pushed on. More often than not the pickup zone was just a little further than we thought. However, there were times when we missed our pickup site. We could pass within 100 feet of the site and never see it. When we finally decided we were lost we stopped, got comfortable, and waited for Rusty to come find us. We would direct him to us using the radio, signal mirror, or smoke.

If he could not land nearby, we sometimes had to clear a site using our hand axes. It was a tremendous relief when we finally made it to the pickup site and had Rusty in sight. Once again we were retrieved from the grasps of the wilderness, only to be returned the next morning.

Even though the working conditions were adverse and I complained, I enjoyed every minute of it and would gladly do it again. It was a humbling experience that I will always remember. To summarize my feelings about the experience, I would like to quote a verse from Robert Service’s *The Spell of the Yukon*.

“There’s a land where the mountains are nameless.
And the rivers all run God knows where;
There are lives that are erring and aimless,
And deaths that just hang by a hair;
There are hardships that nobody reckons;
There are valleys unpeopled and still;
There’s a land—oh, it beckons and beckons,
And I want to go back—and I will.”

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**Internal Consulting: A Challenging Career Choice**

John M. Cain

Soil scientists searching for an area to specialize in should try internal consulting with a resource management agency. To the best of my knowledge, this field has not been extensively developed.

The summer of 1983 was my first opportunity to work as a consultant at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). For 3 yrs, I have been determined to make this career choice a success.

When the DNR hired me in 1967, it was with the understanding that my job responsibilities would be divided between writing a state water plan and providing soil interpretations for other staff members. Unfortunately, demands for water quality planning quickly increased while demands for soil interpretations languished due to time limits. Fifteen years later when I reassessed by career interests, I finally changed from water quality planning to soils.

Confronted with the reality of being an internal consultant, I first needed to determine my goals and responsibilities. I soon realized that the DNR staff did not rush to my office to seek my professional advice. I needed to promote my services just as a private consultant would do. Even though my assistance was available without cost to any DNR staff member or administrator, for some...