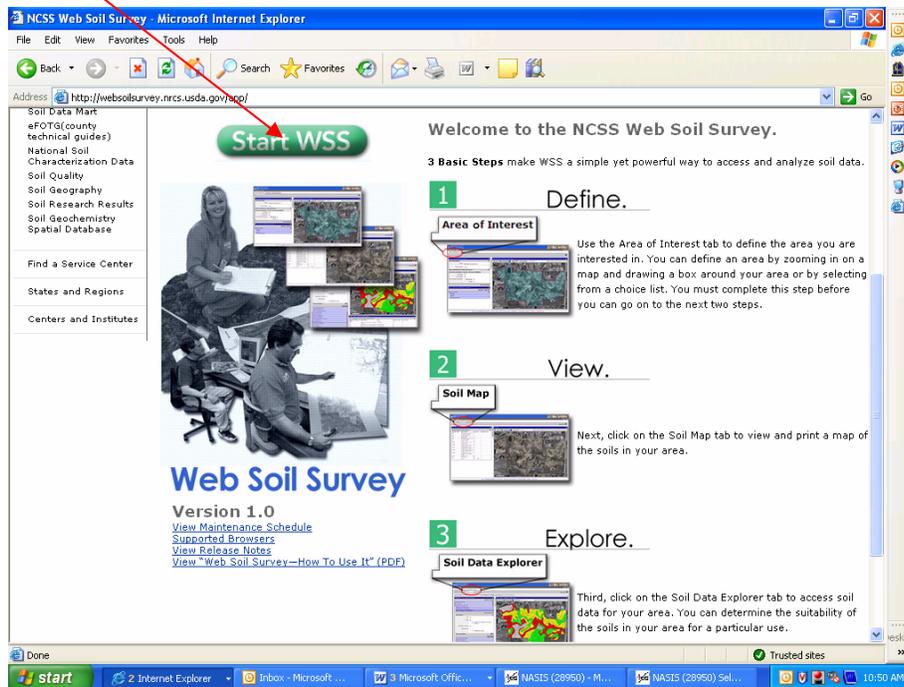


## Online Resources      USDA-NRCS Web Soil Survey

The Web Soil Survey is replacing the familiar, traditional paper copies of soil survey reports. As new and updated soil surveys are completed, NRCS is distributing the results of these surveys by means of the Web Soil Survey instead of as books. The Web Soil Survey allows NRCS to update the information more rapidly and ensures a single source for official data. People without computer access can acquire soil survey information from an NRCS field office or local library.

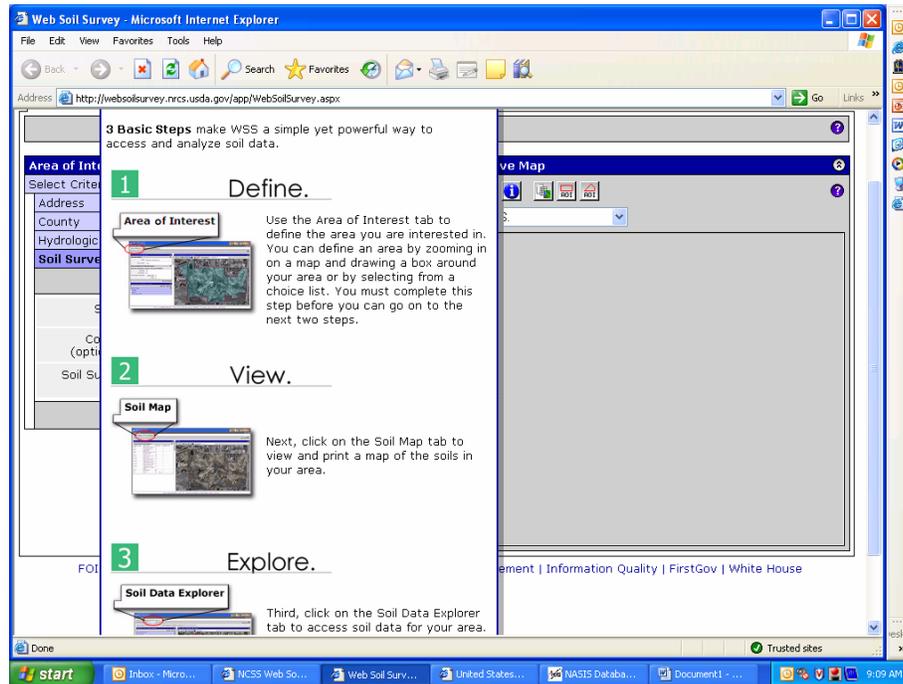
URL: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

