



Oregon Technical Advisory Committee ♦ August 15, 2013
Cory Owens, NRCS Soil Conservationist ♦ State Soil Health Coordinator

Topics



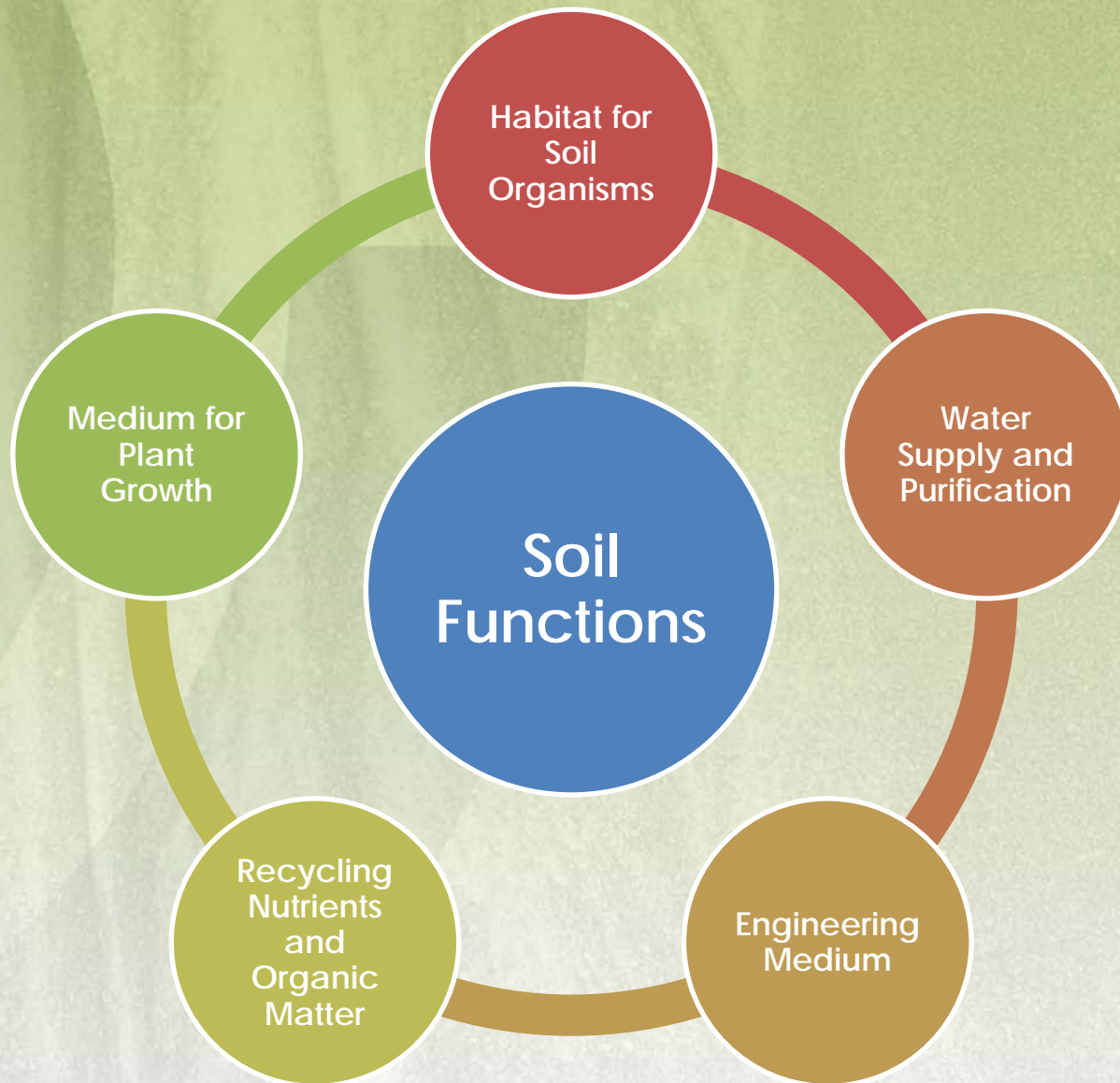
- What is Soil Health?
- Nationally
- Statewide
- Locally
- Soil Health and You!



