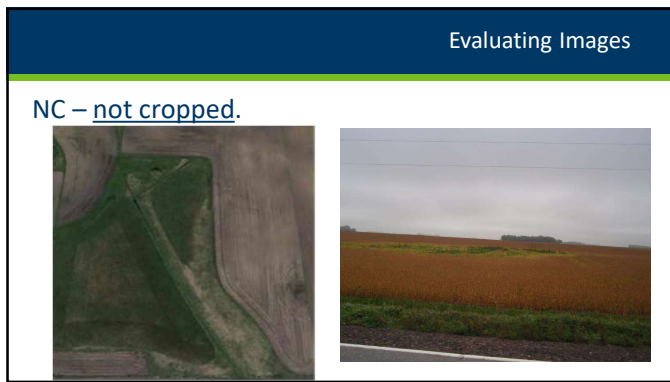
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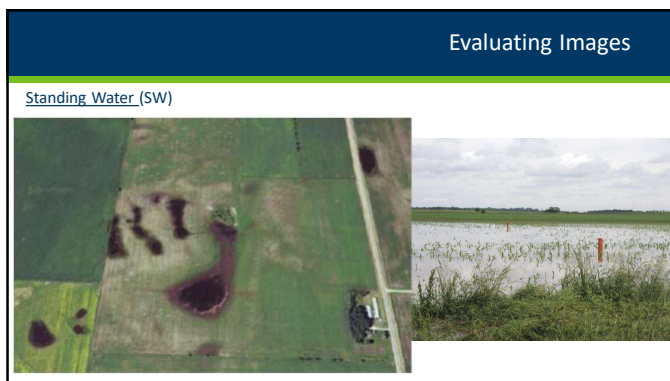
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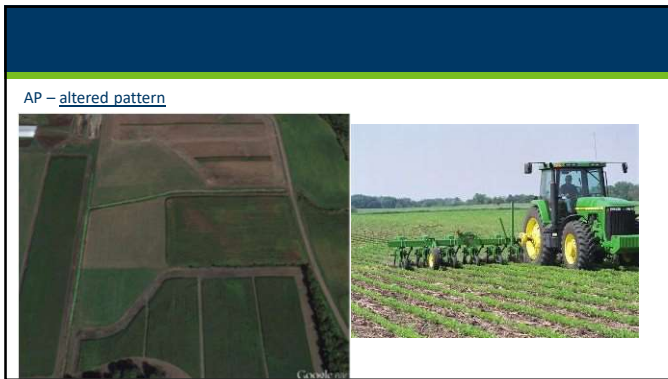
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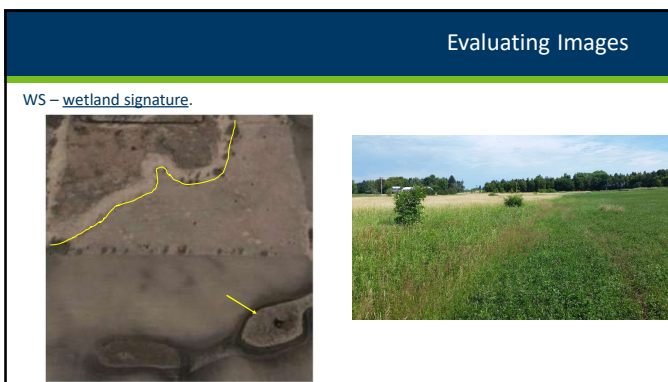
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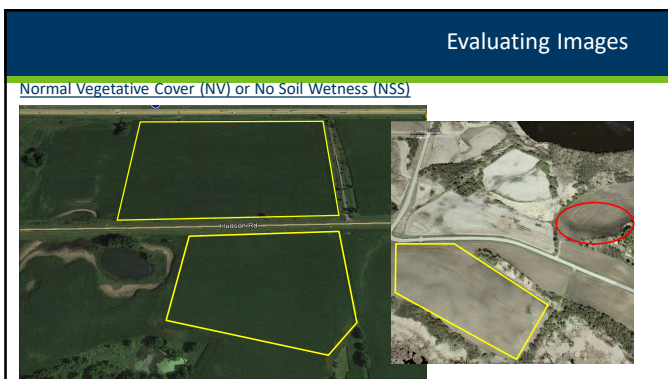
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Evaluating Images

Soil Wetness Signature-SS

- In Bare soil images, dark, or wet-appearing photo tone from early growing season
- May even include some standing water
- Note the drift lines around the edge of the basin

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What signature(s) do you see?



Crop Stress (CS)	
Drowned Out (DO)	
Not Cropped (NC)	
Standing Water (SW)	
Altered Pattern (AP)	
Wetland Signature (WS)	

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Variables



Alfalfa



Soybeans



Corn

Stem Density

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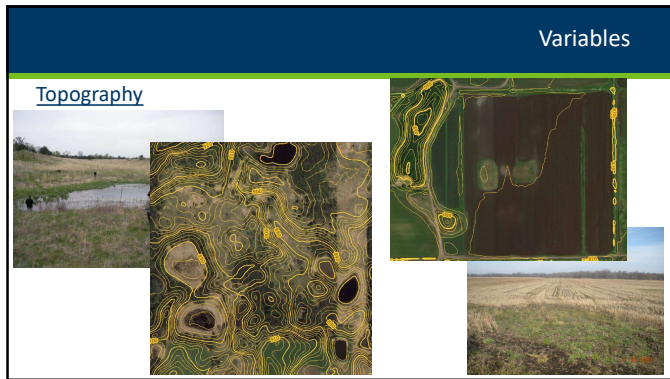
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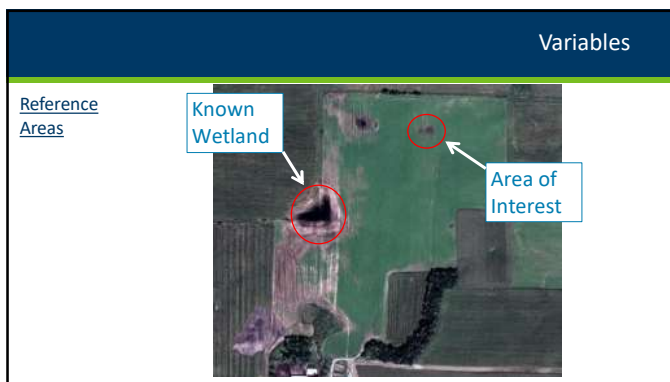
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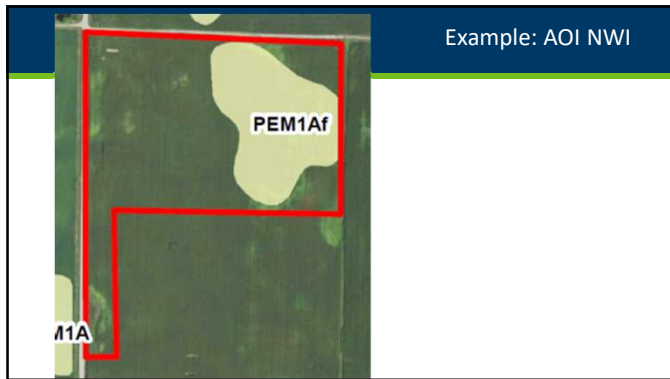
Planted Fallow Planted

