

FEDERAL LANDS MAPPING UPDATE

Paul Benedict
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](#)

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

Paul: Set out below are sections 1 and 2 of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act (16 U.S.C. 590a and 590b), which is the original authority for soils work (and section 5 established the Soil Conservation Service, remember them?). As you can see, soils work was expressly authorized on federal lands. If there was an NRCS policy guidance that suggested that the Economy Act (and its requirements for reimbursement) was the way to go, I have to assume that it was addressing situations beyond the normal NRCS soils program, such as where an agency would ask NRCS to provide special soil services (intensified mapping, sampling and interpretation services, etc.) that were more like a procurement of NRCS services, as opposed to NRCS carrying out the normal Cooperative Soil Survey of the US.

§ 590a. Purpose

It is recognized that the wastage of soil and moisture resources on farm, grazing, and forest lands of the Nation, resulting from soil erosion, is a menace to the national welfare and that it is declared to be the policy of Congress to provide permanently for the control and prevention of soil erosion to preserve soil, water, and related resources, promote soil and water quality, control floods, prevent impairment of reservoirs, and maintain the navigability of rivers and harbors, protect public health, public lands and relieve unemployment, and the Secretary of Agriculture, from now on, shall coordinate and direct all activities with relation to soil erosion and in order to effectuate this policy is authorized, from time to time—

(1) To conduct surveys, investigations, and research relating to the character of soil erosion and the preventive measures needed, to publish the results of any such surveys, investigations, or research, to disseminate information concerning such methods, and to conduct demonstrational projects in areas subject to erosion by wind or water;

(2) To carry out preventive measures, including, but not limited to, engineering operations, methods of cultivation, the growing of vegetation, and changes in use of land;

(3) To cooperate or enter into agreements with, or to furnish financial or other aid to, any agency, governmental or otherwise, or any person, subject to such conditions as he may deem necessary, for the purposes of this chapter; and

(4) To acquire lands, or rights or interests therein, by purchase, gift, condemnation, or otherwise, whenever necessary for the purposes of this chapter.

§ 590b. Lands on which preventive measures may be taken
The acts authorized in section [590a \(1\)](#) and (2) of this title may be performed—

(a) On lands owned or controlled by the United States or any of its agencies, with the cooperation of the agency having jurisdiction thereof; and

(b) On any other lands, upon obtaining proper consent or the necessary rights or interests in such lands.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Stuart L. Shelton
Assistant General Counsel
Conservation and Environment Division
Office of the General Counsel, USDA
Rm. 3344 South Building
1400 Independence Ave, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250
202-720-5566
202-690-2730 fax

The information contained in this message is attorney-client privileged, confidential, and attorney work product information intended only for the use of the individuals named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify the sender by telephone or e-mail and permanently delete the message from all servers and backup instruments. Thank you.