Click on **“Start WSS”** button



The screenshot shows the NCSS Web Soil Survey interface. At the top, a navigation menu includes 'File', 'Edit', 'View', 'Favorites', 'Tools', and 'Help'. The address bar displays 'http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/'. A sidebar on the left contains a 'Soil Data Mart' section with links to 'eFOTG (county technical guides)', 'National Soil Characterization Data', 'Soil Quality', 'Soil Geography', 'Soil Research Results', 'Soil Geochemistry', and 'Spatial Database'. Below this are sections for 'Find a Service Center', 'States and Regions', and 'Centers and Institutes'. The main content area features a 'Start WSS' button, a 'Welcome to the NCSS Web Soil Survey' heading, and a '3 Basic Steps' guide. Step 1, 'Define', involves using the 'Area of Interest' tab. Step 2, 'View', involves using the 'Soil Map' tab. Step 3, 'Explore', involves using the 'Soil Data Explorer' tab. The page also includes a 'Web Soil Survey Version 1.0' section with links to 'View Maintenance Schedule', 'Supported Browsers', 'View Release Notes', and 'View "Web Soil Survey—How To Use It" (PDF)'. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the 'start' button and several open applications, including Internet Explorer, Microsoft Office, and NACIS.

**There are 3 Basic Steps in using Web Soil Survey (WSS): Define, View, Explore.**

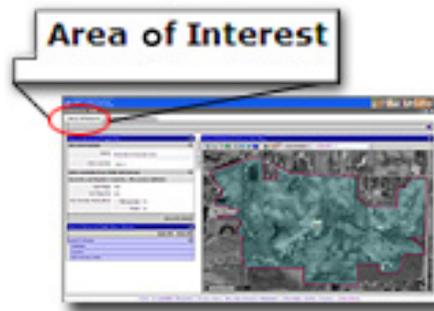


**1) DEFINE:**

**The first step in using Web Soil Survey is to define your area of interest.**

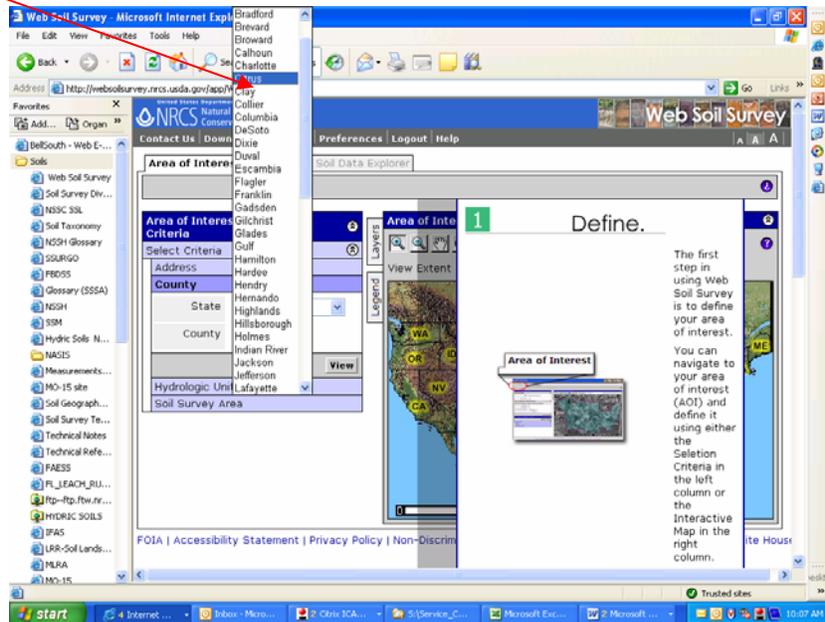
*You can select an area in the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, the Pacific Basin, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands. You select an area by zooming in on a locator map or by specifying street address, county, or survey area.*

**You can navigate to your area of interest (AOI) and define it using either the Selection Criteria in the left column or the Interactive Map in the right column.**

