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## MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Mayor Westover and Assembly Members  
Jim Dinley, Municipal Administrator

**Through:** Michael Harmon, Public Works Director *MAH*

**From:** Gary E. Baugher Jr., Maint. & Operations Supt. *GeB*

**cc:** Dave Wolff, Finance Director

**Date:** April 4, 2011

**Subject:** MOU for USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey

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### Background

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is developing plans for a soil resource survey of private lands within the southeast Alaska region. These resource surveys are funded by Congress under the National Cooperative Soil Survey Program to provide resource information to all non-federal landowners and managers in the United States. Participation in the resource surveys is voluntary and no lands will be accessed without the prior permission of the landowner or manager. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) partnership have a common objective of providing service to soil survey program participants in an effective and efficient manner.

The Alaska Major Land Resource Area Soil Survey Region 17 covers one-fifth of the United States or 373 million acres. Of that amount, 312.5 million acres are estimated to have some level of initial mapping completed. This completed mapping ranges from detailed 1:25,000 scale coverage in high use areas to the general coverage provided by the Exploratory Soil Survey of Alaska for low use areas.

There are five Land Resource Regions and twenty-seven Major Land Resource Areas within Soil Survey Region 17. The region covers five major climatic zones and ranges from steep, mountainous maritime rainforests, to hilly continental basins, to nearly level arctic coastal plains. Permafrost is present across two-thirds of the area. Land use varies considerably across the region and includes both traditional and non-traditional agricultural uses. Subsistence lifestyle activities are critical to the majority of the rural residents.

## **Analysis**

The purpose of this memorandum of understanding (MOU) is to encourage cooperation and to outline how the NCSS partnership will work together within Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) Soil Survey Region 17 to complete soil surveys to a common standard. Effective cooperation among participants will improve their respective abilities to provide service to the soil survey program as well as significantly advance the individual partnership mission.

This MOU will ensure that initial soil mapping, update work, interpretation, and a product delivery are conducted according to common standards within Alaska Region. It serves as the guidance document for developing individual project work plans within the region. Project work plans contain the technical standards, specifications, product development plans, staffing plans, and schedules for completing a specific soil survey project.

## **Financial**

There is no monetary commitment to the City and Borough of Sitka for the soil survey unless CBS is wanting areas outside of the Sitka proper surveyed. If this is requested by the CBS or private landowners there will be a separate agreement developed between the two parties. The CBS obligation would be to provide a venue (centennial hall, fire station, etc...) for the NRCS to utilize for their public meetings. There is no cost to the CBS for housing or food, but NRCS would appreciate any recommendations on locations of where to acquire lodging and food during their stay in Sitka for the survey.

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## **Recommendation:**

**I would recommend upon the approval of the CBS Attorney and the CBS City Administrator this agreement be signed as a mutual understanding between the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and CBS under the National Cooperative Soil Survey Program.**

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
800 West Evergreen Avenue, Suite 100  
Palmer, AK 99645

Gary E. Baugher Jr.  
Maintenance and Operations Superintendent  
City and Borough of Sitka

March 4, 2011

Dear Mr. Baugher,

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is developing plans for a soil resource survey of private lands within the southeast Alaska region. These resource surveys are funded by Congress under the National Cooperative Soil Survey Program to provide resource information to all non-federal landowners and managers in the United States. Participation in the resource surveys is voluntary and no lands will ever be accessed without the prior permission of the landowner or manager.

The soil resource survey will provide area land owners and managers with maps and baseline data on the various types of soils that underlay their lands. It will also provide information on vegetation communities, landforms, and surface hydrology. The information provides land owners with the basic resource information needed to make wise resource management and development decisions. I have attached some information regarding the proposed project. Additional information on other Alaska soil surveys is available at <http://www.ak.nrcs.usda.gov/soils/index.html>.

At this time, we are contacting you to obtain formal permission to access your lands to complete the soil resource inventory. This permission is added as an amendment to our state-wide memorandum of understanding which describes in detail the purpose and directive for completing soil surveys in Alaska. The state-wide memorandum of understanding is attached as reference should you have any questions regarding the soil survey program and our overall goals in Alaska. Also, Please find attached the amendment for your signature.

Our agency will be available to begin fieldwork in the summer of 2011 on those lands where we have permission to access. We would like to initiate and complete our mapping efforts on Sitka Borough and City lands this summer. Upon request, we will provide preliminary data and maps to landowners no later than the next spring. Finalized maps and data will be provided at the end of the project in the form of technical reports, maps, and GIS datasets. We will also be glad to assist landowners in applying the soil resource data to specific resource plans or issues that they are interested in.

