

SECTION II

II - D. SOIL INTERPRETATIONS

Introduction

Soil survey interpretations are predictions of soil behavior for specified land uses and management practices. They are based on soil properties that directly influence the specified use of the soil. Soil survey interpretations allow users of soil surveys to plan reasonable alternatives for use and management of soils.

Limitations or Suitability

Some interpretations are expressed in terms of the degree of limitation or suitability. The interpretations apply to the soils in their natural condition and not for areas that are altered by cut-or-fill operations. In California, No Limitations and Limitations (for Limitation interpretations) and, Good, Fair, and Poor or Very Poor (for Suitability interpretations) are the categories used.

No Limitations or Good – relatively free of limitations or limitations are easily overcome.

Fair – limitations need to be recognized, but can be overcome with good management and careful design.

Limitations, Poor or Very Poor – limitations may be severe enough to make use questionable.

When soil interpretations are used in connection with delineated soil areas on soil maps, the information pertains to the soil for which the soil area is named. Other soils that are in areas too small to map may occur in the delineated area. The interpretations ordinarily do not apply to the included soils. More detailed studies are required if small, specific sites are to be developed or used within a given soil delineation.

Onsite Study

Soil interpretations will not eliminate the need for on-site study and testing of specific sites for the design and construction for specific uses. They can be used as a guide to planning more detailed investigations and for avoiding undesirable sites for an intended use. No consideration is given in these interpretations to the size and shape of soil delineations nor to the patterns they form with other soils on the landscape.

This section contains data and soils interpretations for the following land uses:

- Cropland
- Grazed Land
- Forest Land
- Nonagricultural Land Uses
- Recreation
- Wildlife
- Pastureland and Hay Land
- Mined Land
- Windbreaks
- Engineering
- Waste Disposal
- Water Quantity and Water Quality
- Hydric Soils