



United States Department of Agriculture



Communications and Outreach Focus Team 2022 Activities

December 2021



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Planned 2022 Activities

- Soils website updates and migration plans
- SPSPD SharePoint update
- Soils Planner 2022 and 2023
- Field Notes Webinars
- Updating fact sheet guidance
- Exhibiting
- Supporting NCSS Regional Conferences
- ChLOE Collaboration
- DSP Outreach sub-team
- SPSPD Dashboard prototype
- C&O Team membership



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Website Updates & Migration



World Soil Day!
December 5th is World Soil Day. Visit the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations** to learn more about this year's theme.



Popular Topics

- > Nat'l Cooperative Soil Survey
- > Soil Surveys by State
- > Soil Education
- > Soil Classification
- > Focus Teams



Soil Survey Releases

- October Surveys
- August Surveys
- July Surveys
- September Surveys
- June Surveys

>>> More...

Helping People Understand Soils and Plants

- Web Soil Survey
- Official Soil Series Descriptions (OSD)
- Soil Data Access (SQL Library)
- Soil Data Viewer
- Soil Lab Data
- SoilWeb: An Online Soil Survey Browser



How to receive conservation assistance from NRCS



Ecosystem Dynamics Interpretive Tool (EDIT)



PLANTS Database



Dynamic Soil Properties (DSPs)



NCSS Training

- ✓ Recent content review
- ✓ Updating current site
- ✓ Preparing for Drupal
- ✓ Initial migration discussions with FPAC-BC webmaster
- ✓ Want larger migration planning team
- ✓ Fresh opportunity to improve access to Soils resources

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Migration to Drupal



 An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#) ▼



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 **USDA FAQ's and resources about coronavirus (COVID-19).** [LEARN MORE >](#)

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

An extraordinary and historic moment in our Nation's history that will lay the foundation for decades of prosperity, especially in rural communities. USDA stands ready to get to work.

[Learn More](#)



Pandemic Assistance

Help for farmers, ranchers and producers impacted by COVID-19 market disruptions.



Have a Question? AskUSDA

Help is available via phone or live chat Monday to Friday from 8am – 8pm EST.



Loans and Grants

USDA provides opportunities to individuals and communities.



Disaster Resources

Learn how to prepare, recover, and help build long-term resilience.

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Migration to Drupal



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Farmers.gov

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers

USDA's new initiative – USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers – will establish new programs and efforts to bring financial assistance to a broad set of farmers, ranchers, and producers who felt the impact of COVID-19 market disruptions.

[Latest Producer Resources](#) ➔



Coronavirus Updates

- [Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program](#)
- [American Rescue Plan Debt Payments](#)
- [Coronavirus and USDA Program Flexibilities](#)
- [USDA's Coronavirus Page](#)
- [Impacts on H-2A](#)

Farmers.gov website uses Drupal

What is Drupal?

- Open-source
- Web content management system
- Mobile friendly
- Sophisticated API for developers to extend functionality

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SharePoint Modernization – Old Look

SharePoint

Search

Resource Inventory and Assessment Division

Soil and Plant Science Division

National Soil Survey Center

Resource Assessment Division

CEAP

Geospatial Services Improvement Team

CEAP

Climate Change Team



NRCS - Soil and Plant Science Division

Contact Site Administrator

Sync Export to Excel Power Apps Automate ...

Picture

Documents

Soils Metadata

Lists

Sites

Discussions

Surveys

Edit

Focus_Teams

	Subject Area	Name	REGION	Modified	Modified By	Checked Out To	Version
		Coastal Zone Soil Survey		March 13, 2017	Cheever, Tammy - NRCS, L		12.3
		Communications		May 4, 2018	Glover, Leslie - NRCS, Was		2.1
		DSM		May 18, 2018	Cheever, Tammy - NRCS, L		2.1
		Leadership and Recruitment		September 27, 2017	Glover, Leslie - NRCS, Was		4.2
		Outreach		February 9, 2017	Cheever, Tammy - NRCS, L		5.2
		Program Reviews		February 8, 2017	Glover, Leslie - NRCS, Was		4.1
		Publication Review		March 5, 2018	Glover, Leslie - NRCS, Was		3.1
		Soil Survey Database Team		April 14, 2017	Cheever, Tammy - NRCS, L		10.3
		Training Team		September 19, 2017	Stiles, Cynthia - NRCS, Dav		5.1
		Urban_Soil_Mapping		February 17, 2017	Cheever, Tammy - NRCS, L		10.2
		Soil Science Division Focus ...		November 8, 2017	Cheever, Tammy - NRCS, L		0.4



