

## **Project Summary**

### **Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title:** Modeling Spodosol Distribution  
**Type of Project:** Research and Technical Assistance  
**Project Discipline:** Natural  
**Funding Agency:** NRCS  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Idaho  
**Effective Dates:** 9/21/2009 - 9/30/2011  
**Funding Amount:** \$38,589

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** The area of this study is part of the US National Forest system and has not been subject to detailed soil investigation or mapping. As a result, the environmental factors influencing the formation of these soils are not well understood and their geographic extent has not been documented. More importantly from the perspective of the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS), the presence of these soils has not been recognized in existing US Forest Service Land Systems Inventory into NASIS and Web Soil Survey have recently been initiated, a better understanding of the extent of these soils is clearly needed to ensure the quality and completeness of the NCSS database. This project aims to develop a terrain attribute based model to predict the occurrence of Spodosols in the Kaniksu National Forest of Northern Idaho to provide critical information needed to improve the quality of the soil inventory in this part of MLRA 43A northern Idaho, Northeastern Washington, and northwestern Montana). The project is with the NCSS priority area of new technology for mapping and/or characterizing soils and will provide a basis for improving the interpretation for soil and land use in this part of the MLRA 43 A.

**Outcomes with completion dates:** Quarterly accomplishment reports; Final report due 90 days after end date.

**Keywords:** soil characterization, Spodosols, Kaniksu National Forest, modeling, National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) University of Idaho