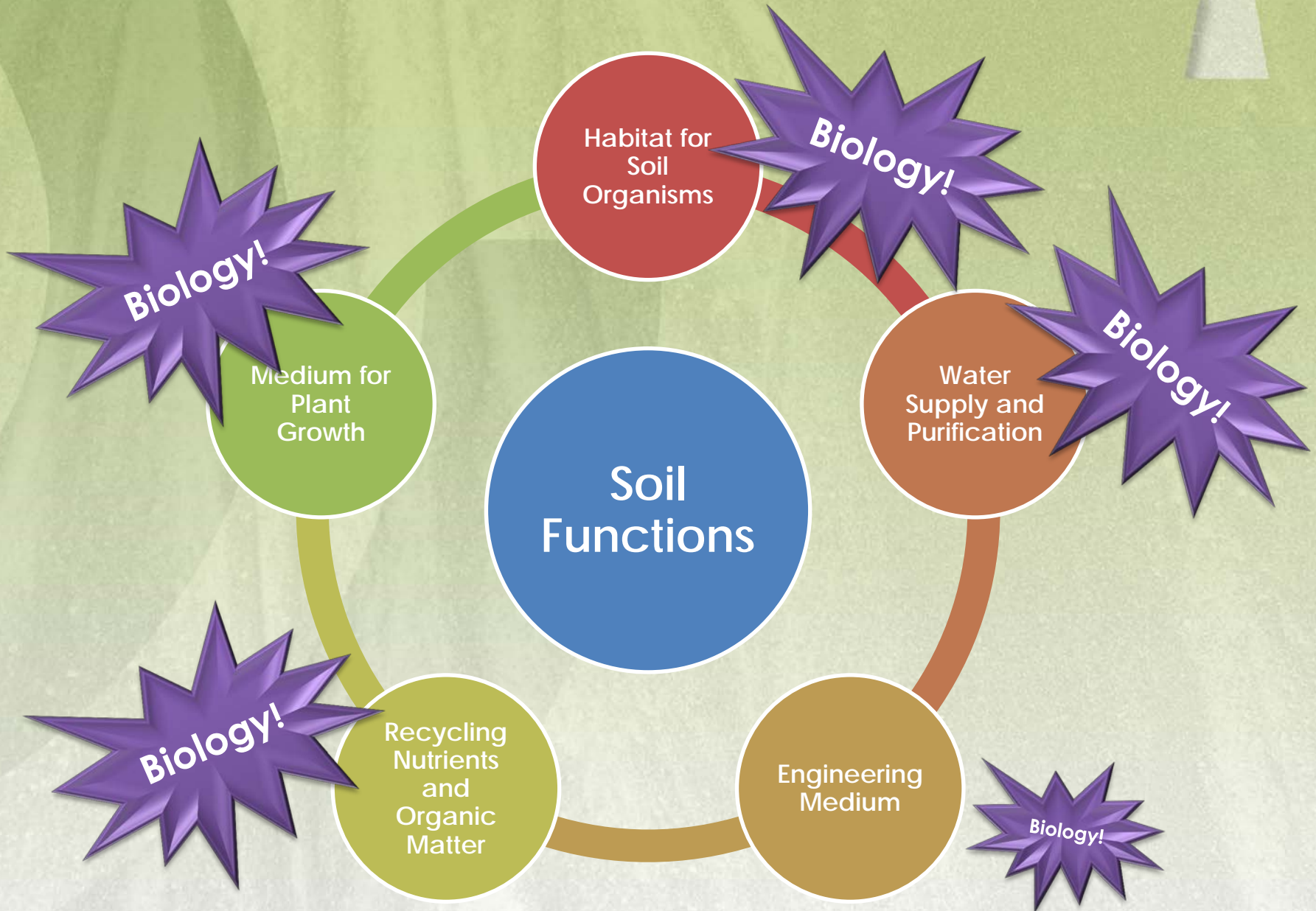
A quick peek below your feet!

