Limitations for Large Animal Disposal (Catastrophic Mortality), Trench - Hawaii (2009)

Large Animal Disposal (Trench)

Catastrophic Mortality: Large Animal Disposal. Trench is a method of disposing of dead animals by placing the carcasses in successive layers in an excavated trench. The carcasses are spread, composted, and covered daily with a thin layer of soil that is excavated from the trench. When the trench is full, a final cover of soil material at least 2 feet thick is placed over the filled trench area.

The estimated land area needed to dispose of mature cattle ranges from 1.2 (McDaniel, 1991) to 3.5 (McDaniel, 2002) acres. A single adult bovine is considered equivalent to 5 sheep or 5 hogs. A single adult bovine is considered equivalent to 5 sheep or 5 hogs. For turkeys, multiply the capacity by 40 (Ollis, 2002). For sheep and goats, multiply the capacity by 120 (Ollis, 2002).

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Soils are rated and placed into "Catastrophic Mortality: Large Animal Disposal, Trench" interpretive rating classes per their rating indices. These are not limited (rating index = 0), somewhat limited (rating index = 0 and < 1.0), or very limited (rating index = 1.0). Ratings are based on properties and qualities to the depth normally observed during soil mapping (approximately 0 to 7 feet). However, because trenches may be as deep as 15 feet or more, geologic investigations are needed to determine the potential for pollution of ground water as well as to determine the design needed.

Properties that influence the risk of pollution, ease of excavation, infectibility, and revegetation are major considerations. Soils that flood or have a water table within the depth of excavation present a potential pollution hazard and are difficult to excavate. Slopes that support forests or are rocky outcrops are an important consideration because of the potential for erosion and contamination of stream systems from surface drainage or floodwater. Potential contamination may be reduced or eliminated by installing systems designed to overcome or reduce the effects of the limiting soil property.

This interpretation is applicable to both heavily populated and sparsely populated areas. While some general observations may be made, onsite evaluation is required before the final site is selected. Improper site selection, design, or installation may cause contamination of ground water, seepage, and contamination of stream systems from surface drainage or floodwater. Potential contamination may be reduced or eliminated by installing systems designed to overcome or reduce the effects of the limiting soil property.

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This map was prepared as a general planning aid; on-site soil evaluations may be required prior to making land management decisions. Soils were rated solely on the basis of physical soil properties. Ratings are for soils in their present condition and do not consider current land use. This interpretation is applicable to both heavily populated and sparsely populated areas. While some general observations may be made, onsite evaluation is required before the final site is selected. Improper site selection, design, or installation may cause contamination of ground water, seepage, and contamination of stream systems from surface drainage or floodwater. Potential contamination may be reduced or eliminated by installing systems designed to overcome or reduce the effects of the limiting soil property.