

# 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. Some surveys are also available now in <https://archive.org/search?query=soil+survey>. We are working to improve the delivery process for these important historical documents.

*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](mailto:nrcs-spsd-508@usda.gov) or call (402) 437-5499.*

*All other requests for assistance to these scanned surveys that are not related to 508 accessibility issues, email [nrcs-nssc-webmaster@usda.gov](mailto:nrcs-nssc-webmaster@usda.gov).*

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://nracs.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>