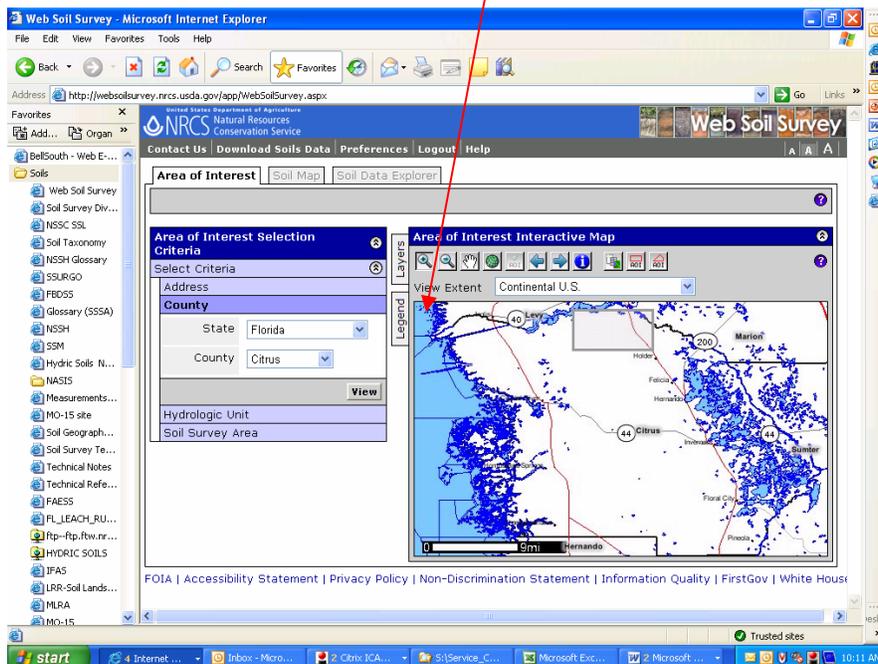


**There are several ways to define and navigate to an Area of Interest (AOI), but first....Click on the upside down question mark to remove “Help” text.**

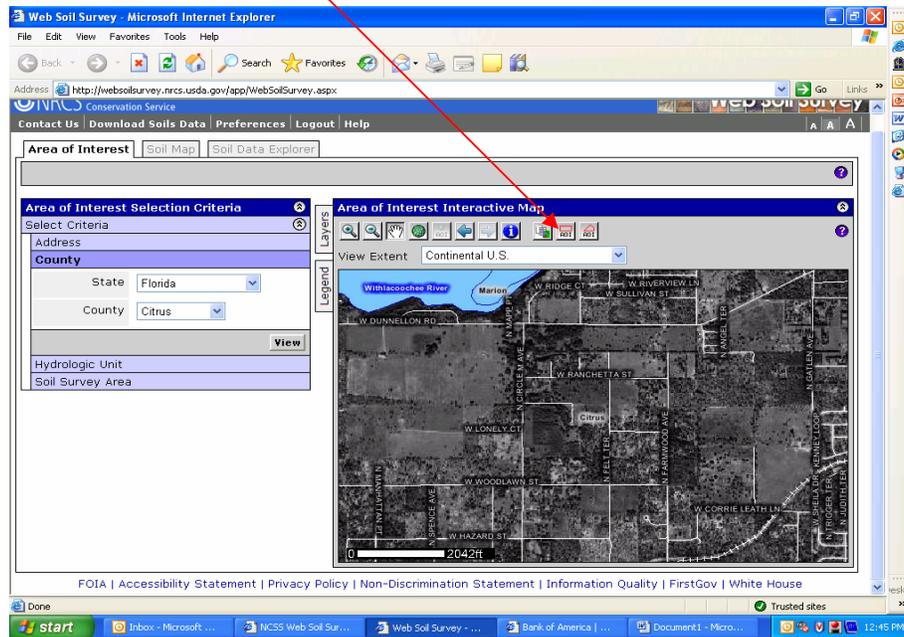
Note: The specified AOI must be smaller than 10,000 acres.  
For this example, using Selection Criteria on the left side of the screen, **SELECT** Citrus County, Florida.



