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September 24, 1999

In Reply Refer To:
2000 (RS-130)P

Information Bulletin No. RS-99-133

To: State Soil Resource Leads and Soil Scientists
From: Director, National Applied Resource Sciences Center
Subject: Soil Quality Test Kit Guide

Attached for your information is a copy of the Soil Quality Test Kit Guide.

Soil quality is generally assessed by measuring a minimum data set of soil properties to evaluate the soil's ability to perform basic functions (i.e., maintaining productivity, regulating and partitioning water and solute flow, filtering and buffering organic pollutants, and storing and cycling nutrients.

This guide describes a set of selected field procedures to evaluate some of the physical, chemical, and biological properties of soils that affect these soil functions. Section I provides a list of supplies and instructions for conducting a number of on-site tests to assess soil quality. Section II provides background and interpretive information for each test described in Section I.

This Soil Quality Test Kit Guide is a dynamic document with emphasis on cropland; however, the tests are also adaptable to rangelands. Future additions will incorporate additional tests and interpretive information tailored to rangelands.

Please note the information sheet stapled to the inside cover of the Guide. This Guide is a part of the Rangeland Soil Quality/Health Notebook and should be filed with it.

Additional copies of the Guide are available. If you have any questions, please contact Al Amen at 303-236-0154 or e-mail alan_amen@blm.gov.

1 Attachment

1 - Soil Quality Test Kit Guide

Distribution

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