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SharePoint Modernization – New Look

SharePoint

Search this site

ORC Legacy SharePoint



NRCS Office of the Regional Conservationists

ORC Home

Communications

Conservation Activities

Contact Directories

Dashboards + Tools

Departmental Priorities

Diversity + Outreach

Emergency + Safety

Financial Management

Human Resources

Meeting Resources

Partnership Activities

Professional Development

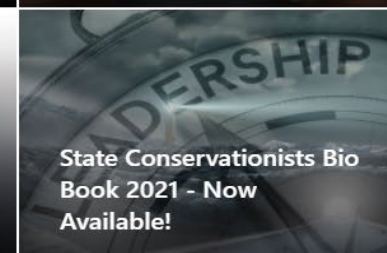
RCs + Support Staff

Recycle bin

Send to

Welcome to the Office of the Regional Conservationists!

The Office of the Regional Conservationists (ORC) provides agency-wide guidance and support for states' strategic conservation operations, programs, activities, partnerships, financial management, and personnel. This platform shares resources useful for NRCS national, regional, and state operational and employee-focused operations and strategies.



2022 Soils Planner



Available from
the NRCS
Distribution
Center on
December 13th.

2022 Soils Planner
**Agriculture and Beyond:
Other Stories of the Soil**

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2023 Soils Planner



2023 Theme — Twelve Tough Digs, Unique Locations

The planner will feature 12 historically tough or unique soil survey locations that required exceptional effort from the field crew—remote locations, dangerous wildlife, extreme geology, etc.

- 2–3 high-resolution photos in jpg, tiff, or png format
- A short write-up (who, what, when, where, why, and how it was tough or unique)
- Photo information (for credit):
Photographer's name, professional association, and date photo taken



Please send photos and write-ups to kristina.wiley@usda.gov by Monday, December 6, 2021.

