July 28 2015 Laboratory Prioritization Meetings

There were actually two Laboratory Prioritization meetings today because of a mix-up of the scheduling assistant. (I am sure it was user error on my part)

The first meeting concerned the Area Tables in LIMS, the NCSS Soil Characterization Database sometimes called the lab data mart, and NASIS.

It was agreed that Rick and George will try to figure out exactly which standard was used for the tables and document the standard in the NASIS help file.

George also will update the NASIS area table so that its country codes are comprehensive.

If a decision needs to be made to choose between standards, it will be made at a future meeting.

There was also discussion concerning further analysis needed to determine if changes should be made to the structure of the Area Table in NASIS to better accommodate minor subdivisions under countries.

The second meeting dominantly centered around the Layer Fraction table.

The following definition has been added to LIMS to reflect the contents of the Layer Fraction table.

The table contains data about the rock fragments and the inert human altered fragments that are greater than 2 millimeters. This table does not contain data concerning rapidly degrading fragments because they do not dilute the soil.

Rick and Henry are going to review the contents of the table and delete those records that do not meet the definition.

There was also some discussion regarding the possibility of limiting the list of fraction choices to those that meet the definition.

Skye brought up the problems related to the contents of the horizon designation fields.  The NCSS Lab Layer table is an attempt at tackling some of those issues.  A copy of that table is available from Cloud Vault at:

<https://www.cloudvault.usda.gov/public.php?service=files&t=e0f269b584111f43e236162104dea76f&path=//henry_ferguson>