

**Brief overview of the Minnesota NRCS  
Soil Survey Program and the  
St. Paul MLRA (Region 10) Office**

**Joe McCloskey**

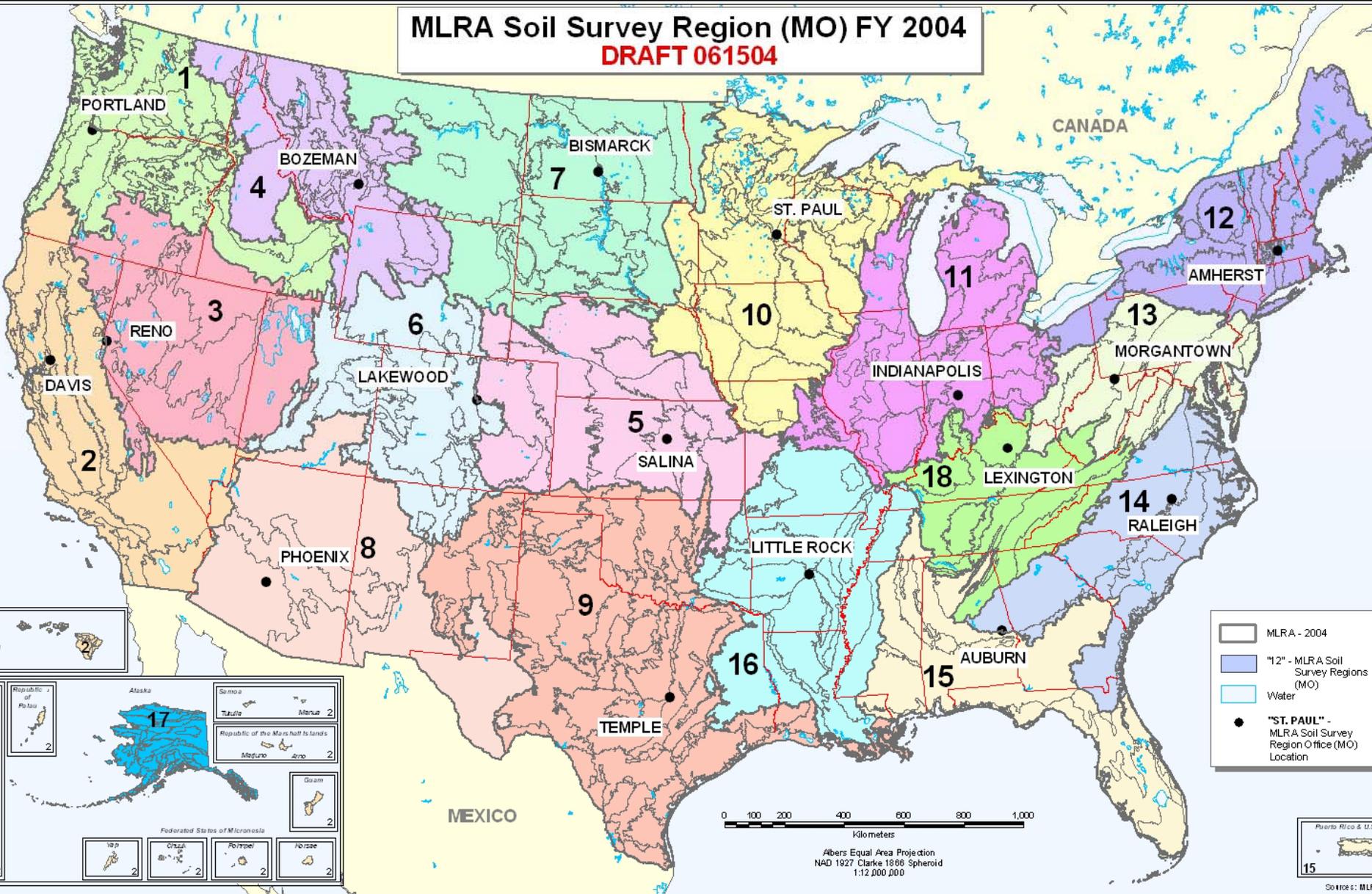
**June 28, 2006**

# MLRA Soil Surveys

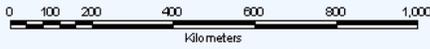
- Major Land Resource Areas (MLRAs) are land resource units that share a common land use, elevation, topography, climate, water, soils, and vegetation.
- County soil surveys are subsets of a MLRA soil survey.
- The country is divided into 18 regional MLRA offices.

