Oregon Department
of Land Conservation
and Development

Soils Assessment Report Requirements

Updated March10, 2014

The department will consider soil assessments under OAR 660-033-0030 to be complete if they meet the following standards:

(1) General information, to include:

(a) Title of the report;
(b) Person making request for soils assessment;
(c) Names of soil scientist/classifier conducting the field work and preparer of the report, along with their certification numbers;
(d) Land use case file number (if available);
(e) County in which the assessment was conducted;
(f) Location of the project site, including the township, range, section and tax lot numbers;
(g) Present zoning designation;
(h) Current land use;
(i) Parcel acreage:_____; acres evaluated_____: and
(j) A description of the purpose of the assessment.

(2) Previous Mapping or Background: The soil scientist/classifier shall provide a copy of the applicable and most current National Cooperative Soil Survey map(s) provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on the Web Soil Survey, with the area of investigation outlined on the map(s). The scale of the map(s) shall be identified and a list of the map units under investigation shall be listed. The applicable interpretations and minor components (inclusions) for the map units for which the investigation is being made shall also be provided.

(3) Methods Used by Soil Scientist/Classifier: The soil scientist/classifier shall describe the methodologies used for the preparation of the report and shall include the following:

(a) The level of order of survey used in the field survey, scale and type of maps used for field investigations, number of sample locations and observation points all confirming or disagreeing with the NRCS mapping units. The survey shall be one or more level of order higher than the NRCS survey as described in the NRCS Soil Survey Manual, 1993. Note that an Order 1 survey is more detailed than an Order 2 or greater survey.
(b) The date(s) of the field investigation;
(c) The methods used for observations (backhoe, auger, shovel, etc.) and methods used for documentation (for slope, color, pH, etc.);
(d) The number and location of borings either shown on an aerial photograph base map of the parcel or provided in a table with latitude and longitude coordinates. In conducting Order 1 soil surveys, the scale of the base maps used for the survey needs to be large enough to enable the identification of polygons of soil map units as consociation map units. Soil map units identified as a complex, association, or undifferentiated group should be avoided as this defeats the purpose of an Order 1 survey. If, however, the soils are so intermingled that they cannot be mapped at a reasonable scale so as to identify consocation map unit polygons, then there should be sufficient sampling and documentation of the complex to demonstrate this soil component distribution. A percentage of each member of the complex

will used in determining area of extent and the reported percentages will be based on this sampling and its documentation, including soil profile descriptions, boring locations and, where useful, photographs.

(e) Geomorphic and vegetation correlations supporting the interpretation of land capability classes of soils that differ from those in the official soil survey information; and

(f) A notation of any limitations encountered during the field investigation, such as soil depth, drainage, slope or inaccessibility.

(4) Results, Findings, and Decisions: The soils report shall describe how the level of order of survey used in this investigation differs from that used by NRCS in the original soil survey. The soils report shall also include:

(a) An overview of the geology or geologic setting, describing sources of parent material, bedrock and related factors;

(b) A description of the landforms and topography, confirming the relationship of landforms to soil mapping units;

(c) A description of on-site and adjacent hydrology, including surface and subsurface features, intermittent versus perennial, floodplain and floodways and other related information;

(d) A description of the revised soil mapping units with their range of characteristics, explaining how and why they differ from NRCS soil mapping. The soils report shall include a summary of soil variability incorporating significance of preceding weather (above or below average), where known and crops and natural vegetation present; and

(e) A tabulation of all previous and revised soil mapping units complete with their acreages and land capability classification.

(5) Summary or Conclusion: The soils report shall contain a section reiterating the purpose of the investigation, explaining the significance of the revised soil mapping and describing any other significant issues related to the report's purpose.

(6) References: This section may list any manuals or publications utilized or referenced by the report.

(7) Attachments: Other informational materials provided as attachments, such as maps, figures or appendices shall include the following and shall be printed on 8 ½ x 11" wherever possible:

(a) Vicinity map at a scale of 1:48,000 or smaller showing the project location;

(b) The NRCS soils map generated from Web Soil Survey at a scale of 1:20,000 or larger outlining the project site;

(c) Site condition map (aerial photo) at a scale of 1:5,000 or larger outlining the project site and showing the location of site investigations (borings) and other relevant features;

(d) Topography map at a scale of 1:24,000 or larger outlining the project site;

(e) Assessor's map at a scale of 1:5,000 or larger outlining the project site;

(f) Revised soils map of the project site at a scale of 1:5,000 or larger;

(g) Soil profile descriptions and site observation notes; and

(h) Representative soil profile descriptions of any soil type identified in the project area that is not described or identified in the published soil survey for the area mapped.

(8) Soils reports shall be submitted electronically to the department to timothy.murphy@state.or.us, accompanied by a Soils Assessment Submittal Form. Payment of a non-refundable administrative fee of $625 should be sent by check.