

Part 618 – Soil Properties and Qualities

Subpart B – Exhibits

618.95 Wind Erodibility Groups (WEG) and Index

WEG 1,3,4,5,7	Properties of Soil Surface Layer	Dry Soil Aggregates More Than 0.84 mm (wt.%)	Wind Erodibility Index (I) (tons/ac/yr)
1	Very fine sand, fine sand, sand, or coarse sand ²	1	310
		2	250
		3	220
		5	180
		7	160
2	Loamy very fine sand, loamy fine sand, loamy sand, and loamy coarse sand; very fine sandy loam and silt loam with 5 or less percent clay and 25 or less percent very fine sand; and sapric soil materials (as defined in Soil Taxonomy), except Folists.	10	134
3	Very fine sandy loam (but does not meet WEG criterion 2), fine sandy loam, sandy loam, and coarse sandy loam; noncalcareous silt loam that has greater than or equal to 20 to less than 50 percent very fine sand and greater than or equal to 5 to less than 12 percent clay.	25	86
4	Clay, silty clay, noncalcareous clay loam that has more than 35 percent clay and noncalcareous silty clay loam that has more than 35 percent clay; all of these do not have sesquic, parasesquic, ferritic, ferruginous, or kaolinitic mineralogy (high iron oxide content).	25	86
4L	Calcareous ⁶ loam, calcareous silt loam, calcareous silt, calcareous sandy clay, calcareous sandy clay loam, calcareous clay loam, and calcareous silty clay loam.	25	86
5	Noncalcareous loam that has less than 20 percent clay; noncalcareous silt loam with greater than or equal to 5 to less than 20 percent clay (but does not meet WEG criterion 3); noncalcareous sandy clay loam; noncalcareous sandy clay; and hemic soil materials (as defined in Soil Taxonomy).	40	56
6	Noncalcareous loam and silt loam that have greater than or equal to 20 percent clay; noncalcareous clay loam and noncalcareous silty clay loam that have less than or equal to 35 percent clay; silt loam that has parasesquic, ferritic, or kaolinitic mineralogy (high iron oxide content).	45	48
7	Noncalcareous silt; noncalcareous silty clay, noncalcareous silty clay loam, and noncalcareous clay that have sesquic, parasesquic, ferritic, ferruginous, or kaolinitic mineralogy (high content of iron oxide) and are Oxisols or Ultisols; and fibric soil materials (as defined in Soil Taxonomy).	50	38
8	Soils not susceptible to wind erosion due to rock and pararock fragments at the surface and/or wetness; and Folists.	--	0

The following footnotes are applied in the order listed:

- (i) For all WEGs except 1 and 2 (sands and loamy sand textures), if percent rock and pararock fragments (>2mm) by volume is 15-35, reduce "I" value by one group with more favorable rating. If percent rock and pararock fragments by volume is 35-60, reduce "I" value by two favorable groups except for sands and loamy sand textures which are reduced by one group with more favorable rating. If percent rock and pararock fragments is greater than 60, use "I" value of 0 for all textures except sands and loamy sand textures which are reduced by three groups with more favorable ratings. An example of more favorable "I" rating is next lower number: "I" factor of 160 to "I" factor of 134 or "I" factor of 86 to "I" factor of 56. The index values should correspond exactly to their wind erodibility group (e.g., "I" factor of 56 = WEG 5).
- (ii) The "I" values for WEG 1 vary from 160 for coarse sands to 310 for very fine sands. Use an "I" of 220 as an average figure.
- (iii) All material that meets criterion 3 in the required characteristics for andic soil properties as defined in the *Keys to Soil Taxonomy*, 11th edition. Such material is placed in WEG 2 regardless of the texture class of the fine-earth fraction.
- (iv) All material that meets criterion 2, but not criterion 3, in the required characteristics for andic soil properties as defined in the *Keys to Soil Taxonomy*, 11th edition. Such material is placed in WEG 6, regardless of the texture class of the fine-earth fraction. The only exception to this is for Cryic Spodosols which have a medial substitute class and a MAAT < 4 degrees C.; these soils are placed in WEG 2.
- (v) For surface layers or horizons that do not meet the required characteristics for andic soil properties but do meet Vitrandic, Vitritorrandic, Vitrixerandic, and Ustivitrandic subgroup criteria (thickness criterion excluded) move one wind erodibility group (WEG) with a less favorable rating.
- (vi) Calcareous is a strongly or violently effervescent reaction (class) of the fine-earth fraction to cold dilute (1N) HCL; a paper "Computing the Wind Erodible Fraction of Soils" by D. W. Fryear et.al (1994) in the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 49 (2) 183-188 raises a yet unresolved question regarding the effect of carbonates on wind erosion.
- (vii) For mineral soils with thin 'O' horizons, the WEG is based on the first mineral horizon.