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

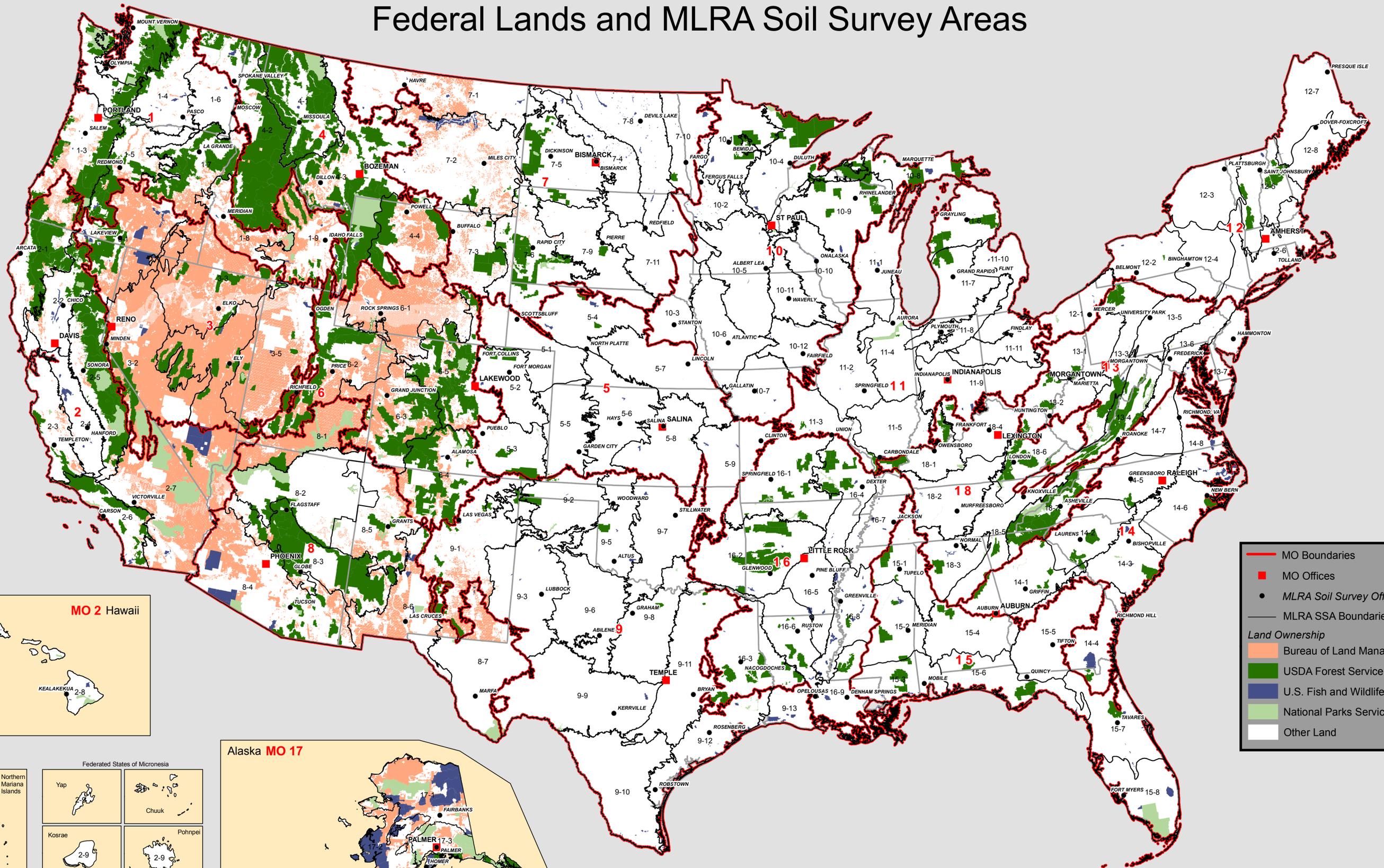
13 field positions in

- 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:

Federal Lands and MLRA Soil Survey Areas

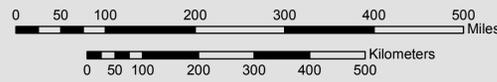
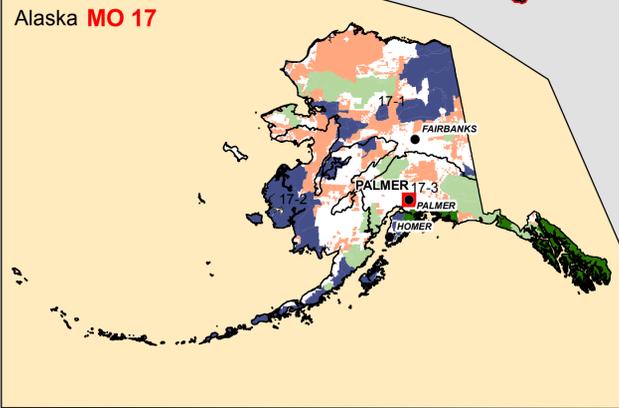
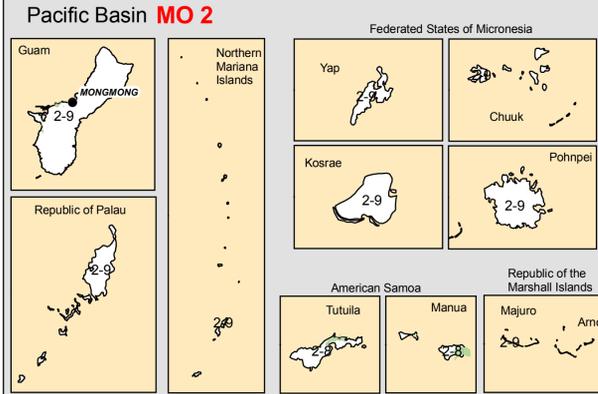
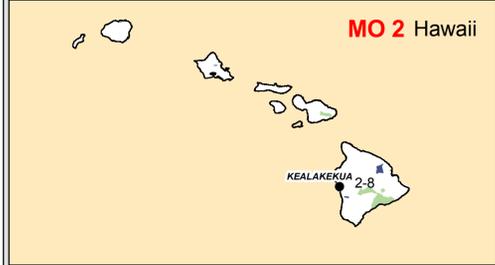


MO Boundaries

- MO Offices
- MLRA Soil Survey Offices
- MLRA SSA Boundaries

Land Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- USDA Forest Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Parks Service
- Other Land



SOIL SURVEY ON ALL LANDS

Questions?

