United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA NRCS

Continuing the Mission
Structuring for the Next Generation of Soil Surveys

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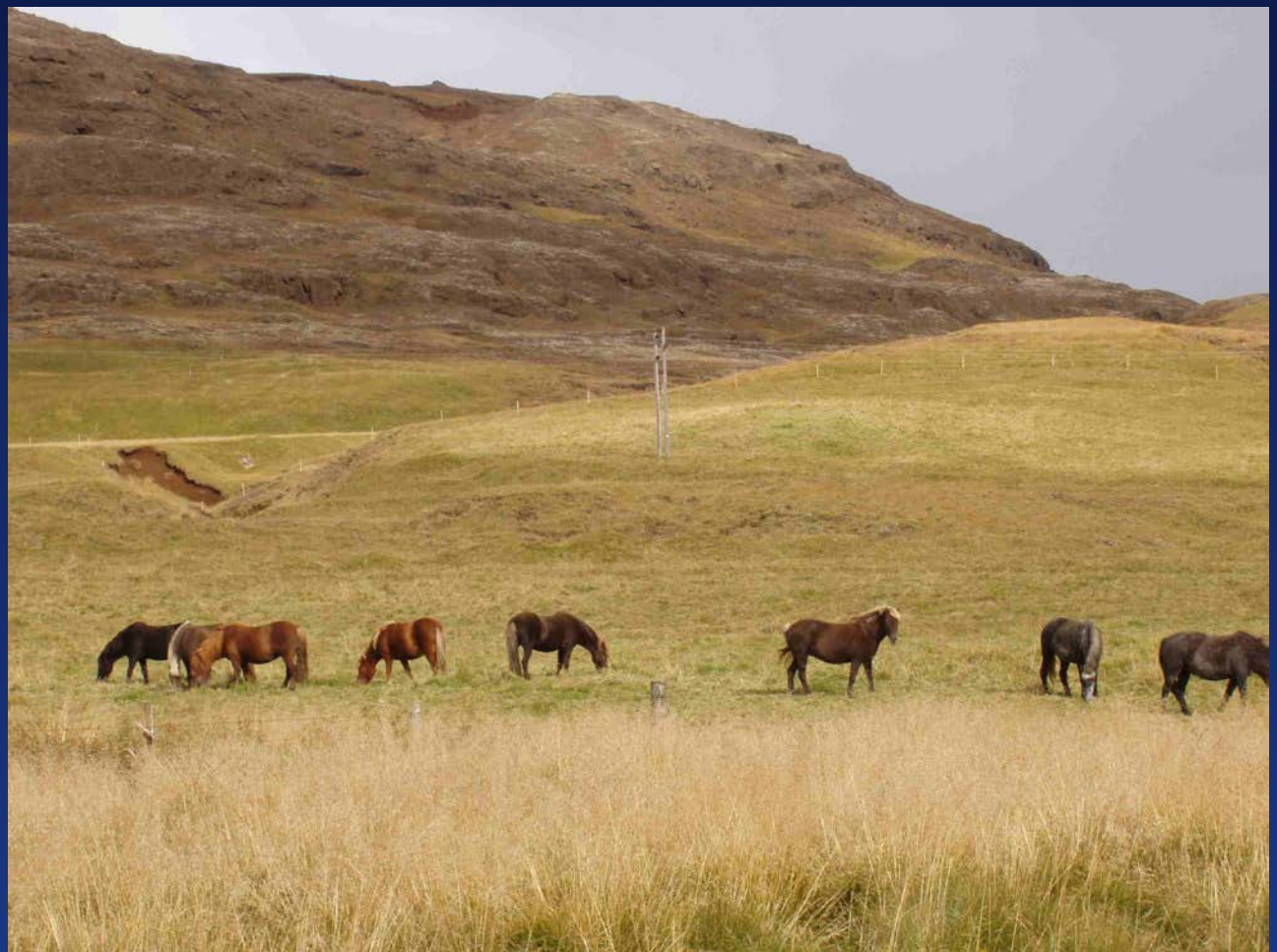
Maine

Topics

- The recent Soil Survey Restructure
- Where we are headed
- Congressional Mission
- New Opportunities

