

National Bulletin: 430-24-3

Date: 11/03/2023

Subject: SOI–Comment Period for National Soil Survey  
Handbook Changes

**Action Required By: December 8, 2023**

**Purpose:** This national bulletin solicits reviews and comments on proposed changes to 430 NSSH §§ 601.0 and 601.1 and the word “recorrelation” in Parts 608, 610, 614, 631, and 648.

**Expiration Date:** January 31, 2024.

**Background:** Revisions to the handbook include:

- Clarifying roles of the Soil and Plant Science Division (SPSD) and expanding upon the information of the NRCS Soil Survey Program in section 601.0(B).
- Making section 601.0 compliant with Section 508 by writing out the names of the hyperlinks.
- Updating section 601.1 to—
  - Change “Soil Survey Office” to “major land resource area (MLRA) soil survey leader.”
  - Change “Soil Survey Regional Office” to “Soil Survey Regional Director (which includes the special projects leader).”
  - Move the Geospatial Research Unit, National Soil Survey Center responsibilities under the National Soil Survey Center responsibilities.
  - Change “National Headquarters” to “National Headquarters, director of the SPSD.”
  - Clarify roles and responsibilities of SPSD staff to fit with the National Cooperative Soil Survey Organization heading.
- Changing the word “recorrelation” and “re-correlation” to “correlation” in sections 608.12(II)(B), 610.3(C)(2), 610.5(C), 610.14, 614.6(G), 631.12, and 648.15.
- Changing the word “recorrelated” to “correlated” in sections 610.11(6)(a)(ii) and 610.13, Part B.
- Changing the word “recorrelate” to “correlate” in section 648.14.

**Explanation:** Review the proposed changes to the handbook on the Box site under [Proposed Changes - National Soil Survey Handbook](#). Email comments and edits to Debbie Surabian at [Debbie.Surabian@usda.gov](mailto:Debbie.Surabian@usda.gov) by **December 8, 2023**.

You may compare the proposed changes with the current wording of the handbook on [eDirectives](#).

**Contact:** Direct questions to Debbie Surabian, national leader for standards, at [Debbie.Surabian@usda.gov](mailto:Debbie.Surabian@usda.gov).