

Digital Soil Mapping Project Assistance: Request for Mentor Support

The purpose of the DSM Focus Team project mentoring program is to provide technical support and guidance to SSOs conducting projects utilizing DSM methods for the production of Raster Soil Surveys and updated SSURGO data. Projects may be initial, update, or special focus.

Please consider the following expectations when applying for assistance:

- DSM mentors will provide technical support and guidance to the SSO to accomplish the project goals as outlined in the request for assistance.
- DSM mentors will not be completing specific tasks for the SSOs, but rather providing support for them to successfully complete the tasks independently.
- SSOs are expected to have a minimum level of training and understanding in DSM, in particular the Introduction to Digital Soil Mapping training course, before or within the timeframe of requesting project assistance.
- Schedule availability of mentor and SSO project timeline will be respected.
- SSOs receiving mentoring assistance will participate in monthly DSM Practitioner's Discussions and submit project progress reports in a timely manner.

Procedure:

1. Submit completed DSM Project Assistance form to Suzann Kienast-Brown (suzann.kienast@usda.gov) to request mentor assistance from the DSM Focus Team.
2. DSM Focus Team leads and sub-team leads will review assistance request.
3. DSM Focus Team leads and sub-team leads meet with SSO staff to discuss project specifics and the assistance request.
4. DSM mentor(s) assigned based on the specific needs of the project and mentor areas of expertise. There may be more than one mentor assigned to each project to address specific aspects of the project if necessary.
5. You will receive a reply to your assistance request with DSM mentor(s) assigned.
6. DSM mentor(s) will coordinate with you for project assistance.

Please respond to the following items and be as detailed and specific as possible in your responses to help us understand your request. All items must be addressed for your request to be considered.

1. Soil Survey Office requesting support
2. Number of SSO and Regional Office staff assigned to project and their roles
3. Project summary (scope, goals, timeline, progress to-date)
4. What kind of support are you seeking; general project support from start to finish, support to get you started, or support for specific tasks?
5. Has project staff had any DSM training or experience?