# MLRA Soil Survey Region (MO) FY 2004

**DRAFT 061504**



- MLRA - 2004
- "12" - MLRA Soil Survey Regions (MO)
- Water
- "ST. PAUL" - MLRA Soil Survey Region Office (MO) Location



Albers Equal Area Projection  
 NAD 1927 Clarke 1866 Spheroid  
 1:12,000,000

Hawaii

2

Northern Mariana Islands

2

Republic of Palau

2

Alaska

17

Samoa

Tuvalu

2

Atenua

2

Republic of the Marshall Islands

Majuro

2

Guam

2

Federated States of Micronesia

2

2

2

2

2

2

Puerto Rico & U.S. Virgin Islands

15

Source: MLRA, February 2004

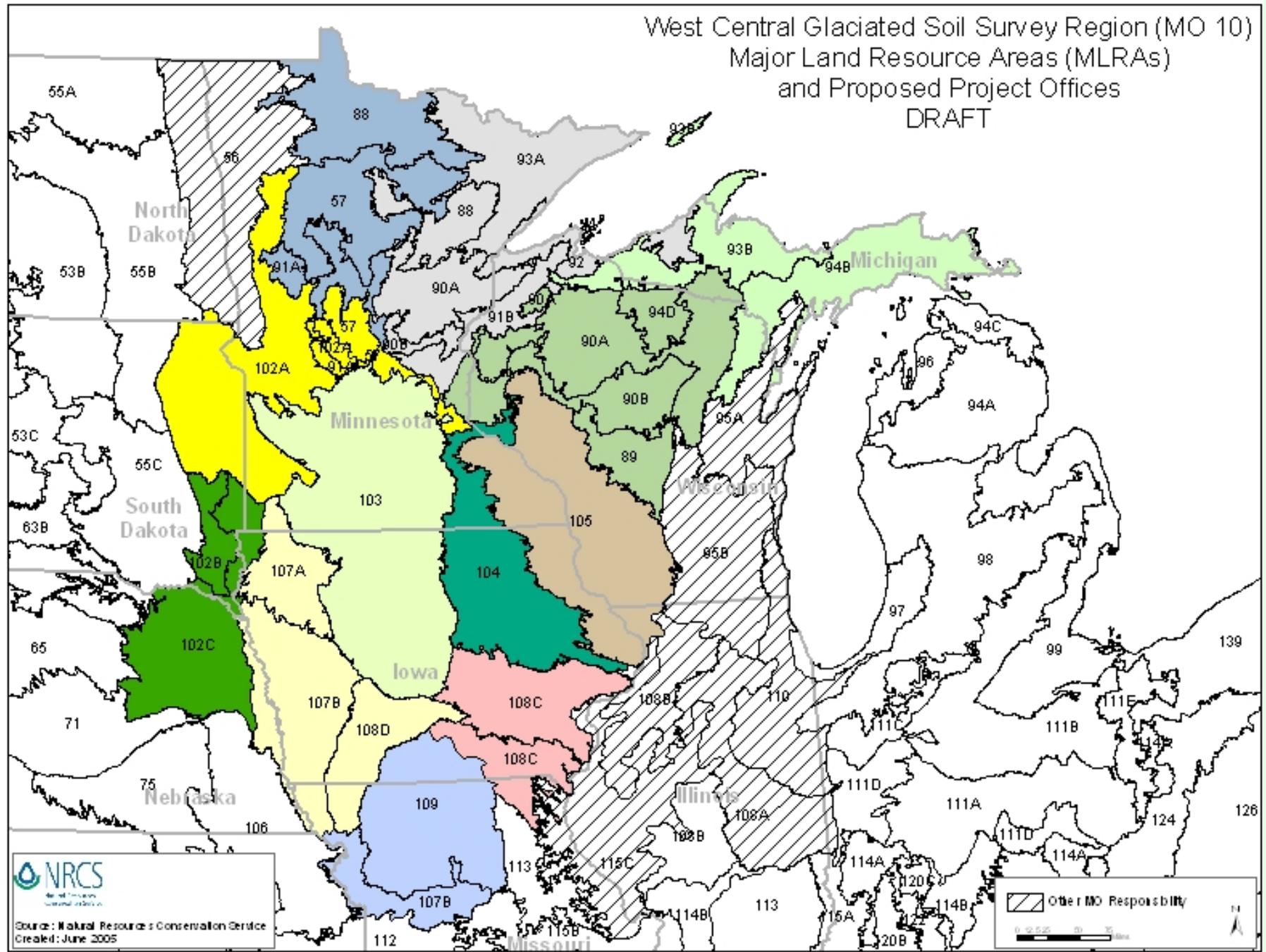
# St. Paul (Region 10) MLRA Office

- (a.k.a. West Central Glaciated MLRA office)
- 25 MLRAs
- 160 Million Acres
- Approx 330 counties in 8 states
- In this Region, there are about 80 soil scientists working on soil surveys
- The St. Paul office has one of the larger workloads of all MLRA regional offices