I would be glad to answer any questions and provide more information. I can be contacted at (907) 761-7759 or by email at [Mark.Clark@ak.usda.gov](mailto:Mark.Clark@ak.usda.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Clark", written over a horizontal line.

Mark Clark  
State Soil Scientist

Enc.

*Helping People Help the Land*

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATIONAL COOPERATIVE SOIL SURVEY

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between the

USDA - NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

and the

USDA - FOREST SERVICE

and the

USDI - BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

and the

USDI - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

and the

USDI - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

and the

USDI FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

and the

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

AGRICULTURAL & FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

and the

ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

and the

STATE OF ALASKA, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

and

INDIVIDUAL ALASKA COMMUNITIES, ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES AND ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGE  
AND REGIONAL CORPORATIONS

*RELATIVE TO THE MAKING AND UPDATE OF ALL SOIL SURVEYS WITHIN MAJOR LAND  
RESOURCE AREA SOIL SURVEY REGION 17 - ALASKA REGION*

## Authority

Public Law 74-46, 49 Stat. 163 (16 U.S.C. 590 a-f) and Public Law 89-560, 80 Stat. 706 (42 U.S.C. 3271-3274).

## Purpose

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) partnership have a common objective of providing service to soil survey program participants in an effective and efficient manner.

The purpose of this memorandum of understanding (MOU) is to encourage cooperation and to outline how the NCSS partnership will work together within Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) Soil Survey Region 17 to complete soil surveys to a common standard. Effective cooperation among participants will improve their respective abilities to provide service to the soil survey program as well as significantly advance the individual partnership mission.

This memorandum of understanding serves as a blanket memorandum of understanding for all soil survey work within MLRA Soil Survey Region 17. This MOU will help to ensure that initial soil mapping, update work, interpretation, and product delivery are conducted according to common standards within the Alaska Region. Consequently, it serves as the guidance document for developing individual project work plans within the region. Project work plans contain the technical standards, specifications, product development plans, staffing plans, and schedules for completing a specific soil survey project. Project work plans also describe any specific responsibilities of cooperators as related to that project. Trust fund agreements or reimbursements between agencies, local units of governments, and other cooperators for individual projects will be covered by separate agreements.

This MOU provides the guidance needed for the Alaska Region 17 MLRA Office to be able to conduct business, including the completion of an initial soil inventory and continued update efforts of existing soil surveys within the business area. Work will be done in accordance with National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) standards at scales ranging from 1:25,000 to 1:500,000. The intent of this MOU is to ensure that the soil survey work in the area provides scientifically sound, up-to-date, coordinated soil survey information. The mission of the cooperative soil survey is to assist humankind in understanding and wisely using soil resources to achieve and sustain a desirable quality of life. This mission is achieved by maintaining a strong scientific basis for defining and describing soil landscape relationships important to the

use and management of soils; by providing scientific expertise to identify, classify, characterize, correlate, and interpret soils; by making field investigations, remote sensing and laboratory information and its interpretation readily available through texts, maps, digital products, and other databases; and by assisting people in the use of soil survey information.

There is a need to complete the initial soil inventory of the Alaska Region. There is also a need to update soil survey information that builds on existing soil surveys and to develop a coordinated database that addresses local, regional, and national concerns. These projects will enable decision makers to make more informed environmental assessments and resource management decisions. They will also provide more comprehensive soil and site data for (1) managing public and private land, (2) protecting water quality and conserving water quantity, (3) improving and maintaining cropland, rangeland, and forestland, (4) improving wildlife habitat, (5) preparing watershed and community plans, and (6) providing community and rural development soil interpretations and potentials.

#### Description of the Work Area

The Alaska Major Land Resource Area Soil Survey Region 17 covers one-fifth of the United States or 373 million acres (Table 1). Of that amount, 312.5 million acres are estimated to have some level of initial mapping completed. This completed mapping ranges from detailed 1:25,000 scale coverage in high use areas to the general coverage provided by the *Exploratory Soil Survey of Alaska* for low use areas.

There are five Land Resource Regions and twenty-seven Major Land Resource Areas within Soil Survey Region 17 (Figure 1, Table 2). The region covers five major climatic zones and ranges from steep, mountainous maritime rainforests, to hilly continental basins, to nearly level arctic coastal plains. Permafrost is present across two-thirds of the area. Land use varies considerably across the region and includes both traditional and non-traditional agricultural uses. Subsistence lifestyle activities are critical to the majority of the rural residents.

