Many opportunities exist for this type of assignment in other agencies. A consulting position is significant in that it gives visibility and credibility to soil science as a profession which can provide valuable input to many program areas. If you want to try this career, you should have a broad background in soils, adequate field experience in the area, and some familiarity with the programs and people who will be your clients. Be prepared to promote yourself, do not wait for requests to come to you. You must devote some time to staff training and development, so staff members are competent and comfortable working with soils information.

I am interested in learning about similar work assignments from consultants who are willing to share them with me. If you plan to create a consulting position, I would be happy to share my experience with you. In my opinion, this is an excellent way to enhance the use of soils data and soil interpretations to improve the management of our natural resources.

Soil Scientists Plug the Gap: Information in Mendocino County

Maxine J. Levin and Richard F. Howard

Mendocino County is a scenic area located about 2 hours north of San Francisco, CA. Tourists are attracted to this part of the Coast Range by the wineries in the valleys and redwoods (Sequoia sempervirens) on the surrounding slopes. From 1977 to 1984, a USDA-SCS soil survey party mapped the eastern half of the county. Mapping of the coastal western half is in progress (Fig. 1).

As the survey neared completion, the soil scientists and the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (RCD) needed an information package until the survey was published. Preparing information packages is not a regular item in a soil mapper's list of duties. However, since National Cooperative Soil Surveys may take 5 to 7 yrs from completion of field work to publication, much of the excitement and impact of the information can be lost during the delay. As soil mappers who did the field work and were most familiar with the material, we wanted to leave Mendocino County with an educational tool to publicize the survey during this lag time.

We produced an information package developed around two soils tours of our area. The package contained a soils tour brochure, a photo display, and a slide show.

We concentrated on the area around Ukiah, the county seat where the SCS and RCD offices are located, and Willits, the second largest town in our survey area, about 20 miles to the north. We divided the area into two tours. On the northern loop, we explained the soil and plant characteristics of redwood and Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii) timberlands, annual grass rangelands and the wetlands and pasturelands in Little Lake Valley near Willits. The southern loop emphasized the diversity of the soils of agricultural lands, rangeland, and

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