Table 6 Continued

Percent Slope	Slope Length in Feet: 300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1500	1700	2000
0.2	0.11	0.12	0.13	0.14	0.15	0.15	0.16	0.16	0.17	0.17	0.18	0.19	0.19	0.20
0.3	0.12	0.13	0.14	0.15	0.16	0.16	0.17	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.19	0.20	0.21	0.22
0.4	0.13	0.14	0.15	0.16	0.17	0.17	0.18	0.19	0.19	0.20	0.20	0.21	0.22	0.23
0.5	0.14	0.15	0.16	0.17	0.18	0.18	0.19	0.20	0.20	0.21	0.21	0.22	0.23	0.24
1.0	0.18	0.20	0.21	0.22	0.23	0.24	0.25	0.26	0.27	0.27	0.28	0.29	0.30	0.32
2.0	0.28	0.31	0.33	0.34	0.36	0.38	0.39	0.40	0.41	0.42	0.43	0.45	0.47	0.49
3.0	0.40	0.44	0.47	0.49	0.52	0.54	0.56	0.57	0.59	0.61	0.62	0.65	0.67	0.71
4.0	0.62	0.70	0.76	0.82	0.87	0.92	0.96	1.01	1.04	1.08	1.12	1.18	1.24	1.33
5.0	0.93	1.07	1.20	1.31	1.42	1.52	1.61	1.69	1.78	1.86	1.93	2.07	2.21	2.40
6.0	1.17	1.35	1.50	1.65	1.78	1.90	2.02	2.13	2.23	2.33	2.43	2.61	2.77	3.01
8.0	1.72	1.98	2.22	2.43	2.62	2.81	2.98	3.14	3.29	3.44	3.58	3.84	4.09	4.44
10.0	2.37	2.74	3.06	3.36	3.62	3.87	4.11	4.33	4.54	4.74	4.94	5.30	5.65	6.13
12.0	3.13	3.61	4.04	4.42	4.77	5.10	5.41	5.71	5.99	6.25	6.51	6.99	7.44	8.07
14.0	3.98	4.59	5.13	5.62	6.07	6.49	6.88	7.26	7.61	7.95	8.27	8.89	9.46	10.26
16.0	4.92	5.68	6.35	6.95	7.51	8.03	8.52	8.98	9.42	9.83	10.24	11.00	11.71	12.70
18.0	5.95	6.87	7.68	8.41	9.09	9.71	10.30	10.86	11.39	11.90	12.38	13.30	14.16	15.36
20.0	7.07	8.16	9.12	9.99	10.79	11.54	12.24	12.90	13.53	14.13	14.71	15.80	16.82	28.24
25.0	10.20	11.78	13.17	14.43	15.59	16.66	17.67	18.63	19.54	20.41	21.24	22.82	24.29	26.35
30.0	13.78	15.91	17.79	19.48	21.04	22.50	23.86	25.15	26.38	27.55	28.68	30.81	32.80	
40.0	21.92	25.31	28.30	31.00	33.48									
50.0	30.87													
60.0														

ESTIMATING RAINFALL-EROSION SOIL LOSSES ON
ƷTRUCTION SITES AND SIMILARLY DISTURBED AND UNVEGETATED AREAS

The method described here is based on modification of the Universal Soil-Loss Equation and is used to predict soil loss from sheet erosion. The rate of sheet erosion depends on several factors as follows: (1) rainfall energy and intensity, (2) soil erodibility, (3) slope gradient and length of slope, (4) surface conditions such as grass, woodland, farm crops or no cover, and (5) condition of the soil surface and management practice used. These factors may be assigned quantitative values to be used in estimating soil loss. However, the method does not account for soil loss by rill or gully erosion.

The equation is: $A = RK(LS)CP$

A = the computed soil loss expressed in tons per unit of area. Conversion to cubic yards per unit area is obtained by use of Tables 2A and 2B.

R = the rainfall factor is the number of erosion index units in a normal year's rain. The average annual erosive rainfall factor (R value) for Connecticut is 150.

K = the soil erodibility factor as shown in Table 1, is the erosion rate per unit of erosion index for a specific soil.

L = the slope length factor is the ratio of soil loss from a specific slope length to a 72.6 foot slope of the same soil and gradient.

S = the slope gradient factor is the ratio of soil loss from the field gradient to that from a nine percent slope.

C = the cropping management factor as shown in Table 3, is the ratio of soil loss from a field with specified cropping management to that from the fallow condition on which the factor K is evaluated.