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Field Notes



FIELD NOTES WEBINAR SERIES

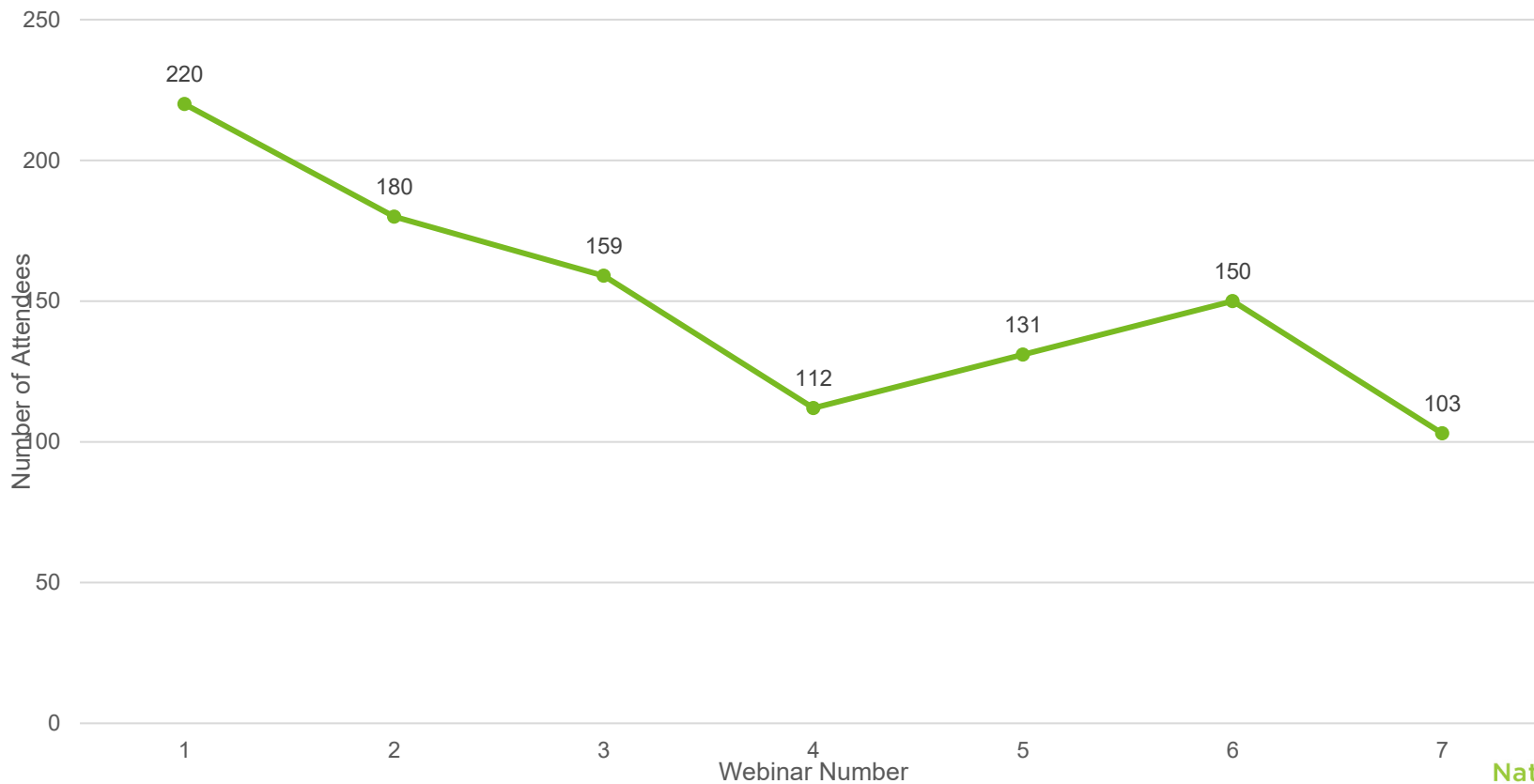
- ✓ 7 webinars
- ✓ 18 presentations
- ✓ Average of 150 attendees/webinar
- ✓ Recordings on YouTube
- ✓ Tune in on Dec 14 for #8

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Dan Perkins — Northwest Region
 Russell Almaraz — Southwest Region
 Lance Brewington — Southeast Region
 Casey Latta — North Central Region
 Jason Teets — Southeast Region
 Sara Russell — South Central Region
 Betsy Schug — North Central Region
 Geraldine Vega Pizarro — Northeast Region
 Zoe Ash-Kropf — Alaska
 Deb Harms — KSSL



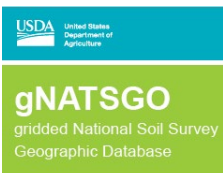
Webinar Attendee Totals



Fact sheet guidance

Updating the 2018 guidance on fact sheets

- NSSC-Editors@usda.gov
- SPSP Internal Review
- FPAC Approval



What Is It?

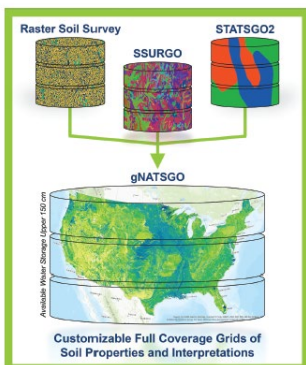
The USDA-NRCS Soil and Plant Science Division (SPSD) is pleased to announce the inaugural release of the Gridded National Soil Survey Geographic Database (gNATSGO). This landmark achievement provides complete coverage of the best available spatial and tabular soils information for the United States and Island Territories. gNATSGO was developed by combining data from the Soil Survey Geographic Database (SSURGO), the State Soil Geographic Database (STATSGO2), and Raster Soil Survey (RaSS) databases into a single seamless geodatabase.

