Introduction to Soil Survey Information

General

The soil survey contains information useful in any land use planning program. It contains predictions of soil behavior for selected land uses. Also included are limitations to land uses that are inherent to the soil, improvements needed to overcome these limitations, and the impact that selected land uses will have on the environment.

The soil survey is designed for many different users. Farmers, ranchers, foresters, and agronomists can use it to evaluate the potential of the soil and the management practices required for food and fiber production. Planners, community officials, engineers, developers, builders, and homebuyers can use it to plan land use, select sites for construction, or identify any special practices that may be needed to ensure proper performance. Conservationists, teachers, students, and specialists in recreation, wildlife management, waste disposal, and pollution control can use the soil survey to help them understand, protect, and enhance the environment.

Great differences in soil properties can occur within short distances. Some soils are seasonally wet or subject to flooding. Some are shallow to bedrock. Some are too unstable to be used as a foundation for buildings or roads. Clayey or wet soils are poorly suited to use as septic tank absorption fields. A high water table makes a soil poorly suited to basements or underground installations. These and many other soil properties that affect land use are described in the soil survey.

Official Soil Survey Information

It is Colorado State policy that the Microsoft Access database for Customer Service Toolkit (CST) residing on the Field Office server is the official source of soils information, unless otherwise specifically stated. Likewise, the official copy of the soil maps for the soil survey area is the SSURGO-certified spatial data files residing on the Field Office server. These two sources of soils information are also available from Web Soil Survey at: http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/. Persons who do not have access to these data may contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office that services the area of interest.

The official soil survey information for areas not yet posted to Web Soil Survey, including soil surveys in progress, will consist of the most recently delivered data from the state office. It may consist of only hardcopy publication reports, draft soil manuscripts and maps, or digital soil maps and databases not yet certified to current technical requirements.