SOIL-LANDSCAPE PROFILES—A RESOURCE PERSPECTIVE

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A soil-landscape profile is an idealized or diagramatic (conventionalized), two-dimensional display of a section extracted from the earth's crust. This type of cross section depicts important soil and landscape factors as they relate to the underlying geology.

The purpose of this paper is to discuss the preparation and utilization of soil-landscape profiles. Various cross sections and three-dimensional soil-landscape profiles provide one of the most convenient and effective methods for displaying the relation of individual soils to landforms and underlying parent materials. The association of soils, degree of soil development, age of landscapes, the nature and disposition of parent material and other genetic and morphological factors can all be comprehended in one sketch. A combined knowledge of soil and landscape factors is important to understanding land resource use and management. As illustrations in resource literature, soil-landscape profiles can enhance the resource perspective of professionals, students, and laymen.

Resource Perspective

For most people natural resource phenomena have a certain intrigue. Nearly everyone has a frame of reference about land resources based on a general knowledge of landforms and landscapes. For example, they know where streams and lakes are located in relation to hillslopes. From this interest and awareness land resource use and management can be explained.

Each kind of soil occupies a specific position on the landscape because of how it was formed. Each soil also has a unique combination of factors with potentials for interactions resulting in a special and predictable behavior. Soil maps relate the geographic distribution of each kind of soil. Explanations of soil behavior (soil interpretations) indicate how soils will behave when used under defined conditions. Communication of these scientific resource facts to the land user is sometimes overwhelming. A method of convenient and rapid visualization is needed. Soil-landscape profiles are the reliable visual aid to fill that educational need.

Application

Soil-landscape profiles constitute a versatile and flexible educational tool. Use of the soil-landscape profile can be adjusted from an erudite presentation for scientists to a general interest discussion for laymen and students. Important factors can be emphasized and lesser details eliminated. With an understanding of how certain soil and landscape segments were formed, an appreciation for the practical implications of man's place in the

Footnote:
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