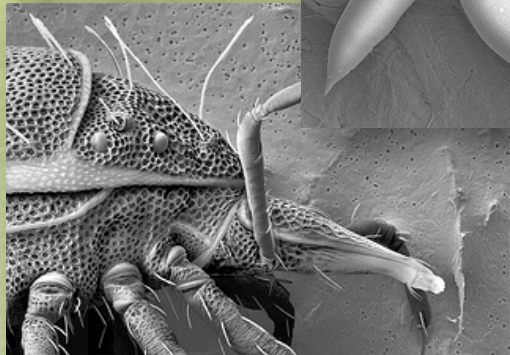
WHAT IS SOIL HEALTH?

What is Soil Health?

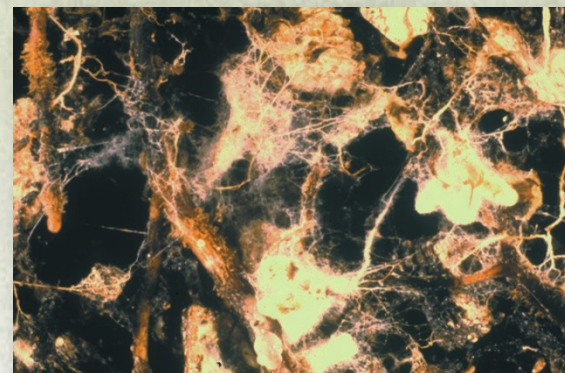
