



SOIL AND PLANT SCIENCE DIVISION

Technical Soil Services

Alaska Soil Survey Region

Homer, Alaska, Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) Soil Survey Office (SSO)

Staff Educate the Next Generation at World Soils Day

Purpose

Natural Resources Conservation Service staff from the Homer MLRA SSO and Homer Field Office (FO) traveled across Kachemak Bay to Seldovia, Alaska, to educate students at a World Soils Day outreach event (fig. 1).



Figure 1.—Homer MLRA SSO and FO staff with local soil monoliths in front of posters for World Soils Day in Seldovia, Alaska.

Background

On December 6, 2024, Abigail Clapp, Claire Benton, and Michael Singer from the Homer MLRA SSO joined Emily MacDonald from the Homer FO at a World Soils Day outreach event. Accessible only by plane or boat, Seldovia, Alaska, has a population of 248. Youth in grades K–12 either attend the Susan B. English School or are homeschooled (fig. 2).



Figure 2.—Carefully wrapped soil monoliths are strapped into the cargo area of a small plane.

Clapp, Benton, Singer, and MacDonald prepared several posters and activities, including a soil matching game, an aggregate stability test, and a soil texture exercise. With local transportation help from the Seldovia Village Tribe, the team visited both the public school and a Science Friday homeschool event, reaching 23 students from kindergarten to 11th grade (fig. 3).



Figure 3.—Michael Singer displays the soil monoliths at Science Friday.

Key Outcomes

During this education outreach event, Homer MLRA SSO staff connected with youth from an underserved community that is remotely located. Twenty-three children in grades K–11 learned about the importance of soil and soil health, what soil scientists do, and how to texture mineral soil.