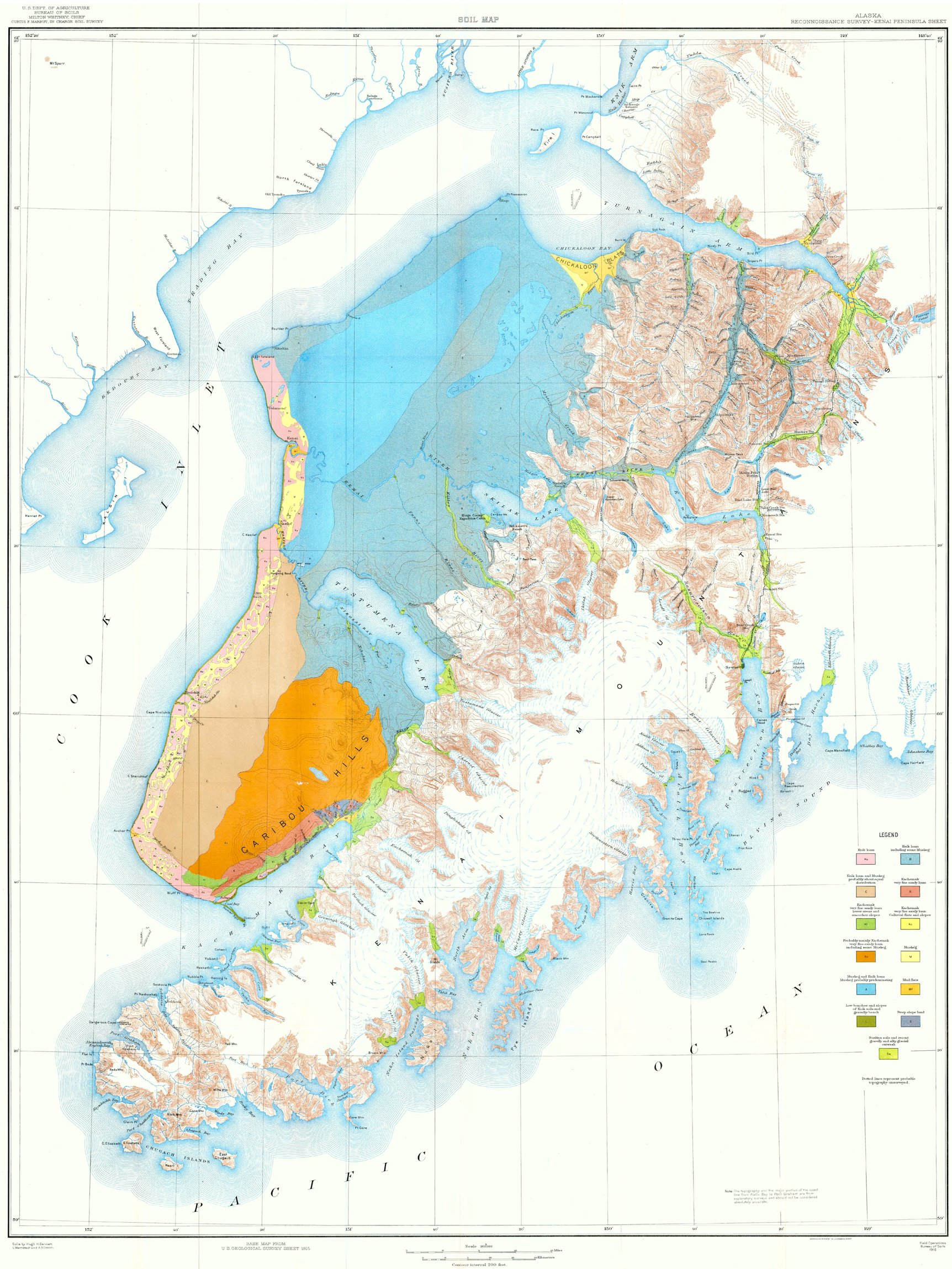
United States Department of Agriculture

Map of the Month

July



Hugh Hammond Bennett in Alaska (1914-1916)

Hugh Hammond Bennett is most widely known as a champion for making the Nation and the world aware of the perils of soil erosion. During the first part of his career, however, he was a mapper, a soil scientist, and a pedologist.

Although most of his work was in the southeastern United States, he made some of the first soil maps of Alaska, as shown by this 1914 soil map of the Kenai Peninsula, Alaska. This map not only shows the soils (including some organic soils, some alluvial soils, and many Cryic soils), it also shows the extent of the glaciers in 1914.

1914

Today

This map is an example of the scientific value of USDA historical soil maps. Eighty-seven percent of the nearly 4,000 soil surveys made from 1890 to 2008 have been scanned and are available online at the website of the National Soil Survey Center.

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