FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

We'd like to bring your attention to the following Special Joint Session at the 2008 Joint Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America and the Soil Science Society of America "Celebrating the International Year of Planet Earth", October 5-9, 2008, Houston, Texas USA (http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2008/index.asp). Abstract submission is now open for this meeting, and we hope to attract enough participation to have both an oral and a poster session. Please see submission details below.

The joint session is entitled "Gains and Losses: Soil Nutrients and Moisture in Aridic Soils Under Changing Climates"

Brief session description: Nutrients and moisture in aridic soils are affected by complex interactions among parent material, geomorphic setting, biologic activity, wind erosion and dust inputs, precipitation regime, and land use. All of these, except parent material and geomorphic setting, will be affected by global change. Oral and poster sessions.

Rationale: Soil nutrients and moisture in aridic soils, which dominate most of the southwestern U.S. west of the 100th meridian, are controlled by complex interactions among parent material, geomorphic setting, biologic activity, wind erosion and eolian dust inputs, precipitation regime, and land use. Projected changes in precipitation and soil moisture for this region over the next 100 years include increases of 2-6°C in mean annual temperature and a 30-40% decrease in average soil moisture content. Such changes would inevitably have profound effects on dryland ecosystems and on the resilience of these systems to land-use activities that affect soil hydrologic properties and erosion resistance. In combination, direct and indirect effects of changing climatic conditions would significantly increase the potential for wind erosion and dust transport, with further significant implications for downwind dust sinks. Land use practices would likely need to be modified. This session will focus on new approaches that have increased our understanding of these complex interactions, including geochemical and biochemical investigations of soils, dust, and plants, as well as broad-scale ecological investigations of land-use effects on conditions affecting soil erodibility.

Session organizers: Marith Reheis, USGS Earth Surface Processes Team (mreheis@usgs.gov); Mark Miller, USGS Biological Resources Division (mark_miller@usgs.gov); and Ted Zobeck, USDA Agricultural Research Service (ted.zobeck@ars.usda.gov)

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION IS NOW OPEN FOR THIS MEETING. As this is a SSSA-GSA Joint Session, *abstracts must be submitted by 3 June, 2008*.

Abstracts may be submitted online at:
http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2008AM/joint/papers/index.cgi?sessionid=21624

- Non-refundable fee of $35 per abstract submission.
- Non-refundable fee of $20 per submission for graduate and undergraduate students.
- Abstracts must be 300 words or less.

- Use the Printable Receipt Option in Step #4. Print this receipt and retain for your records. Receipts will not be available through the Annual Meetings Headquarters Office.
- Credit Card payment must be made at time of submittal or your paper will not be considered for the meeting.

More information on abstract submission and presentations can be found at https://www.acsmeetings.org/programs/technical/ .

We look forward to seeing you in Houston in October!

Marith, Mark, and Ted

Marith Reheis
U.S. Geological Survey, MS-980
Federal Center, Box 25046
Denver, CO 80225

phone: 303-236-1270
fax: 303-236-5349