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Remarks:
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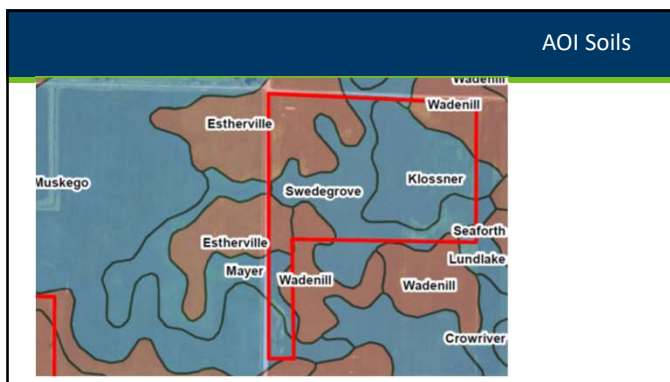
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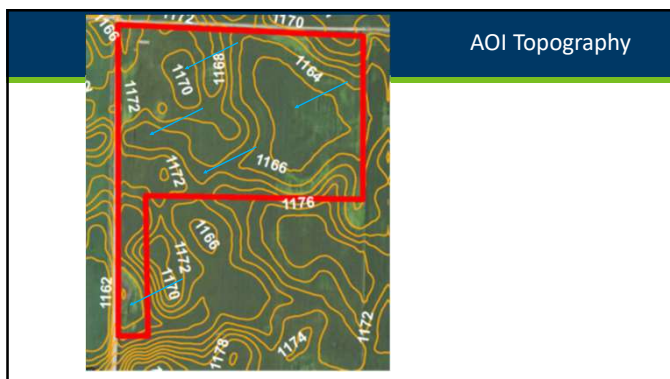
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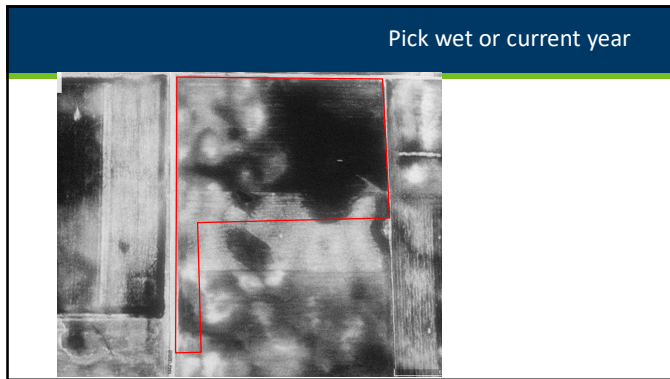
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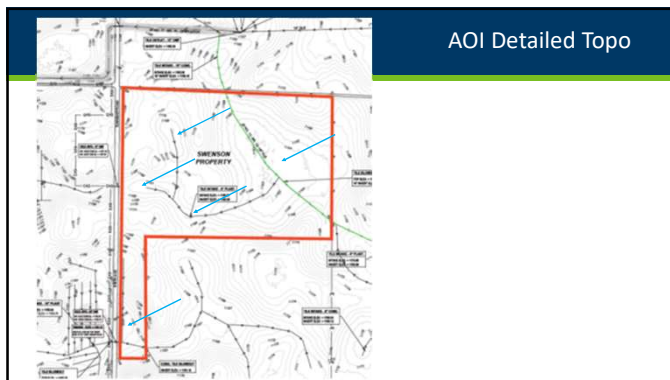
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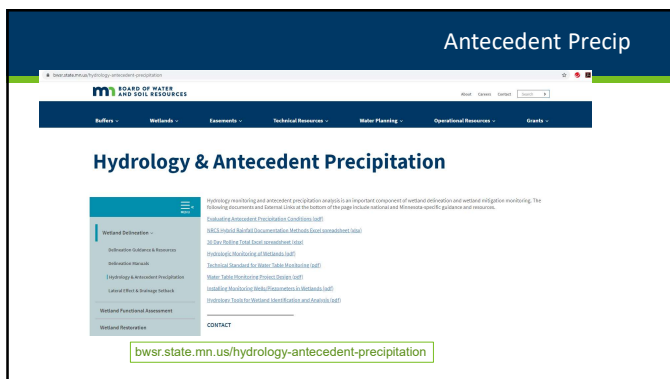
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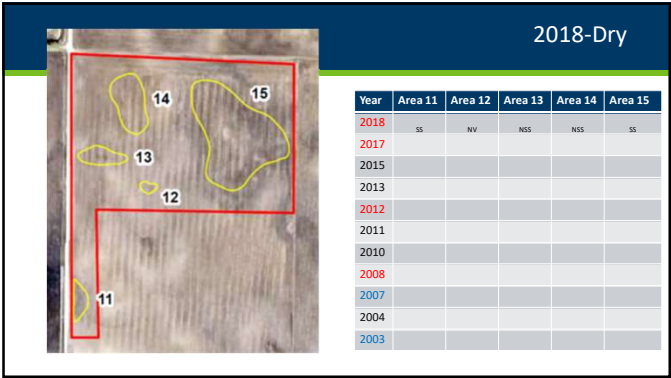
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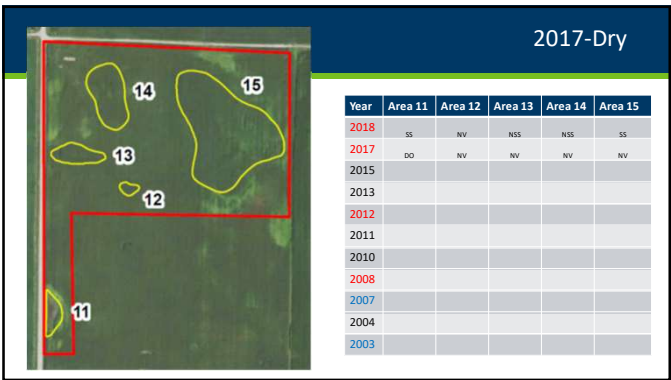
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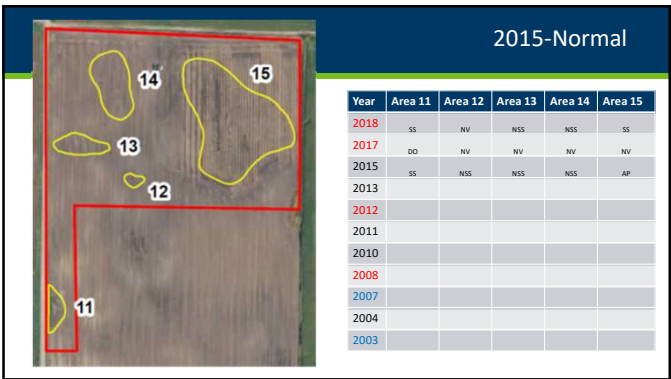
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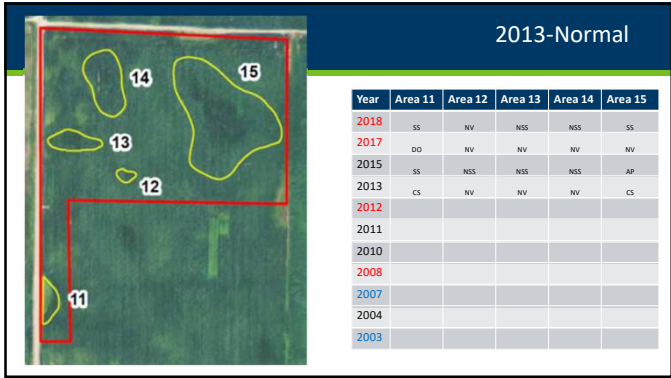
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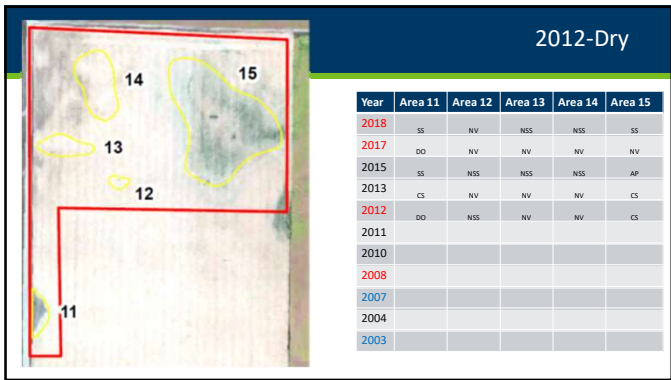
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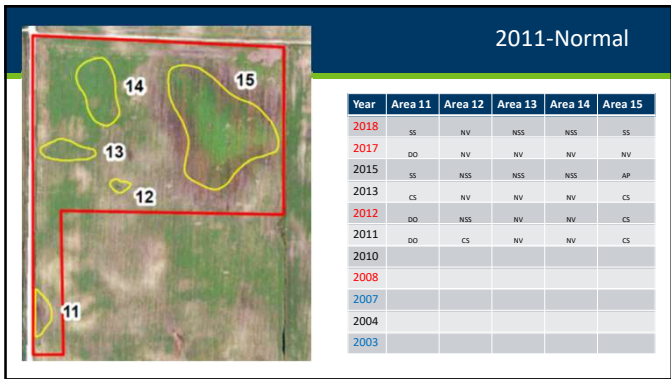
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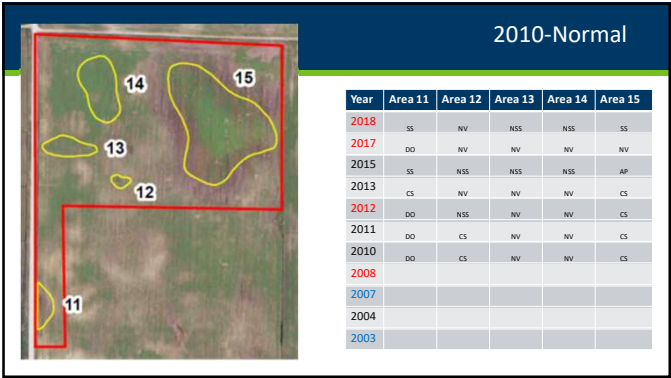
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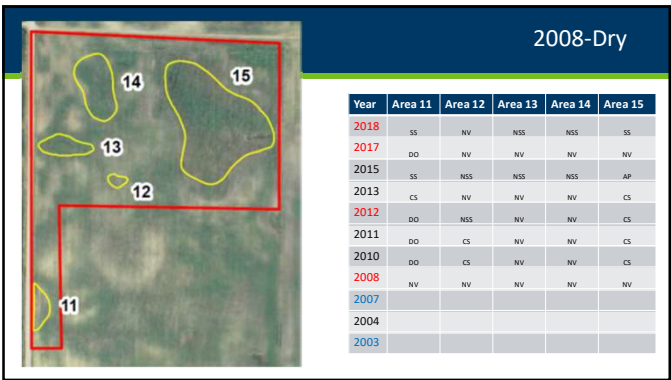
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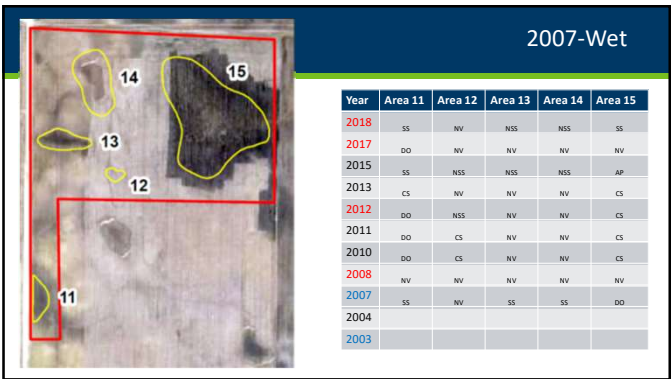
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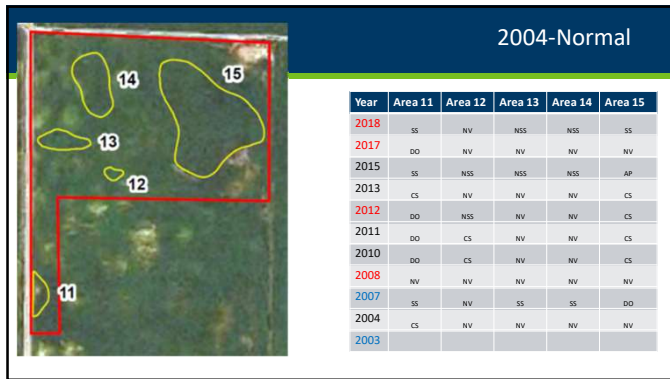
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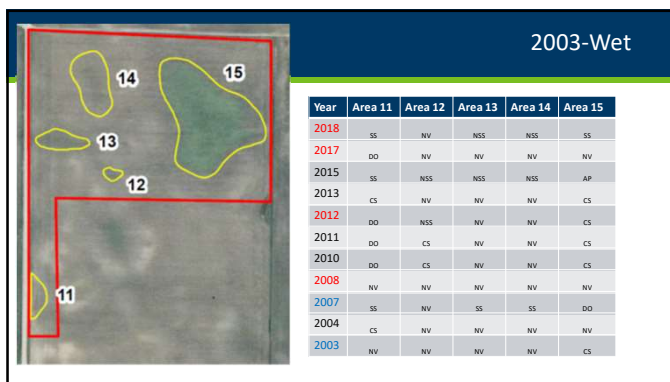
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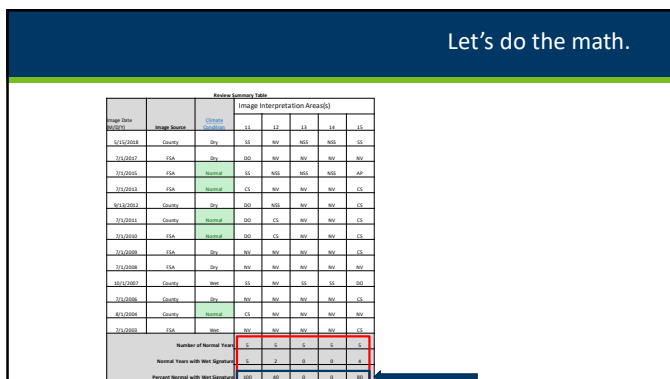
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## Document

