

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER
DENVER FEDERAL CENTER, BUILDING 50
P.O. BOX 25047
DENVER, COLORADO 80225-0047**

In Reply Refer To:
7100 /7101(ST-132)P

EMS Transmission
Information Bulletin No. ST-2003-044

To: All Field Officials
From: Director, National Science and Technology Center
Subject: Methods for Measuring Soil Moisture

The ongoing drought in many western states has resulted in the need for Field Offices to conduct drought assessments in a four-phased approach, as outlined in Washington Instruction Memorandum No. 2003-074-2003, General Drought Management Direction. The measurement of soil moisture is a valuable assessment tool for helping to determine water availability to plants. The purpose of this Information Bulletin is to provide to field personnel an overview (see attached document) of the most common methods for measuring soil moisture. The basic principle, advantages, and disadvantages of each method are briefly discussed along with some recommended sample collection or measurement techniques.

Copies of more explicit soil moisture measurement procedures, assistance in the implementation of those procedures, and the interpretation of data or sources of equipment can be obtained from your local or State Bureau of Land Management Soil Scientist (if available), the National Science and Technology Center (NSTC), or your local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office.

Please direct any questions regarding this Information Bulletin to Bill Ypsilantis, NSTC Soil Scientist, at 303-236-3404 or E-mail Bill_Ypsilantis@blm.gov.

Signed by:
Mike Kirby,
Associate Director

Authenticated by:
Elsie Pacheco
Staff Assistant

1 Attachment

1- Soil Moisture Measurement Methodology (9 pp)

Distribution:

WO-200, MIB, RM 3326
ST-150, BLM Library
ST-130, Reading File

ST-132:Bypilantis:ep:6-1726\4/03/03\C:/STIB2003-044