

# MAPPING MINESOILS IN THE NATIONAL COOPERATIVE SOIL SURVEY IN APPALACHIA: A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HISTORY, STATUS, AND DISTRIBUTION<sup>1</sup>

Stephen G. Carpenter, Robert R. Dobos, and Timothy M. Prescott<sup>2</sup>

**Abstract.** Soil material from surface mine operations is mapped and classified to a comprehensive soil classification system in the United States. This paper outlines the history, development, and spatial distribution of minesoil mapping in the central part of Appalachia with special emphasis on classification, potential use, and data currently available. Several thematic maps depict spatial distribution and differentiation of modern mapping to date. The classification of minesoils is discussed from an historical perspective to the current, modern-day classification of these important soils. The need for more reliable interpretations is also reviewed.

Additional Key Words: Constructed soils, soil classification.

---

<sup>1</sup> Paper was presented at the 2004 National Meeting of the American Society of Mining and Reclamation and The 25<sup>th</sup> West Virginia Surface Mine Drainage Task Force, April 18-24, 2004. Published by ASMR, 3134 Montavesta Rd., Lexington, KY 40502.

<sup>2</sup> Stephen G. Carpenter is MO-13 Leader, Robert R. Dobos is Soil Data Quality Specialist, and Timothy M. Prescott is NRI/GIS Specialist, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, MLRA Soil Survey Region 13 Office, Morgantown, WV 26505.