



Federal Lands Advisory Group

FLAG



Federal Lands Advisory Group

FLAG is a national level group whose membership includes those federal agencies actively participating in the soil survey of the U.S.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

Department of Defense - Army (USACE)

Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Forest Service (FS)

National Park Service (NPS)



Federal Lands Advisory Group

Current Membership

Paul Benedict (NRCS)

Vacant (BLM)

David Edington (BIA)

Mark Chase (USFWS/NWRS)

Eunice Padley (FS)

Terrence Sobecki (USACE)

Pete Biggam, Chair (NPS)



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Purpose:

To facilitate the development and maintenance of the soil and ecological site inventories of the nation's federal lands in association with the other partners of the NCSS

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Objectives:

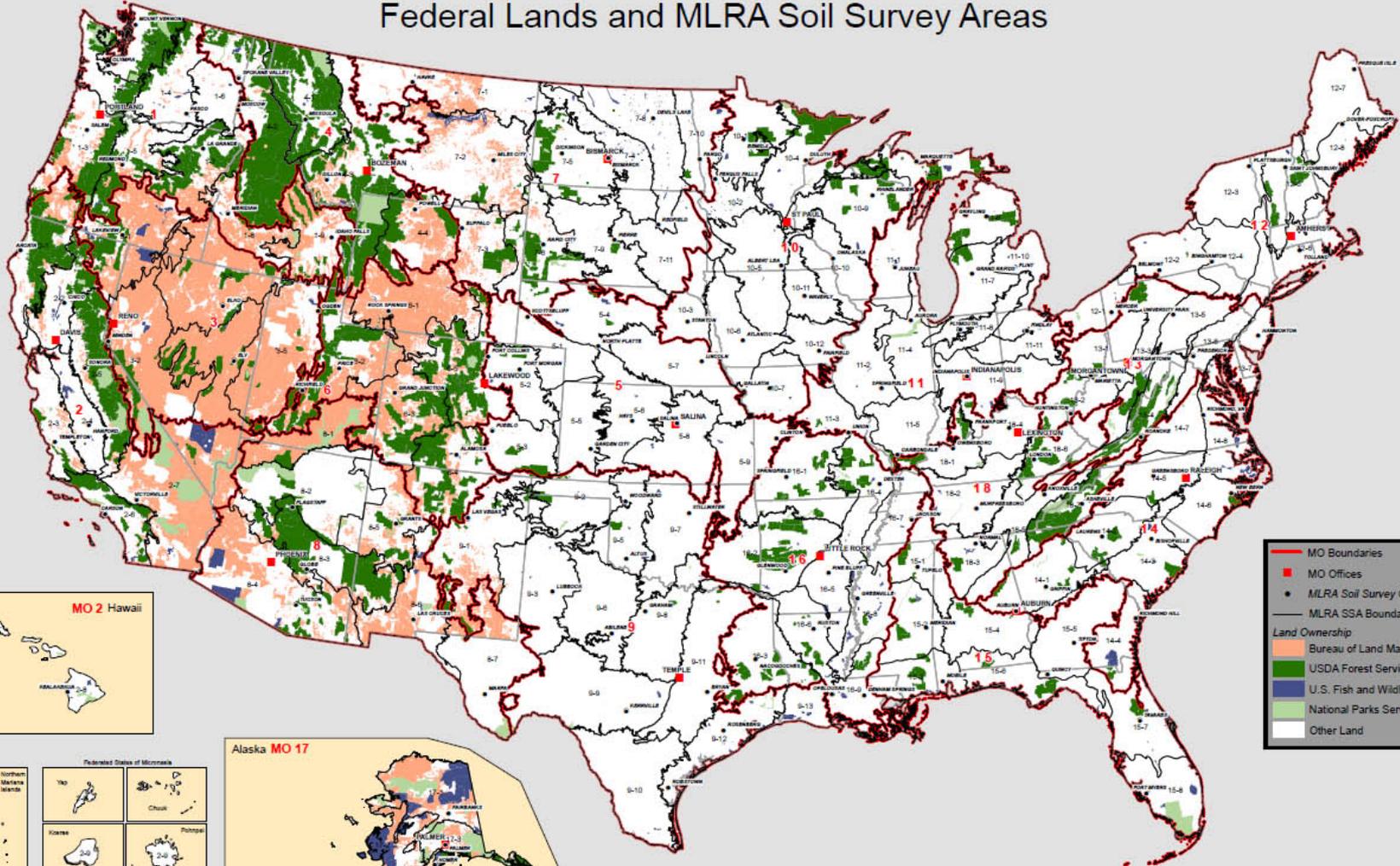
1. Improve communication and coordination of the federal partnership within the NCSS
2. Develop cooperative solutions for completion and maintenance of soil and ecological sites on federal lands
3. Develop common priorities and a common plan that ensures the effective use of agency resources while recognizing the unique missions and objectives of each agency

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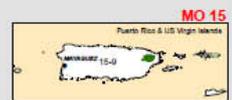
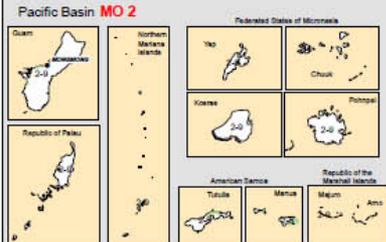
Priority areas include:

1. Mapping
2. Correlation
3. Publication
4. Investigation
5. Interpretation
6. Data Integration & Sharing
7. Information and Education