Hydric Soils present <sup>1</sup>	Identified on NWI or other wetland map <sup>2</sup>	Percent with wet signatures from Exhibit 1	Field verification required <sup>3</sup>	Wetland?
Yes	Yes	>50%	No	Yes
Yes	Yes	30-50%	No	Yes
Yes	Yes	<30%	Yes	Yes, if other hydrology indicators present
Yes	No	>50%	No	Yes
Yes	No	30-50%	Yes	Yes, if other hydrology indicators present
Yes	No	<30%	No	No
No	Yes	>50%	No	Yes
No	Yes	30-50%	No	Yes
No	Yes	<30%	No	No
No	No	>50%	Yes	Yes, if other hydrology indicators present
No	No	30-50%	Yes	Yes, if other hydrology indicators present
No	No	<30%	No	No

Area	Hydric Soils Present	Identified on NWI or other wetland map	Percent with wet signatures from Exhibit 1	Other hydrology indicators present	Wetland?
11	Yes	No	100	NA	Yes
12	Yes	No	40	NA	No
13	Yes	No	0	NA	No
14	Yes	No	0	NA	No
15	Yes	Yes	80	NA	Yes

100

## Document

Hydric Soils present <sup>1</sup>	Identified on NWI or other wetland map <sup>2</sup>	Percent with wet signatures from Exhibit 1	Field verification required <sup>3</sup>	Wetland?
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Yes	Yes	30-50%	No	Yes
Yes	Yes	<30%	Yes	Yes, if other hydrology indicators present
Yes	No	>50%	No	Yes
Yes	No	30-50%	Yes	Yes, if other hydrology indicators present
Yes	No	<30%	No	No
No	Yes	>50%	No	Yes
No	Yes	30-50%	No	Yes
No	Yes	<30%	No	No
No	No	>50%	Yes	Yes, if other hydrology indicators present
No	No	30-50%	Yes	Yes, if other hydrology indicators present
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12	Yes	No	40	NA	No
13	Yes	No	0	NA	No
14	Yes	No	0	NA	No
15	Yes	Yes	80	NA	Yes

101

## Document

Hydric Soils present <sup>1</sup>	Identified on NWI or other wetland map <sup>2</sup>	Percent with wet signatures from Exhibit 1	Field verification required <sup>3</sup>	Wetland?
Yes	Yes	>50%	No	Yes
Yes	Yes	30-50%	No	Yes
Yes	Yes	<30%	Yes	Yes, if other hydrology indicators present
Yes	No	>50%	No	Yes
Yes	No	30-50%	Yes	Yes, if other hydrology indicators present
Yes	No	<30%	No	No
No	Yes	>50%	No	Yes
No	Yes	30-50%	No	Yes
No	Yes	<30%	No	No
No	No	>50%	Yes	Yes, if other hydrology indicators present
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Area	Hydric Soils Present	Identified on NWI or other wetland map	Percent with wet signatures from Exhibit 1	Other hydrology indicators present	Wetland?
11	Yes	No	100	NA	Yes
12	Yes	No	40	NA	No
13	Yes	No	0	NA	No
14	Yes	No	0	NA	No
15	Yes	Yes	80	NA	Yes