The detail of initial soil survey information varies considerably across the region. There are areas of the state that are undergoing rapid development and active resource management that demand a detailed level of soil survey information and other areas requiring only a reconnaissance level of information.

	<i>Alaska Native Land</i>	<i>State and Private Land</i>	<i>U.S. Forest Service</i>	<i>National Park Service</i>	<i>Bureau of Land Mgmt.</i>	<i>Other Federal Land</i>	<i>Total All Categories</i>
Mapped	29,864,807	90,331,054	19,802,303	23,653,619	69,863,110	78,985,398	312,500,290
Unmapped	10,039,257	5,254,678	1,686,999	28,729,278	13,271,074	1,548,674	60,529,960
Total	39,904,064	95,585,732	21,489,302	52,382,897	83,134,184	80,534,072	373,030,250
% of Region	10.7	25.6	5.8	14	22.3	21.6	100

Table 1—General land ownership and acres mapped/unmapped within the Alaska Region (2005 spatial analysis).

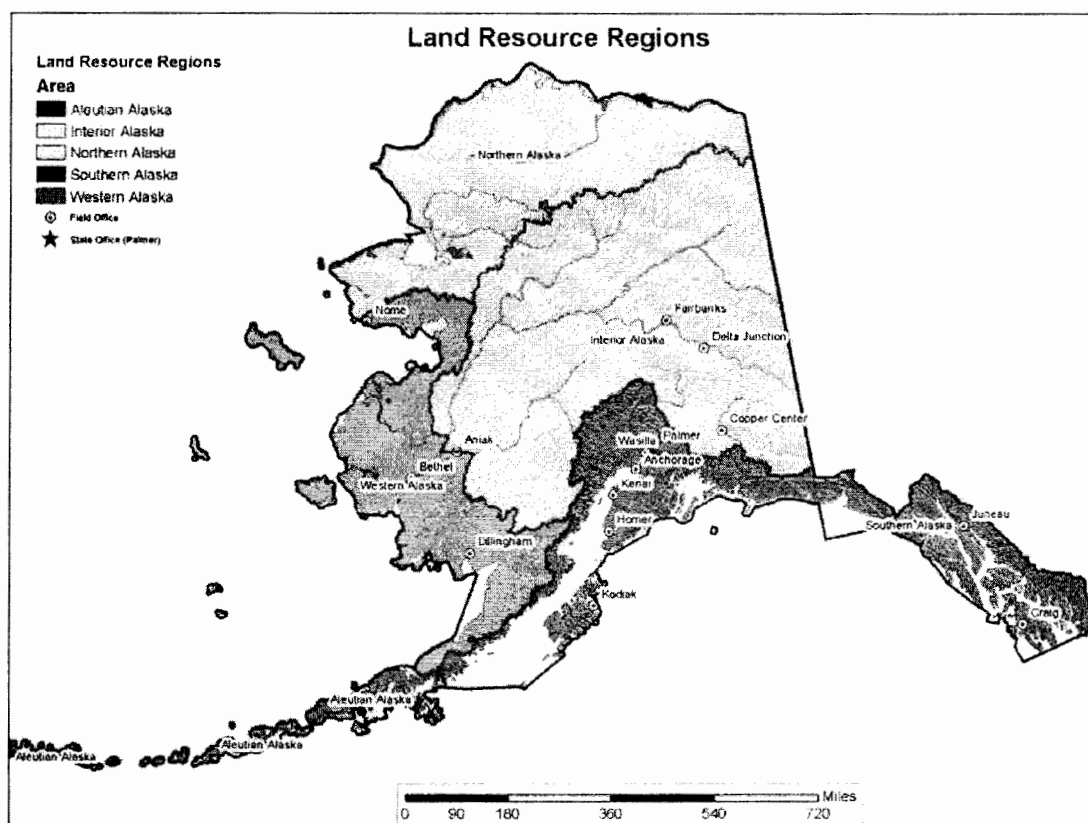


Figure 1—Land Resource Regions within the Alaska Region

<i>Land Resource Region</i>	<i>Major Land Resource Area Number</i>	<i>Major Land Resource Area Name</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Southern Alaska	220	Alexander Archipelago-Gulf of Alaska Coast	17,501,676
Southern Alaska	221	Kodiak Archipelago	3,184,307
Southern Alaska	222	Southern Alaska Coastal Mountains	16,867,258
Southern Alaska	223	Cook Inlet Mountains	12,641,046