Who Is It For?

The target audience is people who need a one-stop-shop to create full-coverage thematic maps and grids of soil properties and interpretations for large geographic areas, even the entire conterminous United States.

Additional Information

Please visit <https://go.usa.gov/xVg3U/> or simply search for "gNATSGO" to learn more about this comprehensive database or to download the data.



Data Sources

STATSGO2: A broad-based inventory of soils and non-soil areas. It is based on shared soil properties and related features from SSURGO-level mapping. The generalized soil associations are designed for State or regional land use planning.

SSURGO: The flagship U.S. soil mapping effort. It has been evolving for over a century and is designed for use by landowners and by city and county governments. Soils information was typically collected between scales of 1:12,000 and 1:63,360.

RaSS: Typically present a high level of detail by utilizing the quantitative relationships between soil sampling and environmental data. These inventories are just getting underway and will be our next generation of data.

National Soil Survey Center

Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Coastal Zone Soil Survey

Coastal Zone Soil Survey provides valuable information for planning and managing areas that have high urban and significant ecological values while exposed to high hazard potentials. When coastal areas are healthy and intact, they provide valuable services — and we rely on coastal areas as places to live, work, swim, boat, fish, and transport goods. Through the Coastal Zone Soil Survey, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is gathering valuable information to assist in predicting and explaining soil distributions and functions that can help identify healthy ecosystems, determine where to focus restoration efforts, and detect early warning signs of degradation. This vital work will assist all of us in making wise decisions concerning our coastal natural resources.

What is a coastal zone soil survey?

A coastal zone soil survey is a seamless data set of soils information that encompasses inland soils, tidal marshes, and shallow subaqueous and submerged soils. Subaqueous and submerged soils are permanently covered by water. The 3-dimensional data set gives properties and characteristics of soils from the soil surface to a depth of approximately 2 meters (6 feet). Traditional soil survey work often focused priority on inventories within agricultural areas and often didn't provide detailed coastal zone soils data.

Why is subaqueous soil survey work so important?

Timely and reliable coastal zone soil survey data will provide crucial information to help manage and protect our coastal areas. Subaqueous soils are a record of past climatic events and provide information about what may happen to our terrestrial soils as they become submerged by the projected sea level rise. Data such as spatial mapping, tabular soil properties and characteristics, and soil interpretations are widely recognized as critical for mitigating hazards, creating resources inventories, guiding restoration efforts, and tracking environmental changes.



Urban Soils

What are urban soils?

The term *urban soil* refers to soils in areas of high population density in the largely built environment. These soils can be significantly changed human-transported materials, human-altered materials, or minimally altered or intact "native" soils. Soils in urban areas exhibit a wide variety of conditions and properties and may have impervious surfaces, such as buildings and pavement.

Some factors that influence the characteristics and behavior of soils in urban areas include:

- Land use history and disturbance
- Geography and geology
- Extent of impervious surfaces
- Nature of human-transported or "fill" materials

Although there are similarities in urban soils globally, the urban soil pattern is unique for every city.

Why are urban soils important?

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, 81 percent of the nation's population lives in urban areas. Natural resources in the urban setting are used intensively and, if managed properly, can provide valuable ecosystem services. The need for better understanding of urban soils is more important than ever and highlights the need for accurate and proper documentation, soil mapping, and interpretation of soil changes in the urban environment.

Detailed and up-to-date information about urban soils provides city planners with fundamental data to make important decisions about land use—how to protect, conserve, and manage natural resources, with positive impacts on public health and safety and quality of life.

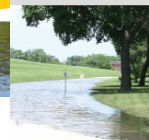
What is USDA-NRCS' role in mapping urban soils?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the lead Federal agency for mapping and interpreting our nation's soils, including urban areas. NRCS actively produces and maintains soil maps, reliable information on soil properties, ratings, and interpretations. NRCS soil survey information is available online at no cost.

NRCS leads the National Cooperative Soil Survey, a nationwide partnership of Federal, regional, State, and local agencies and private entities. This partnership works to cooperatively investigate, inventory, document, classify, interpret, and disseminate information about soils.



