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Transmitted via Email

March 19, 2008

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 190-8-16

SUBJECT: ECOLOGICAL SITE INFORMATION SYSTEM (ESIS) TRAINING

ACTION DUE BY: April 15, 2008

Purpose. To provide information about this training workshop.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2008.

On June 2-3, 2008, Minnesota will host an Ecological Site Information System (ESIS) training workshop in St. Paul. The trainers will be Homer Sanchez and Arnold Norman from the CNTC in Fort Worth, Texas, and Bruce Wight, National Agroforester from Lincoln, Nebraska. The purposes of this workshop are as follows;

- develop recommendations for Minnesota to gather ecological site data,
- train staff on ESIS, its value and uses in conservation planning and program, and
- demonstrate ESIS data inventory methods.

This will be a two-day workshop beginning at 12:00 (noon) on June 2 in the St. Paul state office first floor conference room. The second day will consist of in-field ecological site data collection. The complete workshop agenda will be sent out prior to the session.

Staff approved to attend this workshop includes: The three regional grazing specialists, seven area resource soil scientists, and designated Soils and ECS staff from the state office. In addition each ASTC (FO) will designate one additional employee as follows:

- Area 1 – Soil Conservationist
- Area 2 – Area Resource Conservationist (Bob Honeman)
- Area 3 – District Conservationist
- Area 4 – Soil Conservationist
- Area 5 – Area Resource Conservationist (Michael Nienaber)
- Area 6 – Wetland Specialist (Jennifer Cavanaugh)
- Area 7 – Soil Conservationist

Those ASTC (FO)s with an unnamed participant will select a representative and forward that selection to Charles Montgomery by April 15. At the conclusion of the workshop the participants will continue to work with John Zinn, State Grazing Specialist, and Robin Martinek, Conservation Agronomist, to draft a strategy for Minnesota to collect ecological site data. This strategy will be reviewed at a future Leadership Meeting.



This workshop has been added to the state training plan and travel funds, if appropriate, will come from the state training budget.

Direct your questions on this workshop to John Zinn, State Grazing Specialist, or Robin Martinek, Conservation Agronomist.

/s/

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

Dist: ASTC