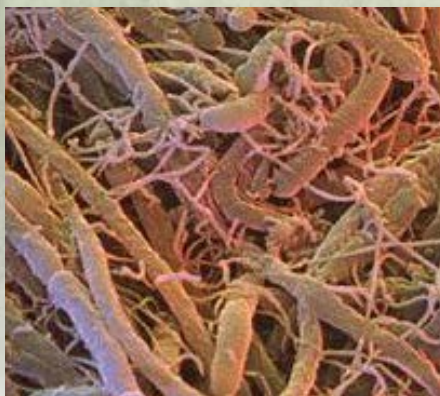
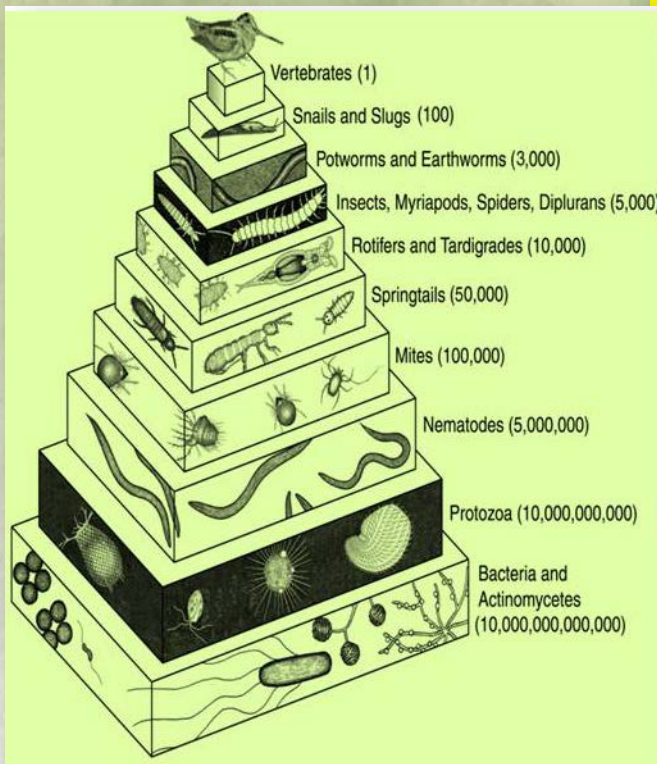
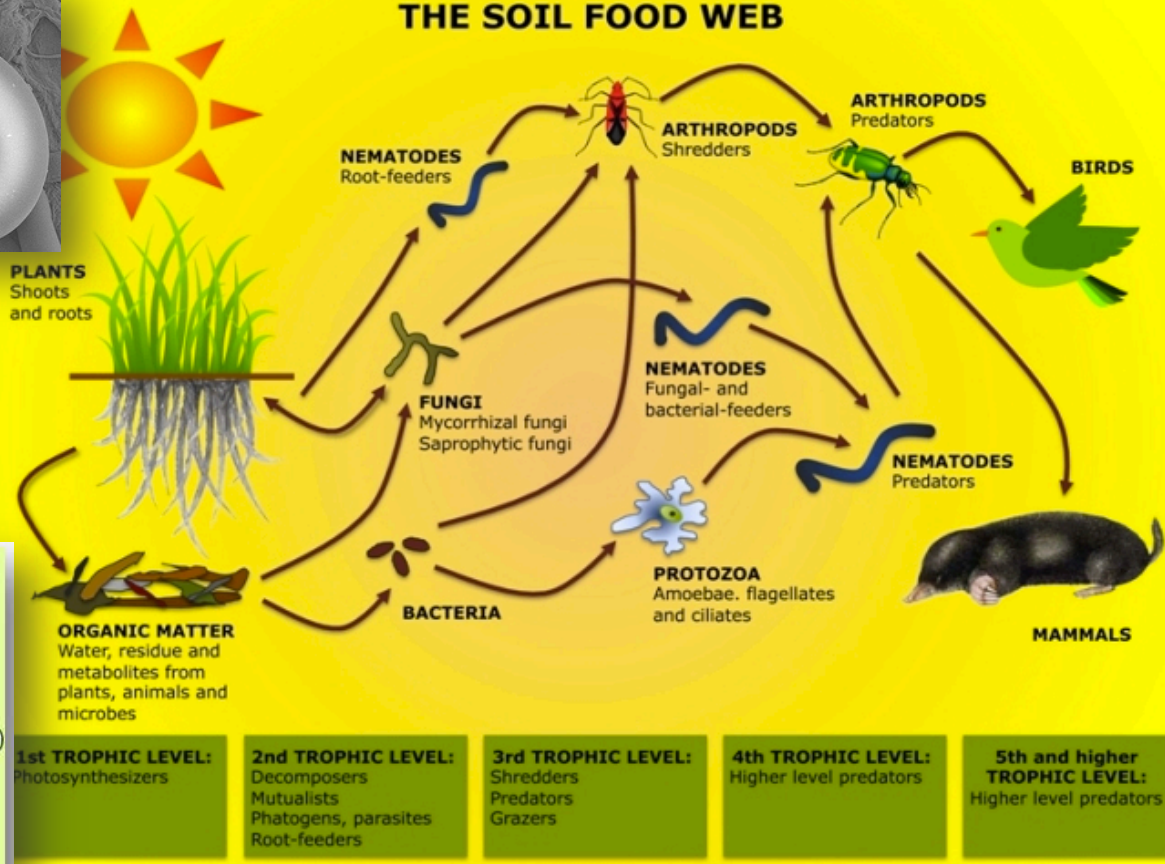


