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OKLAHOMA BULLETIN NO. OK170-3-2

SUBJECT: CGI – Global Positioning Systems (GPS) Implementation

Purpose: To provide information on GPS Deployment, Training, and Oklahoma NRCS GPS Policies.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2003

The use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) technology will become an important part of how we will do business within Oklahoma NRCS. This bulletin outlines Oklahoma's NRCS GPS deployment plan, training procedures, and policy on the use of GPS equipment and technical support responsibilities.

Oklahoma NRCS has 90 Configuration 1 and 20 Configuration 2 GPS units available to be deployed in the following manner.

Each field office will receive a Configuration 1 GPS unit. The Configuration 1 unit includes a backpack, external antenna with a magnetic vehicle mount, and a radio signal beacon receiver that connects with the Garmin Map76 GPS to provide very accurate differential position correction. These GPS units are capable of measuring both length and area accurately and can be used for certification of conservation practices by certified users. Others receiving a Configuration 1 GPS unit will be Tribal Resource Conservationists, Technical Service Offices, and selected technical specialists. Additional Configuration 1 GPS units have been requested, and will be used to supplement offices that can identify a need for additional units.

Configuration 2 GPS units have a backpack and external antenna, but do not have the beacon receiver for differential correction. These units will be deployed as supplemental units, primarily in western Oklahoma where canopy cover does not prohibit satellite signal reception and also in offices that will use the GPS units primarily for navigation purposes.

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The deployment of the GPS units will occur in conjunction with the training. As each office attends a scheduled training session they will receive their GPS unit and be instructed on its care and assembly. Each office will select an employee to receive the initial training, and this employee will be responsible for training the others in their office on the use of the GPS equipment. This employee will also be responsible for the care of the GPS unit to insure it is kept in good operating order (*i.e. batteries charged, cables functioning, etc.*).

Five GPS trainers will be providing the initial training across the state. A map showing who they are and their areas of training responsibility is attached. These trainers will be contacting field offices, TSO's, and individuals identified in the deployment plan to schedule two-day training sessions.

The GPS training cadre members will be the first contact for technical assistance and support. They are also responsible for making sure each employee who plans to use the GPS units for measuring lengths and areas for conservation practice certification can use the units correctly.

A form that employees can use to certify that they have been trained and have demonstrated to a GPS training cadre member that they can properly use the GPS equipment is attached. Each employee who will be using the GPS units for practice certification measurements will need to get a training cadre member and their immediate supervisor to sign off on this form. After they have been certified, they should enter the information into the SIMS portion of I-CAMS as a NRCS Certificate.

Overall technical support of GPS equipment will be coordinated by Jim Henley, State GPS Coordinator. This support will include both the PLGR units and the Garmin Map76 GPS systems. Survey Grade GPS Trimble units will be supported by the Engineering Section.

Guidelines on required GPS accuracy standards and state policy identifying situations when practice certification measurements should not be made using GPS technology are still under testing and development and will be released in the future.

/s/

M. DARREL DOMINICK
State Conservationist

Attachments