

APPENDIX 3 - 1

CAPABILITY CLASS DEFINITIONS

- CLASS I** soils have few limitations that restrict their use. These are the most productive soils.
- CLASS II** soils have moderate limitations that reduce the choice of plants or that require moderate conservation practices.
- CLASS III** soils have severe limitations that reduce the choice of plants or require special conservation practices or both.
- CLASS IV** soils have very severe limitations that reduce the choice of plants or require very careful management or both.
- CLASS V** soils are not likely to erode but have other limitations which are impractical to overcome and limit their use largely to pasture, range, woodland, or wildlife.
- CLASS VI** soils have severe limitations that make them generally unsuited to cultivation and limit their use largely to pasture, range, woodland, or wildlife.
- CLASS VII** soils have very severe limitations that make them unsuited to cultivation and that restrict their use largely to pasture, range, woodland, or wildlife. Although these soils are the poorest for crop producers, they have significant importance for grazing, timber production, and/or wildlife habitat purposes.

Letter designations are often added to the capability numerals and indicate the following:

- (e) shows that the main limitation is risk of erosion unless close-growing plant cover is maintained.
- (s) shows that the soils is limited mainly because it is shallow, drought, or stony.
- (w) shows that water in or on the soil interferes with

plant growth or cultivation (in some soils the wetness can be partly corrected by artificial drainage).