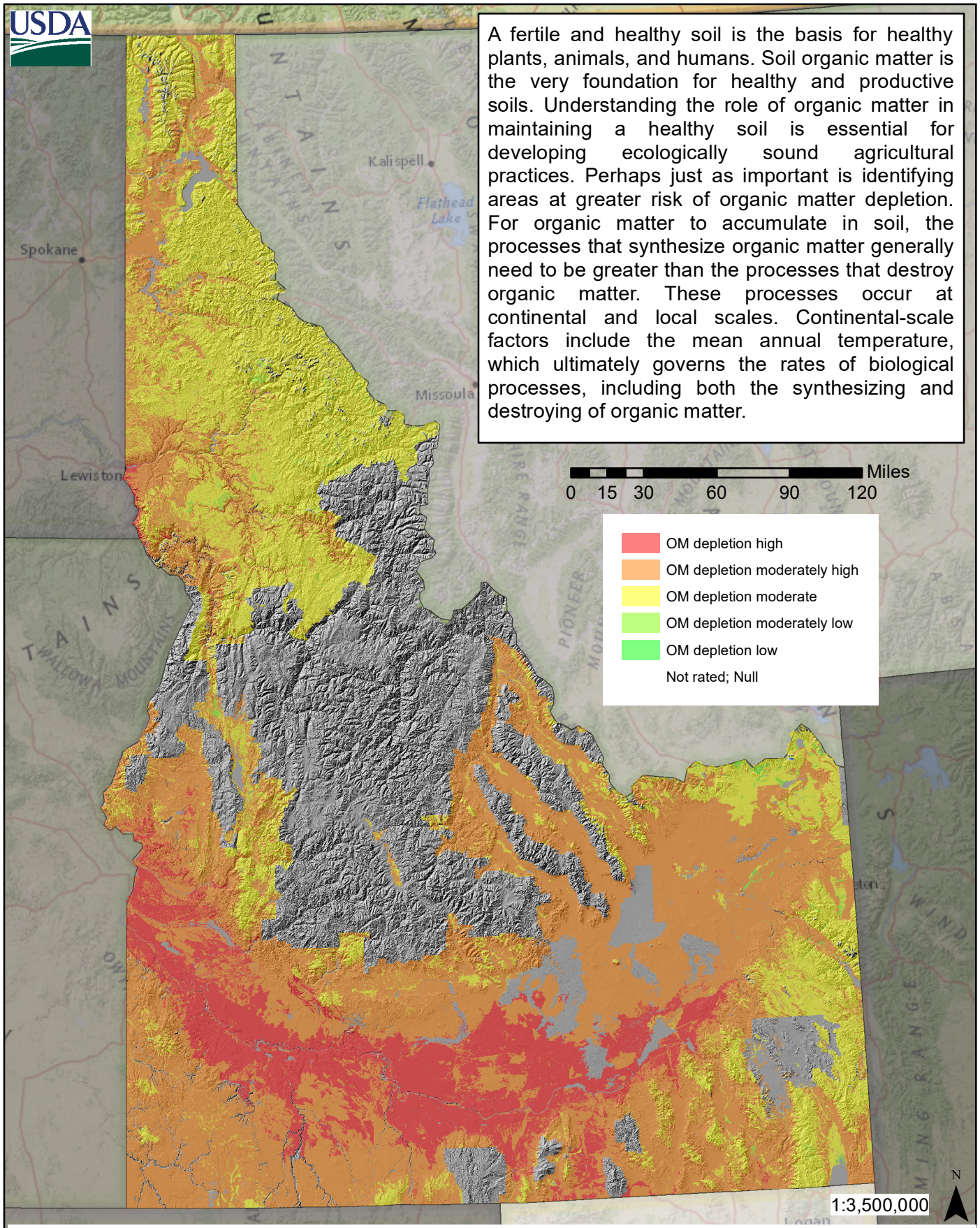
Organic Matter Depletion



A fertile and healthy soil is the basis for healthy plants, animals, and humans. Soil organic matter is the very foundation for healthy and productive soils. Understanding the role of organic matter in maintaining a healthy soil is essential for developing ecologically sound agricultural practices. Perhaps just as important is identifying areas at greater risk of organic matter depletion. For organic matter to accumulate in soil, the processes that synthesize organic matter generally need to be greater than the processes that destroy organic matter. These processes occur at continental and local scales. Continental-scale factors include the mean annual temperature, which ultimately governs the rates of biological processes, including both the synthesizing and destroying of organic matter.

Soil Survey Staff. Gridded Soil Survey Geographic (gSSURGO) Database for Idaho. United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. Available online at http://datagateway.nrcs.usda.gov/. 20190917 (FY2020 official release).