

How to Access Historical Soil Surveys on the New NRCS Website

Historical soil surveys have been scanned, converted to portable document format (PDF), and archived on a [public download site](#) named Box.

Soil surveys issued prior to 2008 are archive copies that are not compatible with the screen-reader software used by the visually impaired. For accessibility assistance, email nrcs-spsd-508@usda.gov or call (402) 437-5499.

Printed soil survey reports were the main source of soils information from 1899 to 2005. Most of these reports are county-based and are available from the download site. USDA phased out the printing of reports after making [Web Soil Survey](#) the official source for information in 2005. For information about reference copies of a publication, contact your [State Conservationist](#).

To access the historical soil surveys from the new NRCS website (<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>):

1. Click **Conservation Basics** near the top of the page on the left if you are using a computer. Skip to step 3 if you are using your phone;
2. Click **Soil** from the top of the list of Natural Resource Concerns;
3. Click **Soil Science**;
4. Click **Soil Survey**;
5. Click **Soil Surveys by State**; and
6. Click **Links to Scanned Manuscripts in Box** from the “Additional Documents” box.

The PDF file “[Links to Scanned Manuscripts in Box](#)” is an index to the Box folders for each State.

1. Click the link for the State you are interested in.
2. Click the subfolder named **1_Index to files**.
3. Click the “txt” file.
 - a. Find the name of the soil survey you are interested in. The line below the name shows the folder location and name for the initial file.

Example

How to Use “Links to Scanned Manuscripts in Box.pdf” to find the Soil Survey of Fremont County Area, Colorado:

1. Click the link for Colorado
<https://nrcs.app.box.com/s/v3xsfw65l76npfa6nxhs9ond8wu645bu>

2. Click the subfolder named **1_index to files**.
3. Click **_Index-to-Colorado-Archive.txt**.
4. Scroll down to “Fremont” or, if you’re on a computer, use ctrl-f (press the control key and the f key at the same time) to search the page. You will find the following.
 - ▶ Fremont County Area
Colorado/CO637/0/Fremont.pdf/1995
5. Use the back arrow two times to navigate back to the main Colorado folder.
6. Download your files of interest from CO637.
 - a. In some browser configurations, you will not see all of the folders on a single page. Look for arrows or page numbers at the bottom-right of the page.
 - b. Some surveys are filed by the county name and some are filed by an id number. For example, the 1971 Soil Survey of Bent County, Colorado, is in a folder named BentCO1971 and the 1991 Soil Survey of Cheyenne County, Colorado, is in a folder named CO017.

For up-to-date, official data, use the [Web Soil Survey](#). The archived surveys are for historical purposes only.

For directions on how to download a complete scanned soil survey, please refer to:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-11/How-to-download-scanned-soil-survey-manuscript.pdf>