

PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS

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(May 1988)

Basic technical procedures and standards for this project are found in the "Field Manual, Soil-Vegetation Surveys in California," first published by the California Forest and Range Experiment Station in 1954. This manual was revised and republished by CDF in 1980 for the use of field parties and the cooperating agencies.

Other standards for this project are found in the National Soil Handbook, Soil Survey Manual and Soil Taxonomy of the National Cooperative Soil Survey published by U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service.

- Field crews will classify and map soil series, phases, and vegetation types in the field directly on the photos.
- For each kind of soil, a sufficient number of one-acre plots are taken to give adequate information on the plant cover, soil profile characteristics, and soil classification according to National Cooperative Soil Survey standards.
- Physical and chemical properties of selected soil series are analyzed in the laboratory in accordance with accepted soil-testing standards.
- Aerial photos are taken to delineate vegetation types in a 10-acre minimum of contrasting types, and in a 40-acre minimum of noncontrasting types.
- Predominant species of trees and shrubs and general classes of herbaceous cover within vegetation types are recorded in the field, along with timber site determinations for timber croplands during the field examinations.
- Greenhouse soil pot tests are conducted to indicate relative fertility levels and ascertain productivity for range forage. Nutrient deficiency tests are conducted on soil types that cover large acreage for which the pot tests indicate the necessity of further study. These data are analyzed for the purpose of developing a nutrient deficiency inventory of major soil types.

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