

FEDERAL LANDS MAPPING UPDATE

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Soil Survey Division

State Soil Scientist Workshop
March 30, 2010

SOIL SURVEY ON ALL LANDS

- About 250 million acres of Federal Lands do not have current correlated soil survey
 - BLM - Contracting w/NRCS \$1.3 million/year
 - USFS - One field crew (NM-AZ)
 - Contracting w/NRCS \$0.45 million/year
 - NPS - Contracting w/NRCS \$2.8 million/year
 - DOD - Contracting w/NRCS \$0.8 million/year
 - USFW - Contracting w/NRCS \$0.25 million/year
 - State & Local Govts - Contracting w/NRCS \$1.6 million/year
- NCSS partnership funding to NRCS:
\$7.2 million/year

SOIL SURVEY ON ALL LANDS

- The current rate of surveying public lands will require more than 50 years to be completed.
- Information gathered in this inconsistent and decentralized way is inefficient and eventually more expensive if continued.
- Insufficient soils information on public lands affects the planning and evaluation of ecosystem services on private lands.
- Current situation forces all agencies to make land management decisions with inadequate information of the key resources.

SOIL SURVEY ON ALL LANDS

Old Timers may remember:

- “Map soils on federal lands without reimbursement and you risk being fined and/or imprisoned”
- Use of Economy Act was required
- Otherwise we were not following the intent of Congress!

SOIL SURVEY ON ALL LANDS

OGC Legal Opinion by Stu Shelton:

NRCS already has authority to map soils on All lands.

Email From Stuart Shelton, Office of General Council,
Washington, DC:

From: STUART.SHELTON@OGC.USDA.GOV

Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2010 3:41 PM

To: Benedict, Paul - Washington, DC

Subject: Soils work on federal lands

[Soils work on federal lands.htm](#)

SOIL SURVEY ON ALL LANDS

What are we doing about this?

Redirecting SSURGO funds for mapping ALL LANDS:

2 Federal Lands liaisons

Bozeman and Auburn

13 field positions in

- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Idaho
- Minnesota
- Montana
- Nevada
- New Mexico
- Oregon
- Utah
- Vermont
- Washington
- Wyoming

SOIL SURVEY ON ALL LANDS

Map of Federal Lands and MO Regions
and MLRA Soil Survey Areas:

SOIL SURVEY ON ALL LANDS

Questions?