Southern Alaska	224	Cook Inlet Lowlands	6,803,781
Southern Alaska	225	Southern Alaska Peninsula Mountains	3,925,794
Aleutian Alaska	226	Aleutian Islands-Western Alaska Peninsula	6,830,128
Interior Alaska	227	Copper River Basin	2,942,531
Interior Alaska	228	Interior Alaska Mountains	28,437,150
Interior Alaska	229	Interior Alaska Lowlands	23,272,367
Interior Alaska	230	Yukon-Kuskokwim Highlands	38,355,008
Interior Alaska	231	Interior Alaska Highlands	44,343,481
Interior Alaska	232	Yukon Flats Lowlands	8,192,289
Interior Alaska	233	Upper Kobuk and Koyukuk Hills and Valleys	8,272,617
Interior Alaska	234	Interior Brooks Range Mountains	12,332,219
Western Alaska	235	Northern Alaska Peninsula Mountains	3,663,184
Western Alaska	236	Bristol Bay-Northern Alaska Peninsula Lowlands	12,560,682
Western Alaska	237	Ahklun Mountains	9,310,941
Western Alaska	238	Yukon-Kuskokwim Coastal Plain	19,273,562
Western Alaska	239	Northern Bering Sea Islands	2,302,232
Western Alaska	240	Nulato Hills-Southern Seward Peninsula Highlands	11,487,221
Northern Alaska	241	Seward Peninsula Highlands	8,730,225
Northern Alaska	242	Northern Seward Peninsula-Selawik Lowlands	5,179,201
Northern Alaska	243	Western Brooks Range Mountains, Foothills, and Valleys	14,773,954
Northern Alaska	244	Northern Brooks Range Mountains	10,060,204
Northern Alaska	245	Arctic Foothills	27,094,380
Northern Alaska	246	Arctic Coastal Plain	14,692,812
			<b>373,030,250</b>

*Table 2 - Major Land Resource Areas in the Alaska Region*

## Responsibilities

Technical responsibilities are identified in this section. Administrative responsibilities for acquisition of monies, personnel, equipment, office space, and other in-kind services are also indicated. However, they are contingent upon separate cooperative agreements, interagency agreements, and trust fund agreements developed between units of government.

Cooperators will communicate regularly but no less than annually to monitor progress, adjust priorities and level of detail needed, and set schedules for specific survey projects.

The lead agency responsible for soil survey projects will prepare work plans; develop sampling plans and conduct soil investigations; provide the controlled base imagery and supporting cartographic materials for field mapping and delivered products; prepare the soil survey products; complete the map compilation and digitizing; and release datasets certified to national standards. Any DEM data or satellite imagery collected as part of this effort will be



made available to the statewide digital mapping initiative if allowed by the license agreement.

**A. It is agreed that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will:**

- Be the lead agency for soil surveys on private lands, and for those surveys on federal land where specified by interagency agreements.
- Furnish staff, equipment, office space, and vehicles for soil surveys on private lands, and for those surveys on federal land where specified by interagency agreements.
- Work with units of government and private land owners/managers to develop cost-sharing agreements for completing soil survey projects.
- Be the lead agency for obtaining controlled base imagery and supporting cartographic materials for field mapping and publication.
- Conduct soil survey data collection, data analysis, correlation, and interpretation in adherence with NCSS standards.
- Characterize key soil types by laboratory analyses.
- Develop sampling plans and conduct soil investigations in cooperation with partners.
- Prepare soil survey products.
- Complete the map compilation, digitizing, and SSURGO certification for all soil surveys in the region.
- Manage and conduct all survey work by individual Major Land Resource Areas and provide a seamless coverage for the entire region (Alaska).
- Promote consistent progressive soil correlation across the region.
- Conduct field reviews, provide field assistance, and prepare trip reports, field review reports, and correlation documents.
- Ensure quality control and provide quality assurance throughout the survey area.
- Cooperate with other cooperators in providing public information regarding progress of the survey, uses of soil survey information, and distribution of the final products.
- Provide technical leadership for development of geographic Information systems.
- Coordinate all soil survey activities across the region and between other regions.
- Share available attribute and spatial resource data relevant to the soil survey.