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Document					
Hydric Soils present <sup>1</sup>	Identified on NWI or other wetland map <sup>2</sup>	Percent with wet signatures from Exhibit 1	Field verification required <sup>3</sup>	Wetland?	
Yes	Yes	>50%	No	Yes	
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Yes	No	<30%	No	No	
No	Yes	>50%	No	Yes	
No	Yes	30-50%	No	Yes	
No	Yes	<30%	No	No	
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Area	Hydric Soils Present	Identified on NWI or other wetland map	Percent with wet signatures from Exhibit 1	Other hydrology indicators present	Wetland?
11	Yes	No	100	NA	Yes
12	Yes	No	40	NA	No
13	Yes	No	0	NA	No
14	Yes	No	0	NA	No
15	Yes	Yes	10	NA	Yes

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Other uses					
Level 1 Delineations					
Delineation Method	Review of offsite mapping resources	Site Visit	Sampling Approach	Complete Field Data Forms	Field Staking of Wetland Boundaries
Routine Level 1	Yes	Sometimes	Offsite	No	No
Routine Level 2	Yes	Yes	Onsite, qualitative	Yes	Yes
Comprehensive	Yes	Yes	Onsite, quantitative	Yes	Yes

WCA Application Type Examples	Commonly Used Delineation Method
Temporary impact under No-Loss	Routine Level 1
Banking application: pre-application scoping	Routine Level 1
Banking application: full application	Routine Level 2
Road Program Wetland Impact Documentation—Road project through a large continuous wetland	Routine Level 1
Road Program Wetland Impact Documentation—Scattered wetlands within construction corridor	Routine Level 2
Replacement plan	Routine Level 2
Enforcement actions	Routine Level 2 or Comprehensive
Wetland boundary approval (no project application)	Routine Level 2
Agricultural exemption determination (8420.0420, Subpart 2A)	Routine Level 1

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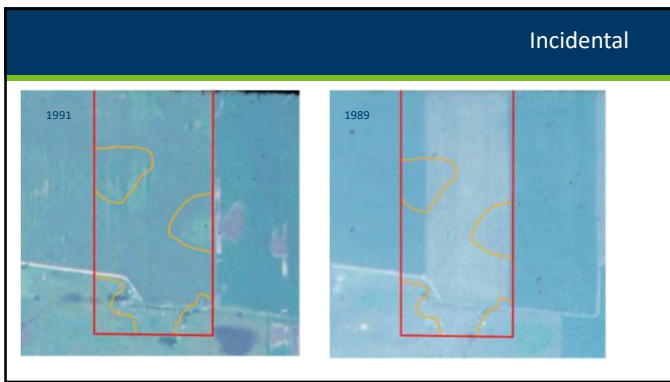
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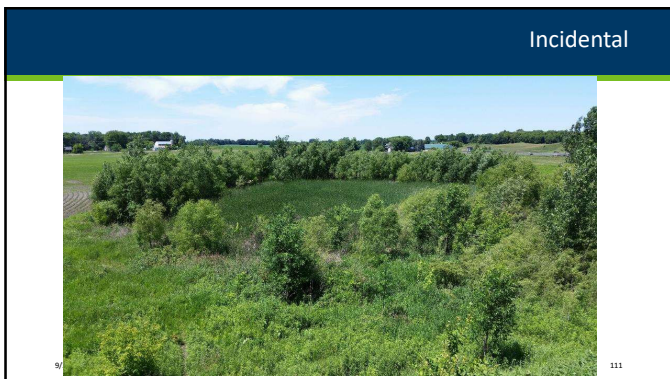
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Final Point

- Except for Level 1 delineations, the results of aerial imagery review are not necessarily the final determination.
- Other data to support conclusions.
- Results do not override site specific data (Level 2, etc).

9/27/2024

WDCP Training | bwsr.state.mn.us

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Basic Soil Concepts





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Overview

- Basics of Soil
  - Soil formation
  - Landscape position
- Soil Properties
  - Texture
  - Color
- Hydric soil development
- Web Soil Survey
  - Interpreting soil reports
- Hydric soil indicators
  - All
  - Fine
  - Sandy
- Common soil indicators



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## What is Soil?

- Natural body that occurs on the land surface, occupies space, and is characterized by one or both of the following:
  - Horizons or layers, or
  - The ability to support rooted plants in a natural environment
    - Upper limit is air or shallow (>2.5 m) water
    - Lower limit is either bedrock or the limit of biological activity
    - Lower limit for classification set at an arbitrary 2 m



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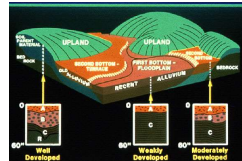
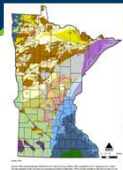
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## Factors That Influence Soil Development

- Climate- weather conditions prevailing over long period of time
- Parent material- geologic material from which soils form
- Topography- landscape position and slope processes
- Organisms- essential role of microbes in the soil, includes humans
- Time- soil doesn't "age", it develops. vegetation, organisms and climate "act on" parent material and topography to develop soil.



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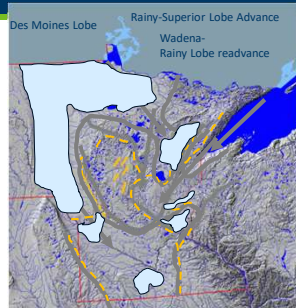
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## Parent Material Relates to Glacial Geology

## Recent Glacial Geology of MN



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### Soil Taxonomy

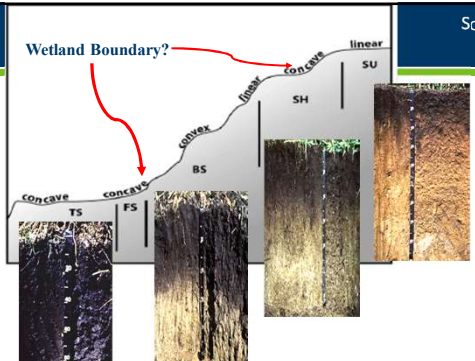
- 12 orders of soil taxonomy
- Which ones are common in MN



- **Alfisols**: wide range of climate, forest soils, clay in subsoil
- **Andisols**: volcanic, high nutrient
- **Aridisols**: desert soils
- **Entisols**: recent deposition, dunes, slopes, floodplains, sandy
- **Gelisols**: permafrost, high latitudes and/or elevation
- **Histosols**: high organic, most saturated year round
- **Inceptisols**: wide range of climate, moderate weathering
- **Mollisols**: "prairie soils", dark colored, high organic
- **Oxisols**: highly weathered tropical, stable, low fertility
- **Spodosols**: coarse-textured, acidic, conifer forests
- **Ultisols**: humid climate, weathered, clay-rich
- **Vertisols**: high content of expanding clays, Red River Valley

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### Soil Catena



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### Two Categories of Soil Material - Mineral Soil/Horizons

Mineral horizons

- Primarily sand, silt, and clay, with varying amounts of organic matter

Organic horizon


- consists of mostly decomposed organic material



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### Organic Matter Decomposition

- Fibric (peat)
  - Least decomposed
  - Plant fibers identifiable
  - After rub – >40% of fibers still visible (2/3)
- Hemic (mucky peat)
  - Intermediate decomposition
- Sapric (muck)
  - Most decomposed, <1/3 ID of plant fibers
  - <1/6 of fibers visible after rubbing



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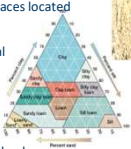

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### Key Soil Properties

Properties that are important to hydric soil development and recognition:

- Horizons- layer of soil with similar physical, chemical, and biologic properties
- Texture- relative proportion of soil particles (sand, silt, clay)
- Structure- arrangement of solid parts and of the pore spaces located between them
- Permeability- ability of water to move through a material
- Color- hue, value, chroma
- Organic matter- percent, thickness, and level of organic decomposition
- Drainage- presence of natural and human drainage on a landscape

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### Soil Horizon- layer of soil with similar physical, chemical, and biologic properties



- ← O horizon- Organic horizon, thickness varies
- ← A Horizon- Organic accumulation (typically ~10%), ideally granular structure
- ← E Horizon- Coloring agents (Fe, Organics) removed
- ← B Horizon- Subsoil accumulation of minerals, organics, and sometimes chemicals, blocky structure
- ← C Horizon - Similar to parent material, often less developed with little structure
- ← R Horizon- Parent material