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



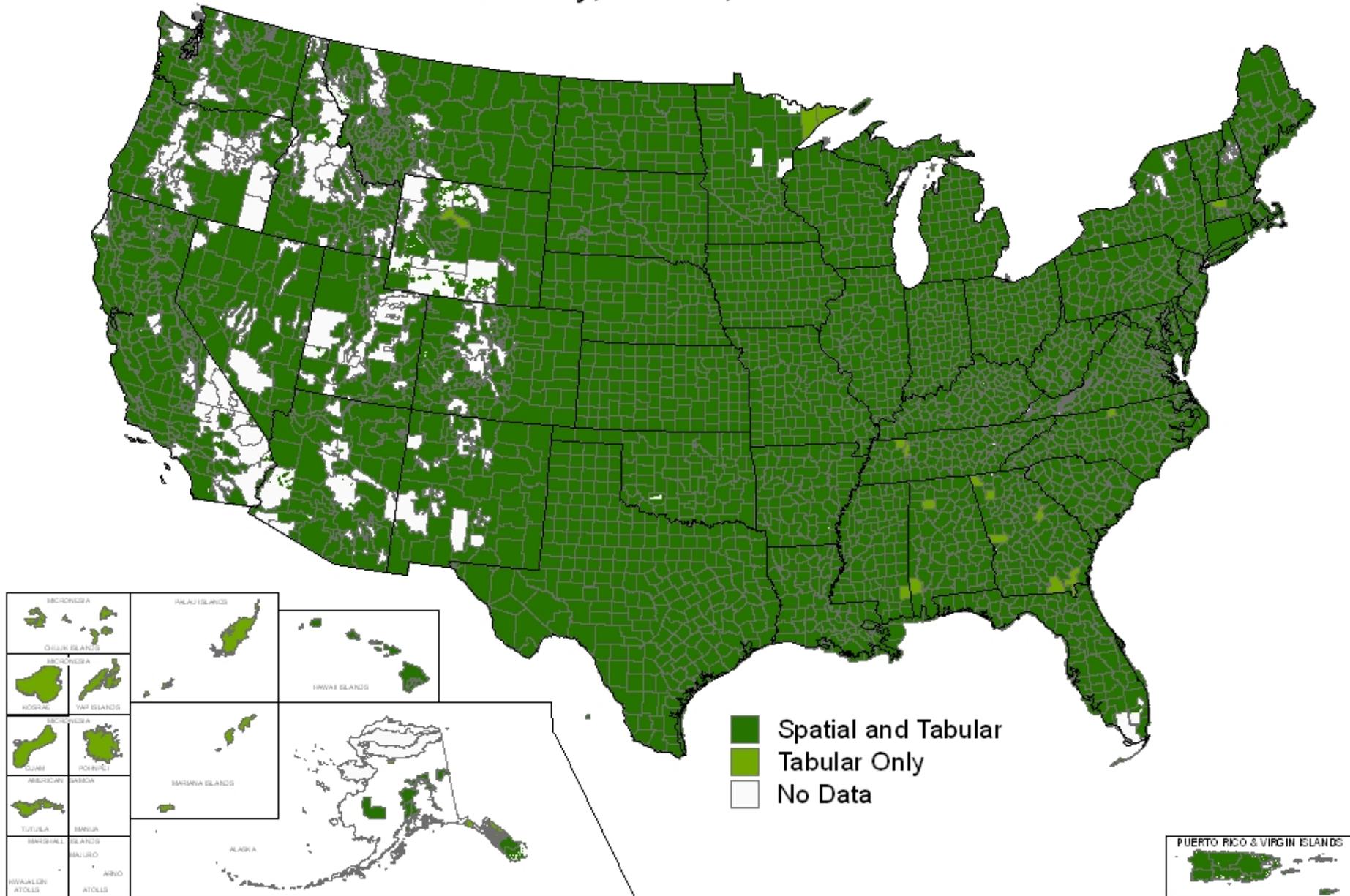
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Past Activities

Developed a strategy to complete initial mapping on "Priority Federal Lands" by 2012 and submitted to NRCS Soil Survey Division (SSD)

Available Soil Survey Data

Tuesday, June 19, 2012



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Past Activities

Coordinated with NRCS Soil Survey Division to request new federal agency budget initiatives and restructuring of current NRCS funds to facilitate mapping of federal lands

Even though the proposed budget initiative fell short, NRCS has now clarified it's ability to map federal lands, and has provided funds to states to facilitate mapping on federal lands adjacent to private lands or in important watersheds.

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Past Activities

FLAG was requested to coordinate with NRCS Soil Survey Division regarding various aspects of federal lands issues as part of the planned Soil Survey Division Program Plan 2011-2016

- a) Develop a strategy to complete mapping on Federal lands by 2020 (assuming increased federal funding as a partnership)
- b) Coordinate in NCSS protocol for data collection and classification of ESD's, as well as QA/QC

Overview of Issues and Concerns

- Recent Reorganization of the NRCS Soil Science Division and Soil Survey Office Closures and the Ability to Continue to Provide Services and Support Interagency Agreements
- How Proposed NRCS Activities Such as “Data Harmonization” will involve FLAG Members to Ensure Individual Agency Needs Are Still Being Met or Addressed

Overview of Issues and Concerns

- FLAG suggests additional agency involvement into the current Interagency Ecological Site Manual and Handbook efforts in addition to the 3 signatory agencies (NRCS, BLM, USFS), as other agencies have a significant interest in how ecological site descriptions are developed and maintained on the they lands that they administer