**B. The USDA Forest Service (USFS) will:**

- Determine priorities for soil survey mapping on specified USFS lands, the appropriate scale and level of detail needed, and participate in cooperator conferences..
- Lead and participate in quality assurance reviews, field studies, and soil correlation for project soil surveys containing USFS lands as specified in interagency agreements.
- Cooperate in educational and informational programs regarding the proper use of soil resources.
- Conduct soil surveys on the lands under the jurisdiction of the USFS or reimburse actual costs to NRCS to conduct soil surveys on USFS lands as specified in interagency agreements.
- Share available attribute and spatial resource data relevant to the soil survey.
- Cooperate in ensuring exact joins between soil survey areas.
- Provide guidance and assistance in other phases of the soil survey program.
- Participate in the soil survey program until June 1, 2017. If it is found that further cooperation is required to accomplish the intent of this Memorandum of Understanding, a modification extending the time period will be prepared prior to the expiration date.
- Participate under this agreement for National Cooperative Soil Surveys only. This agreement does not apply to other USFS surveys and inventories.

**C. The U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) will:**

- Determine priorities for soil survey mapping on lands administered by or held in trust by the BIA.
- Share available attribute and spatial resource data relevant to the soil survey.
- Cooperate in the dissemination of information regarding soil survey progress and the value, use, and availability of soil survey information.
- Provide guidance and assistance in other phases of the soil survey program.

**D. The U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will:**

- Determine priorities for soil survey mapping on specified BLM lands and the appropriate scale and level of detail needed.
- Participate in quality assurance reviews, field studies, and soil correlation for soil survey projects containing BLM lands.

- Cooperate in educational and informational programs regarding the proper use of soil resources.
- Reimburse NRCS for the cost of conducting soil surveys on BLM lands as specified in interagency agreements. Costs will vary based on the map scale/level of intensity desired for specific BLM lands. Costs for broad levels of mapping may be covered by agreed on in-kind compensation.
- Cooperate in the conduct of the National Cooperative Soil Survey by allowing access to BLM lands and participating in cooperator conferences.
- Share available attribute and spatial resource data relevant to the soil survey.
- Provide guidance and assistance in other phases of the soil survey program.

**E. The U.S. Department of Interior National Park Service (NPS) will:**

- Determine priorities for soil survey mapping on specified NPS lands and the appropriate scale and level of detail needed.
- Participate in quality assurance reviews, field studies, and soil correlation for soil survey projects containing NPS lands.
- Cooperate in educational and informational programs regarding the proper use of soil resources.
- Reimburse NRCS for the full cost of conducting soil surveys on NPS lands as specified in interagency agreements. Costs will vary based on the map scale/level of intensity desired for specific NPS lands.
- Cooperate in the conduct of the National Cooperative Soil Survey by allowing access to NPS lands and participating in cooperator conferences.
- Share available attribute and spatial resource data relevant to the soil survey.
- Cooperate in ensuring exact joins between soil survey areas.
- Provide guidance and assistance in other phases of the soil survey program.

**F. The U.S. Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will:**

- Determine the need and priorities for soil\ecological inventory mapping on specified USFWS lands and the appropriate scale and level of detail needed.
- Designate Refuge points-of-contact to facilitate communication to and from any Refuge where soil resource inventories are requested.
- Reimburse the NRCS with a combination of in-kind services and/or transfer of funds for the cost of any 1:250,000 and 1:63,360 scale survey activities requested by USFWS on

specific Refuge lands. A scope of work and the associated reimbursement necessary (in-kind and/or fund transfer) will be based on a mutually developed Interagency Agreements.

- Participate, when appropriate, in quality assurance reviews, field studies, and cooperator meetings for soil/ecological soil surveys containing USFWS lands.
- Cooperate in educational and informational programs regarding the proper use of soil and related resources.
- Share available attribute and spatial resource data relevant to the soil resource inventory.

**G. The University of Alaska Fairbanks, Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station will:**

- Perform research in genesis, morphology, and classification of soils.
- Participate in quality assurance reviews, field studies, and soil correlation.
- Cooperate in information and education programs regarding the value, use, and availability of soil survey information.
- Provide guidance and assistance in other phases of the soil survey program.

**H. The Alaska Association of Conservation Districts will:**

- Assist in determining priorities for soil survey mapping and the appropriate scale and level of detail needed.
- Cooperate in information and education programs regarding the value, use, and availability of soil survey information.
- Provide guidance and assistance in other phases of the soil survey program.

**I. The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources will:**

- Determine priorities for soil survey mapping on State of Alaska lands and the appropriate scale and level of detail needed.
- Cooperate in educational and informational programs regarding the proper use of soil resources.
- Cooperate in the conduct of the National Cooperative Soil Survey by allowing access to State of Alaska lands, communicating survey objectives and information to appropriate state departments and divisions, and participating in cooperator conferences.
- Identify cultural sites and other significant or sensitive areas that are to be avoided or require special treatment.