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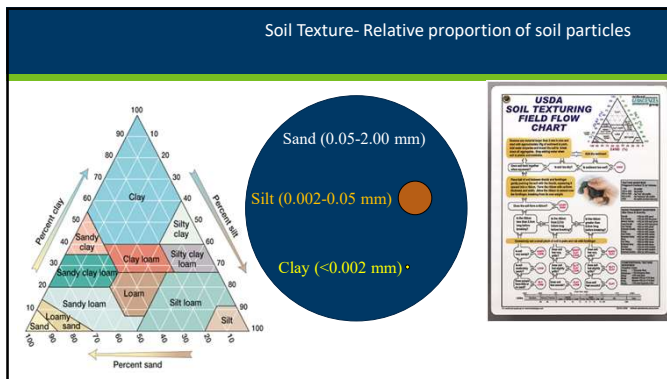
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**Soil Structure**

- Soil Structure- arrangement of solid parts and of the pore spaces located between them
- Aggregation- interaction and arrangement of soil particles
- Precipitation of oxides, carbonates and silicates
  - Cementation
- Can decline under cultivation & irrigation

Examples of Soil Structure Types			
Granular (Soil aggregates)	Blocky (Subangular)	Blocky (Angular)	
Lenticular	Platy		
Wedge	Prismatic	Columnar	
Structureless Types			
Single Grain (Loose mineral/rock grains)	Massive (Continuous, unconsolidated mass)		

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**Permeability- ability of water or air to move through the soil profile**

- Variables in permeability:
  - Structure- arrangement of soil characterized by size, shape (blocky, columnar, platy, etc.) and grade (weak, strong)
  - Texture- pore space of different particle sizes
- Permeability is "measured" in inches per hour
  - Permeability is an estimated property
- Larger grain sizes= higher permeability

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### Capillary Fringe

- Based upon permeability
- The zone above the free water table that is effectively saturated
  - Water held at tension
  - Theoretical values much higher than “real life”
  - Difficult to measure



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### Coloring Agents in Soil

- Organic matter
  - OM will mask all other coloring agents.
- Iron (Fe)
  - brown colors are the result of Fe oxide stains coating individual particles
- Manganese (Mn)
  - resulting in a very dark black or purplish black color
- Calcium
  - Lack of coatings
  - Color of the mineral soil grains (stripped)



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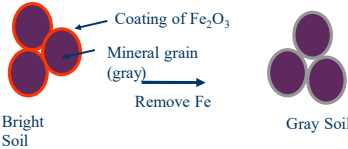
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### Soil Color



“Bright-colored” soil is bright because the gray-colored mineral grains are coated with a thin layer of “paint” formed by Fe oxides. Stripping the paint off the particles leaves the mineral grains exposed.

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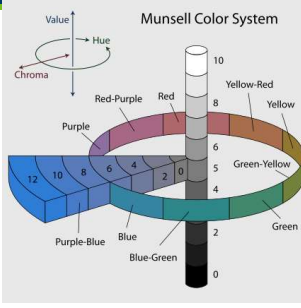
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Color

- Hue- the spectrum color
- Value- lightness or darkness
- Chroma- "purity" or grayness of color



Hue Value Chroma  
**10YR 2/1**

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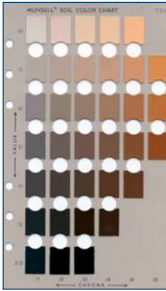
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Color

- Matrix (predominant) color
- Color of redoximorphic features
  - Contrast, abundance, location, and size of redox features



What is the percent of redox?  
30%



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Reading Soil Color

- Optimum conditions
  - Natural light
  - Clear, sunny day
  - Midday
  - Light at right angles
  - Soil moist




Red 0 2.5R 5R 7.5R 10R

Increasing strength of color

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### Abundance and Size of Redox

**Abundance**

- Few -- less than 2%
- Common -- 2 to 20%
- Many -- more than 20%

**Size**

- Fine -- < 5 mm
- Medium -- 5 to 15 mm
- Coarse -- > 15 mm

Several indicators require at least 2% abundance

CHARTS FOR ESTIMATING PROPORTIONS OF MOTTLES AND COARSE FRAGMENTS

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### Contrast

- Contrast refers to the degree of visual distinction between associated colors
- Faint -- evident only on close examination
- Distinct -- readily seen at arms length
- Prominent -- contrast strongly

Contrast Class	$\frac{S}{Q}$	Difference in Color Between Matrix and RMF (A means "difference between")		
		Hue (h)	Value (v)	Chroma (c)
Faint <sup>1</sup>	F	$\Delta h = 0$	$\Delta v \leq 2$	and $\Delta c \leq 1$
		$\Delta h = 1$	$\Delta v \leq 1$	and $\Delta c \leq 1$
		$\Delta h = 2$	$\Delta v = 0$	and $\Delta c = 0$
Distinct <sup>1</sup>	D	$\Delta h = 0$	$\Delta v \leq 2$	and $\Delta c > 1$ to $< 4$
			or $\Delta v > 2$ to $< 4$	and $\Delta c < 4$
		$\Delta h = 1$	$\Delta v \leq 1$	and $\Delta c > 1$ to $< 3$
			or $\Delta v > 1$ to $< 3$	and $\Delta c < 3$
	$\Delta h = 2$	$\Delta v = 0$	and $\Delta c > 0$ to $< 2$	
		or $\Delta v > 0$ to $< 2$	and $\Delta c < 2$	
Prominent <sup>1</sup>	P	$\Delta h = 0$	$\Delta v \geq 4$	or $\Delta c \geq 4$
		$\Delta h = 1$	$\Delta v \geq 3$	or $\Delta c \geq 3$
		$\Delta h = 2$	$\Delta v \geq 2$	or $\Delta c \geq 2$
		$\Delta h \geq 3$		

<sup>1</sup> If compared colors have both a value  $\leq 3$  and a chroma of  $\leq 2$ , the contrast is Faint, regardless of hue differences.

Several indicators require distinct or prominent contrast!

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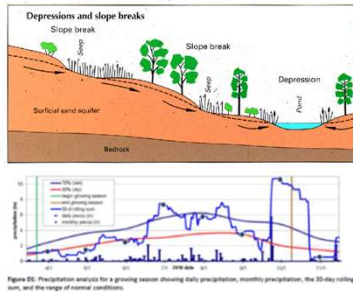
### Definition of a Hydric Soil

- A hydric soil is a soil that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part.

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### Landscape and formation of hydric soils

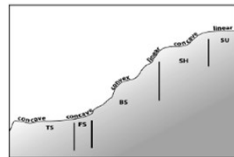
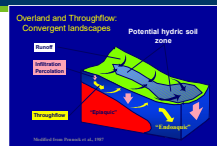
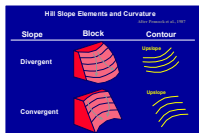
- Landscape position
  - Surface shape (linear, concave, convex)
  - Erosional or depositional
- Hydraulics
  - How water moves
- Hydroperiod- seasonal pattern of water table depth in a wetland
  - Long term- organic
  - Seasonal inundation- thick O, dark A
  - Seasonal saturation- thin O
  - Floodplain- thin, stratified layers



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### Landscape Position

- Location relative to other landforms
- Critically influences water flow and soil formation
- Most wetlands, even groundwater seeps, are on some sort of concave surface



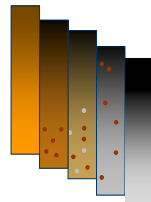
137

### Hydric Soil Development

Hydric soils indicators develop in **anaerobic** conditions by the process of :

1. **Reduction** and Re-oxidation of Iron
2. **Organic Matter** Accumulation

Foundation of the Field Indicator Manual.



