

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE SOIL SURVEY SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

PURPOSE OF THE AWARD

To recognize exceptional achievement by National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) scientists in a federal fiscal year.

GRANTING OF THE AWARDS

The award is granted annually in the form of a plaque, which is presented at the National or Regional Cooperative Soil Survey Conference by the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service; Deputy Chief for Soil Science and Resource Assessment; or Director, Soil and Plant Science Division.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Nominees must be scientists working in the soil survey program of the NCSS, including technical soil services and/or initial or update project soil or ecological site survey work. Eligible positions include, but are not limited to, the following: MLRA soil survey members, MLRA soil survey leaders, soil data quality specialists, ecological site specialists, GIS specialists, State soil scientists, assistant State soil scientists, resource soil scientists (technical soil services), and other Federal or State agency soil or ecological scientists. Nominees must have a minimum of 3 years (cumulative) service in the production phase of the Soil Survey Program and must currently be working in the program. Nominees are limited to positions at the GS-12 level or equivalent and below. Exclusions: An individual may receive the award only once.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

Nominations are accepted from any individual, agency, or group in the NCSS. Approval by the State Conservationist, Soil Survey regional director, or other Federal or State team leader is recommended. Completed nominations must be sent to (email only):

David L. Lindbo

Director, Soil and Plant Science Division, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Email: david.lindbo@usda.gov

Each nomination must include an original copy of the following:

- Completed nomination form
- Nominating document one to three pages (single-spaced) in length summarizing the nominee's achievements, contributions, or initiatives that have benefited the Soil Survey Program

AWARD CRITERIA

Awards may be given for the cumulative accomplishments of several years or for a single outstanding achievement realized during a shorter time period. Award criteria include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Technical achievement that has led to a significant advancement in any phase of soil or ecological site survey. This might include technical or conceptual enhancements of field mapping, map production, data analysis, soil interpretation, ecological site inventory and development, etc.
- Exceptional management of soil or ecological site survey resources at any level resulting in enhanced productivity, technical innovation, and survey quality.
- Excellence in recruiting, training, or developing soil and ecological site survey field staff.
- An exceptionally innovative or creative technical innovation, project, or concept that has significantly enhanced the science of soil and ecological site survey.

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE SOIL SURVEY SCIENTIST ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

PURPOSE OF THE AWARD

To recognize exceptional lifetime achievement by individuals working under the auspices of the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) Program. The award was established to target individuals in the production and application phases of the NCSS Program.

GRANTING OF THE AWARD

The award is granted annually in the form of a plaque, which is presented at the National or Regional Cooperative Soil Survey Conference by the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service; Deputy Chief for Soil Science and Resource Assessment; or Director, Soil and Plant Science Division.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Nominees may come from any NCSS partner agency or group—Federal, State, local, or private. Nominees must have a minimum of 10 years (cumulative) service in the soil or ecological site survey program of the NCSS, including technical soil services and initial or update soil or ecological site survey work. Those eligible for the award include, but are not limited to, soil scientists, resource soil scientists, MLRA soil survey leaders, manuscript editors, soil data quality specialists, forest scientists, ecological site specialists, GIS specialists, assistant State soil scientists, State soil scientists, MLRA regional office directors, soil specialists, etc. Nominees are limited to GS-14 level and below. Exclusions: An individual may receive the award only once.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

Nominations are accepted from any individual, agency, or group in the NCSS. Approval by the State Conservationist, Soil Survey regional director, or other Federal or State team leader is recommended. Completed nominations must be sent to (email only):

David L. Lindbo

Director, Soil and Plant Science Division, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Email: david.lindbo@usda.gov

Each nomination must include an original copy of the following:

- Completed nomination form
- Nominating document one to three pages (single-spaced) in length summarizing the nominee's achievements, contributions, or initiatives that have benefited the NCSS program.

AWARD CRITERIA

This award is given for the cumulative accomplishments of many years. Award criteria include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Technical achievement that has led to a significant advancement in any phase of the soil or ecological site survey program. This could include technical or conceptual enhancements of field mapping, map production, data analysis, soil interpretation, ecological site inventory and development, etc.
- Exceptional management of a soil or ecological survey program at any level resulting in enhanced productivity, technical innovation, and survey quality.
- Sustained excellence in recruiting, training, or developing soil or ecological site survey talent at all levels of the NCSS organization.
- Exceptionally innovative or creative research that has significantly enhanced the science of soil or ecological site survey.

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE SOIL SURVEY COOPERATOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

PURPOSE OF THE AWARD

To recognize exceptional achievement by individuals working under the auspices of the NCSS Program. The award was established to target individuals who make significant contributions to the NCSS Program.

GRANTING OF THE AWARD

The award is granted annually in the form of a plaque, which is presented at the National or Regional Cooperative Soil Survey Conference by the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service; Deputy Chief for Soil Science and Resource Assessment; or Director, Soil and Plant Science Division.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Nominees may come from any cooperating partner of the NCSS—Federal, State, local, or private. Exclusions: An individual may receive the award only once.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

Nominations are accepted from any individual, agency, or group in the NCSS. Completed nominations must be sent to (email only):

David L. Lindbo

Director, Soil and Plant Science Division
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
Email: david.lindbo@usda.gov

Each nomination must include an original copy of the following:

- Completed nomination form
- Nominating document one to three pages (single-spaced) in length summarizing the nominee's achievements, contributions, or initiatives that have benefited the NCSS program

AWARD CRITERIA

Awards may be given for the cumulative accomplishments of many years or for a single outstanding achievement realized during a brief time period. Award criteria include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Technical achievement that has led to a significant advancement in any phase of the soil or ecological site survey program. This could include technical or conceptual enhancements of field mapping, map production, data analysis, soil interpretation, ecological site inventory and development, etc.
- Sustained excellence in recruiting, training, or developing soil or ecological site survey talent at all levels of the NCSS organization.
- Exceptionally innovative or creative research that has significantly enhanced the science of soil and ecological site survey.