Record Month for Web Soil Survey Use

The use of Web Soil Survey continues to grow. Darn Egley, Project Manager at ITC in Fort Collins, reported these Web Soil Survey Metrics during March 2010:

Unique Visitors: 93,586
Visits, Total: Record 179,349 (5,785 avg. per day)
Visits, Peak Day: 8,087 (Monday, March 22nd)
Hits: 52,010,121 (1,677,745 avg. per day)
Page Views: 4,655,628 (150,181 avg. per day)
Printable Versions Requested: 80,970
Custom Soil Resource Reports Requested: 14,171

In a period of less than five years Web Soil Survey has reached magnitudes of more people with soil survey information than were reached in the prior history of the Soil Survey Program with hard copy publications. Web Soil Survey can display soil maps and interpretive thematic maps. Generated maps and data reports can then be printed individually to the customer’s local computer, or they can be compiled into a Custom Soil Resource Report. With this flexibility, a customer is able to build a report or data file customized to their individual needs.

NSSC Staff Assist in California Outreach

The University of California at Davis hosts an Agricultural Field Day that is held every March for 3,000 FFA and 4H students from all over the state of California. Susan Southard, NRCS soil scientist from Davis and member of the National Soil Survey Center soils interpretation staff, was asked by the university to be an interview judge for one of the student competitions. Overall, there are 30 competitions held over a two-day period that include crop judging, dairy cattle, forestry, pest control, livestock judging, and farm business management. For the interview competition high school students prepared cover letters and resumes for an array of example job positions that included jobs with the USDA or with the agriculture industry. Students were judged on their resumes and cover letters and on progressive three-tier elimination interviews. The students answered and posed questions to the three-judge panel and were judged on appearance, poise, speaking skills and knowledge of the virtual job positions. Anyone volunteering for such an endeavor would walk away having no fear for the future. The students were truly remarkable.

New Book: Soil and Water Conservation Advances in the United States