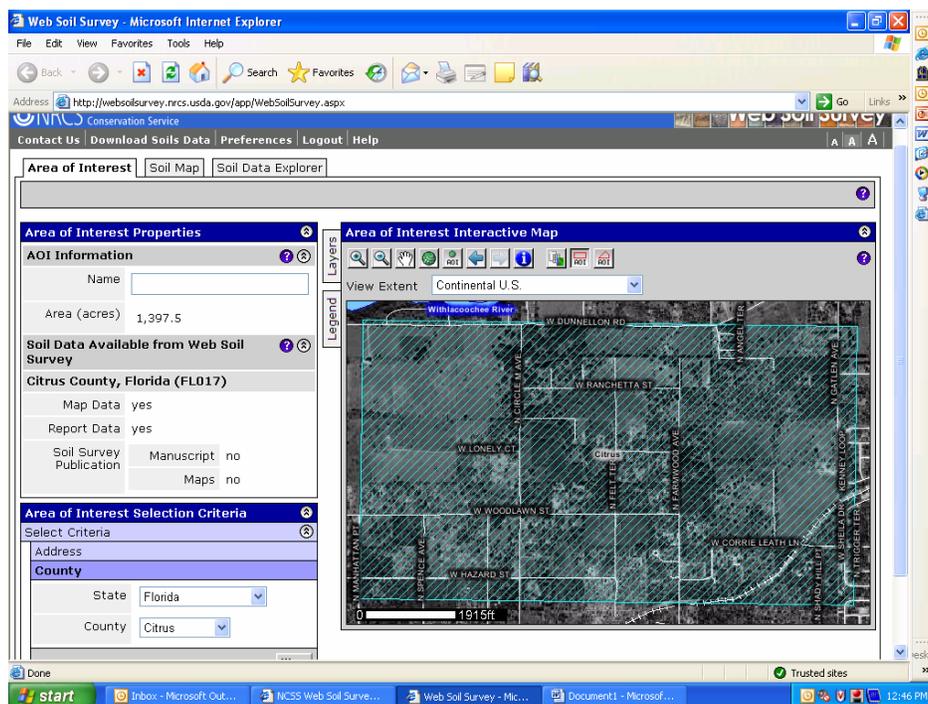
Using the **Magnify tool** (left side of tool bar), choose the exact area for viewing. In this case, the gray shaded area in northern Citrus County, near the Withalacoochee River.



To define the AOI, use the Interactive Map, and select the button at the top of the page with the **red rectangular AOI label**. This selection will show a crosshair that will allow you to select the preferred area in rectangular shape.



The Defined Area of Interest will show up in a crosshatched pattern and the soil data within your AOI is ready for viewing.

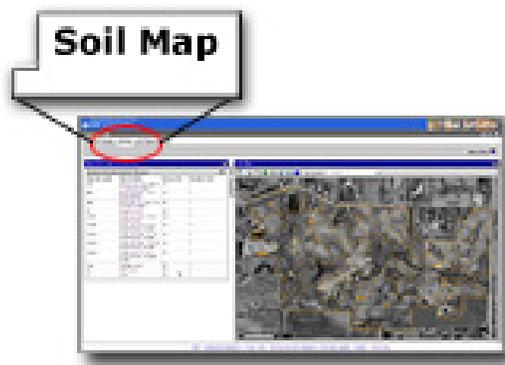


## 2) View:

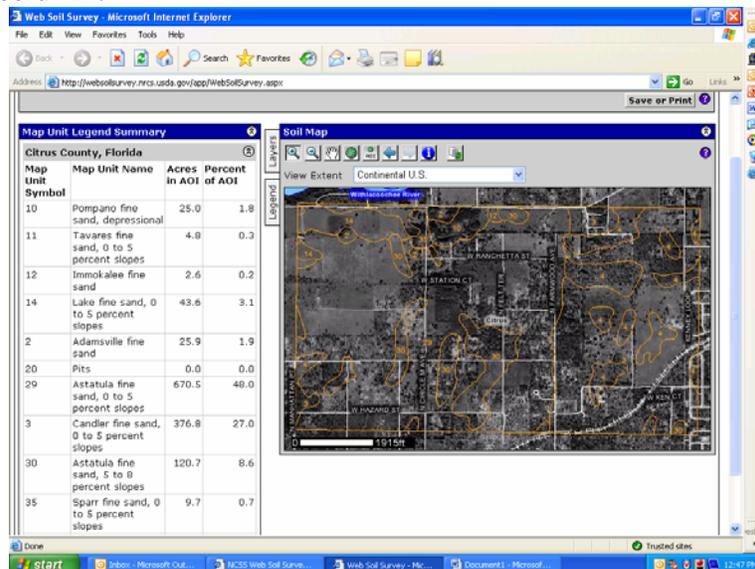
The second step in using Web Soil Survey is to look at the Soil Map for your area of interest. The soil map shows the map unit symbols in your AOI.

