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To: All Field Offices
From: Director, National Applied Resource Sciences Center
Subject: Release of the Soils Suitability Extension

The National Applied Resource Sciences Center has developed the Soils Suitability Extension (SSE) which is a customized ArcView GIS extension. SSE allows someone with minimal ArcView skills and without a soils background, easy access to existing soils data. SSE provides the user quick and easy access to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) State Soil Geographic data base (STATSGO) and Soil Survey Geographic data base (SSURGO) data with a number of predefined queries. There are two "types" of queries; General Soils Queries and Soils Queries to Support Rangeland Management. The other tool developed with SSE is a user-friendly way to download SSURGO data from the NRCS ftp site.

SSE is not a soils browser nor does it replace any of the NRCS soil browsers; rather, it provides the user with a different way to access, via a set of canned queries, the STATSGO and SSURGO soil data.

The extension is being distributed with STATSGO data for the western United States along with one allotment coverage and two SSURGO inventories, one for Colorado and one for Wyoming. The allotment coverage that is included is the same one that was used with the development of the User's Guide. Everything is packaged together in an executable (exe) WinZIP file. This file (135,533KB in size) is available for download from the NARSC GIS Web Site (<http://www.blm.gov/gis/narsc/soils/soils.html>) or on CD's, which can be requested via e-mail to mstulz@blm.gov. To receive a CD please include your complete mailing address along with your request.

The User's Guide is included with the WinZIP file in both Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) and MS Word format. It is also available via the Internet in PDF format. The Internet copy is

the official copy of the documentation. This copy is also available from within ArcView when the SSE extension is loaded. This way all users have access to the latest version of the documentation. Appendix A of the User's Guide is the installation procedures and Appendix B contains information about the SSE preference file and both of these contain important information about loading and using this extension.

If you have any questions regarding this ArcView extension, please contact Mary Beth Stulz, (303) 236-0100, or by e-mail.

Signed by
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