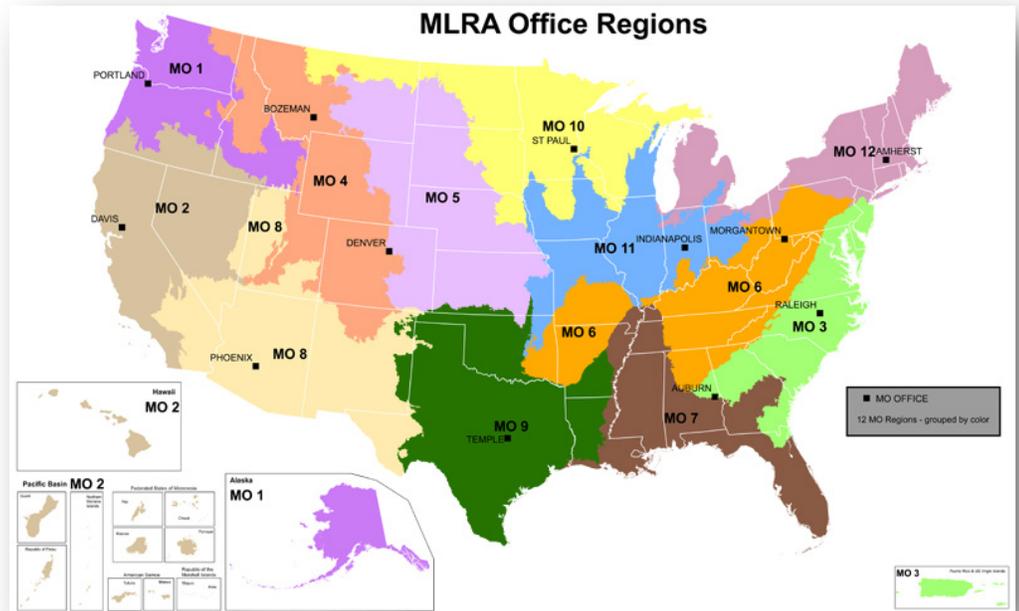


NOTES:**12 REGIONAL OFFICES**

- 1-Portland, OR
- 2-Davis, CA
- 3-Raleigh, NC
- 4-Bozeman, MT
- 5-Denver, CO
- 6-Morgantown, WV
- 7-Auburn, AL
- 8-Phoenix, AZ
- 9-Temple, TX
- 10-St. Paul, MN
- 11-Indianapolis, IN
- 12-Amherst, MA

**QUESTIONS****1. Mickey Ransom, Kansas State University**

What were the criteria for choosing locations and coverage areas of Regional Offices; for example, the Great Plains served by Denver Regional Office and Ozarks covered by the Morgantown Regional Office?

Answer (Roy Vick):

The Soil Science Division leadership will draft explanation of the criteria used for Regional Offices and Areas; also will include the communication strategy used to convey realignment plans and procedures to Cooperators.

2. Marty Rabenhorst, University of Maryland

Is the Soil Science Division receiving a greater budget reduction than the rest of NRCS and USDA?

Answer (Roy Vick):

The Discretionary funds – Conservation Technical Assistance, Soil Survey, Snow Survey, Plant Materials Centers – have similarly been reduced in the past few fiscal years.

3. Thomas Reinsch, NRCS

Budget reductions are typically balanced by closing offices, not filling vacancies, etc. How do other Agencies manage budget reductions?

Answers (from group):

- Furloughs
- Reduce operating costs by selecting appropriate locations for offices
- Close or eliminate programs
- SSD could reduce operating costs by consolidating soil survey offices with Forest Service offices

*4. Question from group about strategies to fill vacant positions.*Answers (from group):

- Fill vacant positions from the bottom-up, e.g., entry-level via Pathways program or vacancy announcements
- A Succession plan need to be developed by the SSD and NCSS
- Back to our roots; e.g., initial mapping experience for new soil scientists so that we do not lose the ability to understand soil landscapes.