SOIL SURVEY HORIZONS

guidelines have already reached field offices. Current procedures for carrying out various phases of the National Cooperative Soil Survey are being reviewed to determine their suitability for meeting each agency’s goals. Additional action may be needed on some of the recommendations as a coordination effort progresses.

Copies of the report have been sent to SCS Directors of Technical Service Centers, SCS State Conservationists, FS Chief Regional Foresters, and the FS Forest Supervisor of each National Forest.

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SOIL MAPPING VACATIONS INCREASE EFFICIENCY

Soil scientists in some states are taking their families “on vacation” when they are assigned to remote areas for soil mapping.

Large states have experienced chronic problems in attempting to soil survey remote areas. Motels, boarding houses, or ranches that might rent a room are not to be found. Eating establishments are nonexistent. Driving to and from the nearest town often consumed the better part of a day. Efficiency was down—costs were up.

Enter the mobile home (house trailer?) which can be trailed to a convenient location and serve as bunkhouse and soil survey field office. Arrangements for use of mobile homes in remote areas can be very flexible and, with imagination, made to fit the precise need for the area. Ed Naphan, Nevada State Soil Scientist, reports the mobile home route is the only way to make soil surveys efficiently in some areas of Nevada.

In instances, morale of the field party may drop in proportion to the length of detail in the remote area. One enterprising state soil scientist solved his morale problems by authorizing the party leader’s family to accompany him and use the mobile home during the period of detail. The mapping was done expediently and Mom and the kids got a vacation. Efficiency went up—costs went down.

Is there a mobile home in your future?

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