P = the erosion control practice factor as shown in Table 4, is the ratio of soil loss with certain conservation practices to that of no practice.

The value A may be modified by a factor M shown in Table 5. The factor may be used to estimate the soil loss for a portion of ·ear or longer periods.

Irregular Slopes

Soil loss is also affected by the shape of a slope. Many field slopes either steepen toward the lower end (convex slope) or flatten toward the lower end (concave slope). Use of the average gradient to enter figure 4 or table 3 would underestimate soil movement to the foot of a convex slope and would overestimate it for concave slopes. Irregular slopes can usually be divided into segments that have nearly uniform gradient, but the segments cannot be evaluated as independent slopes when runoff flows from one segment to the next.

However, where two simplifying assumptions can be accepted, **LS** for irregular slopes can be routinely derived by combining selected values from the slope-effect chart and table 4 (*55*). The assumptions are that (1) the changes in gradient are not sufficient to cause upslope deposition, and (2) the irregular slope can be divided into a small number of equal-length segments in such a manner that the gradient within each segment for practical purposes can be considered uniform.

After dividing the convex, concave, or complex slope into equal-length segments as defined earlier, the procedure is as follows: List the segment gradients in the order in which they occur on the slope, beginning at the upper end. Enter the slope-effect chart with the total slope length and read **LS** for each of the listed gradients. Multiply these by the corrresponding factors from table 4 and add the products to obtain **LS** for the entire slope. The following tabulation illustrates the procedure for a 400-ft convex slope on which the upper third has a gradient of 5 percent; the middle third, 10 percent; and the lower third, 15 percent:

Segment	*Percent slope*	*Table 3*	*Table 4*	*Product*
1	5	1.07	0.19	0.203
2	10	2.74	.35	.959
3	15	5.12	.46	2.355
				LS = 3.517

For the concave slope of the same length, with the segment gradients in reverse order, the values in the third column would be listed in reverse order. The products would then be 0.973, 0.959, and 0.492, giving a sum of 2.42 for **LS**.

Research has not defined just how much gradient change is needed under various conditions for deposition of soil particles of various sizes to begin, but depositional areas can be determined by observation. When the slope breaks are sharp enough to cause deposition, the procedure can be used to estimate **LS** for slope segments above and below the depositional area. However, it will not predict the total sediment moved from such an interrupted slope because it does not predict the amount of deposition.

Changes in Soil Type or Cover Along the Slope

The procedure for irregular slopes can include evaluation of changes in soil type within a slope length (*55*). The products of values selected from table 3 or figure 4 and table 4 to evaluate **LS** for irregular slopes are multiplied by the respective values of **K** before summing. To illustrate, assume the **K** values for the soils in the three segments of the convex slope in the preceding example were 0.27, 0.32, and 0.37, respectively. The average **KLS** for the slope would be obtained as follows:

Segment No.	*Table 3*	*Table 4*	K	*Product*
1	1.07	0.19	0.27	0.055
2	2.74	.35	.32	.307
3	5.12	.46	.37	.871
				KLS = 1.233

Within limits, the procedure can be further extended to account for changes in cover along the slope length by adding a column of segment **C** values. However, it is not applicable for situations where a practice change along the slope causes deposition. For example, a grass buffer strip across the foot of a slope on which substantial erosion is occurring induces deposition. The amount of this deposition is a function of transport relationships (*10*) and cannot be predicted by the USLE.

scarce data available for such slopes and was used to derive figure 4 and table 3.

Distribution of Length Effect

LS values from figure 4 or table 3 predict the *average* erosion over the entire slope. But this erosion is not evenly distributed over the entire length. The rate of soil loss per unit of area increases as the m^{th} power of the distance from the top of the slope, where **m** is the length exponent in the preceding equation.

An equation by Foster and Wischmeier (*12*) estimates the relative amounts of soil loss from successive segments of a slope under conditions where there is no deposition by overland flow. When the gradient is essentially uniform and the segments are of equal length, the procedure can be shortened (*55*). Table 4, derived by this procedure, shows the proportionate amounts of soil detachment from successive equal-length segments of a uniform slope.

Table 4 is entered with the total number of equal-length segments, and the fraction of the soil loss for each segment is read beneath the applicable value of **m**. For example, three equal-length segments of a uniform 6-percent slope would be expected to produce 19, 35, and 46 percent, respectively, of the loss from the entire slope.