# St. Paul Region - 12 MLRA Soil Survey Project offices

■ Recommended Office	MLRAs	Total Acres
■ 10-1 Bemidji, MN	57, 88	15,748,000
■ 10-2 Fergus Falls, MN	91A, 102A	9,034,000
■ 10-3 Stanton, NE	102B, 102C	8,685,000
■ 10-4 Duluth, MN	91B, 93A, 92	15,748,000
■ 10-5 Albert Lea, MN	103	17,722,000
■ 10-6 Atlantic, IA	107A, 107B, 108D	13,007,000
■ 10-7 Gallatin, MO	109, 107B (Southern Part)	10,179,000
■ 10-8 Marquette, MI	93B, 94B	10,569,000
■ 10-9 Rhinelander, WI	89, 90A, 90B, 94D	15,358,000
■ 10-10 LaCrosse, WI	105	12,415,000
■ 10-11 Waverly, IA	104	7,694,000
■ 10-12 Fairfield, IA	108C	7,610,000

West Central Glaciated Soil Survey Region (MO 10)  
Major Land Resource Areas (MLRAs)  
and Proposed Project Offices  
DRAFT



Source: Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Created: June 2005

Other MO Responsibility



# NRCS Long Range Plans for Conducting Soil Surveys

- Staffs assigned to MLRAs will be responsible for carrying out all soil survey project activities within their area. These geographic areas of responsibility will almost certainly cross county boundaries and often will cross state boundaries.
- All State Soil Scientists are working together on two plans:
- By July 30, 2006 – have a plan to place project staff into one of the MLRA project offices by Sept 30, 2009
- By July 30, 2006 – also have a plan to complete the initial soil survey of the country by December 2010

# Digital soil survey (SSURGO) Status

- SSURGO = Soil Survey Geographic Database
- The most detailed level of digital soils data available from NRCS
- Minnesota has 67 counties that are SSURGO certified
- All SSURGO counties have soil survey information also available through the web soil survey

NEW

# Minnesota Web Soil Survey

\* <http://soils.usda.gov/survey> \*



Soil Name	Soil Series	Soil Type	Soil Order	Soil Code	Soil Description	Soil Characteristics	Soil Properties	Soil Use	Soil Notes
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Address to soil survey information is provided through maps. All text and tables relate to the map symbols and the areas delineated on these maps. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of soil survey information should contact the NCRS at the [USDA Service Center](#) that services the county of interest. See also the [NCRS Accessibility Statement](#).

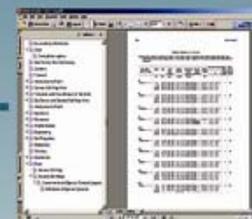
**Quick Access**

- National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCRS)
- Listing of Soil Surveys by State
- Online Soil Survey
- State Maps
- National Soil Survey Description (NSD)
- Soil Survey Schedule
- Soil Data Mart
- NRCS (National Resources Conservation Service)
- National Soil Characterization Data
- Soil Quality
- Soil Geographic
- Soil Research Results
- Soil Researcher's Spatial Database

Find a Service Center  
States and Regions  
Centers and Districts

**Web Soil Survey**  
Version 1.0  
[View Maintenance Schedule](#)  
[View Access Rules](#)

The National Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.



## Minnesota's variable soil types



## Uses of Web Soil Survey:

- Building site development**
- Conservation plans**
- Wetlands**
- Nutrient management**
- Land evaluation/appraisal**
- Road building**
- Recreational development**
- Agribusiness**
- Water quality**

## Key Advantages:

- 24/7 access**
- Data always current**
- Tailored to area of interest**
- Ability to calculate acres**
- Interactive GIS**
- Print or save information**
- Thousands of surveys available**
- Download to local GIS**



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- **NCSS 2007 conference – Sheraton Hotel in the Bloomington, MN – tentative dates are June 10-15, 2007**
- **For additional information, please contact Joe McCloskey @ 651.602.7861 or email [joe.mccloskey@mn.usda.gov](mailto:joe.mccloskey@mn.usda.gov)**
- **Thank you!**