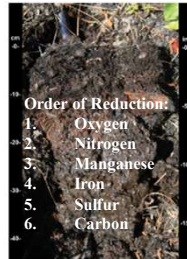
138

## Hydric Soil Development

Soil microbes that drive reduction require:

1. Anaerobic conditions i.e. (saturated soil)
2. Organic matter (energy source)
3. Soil temperature warm enough for microbial respiration (>41F)
4. Duration of conditions (Time)

In anaerobic conditions decomposition slows and leads to organic accumulation



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## Conceptual overview of aquic conditions

• Here's what happens when water moves into a soil profile:

- Downward movement
- Lateral movement
- Lose some things
- Changes in chemical state in others

Think old car left in the elements-chemical reactions leave "rust in the soil"



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## Change in the state of iron

• Available  $O_2$ ,  $NO_3$ , and Mn depleted

•  $Fe^{3+} \rightarrow Fe^{2+}$  (Mobile)

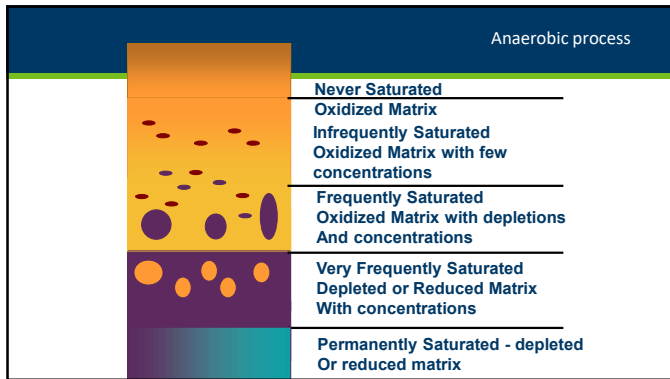
• **Bluish Grey** when **reduced**

• **Grey** when **depleted** from soil

• **Orange** or **Red** when **oxidized**



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Depleted Matrix

**Iron removed or re-organized in profile leaving Grey matrix**

- Value 4 or More
- Chroma 2 or Less

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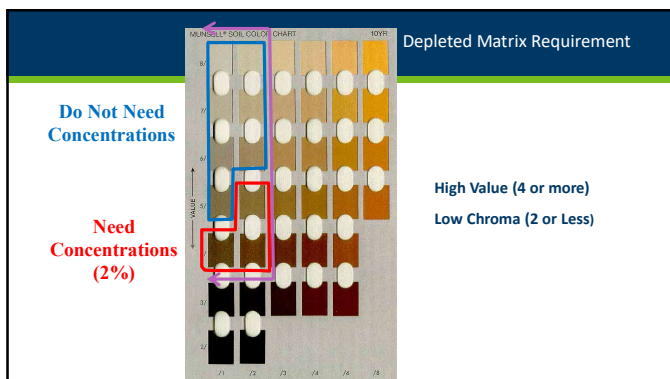
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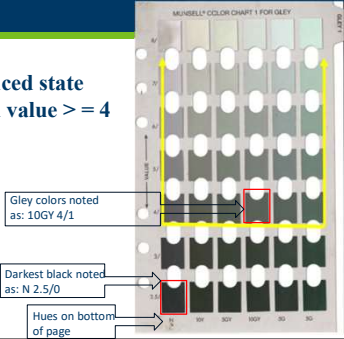
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### Gleyed Matrix Requirements

**Gleyed Matrix**

- Iron Present, but in reduced state ( $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ) Gleyed color with value  $\geq 4$

Gley colors noted as: 10GY 4/1

Darkest black noted as: N 2.5/0

Hues on bottom of page

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### Hydric Soil Indicators




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### Field Indicators of Hydric Soils

Natural Resources Conservation Service

- National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils

Used for **on-site verification** of hydric soils




**Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States**  
A Guide for Identifying and Delineating Hydric Soils, Version 8.2, 2018

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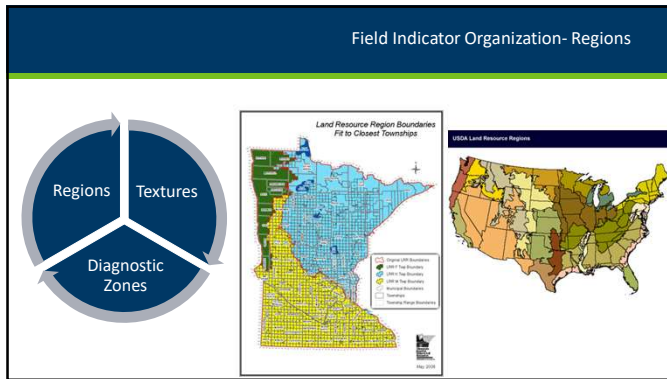
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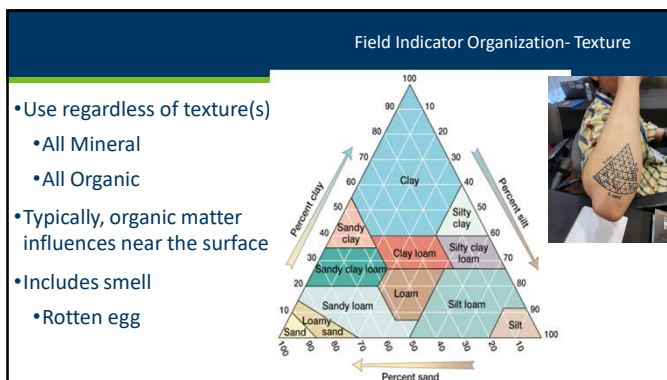
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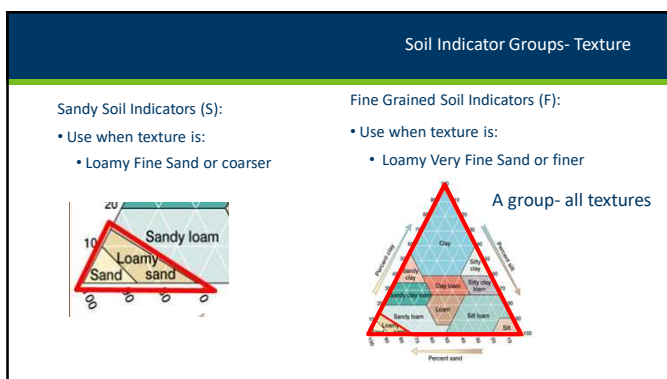
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Diagnostic Zones

- Layers with :
  - Certain **Colors**
    - high value and low chroma
    - redoximorphic features
    - organic matter accumulations
  - Specific **Depths** from Surface
  - Thickness** requirements

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Diagnostic Zones for S and F indicator groups

Sandy (S)

Loamy / Clayey (F)

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Key terms to help interpret indicators:

- Aquic- moisture regime, reducing regime virtually free of dissolved oxygen
- Histic- saturated organic horizon
- Epipedon-horizon near the surface
- Depletions- areas of low chroma where oxides have been stripped away
- Concentrations-zones where oxides have accumulated

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**A1.—Histosol** (for use in all LRRs) or **Histel** (for use in LRRs with permafrost). Classifies as a Histosol (except Folist) or as a Histel (except Folist).

**User Notes:** In a Histosol, typically 40 cm (16 inches) or more of the upper 80 cm (32 inches) is organic soil material (fig. 7). Organic soil materials have organic carbon contents (by weight) of 12 to 18 percent or more, depending on the clay content of the soil. These materials include muck (sapric soil material), mucky peat (hemie soil material), and peat (fibric soil material). See *Keys to Soil Taxonomy* (Soil Survey Staff, 2014) for a complete definition.

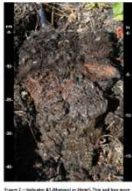


Figure 7.—Indicator A1 (Histosol or Histel). This soil has more than 40 cm (16 inches) of organic material, starting at the soil surface.

### Format of Indicator Descriptions

- Alpha-numeric designation
  - A1
- Short name
  - Histosol
- Applicable land resource regions (LRR)
  - Use in all LRRs
- Description of the indicator
- User notes
  - Additional information, explanation and guidance
- Supplement adds regional likelihood, locations

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**A1. Histosol:** Classifies as a Histosol. A Histosol has a layer of organic matter accumulation of  $\geq 16$  inches in the upper 32 inches of soil material.

• Use in all LRRs

**A1.—Histosol** (for use in all LRRs) or **Histel** (for use in LRRs with permafrost). Classifies as a Histosol (except Folist) or as a Histel (except Folist).

**User Notes:** In a Histosol, typically 40 cm (16 inches) or more of the upper 80 cm (32 inches) is organic soil material (fig. 7). Organic soil materials have organic carbon contents (by weight) of 12 to 18 percent or more, depending on the clay content of the soil. These materials include muck (sapric soil material), mucky peat (hemie soil material), and peat (fibric soil material). See *Keys to Soil Taxonomy* (Soil Survey Staff, 2014) for a complete definition.




Figure 7.—Indicator A1 (Histosol or Histel). This soil has more than 40 cm (16 inches) of organic material, starting at the soil surface.