The recent Soil Survey Restructure



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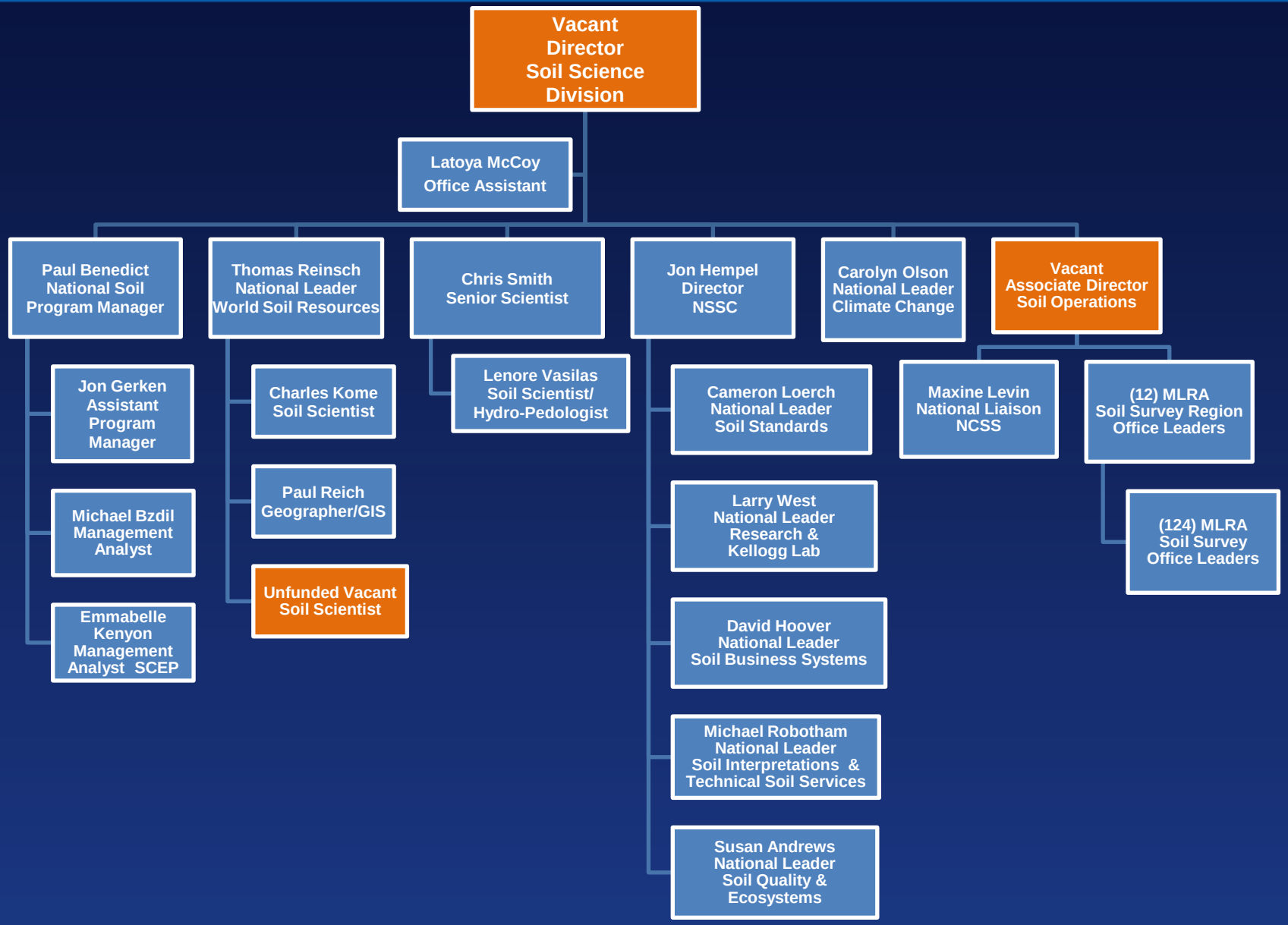
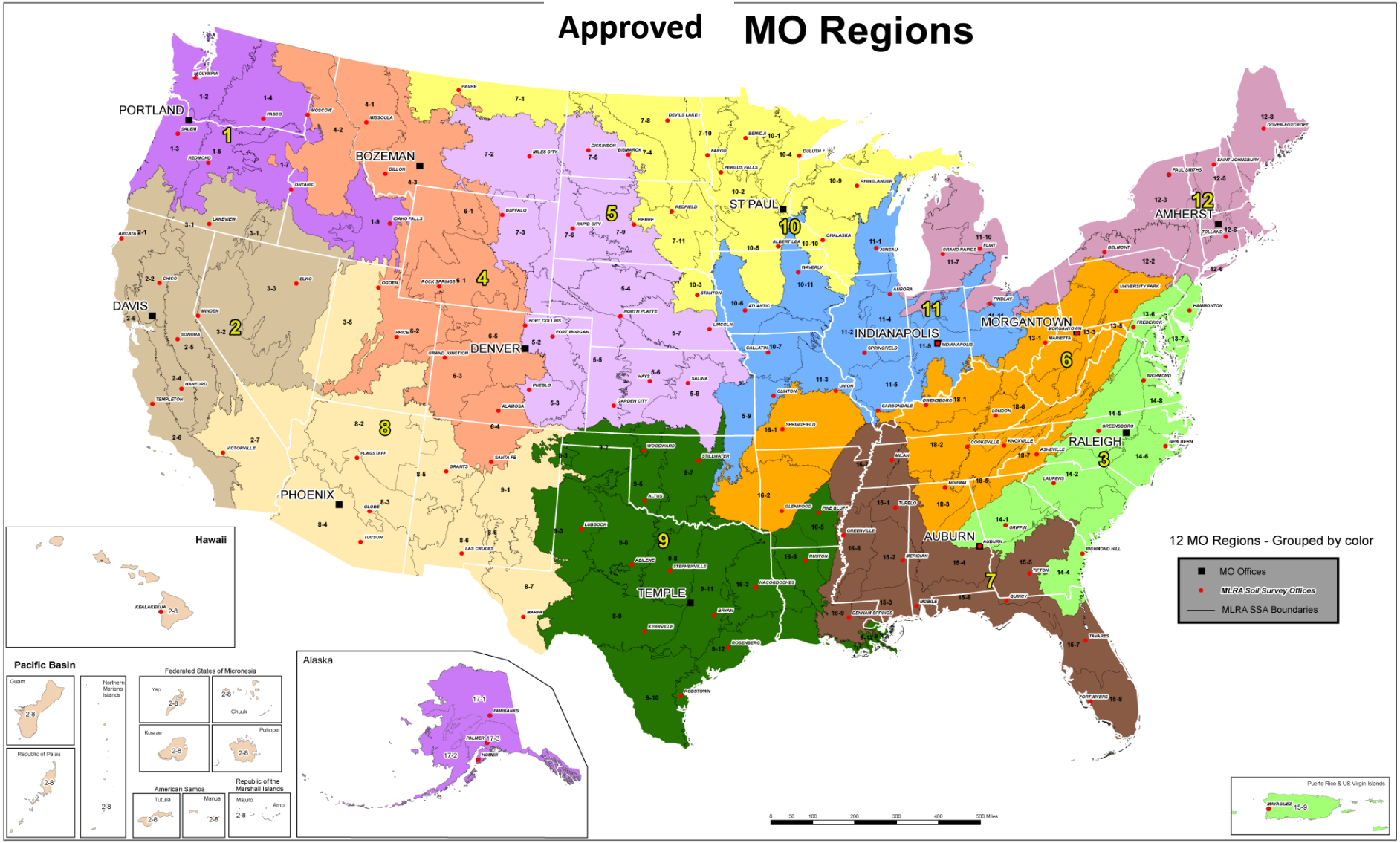


