High Intensity Soil Mapping in complex, glaciated landscapes and Site Evaluator Soil Pit Classification

and

Wetland Delineation in pit & mound microtopography, alluvial/riverine plains, and disturbed logging areas, with the 2011 US ACOE wetland determination data forms

at the

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE FOREST on the PENOBSCOT RIVER'S floodplain, terrace, marine plain, and adjacent till-mantled lowlands

on

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2011 [9:00 am to 3:30 pm]

 Sponsored by The Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, University of Maine Forests, the Maine Association of Wetland Scientists, and the Maine Association of Site Evaluators

Soil Mapping Section: Soil scientists will be complete a Class L to Class B High Intensity Soil Survey, using excavator dug soil pits with accompanying NRCS pedon descriptions, a base map with 2 foot topo, color orthophoto, and their own soil auger test holes as needed. The focus is on delineating soil map units in diverse parent materials and drainage classes in a dynamic, glaciated landscape. The focus area presents soils developed in lodgement till, alluvium, colluvium, sandy outwash, and aeolian/lacustrine/marine sediments.

Wetland Delineation Section: Soil and wetland scientists will examine and accurately delineate 3 challenging wetlands using measurements along tapes in: 1) A riverine floodplain with both hydric and non-hydric soils and a challenging "Normal High Water Line" for Shoreland Zoning determinations; 2) An area of forested pit & mound microtopography, and, 3) A forested, logging-disturbed wetland currently in forest management. At this site you will complete US ACOE 2011 data forms, with a botanist stationed for plant taxa keying assistance.

Site Evaluator Section: Site evaluators will have an opportunity to describe a number of soil pits in differing parent materials and drainage classes using the newly adopted "Key For determining Depth To The Seasonal Groundwater Table" and the Munsell Color chart and then compare their results with those of an expert panel. Some of the soil pit locations will also have overall site suitability issues and setback issues which will provide for interesting discussion with the station monitors.

Code Enforcement Officer Section: Several portions of this day-long workshop are particularly relevant to CEO permitting issues in both small rural towns and larger cities in Maine. With the advent of cluster development land use ordinances, the importance of understanding how protected natural resources and other site constraints can affect land use planning is critical.

Afternoon Discussion: Regulatory staff from MDEP, LURC, and US ACOE will join the panel discussion group that will review participants' completed soils maps compared to a master map; the challenges facing soil scientists in developing high intensity soil maps in glaciated New England; review of wetland and Shoreland Zone delineations; comparison of participants' data forms with a master set; review of the site evaluator soil pit classifications, and the overall suitability of specific sites and setback issues particularly at the floodplain wetland station.

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