**MLRA (Major Land Resource Area) Soil Survey Offices in Olympia and Mount Vernon, Washington**

## MLRA Soil Scientists Help Deliver Hydric Soils Training to Washington Staff

### Purpose

In September, Washington NRCS hosted training in Olympia on hydric soil identification specifically geared towards staff who are involved with certified wetland determinations. MLRA soil scientists assisted the area and State staff with training delivery. This assistance is part of an effort to use local expertise to ensure that staff have the training needed to respond to soil and wetland investigation requests in Washington.



*Class participants (left to right): Crystal Briggs, Dan Ufnar, Jenifer Coleson, Max Ross, Lizzie Carp, Tara Donohoe, Erin Kreutz, Gabby Fajardo, Brad Duncan, Kevin Davis, and Marty Chaney.*

## Key Outcomes

Dan Ufnar (MLRA soil survey office leader, Olympia) and Crystal Briggs (soil scientist, Mount Vernon) were co-instructors with Brad Duncan (acting State soil scientist) and Marty Chaney (area agronomist). Dan and Crystal provided input on presentation materials, field site locations, and in-class demonstrations and exercises. Participants included field office planners, State office staff, and NRCS soil scientists and ecologists.

Topics included basic soils, morphology, hydrology and landscape relationships, redoximorphic chemistry and how to recognize morphology typical of saturated soil conditions, soil-plant community relationships, use of Web Soil Survey and offsite tools like LiDAR and aerial imagery (including how to read a flight line to locate hard-copy aerial photos on file at local field offices), and use and application of the definition, criteria, and indicators for hydric soils. Seven students, including three SSD staff, received credit for the course.



*Tara Donohoe and Lizzie Carp, in a wetland with reed canarygrass, examine a hydric soil that meets the Histosol field indicator.*



*Students find shelter from the rain while Marty Chaney talks about plant and soil relationships and how site disturbance can create challenges in determining delineations.*