*Soil maps are not yet available for all areas. The maps that are available consist of aerial photography overlain by lines that indicate the boundaries of the various types of soil.*

The Map Unit Legend Summary table in the left column shows you the name and map symbol of each map unit, the percent of each map unit in the AOI, and the total acreage of each map unit in the AOI.



Once the AOI is selected, the map can be viewed by clicking on the “Soil Map” tab on the top left of the screen. In addition, Map Unit Symbol, Map Unit name, the acres in the AOI and percent of AOI is viewable in the Map Unit Legend Summary in the far left column.



Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
10	Pompano fine sand, depressional	25.0	1.8
11	Tavares fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	4.9	0.3
12	Immokalee fine sand	2.6	0.2
14	Lake fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	43.6	3.1
2	Adamsville fine sand	25.9	1.9
20	Pits	0.0	0.0
29	Atatula fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	670.5	48.0
3	Candler fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	376.8	27.0
30	Atatula fine sand, 5 to 8 percent slopes	120.7	8.6
35	Sparr fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	9.7	0.7

## Viewing and printing the soil map

While using Web Soil Survey, you may want to refer back to your soil map. You can do so on the screen by clicking the Soil Map tab, or you can print the soil map by

clicking the **Save or Print** button:



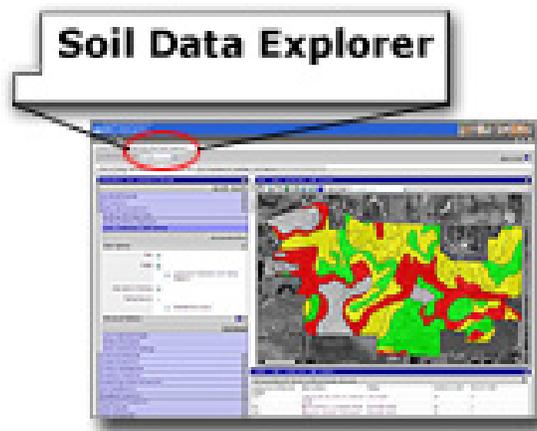
## Closing the help window

Click the upside-down help button on the above button bar to close a help window

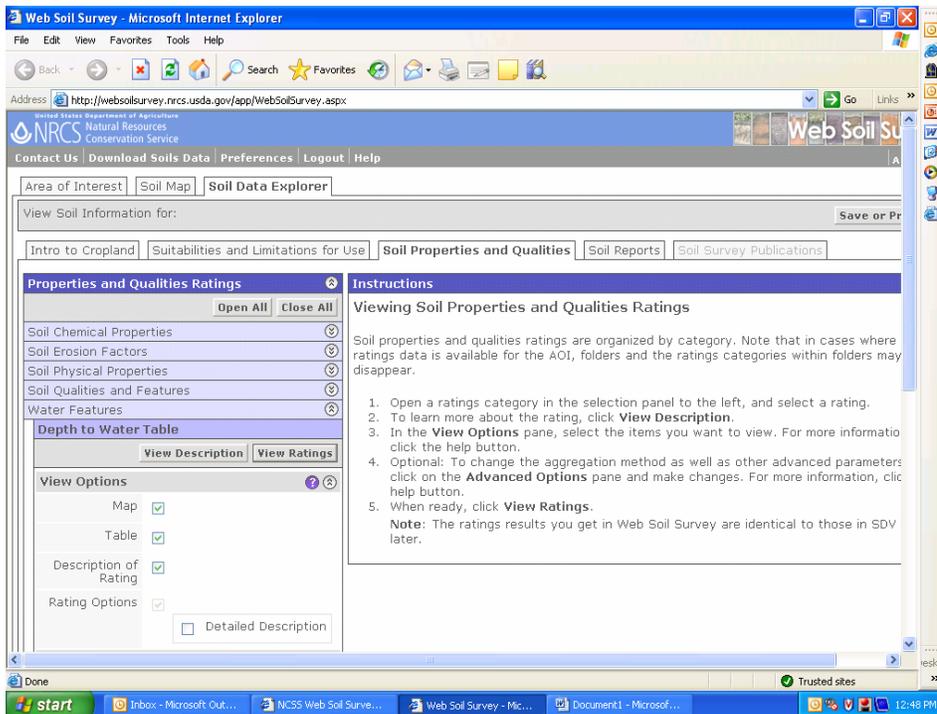
## 3) Explore:

**The third and final step in using Web Soil Survey is to explore all of the available information associated with the soils in your area of interest. The Soil Data Explorer tab provides several ways of getting the information relevant to you.**

*The Web Soil Survey can display the properties and qualities of the soils. It can also show interpretations about the suitabilities and limitations of the soils for many uses. Examples of properties and qualities include available water capacity and pH. Examples of suitabilities and limitations include interpretations about how productive the soils are for various crops and about how well the soils would function as a site for buildings. The information can be displayed in tables and, in many cases, on maps.*

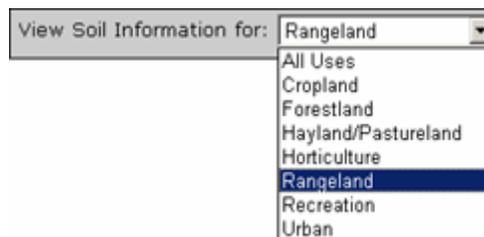


**Click on the Soil Explorer Tab to bring up the Explorer Window.**



## Finding relevant information

You can view soil information about a specific use, such as cropland, forestland, rangeland, urban development, and so forth, by selecting the use from the drop-down list on the button bar.



To get a particular type of soil information, use the Soil Data Explorer's inner tabs:



Depending on the use that you select in the drop-down list, the tabs and the contents of the tabs will change.

## Printing or saving the information you want

In Web Soil Survey, you select information in the left column and view it in the right column. When you want to print or save the information in the right column, click the

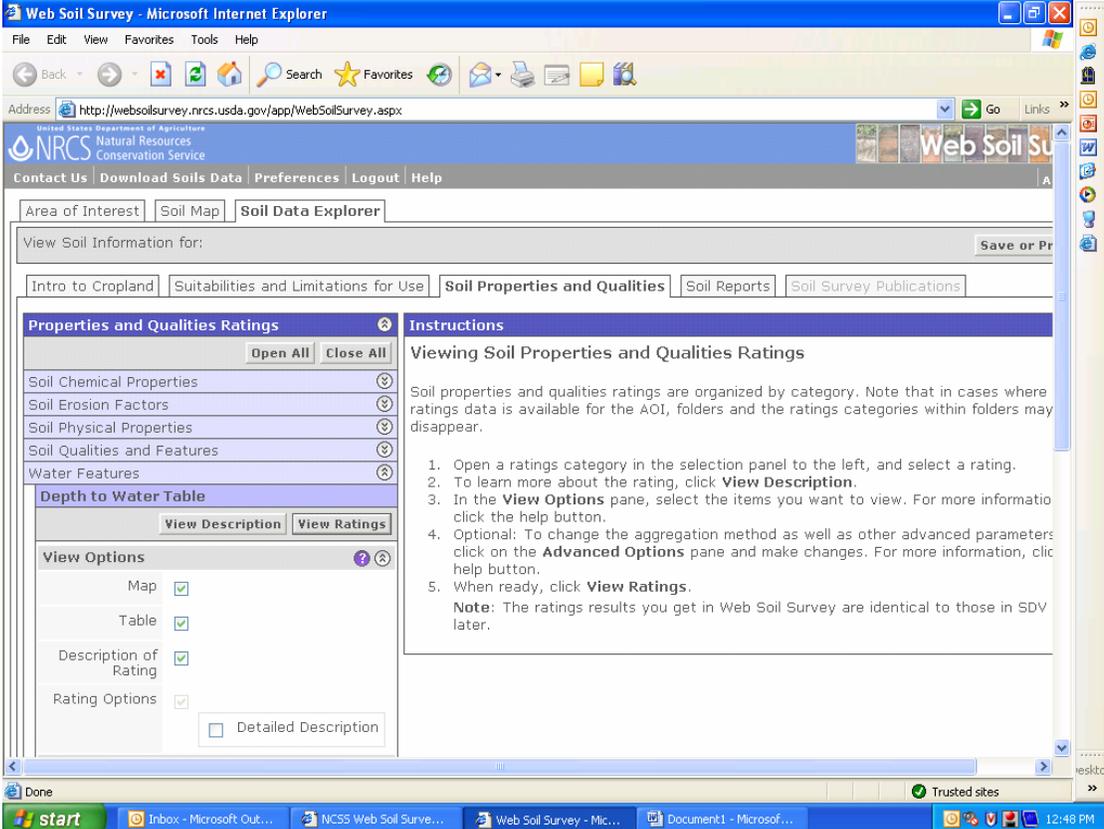
**Save or Print** button: 

## Closing the help window

Click the upside-down help button  on the above button bar to close a help window.