- Share available attribute and spatial resource data relevant to the soil survey.
- Provide guidance and assistance in other phases of the soil survey program.

**J. Individual Alaska Communities, Alaska Native Tribes, and Alaska Native Village and Regional Corporations will:**

*(As individual Alaska Communities, Alaska Native Tribes, and Alaska Native Village and Regional Corporations agree to have soil surveys conducted on their lands, this MOU will be amended by adding their signature and any necessary information specific to their lands and desired level of cooperation)*

**Specifications**

The products expected are coordinated, joined, digitized soil surveys at varying levels of detail and scales of 1:25,000, 1:63,360, 1:250,000 and 1:500,000. Cooperators will determine the appropriate level of detail and mapping scale necessary for specific areas. The level of detail and scale used will vary within each MLRA depending on current and anticipated land use. An update of the *Exploratory Soil Survey of Alaska* will be used for those lands requiring 1:500,000 scale coverage. This update will be conducted using an analysis of currently available remote sensing and natural resource data. The 1:500,000 level of coverage will not be based on additional field documentation. All survey products will have accompanying attribute soil data in the National Soil Information System (NASIS). Digitizing specifications will be in accordance with the National Soil Survey Handbook Part 647 Map Digitizing Standards for the Soil Survey Geographic Database (SSURGO) and Digital Map Finishing. Digitized data will not be copyrighted. NRCS reserves the right to archive and distribute data generated under the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Sufficient field documentation will be collected at the 1:25,000, 1:63,360 and 1:250,000 scales to characterize and describe the soil map unit concepts as to name, composition, setting, and interpretation. Sufficient field checking of map units in the survey area will be made to ensure that delineations meet the map unit criteria—i.e., the map unit delineations are as described and their components will interpret as stated in the map unit descriptions and tables. The taxonomic classes selected to name map unit components will be represented and supported by a typical pedon. All surveys within this region will be coordinated and a comprehensive digital coverage developed that will ensure edge matching between adjoining map sheets. The published National Cooperative Soil Survey standards will apply to all

aspects of the survey work. Ecological site data will be collected and summarized in coordination with the soils data collection for those areas where specific funding for this purpose is provided.

All specifications regarding levels of detail, mapping scales, data collection, naming conventions, and schedules will be outlined in the individual project work plans.

#### **Information Necessary to Organize and Plan the Work**

Specific dates for planning and managing the soil survey area projects will be maintained in the Soil Survey Scheduler. Individual project soil survey work plans are contingent on funding and staffing.

## **XII. PRODUCT DELIVERY PLANS:**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, unless specified otherwise by amendment to this memorandum of understanding, will be responsible for preparing the primary products for release on the World Wide Web through Web Soil Survey and Soil Datamart. This includes attribute, spatial, and meta data.

#### **Contribution Agreements**

Individual contribution agreements may be developed as needed to identify special needs or clarify reimbursable, cost share, or other working agreements.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

#### **XIV. LIFE OF AGREEMENT:**

This MOU will remain in effect as long as all parties have an active soil survey program.

#### **XV. PROVISION TO RENEW, TERMINATE, AND SUSPEND:**

This MOU supersedes all previous work plans. This agreement may be amended, extended, or modified by a written amendment to the agreement through an exchange of correspondence between authorized officials.

*(As individual Alaska Communities, Alaska Native Tribes, and Native Regional Corporations agree to have soil surveys conducted on their lands, this MOU will be amended by adding their signature and any necessary information specific to their lands and desired level of cooperation)*

**AMENDMENT  
TO THE  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

***RELATIVE TO THE MAKING AND UPDATE OF ALL SOIL SURVEYS WITHIN MAJOR LAND  
RESOURCE AREA SOIL SURVEY REGION 17 - ALASKA REGION***

City and Borough of Sitka:

- Cooperate in the conduct of the National Cooperative Soil Survey by allowing access to lands within the City and Borough of Sitka.
- Identify cultural sites and other sensitive or significant areas that are to be avoided or require special treatment.
- Determine priorities for soil survey mapping on Municipal lands and the appropriate scale and level of detail needed.
- Cooperate in educational and informational programs within the City regarding the conduct of the soil survey and the proper use of soil and related resources.
- Share available attribute and spatial resource data relevant to the soil survey.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Jim Dinley, Municipal Administrator

City and Borough of Sitka

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date