



Using the NRCS Web Soil Survey: Free Public Access to the Nation’s Soil Resource Data

The NRCS Soil Science Division has transitioned from its traditional, static soil surveys published in bound hard copy to a more fluid online format that allows NRCS to continually update soil survey data as needed and from which customers can create custom soil survey reports for just their area of interest.

Not all users of soil survey information generate custom reports. About 800,000 single-theme reports or interpretive maps were generated in both FY 2010 and FY 2011. In FY 2010, about 1.7 million individuals accessed Web Soil Survey, and in FY 2011, about 1.8 million people used it.



The simple yet powerful way to access and use soil data.



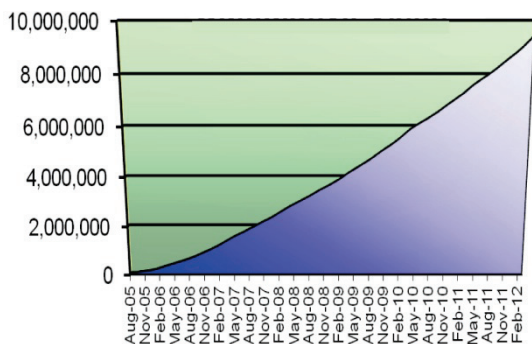
As of February 2012, Web Soil Survey has enjoyed 9.2 million visitors to the site. By not producing hard-copy soil surveys, NRCS has saved the tax payers over 2 million dollars in printing costs.

NRCS implemented the Web Soil Survey (<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/>) in 2005. Web Soil Survey allows customers to prepare reports for their particular area of interest, save a digital copy, and/or print a copy. During FY 2010, the first year for which statistics are available, over 135,000 custom reports were developed by customers. In FY 2011, over 155,000 reports were developed. It is anticipated that about 175,000 custom reports will be generated in FY 2012.

About 92 percent of private and tribal lands are covered by soil surveys. There are currently 28 soil surveys underway. These soil surveys and maps will be completed in digital format and made available on the Web Soil Survey. In addition to these 28 soil surveys, updates are being done on soil survey data across the country to allow better interpretation of soil behavior for specific uses and for emerging issues, such as climate change and nutrient management.

This online application for accessing soil data permits a more efficient delivery of USDA programs. Updating existing data on an ongoing basis has allowed rapid responses to new demands, including responses to the recent disasters of Hurricane Katrina and the Gulf oil spill.

Web Soil Survey Cumulative Visits



Web Soil Survey Average Visits per Day (monthly)