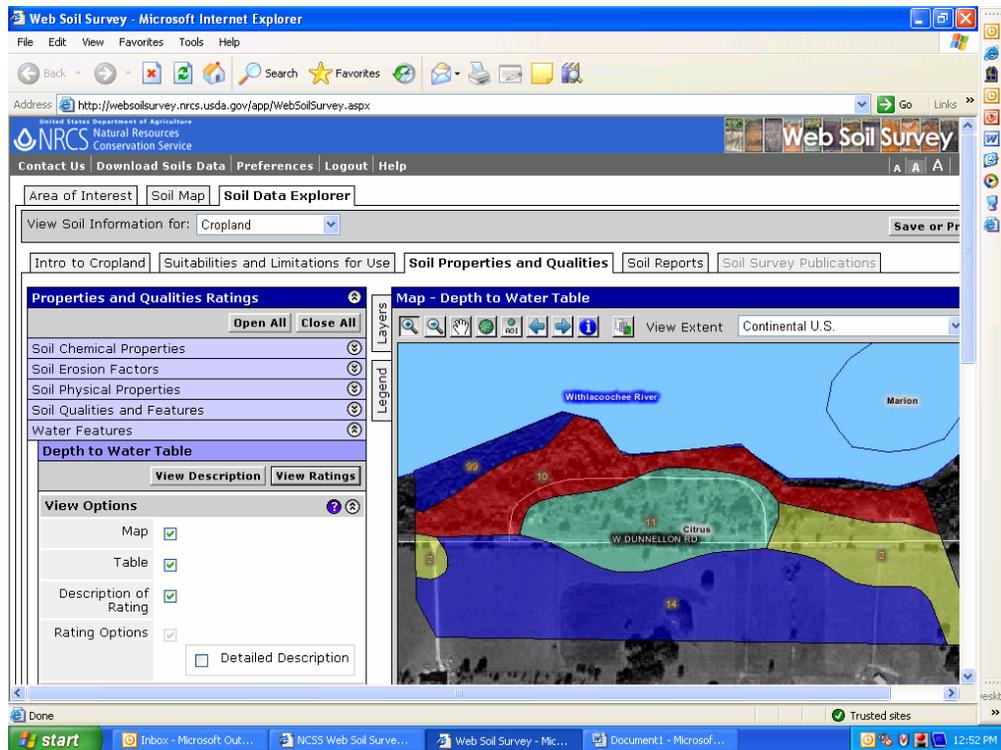
## **SOIL DATA EXPLORER EXAMPLE:**

**To Explore all of the information on your AOI, Click the Soil Data Explorer tab at the top left of the screen. The Soil Data Explorer allows individuals to generate thematic maps based on land use rating and limitations, or by specific physical or chemical data attributes. For example, click on the Soil Properties and Qualities tab.**



