

California BLM Soil Survey Update



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Soils...



“We can DIG
it!!

(or scrape, pile, sell, bury, burn...)

California BLM Statistics



- ❧ 15.2 million acres (15% of California)
- ❧ 1.6 million acres in NW Nevada
- ❧ 15 Field Offices within 3 Districts
- ❧ 800 permanent employees
- ❧ No GS-0457 or GS-0470 classified employees
 - ❧ Several with soils backgrounds -- Duties collaterally assigned



Mar 2012
Front cover photo: A family enjoys a walk at Cosumnes River Preserve

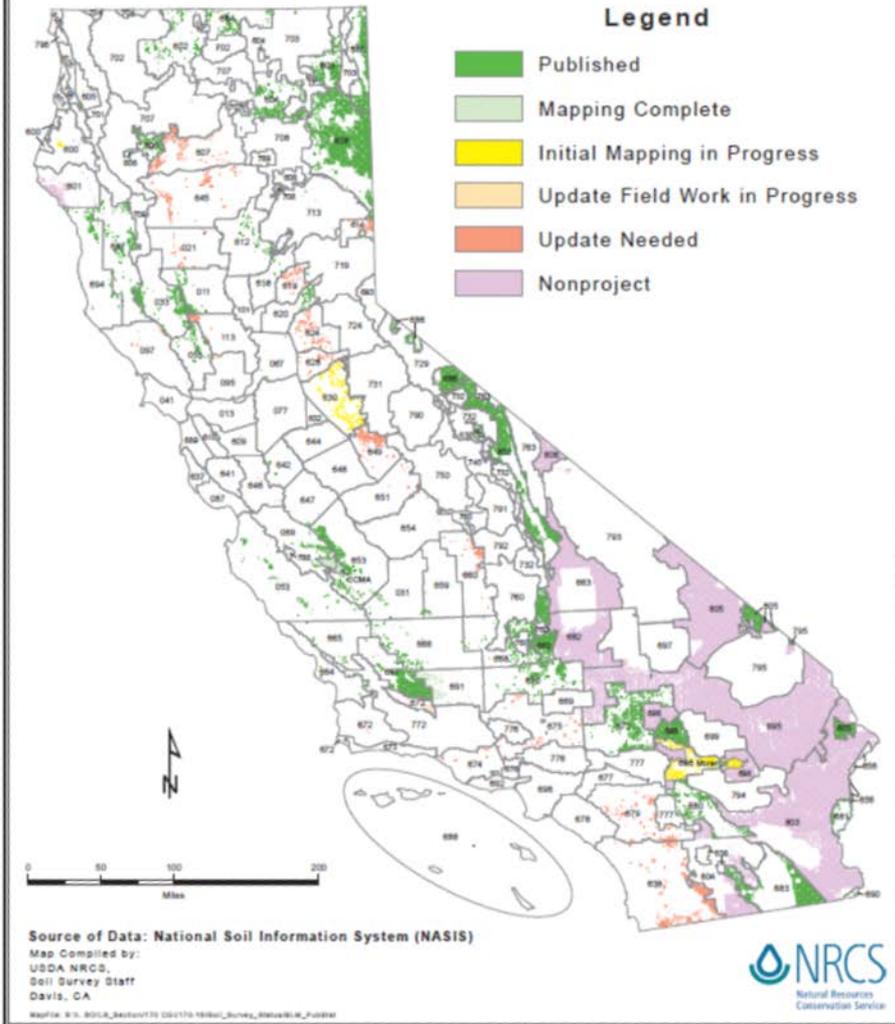
California BLM Field and District Offices

Multiple Use Activities



- ❧ Recreation (9.1 million visits)
- ❧ OHV (11.6 million acres)
- ❧ Wildlife (habitat for 800 species)
- ❧ Geothermal Energy (104 leases; 31 power plants)
- ❧ Solar Energy (45 applicants; 310,000 acres)
- ❧ Wind Energy (83 applicants on 574,700 acres)
- ❧ Grazing (681 allotments on 8.1 million acres)
- ❧ Mining (20,200 mining claims)
- ❧ Oil and Gas (5,300 wells; 14.7 million barrels oil; 8 billion cfng)
- ❧ Fire and fuels (17,100 acres)
- ❧ Timber (6.5 mmbf)
- ❧ Rights of Ways (9,400 miles)

**BLM Administered Lands within
Soil Survey Areas in California**
Publication Status, August 25, 2010



3,094,766 acres completed

8,632,550 acres needed
(primarily in the desert)

Roughly \$100K to \$150K
per year contracted to
NRCS

Status of Soil Survey on CA
BLM Public Lands

Requirements

(BLM Manual 7100 Rel. 7-108, 9/15/2008)



- ❧ Collect and maintain soil survey and ecological site information on all BLM administered lands on a practical and feasible schedule at a level of intensity consistent with management needs and in accordance with the NCSS standards and guidelines;
- ❧ Develop, test, and apply soil interpretations to guide the use and management of the soil and related resources;
- ❧ Use soils and ecological site description information in conducting land health assessments to help achieve aquatic, riparian, and upland health on BLM-administered land;
- ❧ Use soils and ecological site description information to plan and implement emergency stabilization and land restoration on BLM-administered land affected by wildfire and other disturbances;

Requirements

(BLM Manual 7100 Rel. 7-108, 9/15/2008)



- ❧ Use soils and ecological site description information to evaluate and plan for potential effects of proposed land uses on ecosystem productivity and integrity;
- ❧ Use soils and ecological site description information to plan and implement mitigation of potential adverse effects of BLM management actions;
- ❧ Use soils and ecological site description information to maintain the productivity of soil resources on BLM-administered land by minimizing physical, biological and/or chemical degradation, and accelerated erosion of the soil.

Uses -- Renewable Energy Development

Solar

Wind

Geothermal

Hydro



310,000 acres = almost 500 square
miles

Uses -- Renewable Energy Development

Solar
Wind
Geothermal
Hydro

575,000 acres =
890 square miles



Uses – Off Road Vehicles

Designated
Routes



Open Areas

11.6 million acres total



Needs



- ❧ Completion of soil survey in the desert
- ❧ Accelerate Ecological Site Description work
- ❧ Recruit and Retain Technical Skill base
 - ❧ Training of existing workforce
 - ❧ New blood...
 - ❧ Increase use of tools
- ❧ Demonstrate “value added” contributions