TABLE 4.—*Estimated relative soil losses from successive equal-length segments of a uniform slope*[1]

Number of segments	Sequence number of segment	Fraction of soil loss		
		m = 0.5	m = 0.4	m = 0.3
2	1	0.35	0.38	0.41
	2	.65	.62	.59
3	1	.19	.22	.24
	2	.35	.35	.35
	3	.46	.43	.41
4	1	.12	.14	.17
	2	.23	.24	.24
	3	.30	.29	.28
	4	.35	.33	.31
5	1	.09	.11	.12
	2	.16	.17	.18
	3	.21	.21	.21
	4	.25	.24	.23
	5	.28	.27	.25

[1] Derived by the formula:

$$\text{Soil loss fraction} = \frac{j^{m+1} - (j-1)^{m+1}}{N^{m+1}}$$

where j = segment sequence number; m = slope-length exponent (0.5 for slopes ≥ 5 percent, 0.4 for 4 percent slopes, and 0.3 for 3 percent or less); and N = number of equal-length segments into which the slope was divided.

Four segments would produce 12, 23, 30, and 35 percent, respectively. Segment No. 1 is always at the top of the slope.

Percent Slope

Runoff from cropland generally increases with increased slope gradient, but the relationship is influenced by such factors as type of crop, surface roughness, and profile saturation. In the natural rain slope-effect studies, the logarithm of runoff from row crops was linearly and directly proportional to percent slope. With good meadow sod and with smooth bare surfaces, the relationship was insignificant. The effect of slope on runoff decreased in extremely wet periods.

Soil loss increases much more rapidly than runoff as slopes steepen. The slope-steepness factor, **S**, in the soil loss equation is evaluated by the equation

$$S = 65.41 \sin^2 \theta + 4.56 \sin \theta + 0.065 \qquad (5)$$

where θ is the angle of slope.

This equation was used to develop the slope-effect chart. The values reflect the average effect of slope steepness on soil loss in the plot studies. The relation of percent slope to soil loss is believed to be influenced by interactions with soil properties and surface conditions, but the interaction effects have not been quantified by research data. Neither are data available to define the limits on the equation's applicability.

This equation can be derived from the formerly published equation for **S**. Expressing the factor as a function of the sine of the angle of slope rather than the tangent is more accurate because raindrop-impact forces along the surface and runoff shear stress are functions of the sine. Substituting 100 sin θ for percent slope, which is 100 tan θ, does not significantly affect the initial statistical derivation or the equation's solutions for slopes of less than 20 percent. But as slopes become steeper, the difference between the sine and the tangent becomes appreciable and projections far beyond the range of the plot data become more realistic. The numerator was divided by the constant denominator for simplification.

SCS PROCEDURE FOR ESTIMATING GROSS EROSION

This procedure is to be used when estimating all types of average annual gross erosion that deal with field or conservation treatment unit areas. This will provide more reliable data for use of individual cooperators, local ASCS committees, and SCS in evaluating the effects of land treatment. The procedure can be used for gross erosion estimates before and after planned treatment.

Gross erosion from wind and water should be estimated for the entire area to be treated. Water erosion is to include sheet and rill and all other water related types such as concentrated flow and gully. Wind erosion, if a factor, should be estimated for the entire area to be treated. If applicable, both water and wind erosion are to be estimated for the same area.

The term "treatment" as used here may be the result of a single practice, such as contouring or no-till, or may result from any combination of practices being used. This may or may not be an entire resource management system. If this procedure is being used to determine the erosion reduction from a single practice, the computation should show only that practice as treatment. Erosion reduction resulting from other practices applied simultaneously can be computed and recorded separately to show the impact of additional practices, if needed.

Sheet and Rill Erosion

If the area to be treated has fairly uniform soil, slope, and erosion conditions, the factors can be used directly in the USLE to arrive at erosion rates. Losses should be stated in whole tons per acre.

If the field or treatment unit has two or more definite changes in soils, slopes, or erosion conditions, separate calculations should be made for each portion of significant size. The computed results for each portion is then added together to provide a composite soil loss for the field or unit to be treated.

Other Erosion

The soil loss from concentrated flow, gullies, and other similar types of erosion will be determined by calculating the annual volume of soil removed from the eroded area. The annual tons of soil loss can then be determined by multiplying volume by unit weight of the soil. If the time period of the erosion exceeds 1 year, the quantity should be divided by the number of years the gully has existed to get an annual rate. The following table provides a guide for approximate unit weight of various soils that can be used in the absence of better data.