

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Soil Science Division

Soil Survey Region 12



Soil Survey Office at Saint Johnsbury, Vermont (12-STJ)

Soils Training for Conservation Planners in Vermont

Purpose

NRCS conservation planners are required to complete the Conservation Planner Designation Curricula to establish and maintain conservation planner certification. Once a planner completes all required training and receives certification, they will be authorized to approve conservation plans. Part of the training requirement is completing a multi-part soils course—Basic Soils, Soil Survey, and Web Soil Survey to Interpret Land Capabilities and Limitations. The training is comprised of two components: office and field proficiency. Al Averill, Vermont State Soil Scientist, designed the field component and hosted a training session in East Montpelier, Vermont, on August 7, 2018. Soil scientists from the Saint Johnsbury, Vermont Soil Survey Office assisted with the field training and taught the planners how to delineate landforms and how best to describe the properties of the soil profile.

Key Outcomes

Thirteen planners participated in the soils field training and learned the basics of landscape and landform delineation and described soil pedons at three different sites. Key outcomes include:

- Increase knowledge of soils and soil-related interpretations for conservation planning
- Increase understanding of soil behavior and recognition of soil variability within and across landscapes
- Increase understanding and accurate interpretation of soil survey information
- Promote holistic conservation planning using soil information.



Conservation planners recording soils data.



Conservation planners delineating soil horizons.