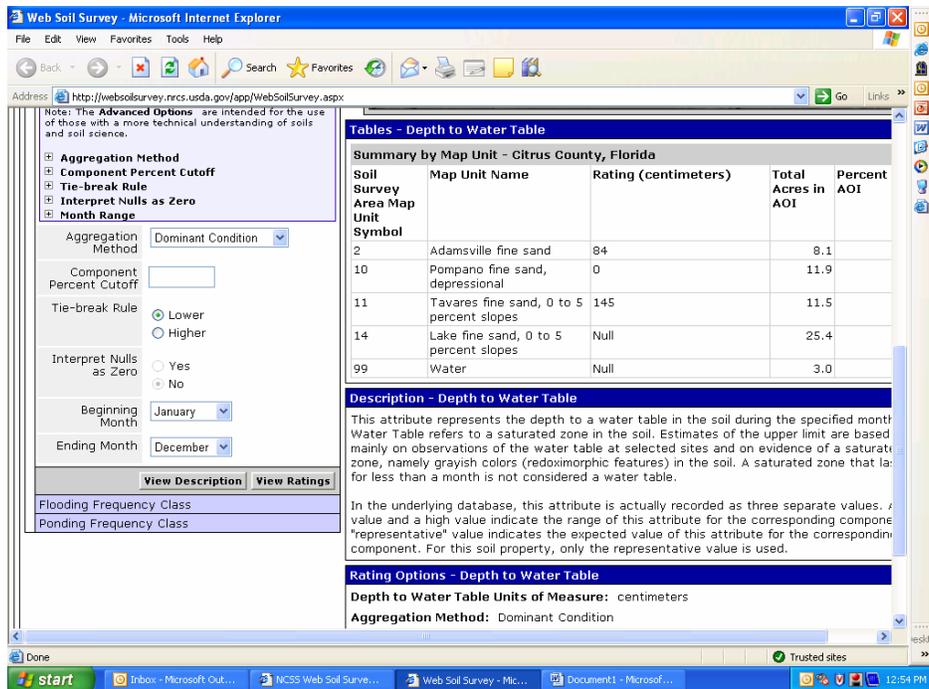
The screenshot shows the Web Soil Survey interface in Microsoft Internet Explorer. The browser title is "Web Soil Survey - Microsoft Internet Explorer" and the address bar shows "http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx". The page header includes the NRCS logo and navigation links like "Contact Us", "Download Soils Data", "Preferences", "Logout", and "Help". The main content area has tabs for "Area of Interest", "Soil Map", and "Soil Data Explorer". Under "Soil Data Explorer", there are sub-tabs for "Intro to Cropland", "Suitabilities and Limitations for Use", "Soil Properties and Qualities", "Soil Reports", and "Soil Survey Publications". The "Soil Properties and Qualities" sub-tab is active, showing a "View Soil Information for:" section with a "Save or Print" button. Below this, there are sections for "Properties and Qualities Ratings" (with "Open All" and "Close All" buttons), "Depth to Water Table" (with "View Description" and "View Ratings" buttons), and "View Options" (with checkboxes for "Map", "Table", "Description of Rating", "Rating Options", and "Detailed Description"). A right-hand pane titled "Instructions" provides a numbered list of steps for viewing soil properties and qualities ratings, along with a note that the results are identical to those in SDV later.

By clicking on Water Features, then Depth to Water Table and View Ratings, you can view the depth to the top of the seasonal high water table based on actual tabular data. An example from northern Citrus County, FL illustrates the water table depths near the Withalacoochee River, the actual depth to the top of the water table, total acres within your AOI, and the percent of the AOI with that rating.



The Legend tab on the left side of the map provides the Map Legend, including the soil ratings (in centimeters) and other map features.

As you scroll down the screen, you'll see the attribute table that illustrates the actual depth to the top of the water table for each map unit in your AOI, the total acres within your AOI, and the percent of the AOI with that rating.



Note: The **Advanced Options** are intended for the use of those with a more technical understanding of soils and soil science.

**Tables - Depth to Water Table**

**Summary by Map Unit - Citrus County, Florida**

Soil Survey Area Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Rating (centimeters)	Total Acres in AOI	Percent AOI
2	Adamsville fine sand	84	8.1	
10	Pompano fine sand, depressional	0	11.9	
11	Tavares fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	145	11.5	
14	Lake fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Null	25.4	
99	Water	Null	3.0	

**Description - Depth to Water Table**

This attribute represents the depth to a water table in the soil during the specified month. Water Table refers to a saturated zone in the soil. Estimates of the upper limit are based mainly on observations of the water table at selected sites and on evidence of a saturated zone, namely grayish colors (redoximorphic features) in the soil. A saturated zone that lasts for less than a month is not considered a water table.

In the underlying database, this attribute is actually recorded as three separate values. A low value and a high value indicate the range of this attribute for the corresponding component. A "representative" value indicates the expected value of this attribute for the corresponding component. For this soil property, only the representative value is used.

**Rating Options - Depth to Water Table**

**Depth to Water Table Units of Measure:** centimeters  
**Aggregation Method:** Dominant Condition

**Other choices for thematic maps for Suitabilities and Limitations include Building Site Development for Shallow Excavations or Commercial Buildings, Cropland Productivity, Forestland Management, Hydric Soils Rating, Land Capability Classification, among others. For Soil Properties and Qualities, Chemical attributes such as, Cation Exchange Capacity, pH, Calcium Carbonate Equivalent, OR Physical Properties, such as Available Water Capacity, Organic Matter, Saturated Hydraulic Conductivity, Percent Sand, Silt, and Clay among others can be displayed thematically.**

**All maps can be printed locally for use.**