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**A2.—Histic Epipedon.** For use in all LRRs. A histic epipedon underlain by mineral soil material with chroma of 2 or less.

**User Notes:** Most histic epipedons are surface horizons 20 cm (8 inches) or more thick of organic soil material (fig. 8). Aquic conditions or artificial drainage is required. See *Keys to Soil Taxonomy* (Soil Survey Staff, 2014) for a complete definition.

### A2- Histic Epipedon

Histic epipedon- saturated, organic horizons 8 inches or more thick in the upper part

• Applicable land resource regions (LRR)

• Use in all LRRs




Figure 8.—Indicators A2 (Histic Epipedon) and A3 (Black Histic). This soil meets the depth criterion of A2 and the color and depth criteria of A3. The black color, a requirement of A3, results from the accumulation of organic matter when the soil is saturated and anoxic.

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### A3- Black Histic

- A layer of peat, mucky peat, or muck 8 in or more thick that starts at a depth of  $\leq 6$  in from the soil surface; has hue of 10YR or yellower, value of 3 or less, and chroma of 1 or less; and is underlain by mineral soil material with chroma of 2 or less.
- Applicable land resource regions (LRR)
  - Use in all LRRs

**A3.—Black Histic.** For use in all LRRs. A layer of peat, mucky peat, or muck 20 cm (8 inches) or more thick that starts at a depth of  $\leq 15$  cm (6 inches) from the soil surface; has hue of 10YR or yellower, value of 3 or less, and chroma of 1 or less; and is underlain by mineral soil material with chroma of 2 or less.

**User Notes:** Unlike indicator A2, this indicator does not require proof of aquatic conditions or artificial drainage (fig. 8).




Figure 8.—Indicators A2 (Histic Epipedon) and A3 (Black Histic). This slide shows the depth criterion of A2 and the color and depth criteria of A3. The black color is a requirement of A3, results from the accumulation of organic matter when the soil is saturated and anaerobic.

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### A11- Depleted Below Dark Surface

- Applicable land resource regions (LRR)
  - Use in all MN LRRs

**A11.—Depleted Below Dark Surface.** For use in all LRRs, except for W, X, and Y, for testing in LRRs W, X, and Y. A layer with a depleted or gleyed matrix that has 60 percent or more chroma of 2 or less, starting at a depth  $\geq 30$  cm (12 inches) from the soil surface, and having a minimum thickness of either:

- 15 cm (6 inches), or
- 5 cm (2 inches) if the 5 cm consists of fragmental soil material.

Organic, loamy, or clayey layers above the depleted or gleyed matrix must have value of 3 or less and chroma of 2 or less starting at a depth  $\leq 15$  cm (6 inches) from the soil surface and extend to the depleted or gleyed matrix. Any sandy material above the depleted or gleyed matrix must have value of 3 or less and chroma of 1 or less starting at a depth  $\leq 15$  cm (6 inches) from the soil surface and extend to the depleted or gleyed matrix. Viewed through a 10x or 15x hand lens, at least 70 percent of the visible sand particles must be masked with organic material. Observed without a hand lens, the sand particles appear to be close to 100 percent masked.

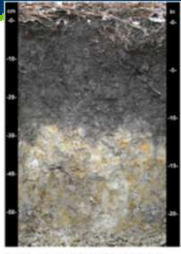


Figure 10.—Indicator A11 (Depleted Below Dark Surface). This slide has a thick dark surface horizon that meets the requirements of indicator A11. Unlike the matrix in figure 10, the depleted matrix below the dark surface horizon in this slide starts at a depth of about 30 cm, which is too deep to meet the requirements of indicator F3 (Depleted Matrix). Indicator A11 allows a deeper depleted matrix than indicator F3.

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### A12- Thick Dark Surface

- Applicable land resource regions (LRR)
  - Use in all LRRs
- User notes
  - Most often associated with overthickened soils in concave landscape positions.




Figure 11.—Indicator A12 (Thick Dark Surface). Deep observation is needed to determine whether a soil meets the requirements of this indicator. In this soil, depth to the depleted matrix is about 30 cm.

**A12.—Thick Dark Surface.** For use in all LRRs. A layer at least 15 cm (6 inches) thick with a depleted or gleyed matrix that has 60 percent or more chroma of 2 or less starting below 30 cm (12 inches) of the surface. The layer(s) above the depleted or gleyed matrix and starting at a depth  $\leq 15$  cm (6 inches) from the soil surface must have value of 2.5 or less and:

**Color Requirements**  
 Value =  $\leq 2.5$   
 Chroma =  $\leq 1$

30 cm  
 Value =  $\leq 3$   
 Chroma =  $\leq 1$   
 Reduced or Depleted Matrix

chroma of 1 or less to a depth of at least 30 cm (12 inches) and value of 2 or less and chroma of 1 or less in any remaining layer above the depleted or gleyed matrix. In any sandy material above the depleted or gleyed matrix, at least 70 percent of the visible soil particles must be masked with organic material, viewed through a 10x or 15x hand lens. Observed without a hand lens, the particles appear to be close to 100 percent masked.

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F3- Depleted Matrix

- Applicable land resource regions (LRR)
- Use in all LRRs

**F3.—Depleted Matrix.** For use in all LRRs, except W, X, and Y; for testing in LRRs W, X, and Y. A layer that has a depleted matrix with 60 percent or more chroma of 2 or less and that has a minimum thickness of either:

- 5 cm (2 inches) if the 5 cm starts at a depth  $\leq 10$  cm (4 inches) from the soil surface, or
- 15 cm (6 inches), starting at a depth  $\leq 25$  cm (10 inches) from the soil surface.

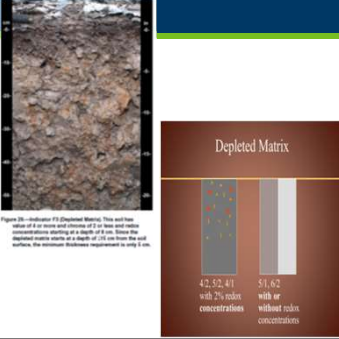


Figure 28.—Indicator F3 (Depleted Matrix). This soil has value of 2 or more and chroma of 2 or less and redox concentrations meeting or exceeding 2% at 10 cm. Does the depleted matrix meet or exceed 60 percent of 2% from the soil surface, the minimum thickness requirement is only 5 cm.

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F6- Redox Dark Surface

- Applicable land resource regions (LRR)
- Use in all LRRs

**F6.—Redox Dark Surface.** For use in all LRRs, except W, X, and Y; for testing in LRRs W, X, and Y. A layer that is at least 10 cm (4 inches) thick, starting at a depth  $\leq 20$  cm (8 inches) from the mineral soil surface, and has:

- Matrix value of 3 or less and chroma of 1 or less and 2 percent or more distinct or prominent redox concentrations occurring as soft masses or pore linings, or
- Matrix value of 3 or less and chroma of 2 or less and 5 percent or more distinct or prominent redox concentrations occurring as soft masses or pore linings.

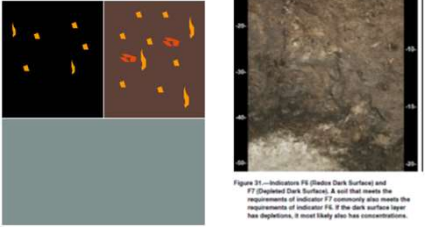


Figure 31.—Indicators F6 (Redox Dark Surface) and F7 (Depleted Dark Surface). A soil that meets the requirements of indicator F7 containing also meets the requirements of indicator F6. If the dark surface layer has depletions, it most likely also has concentrations.

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F7- Depleted Dark Surface

- Applicable land resource regions (LRR)
- Use in all LRRs
- User notes
  - Careful to not mistake an E horizon for depletions!

**F7.—Depleted Dark Surface.** For use in all LRRs, except W, X, and Y; for testing in LRRs W, X, and Y. Redox depletions with value of 5 or more and chroma of 2 or less in a layer that is at least 10 cm (4 inches) thick, starting at a depth  $\leq 20$  cm (8 inches) from the mineral soil surface, and has:

- Matrix value of 3 or less and chroma of 1 or less and 10 percent or more redox depletions, or
- Matrix value of 3 or less and chroma of 2 or less and 20 percent or more redox depletions.