What is Soil Health?





THE SOIL FOOD WEB





**Soil health is
considering soil
biology and
function in
management!**

What does a healthy soil do?



High-performing & Productive

Reduce Production Costs & Improve Profits

Protects Natural Resources

Increase Efficiencies

HOW?!?



**Plant Diversity = Soil
Diversity**



**Minimize
Disturbance**



**Keep Plants
Growing Year
Round**



**Keep the Soil
Covered as Much
as Possible**

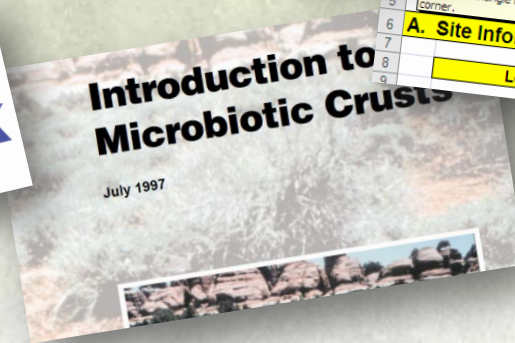
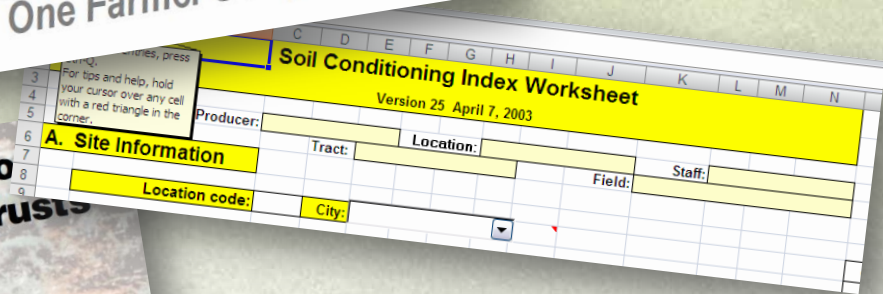
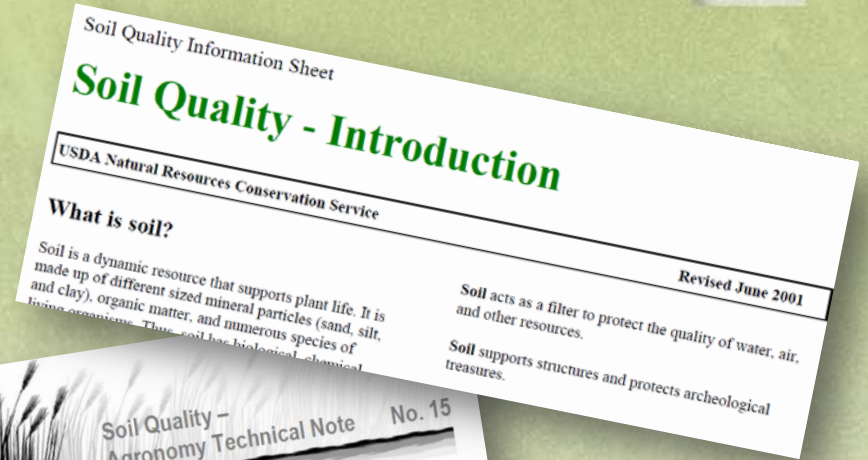


A quick history lesson and a vision for the future

SOIL HEALTH NATIONALLY

Soil Health Nationally

- Under the Soil Quality Institute the NRCS has developed many different technical tools and materials for
 - Assessment
 - Understanding
 - Promotion/Training



Soil Health Nationally

Strong Technical Team Building Capacity



**The National Soil
Health and
Sustainability
Team**

Health vs. Quality?

- Interchangeable
- A relatable way to discuss soil function

Soil Health Nationally

Strong Marketing Team Building Awareness

Search for:
NRCS Soil Health

soil health matters:
ADD ORGANIC MATTER

soil health
THEATER

PROFILES IN
soil health

Dirk O'Connor
Plevna, Montana
7,000 acres
Crops: Peas, sunflowers & wheat

unlock your farm's potential
dig a little
learn a lot

healthy, productive soils
checklist for growers

unlock the
SECRETS
IN THE
SOIL



Where we are now, where we are going to go

SOIL HEALTH STATEWIDE

Soil Health Statewide



Soil Health Statewide

Oregon Soil Health Strategic Plan: 2013-2017

<p>PURPOSE</p>	<p>Oregon NRCS recognized that the health of soil is imperative for the sustainability of agriculture. Oregon will horizontally integrate soil health into delivery of technical and financial assistance by</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Following the locally led process 2. Focusing on maximizing benefits 3. Incorporating the Strategic Approach to Conservation 4. Providing training and tools <p><i>Oregon NRCS will be the recognized technical leader for Soil Health working closely with landowners, partners, and communities.</i></p>				
<p>GOALS</p>	<p>Local Level Training and Implementation</p>	<p>Technical Tools</p>	<p>Strategic Approach to Conservation</p>	<p>Outreach and Education</p>	<p>Partnerships</p>
<p>ACTIONS</p>	<p>Statewide participation in NEDC Soil Health Course</p> <p>Local strategic sessions to map Soil Health implementation over the next five years, including adapting the Crop Soil Health Management Systems</p> <p>Regionally focused training will be designed to maximize field office personnel ability to deliver Soil Health concepts effectively</p> <p>Tailored training provided to the field</p> <p>Soil Health incorporated into the Oregon Planner Certification</p>	<p>Soil Health concepts for Forestry, Range, and Pasture will be explored and Soil Health Management Systems developed based on national efforts</p> <p>Soil Health concepts will be fully integrated into Oregon NRCS's technical information development, assessment, and delivery at all levels</p> <p>Soil Health considerations will be incorporated into applicable practice standards</p> <p>Current tools inventoried and recommendations on best available made</p> <p>Conservation effects assessed by looking at on-site, off-site, and monetary benefits</p> <p>Soil Health will be incorporated into ecological site description development</p> <p>Rapid Soil Carbon project data reviewed for relevance to Soil Health metrics</p>	<p>Soil Health concepts will be incorporated into county Long Range Plans</p> <p>Soil Health will be incorporated into the Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) Checklists</p>	<p>Soil Health campaign and marketing plan will be developed, which is flexible enough for local adaptation and implementation</p>	<p>Identification and development of key partnerships with organizations, agencies, and entities that will expand and develop the concepts of Soil Health across the state</p> <p>In the near future focus on funding sources, outreach and marketing allies, technical partners, and potential demonstration farms</p> <p>In the long term identify research projects and entities and certification programs</p>