Where we are headed

Approved MO Regions



January 30, 2012

Where NRCS Soil Scientists are Located

(not counting recent retirements)

- 428 MLRA Soil Survey Offices
- 94 State offices
- 59 MLRA Region Offices
- 140 Area or other field offices
- 48 NSSC, NHQ or other National Centers

769 Total

State Soil Scientist

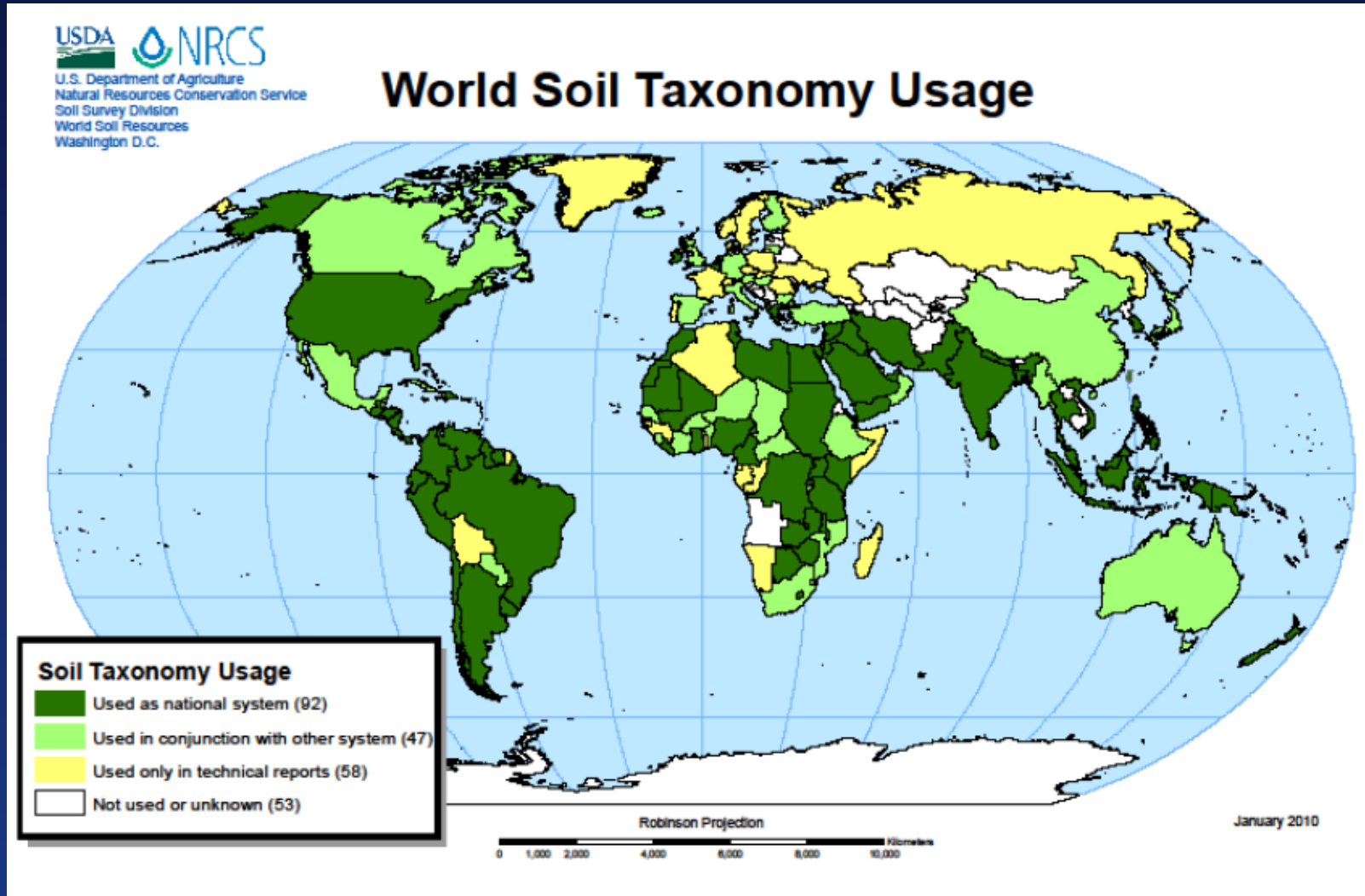
- ✓ ALL States including MO States funded for State Soil Scientist
- ✓ Continue to be supervised by the State Conservationist
  - serve on the state leadership team
- ✓ Bridge builders between the NCSS Cooperators & Soil inventory
- ✓ State Leadership with NCSS
  - local, state and federal agencies
  - universities, private consultants, and other disciplines
- ✓ Provides State Leadership for ALL Technical Soil Services

Congressional Mission

Congress charged the Secretary of Agriculture & the Soil Science Division with Authority to make soil surveys in 4 Mission areas:

- **Make an Inventory** of the Soil Resources
  - Make the Initial
- **Keep the Soil Survey Relevant**
  - Keep it Current - Maintain it - or Enhance it
- **Interpret the Information**
  - Interpretations
- **Promote the Soil Survey**
  - Provide Technical Assistance

New Opportunities



Global Soil Partnership (GSP)

- ✓ Sponsored by the FAO and the European Union (EU)
  - ➢ Modeled after the Global Water Partnership
  - ➢ Secretary of State Clinton launched the U.S. Water Partnership on March 22, 2012 (USDA to join)
- ✓ GSP Launched in September 2011, FAO Headquarters, Rome
- ✓ Vision - Sustainable and Productive Use of the Soil Resources
  - ➢ for Food Security and Climate Change Adaptation
- ✓ Included in the Rio+20 zero draft
- ✓ Strong possibility to link Global Water and Global Soil Partnership

In Summary

Soil Survey

- ✓ Congress reduced funding
- ✓ Opportunity to Restructure and be more efficient
- ✓ Build on 1995 & 2005 MLRA efforts
- ✓ Strong Mission for future
- ✓ Days of Being a Soil Scientist is not over
- ✓ Build “Soil Ecosystems”
- ✓ Harmonize existing Soil Data
- ✓ Prepare for Next Generation of Soil Surveys

Thank
YOU
for
Your
“Attention”