Figure 32.—Indicators F6 (Redox Dark Surface) and F7 (Depleted Dark Surface). A soil that meets the requirements of indicator F7 containing also meets the requirements of indicator F6. If the dark surface layer has depletions, it most likely also has concentrations.

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S5- Sandy Redox

- Applicable land resource regions (LRR)
  - Use in all LRRs

**S5.—Sandy Redox.** For use in all LRRs, except for Q, V, W, X, and Y. A layer starting at a depth ≤15 cm (6 inches) from the soil surface that is at least 10 cm (4 inches) thick and has a matrix with 60 percent or more chroma of 2 or less and 2 percent or more distinct or prominent redox concentrations occurring as soft masses and/or pore linings.

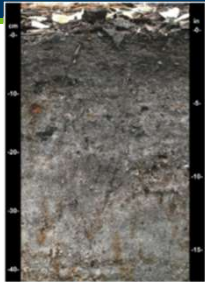


Figure 23.—Indicator S5 (Sandy Redox). This soil meets the requirements of indicator S5, having a matrix chroma of 2 or less and at least 2 percent redox concentrations starting at a depth of about 10 cm.

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SOIL

Sampling Point: W1-DB2W

Data Sheet

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

Depth (inches)	Matrix	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%	Type <sup>a</sup>	Lo <sup>b</sup>	Texture	Remarks
0-3	10yr 2/1	100						Clay loam	
3-22	10yr 5/2	80	7.5yr 5/6	20	C	M		Loamy clay	

Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered or Coated Sand Grains, %Location, PL=Pore Linings, M=Matrix

Hydric Soil Indicators:

☐ Histosol (A1)  
☐ Mottled Epipedon (A2)  
☐ Black Mott (A3)  
☐ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)  
☐ Coated Layers (A5)  
☐ 2 cm Muck (A10)  
☐ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)  
☐ Thick Dark Surface (A12)  
☐ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)  
☐ 2 cm Mucky Pearl or Pear (S3)

☐ Sandy Clayey Matrix (S4)  
☐ Sandy Redox (S5)  
☐ Striped Matrix (S6)  
☐ Loamy Mucky Mineral (P1)  
☐ Loamy Clayey Matrix (P2)  
☒ Depleted Matrix (P3)  
☐ Redox Dark Surface (P5)  
☐ Depleted Dark Surface (P7)  
☐ Redox Depressions (P8)

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils:  
☐ Coastal Prairie Redox (A16)  
☐ Iron-Manganese Masses (P12)  
☐ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if observed):

Type: \_\_\_\_\_

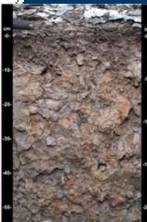
Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Hydric Soil Present?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Figure 23.—Indicator S5 (Sandy Redox). This soil has a matrix chroma of 2 or less and at least 2 percent redox concentrations starting at a depth of 10 cm from the soil surface. The minimum thickness required is only 10 cm.



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Problematic Hydric Soils

- Covered in Chapter 5 of the regional supplements
- Problematic hydric soils are the norm in some landscapes

- Red Parent Material (inhibited, or difficult to see redox features)
- Active floodplains (deposition of new material)
- Drained systems (relict hydric indicators)
- High Value (bright) / Low Chroma (grey),
- Thick prairie soils
- Sandy soils



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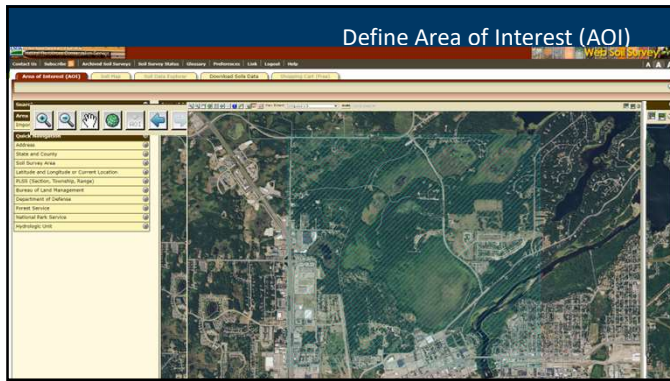
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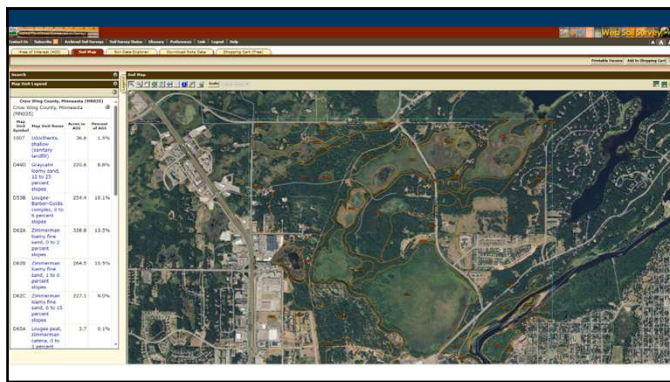
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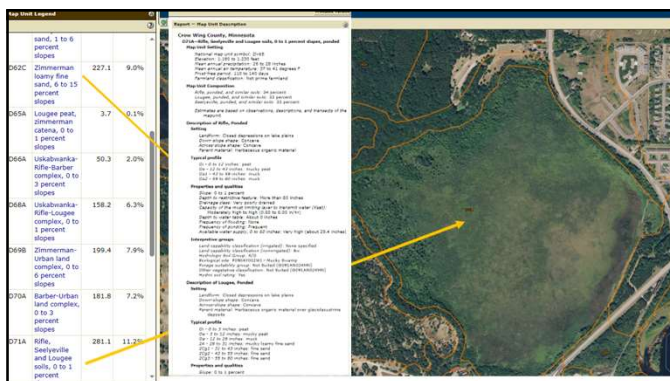
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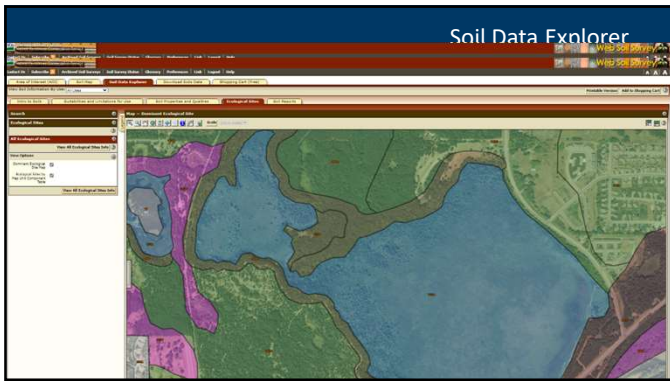
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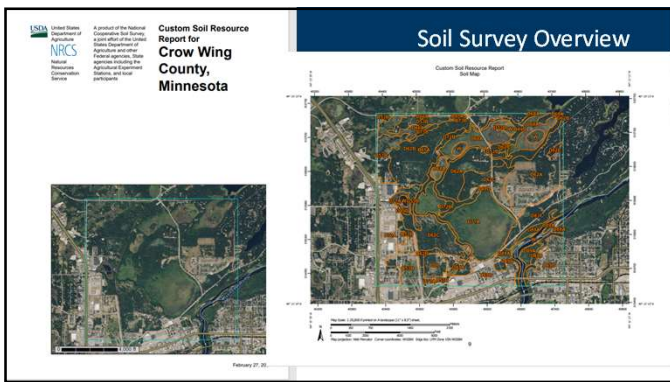
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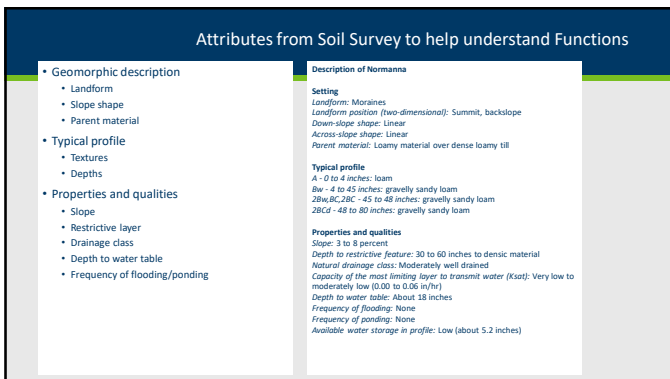
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