identification of eroded phases by heavier surface textures—essentially a subsoil exposed at the surface), is one that is applicable to most surveys. Using these concepts will result in tangible guidelines for party members to follow, a more consistent use of eroded phases within a survey area, and will also allow for the setting of guidelines that correspond to practical differences in soil management.

With the renewed emphasis on mapping eroded phases it is important for soil scientists to develop guidelines that are easily observable by field soil scientists, and result in soil maps that show significant differences from one map unit to another without excessive cartographic detail.

Mettes and Bounds Locations of Pedons

Norris L. Williams¹

The system of surveying the public lands of the United States represents a type of control survey almost as old as the nation itself. In 1784, a committee appointed by the Continental Congress planned the system based upon a rectangular system of measurement. In 1785, the body accepted an ordinance and passed the system.

The public land area subdivided under the system includes the territory of Alaska; the states of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and all states except Texas north and west of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

Most of the land surveys in the 13 original colonies, plus Tennessee and Kentucky, were made as separate closed transverses. Distance and direction were measured between points bounding a given area. No overall control system existed. Sometimes bodies of water or other natural landmarks were used to define ownership boundaries. Surveys of this general nature are described as metes and bounds surveys. Ohio is the only state that had its lands surveyed by both the rectangular (sections) and metes and bounds system.

Legal descriptions and subsequent soil survey pedon sites were described in terms of the lengths and directions used in an area. An exacting example would be:

Beginning at a point which is the N.E. corner of Joseph Hill and is marked by an iron pin. From said pin a 10 inch oak tree bears S 20

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