

Comparison of Connotative Soil Mapping (CSS) vs. High Intensity Soil Survey (HISS) Mapping

Note: . What we more typically called our traditional Order 1 soil surveys (i.e., our Class A, B, C, D and L surveys), we now call High Intensity Soil Survey (HISS). The Connotative Soil Survey (CSS) standards are not intended to replace the HISS standards, they are proposed as an alternative/additional option.

Issues related to the two map products	Connotative Soil Survey (CSS)	Order 1 = High Intensity Soil Survey (HISS)	Comments
Accuracy of Soil Mapping	same	same	The standards for mapping accuracy do not change
Base Map Requirements	same	same	The base maps for each survey are the same
Soil Classification necessary	no	yes	HISS mapping is tied to soil classification
Ability to solve unique soil conditions	yes	no	The connotative soil mapping standards can identify unique soil conditions that series do not
NRCS Data available for interpretations	no	yes, provided it is the correct series	There is a lot of interpretive data that series can provide
Ability for a user to gather specific characteristics	yes	yes/no depending upon whether the soil scientist provides the information	The connotative legend allows someone to know a specific characteristic without spending a lot of time looking for it
Time needed to produce the soil survey	less time then HISS	more time then CSS	Because soil classification is eliminated mapping can be done quicker
Complexes	maybe	yes	The connotative legend can address complexes but it may be confusing
Conventional, Special and Ad Hoc symbols	no	yes	The connotative legend does not allow for special symbols
Map Unit Purity	same	same	Map unit purity does not change
Legend and Map Unit Descriptions	potentially one legend for everything	legend will vary	The ability to have a consistent legend is important, there is no need for map units descriptions with the CSS system
Inclusions	same	same	The amount of inclusions does not change
Hydrologic Soil Groups	may be able to identify our own	may be able to identify our own	We need to determine whether we have the ability to identify our own hydrologic soil groups
Correlations between the two systems	yes/no	yes/no	Series can correlate to the CSS system but the CSS system does not correlate well to the HISS system