What's it going to look like?

SOIL HEALTH LOCALLY

Soil Health Locally



- Conservation Implementation Strategies
- Education and Outreach



~~At~~ Malheur
- Symposium
- Field Tours - None
- Soil Health Training/Knowledge
- Partnerships
- Monitoring
- Outreach Activities

Malheur
- Symposium ↑ attendance ↑ Focus
- Field Tours - Showcase Practices
- Demo Soil Health Test
- All Staff trained/JAA/Knowledge
- Partners working together
- Monitoring that shows effect of SH Practices.
- Outreach directed toward HS/TVCC students

Malheur
* Laura obtains Sage Grouse Costume!
- Advertising, more involvement from partners
- ID Early Adopters, obtain materials & Equipment. Education packets
- Schedule Training, Attend Sit events
- Extension, WSCouncils.
- Analyze ^{current} data
- Connect w/ Teachers/Admin etc. Tell the Story



Each county is discovering their recipe for success!



Things to get you thinking

SOIL HEALTH AND YOU

Soil Health and You



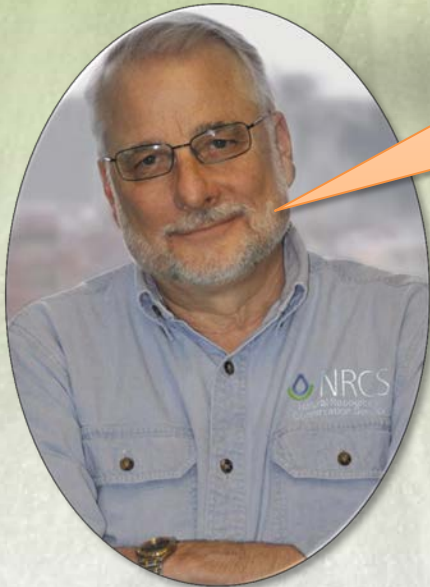
- How does soil health fit into your organizations mission?
- How can we work together to do more?
- How can we share expertise on the different land uses?
 - Forestry
 - Pasture
 - Range
 - Crops

The NRCS and Soil Health

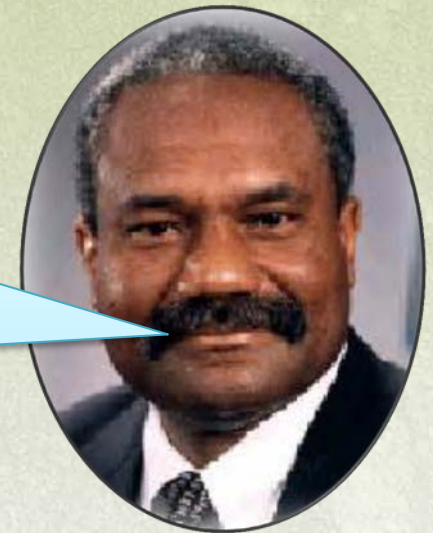


**“a foundation
built on soil
health is crucial
for NRCS success
Chief Weller,
11/2012**

**“Its one of
the most
important
endeavors of
our time.”
Chief White
4/2012**



**"Soil quality is not
a program; it is a
key component of
everything that we
do." - Pearlie
Reed, NRCS Chief,
June 28, 1999**



Discussion/Questions!

Oregon NRCS:
The
recognized
technical
leader for Soil
Health

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Lets
Chat!

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