Farms are growing local, produce for their communities.



Water management is a major concern for our cities, particularly with newer systems.



Grass and forests provide much late-regulating green space.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Helping People Understand Soils

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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2022 Exhibiting Opportunities

National Science Teaching Association

March 31 - April 3, Houston, TX

22nd World Soil Congress

July 31 – August 5, Glasgow, Scotland

American Society of Landscape Architects

November (TBD), San Francisco, CA

American Planning Association AGU

April 30 – May 3, San Diego, CA

Ecological Society of America

August 14-19, Montreal, Canada (with Canadian Ecological Society)

USA Science and Engineering Festival

(TBD), Washington DC

National Association of Realtors

November 11-14, Orlando, FL

ASA-CSSA-SSSA

November 6-9, Baltimore, MD



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NCSS Regional Conferences



Providing support:

Webpages

Field tour guide design & printing

- North Central: Grand Rapids, Michigan – June 20-23, 2022
- Northeast: Newark, Delaware – June 13-16, 2022
- South: Greenville, South Carolina – June 6-10, 2022
- West: Missoula, Montana – June 27-30, 2022



ChLOE Collaboration



Children Learning Through Outdoor Experiences (www.teachchloe.org)

Initial meeting of the ChLOE Working Group, Nov 8-10, 2021

Organizations represented:

- **University of California**
- **University of Tennessee Knoxville**
- **University of Missouri**
- **Virginia Tech**
- **United Soybean Board**
- **NRCS**



“

The students were able to take information learned at the farm back to their classroom. They are eager to tell others at their individual schools about their awesome learning experience.

Main goal is to develop and support a network of outdoor, agriculture-based science education centers at land-grant universities. Will reach underserved youth by offering out-of-classroom learning experiences for K-12.

I provided examples of our existing educational resources focused on Soil Health. Group developed some initial ideas for creating outdoor experiences that meet the needs of teachers and support STEM concepts and skills aligned with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

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DSP Outreach sub-team

New sub-team under the DSP Focus Team

Currently meets biweekly

Priorities:

1. DSP fact sheet for landowners
2. Webpage update
3. Templates for handout that the soils office can use when working with field offices, producers, and landowners? Separate ones for Intermediate and one for Intensive DSP projects.
4. Showcase examples of DSP efforts or parts of the process including soliciting staff to showcase DSP efforts in "Field notes"
5. How are the deliverables shared with producers? With conservation staff?
6. Data visualization for project outcomes

Future ideas:

1. Dashboard of DSP projects throughout the country
2. Would a story map or story map template be helpful?
3. How to increase awareness with STC, SLTs, SSS, Asst. SSS, etc.



SPSD Dashboard



- **Prototype under development**
- **Direct link to Soil Survey Projects Status Map**
- **Highlights for Regional projects**
- **Highlight Branch activities**
- **Current development is in the “Classic” Story Maps environment which will end in June 2024.**
- **Long-term issue will be migrating to the newer Story Map environment.**
- **Website migration to Drupal (with new online tools) could offer a better alternative.**
- <https://arcg.is/1njPqO0>



Focus Team Members

- Tammy Cheever, Information Technology Specialist, NSSC, Lincoln, NE
- Robert A. “Andy” Colter, National Soils Program Leader, USFS, Campton, NH
- Rebecca Fox, Asst. State Soil Scientist, Little Rock, AR
- Jason Kenworthy, Geologist, NPS, Denver, CO
- Jenn Mason, MLRA Soil Survey Office Leader, Clinton, TN
- Jason Nemecek, National Soil Data Applications Scientist, Ft. Collins, CO
- Shawn Nield, State Soil Scientist, Boise, ID
- Jo Parsley, Regional Director, South Central Region, Temple, TX
- Paul Reich, Geographer, Beltsville, MD
- Pam Thomas, Associate Director, Soil Survey Program, Washington, DC
- Jim Thompson, Professor, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV
- Tammy Umholtz, Visual Information Specialist, NSSC, Lincoln, NE
- Kristina Wiley, Writer-Editor, Amherst, MA



Thank you!

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