



January 30, 2014

Ms. Judith Swift
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This letter is to support the University of Connecticut (UConn) in its effort to be admitted as a non-federal partner of the North Atlantic Coast Cooperative Ecosystems Study Unit.

In Connecticut, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has received great benefit from the funding of a National Cooperative Soil Survey *Soil Survey Research Grant* received by UConn.

Those funds were used to generate preliminary soil halinity classes for use in classifying and interpreting soils with ocean-derived salts. The project was beneficial not only to NRCS soil scientists, but also for land owners, legal decision makers, conservation groups, and marine and wetland ecologists. The data and recommendations from this research assisted in approving a new National Soil Survey Laboratory 1:5 salinity method, and will help NRCS complete new valuable soil interpretations for subaqueous soils.

The following deliverables were especially beneficial to our office:

- Preliminary coastal soils halinity classes
- Lab and field halinity method evaluation
- Assistance in developing the first Ecological Site Descriptions in Connecticut
- Descriptions and series updates concerning benchmark tidal marsh soils (Pawcatuck, Westbrook, Ipswich, Sandyhook, and Matunuck)
- Descriptions and series updates concerning benchmark subaqueous soils (Anguilla, Billington, Fort Neck, Marshneck, Massapog, Nagunt, Napatree, Pishagqua, and Rhodesfolly)

These outcomes all coincide with goals of our agency, and as such, we are pleased to recommend UConn be admitted as a nonfederal partner of the North Atlantic Coast Cooperative Ecosystems Study Unit to facilitate future grant opportunities.

Sincerely,

Lisa R. Coverdale
State Conservationist

cc: Dr. Glenn Warner, UConn College of Ag and Natural Resources, Dept. of Nat. Resources and Environment, Storrs, CT
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