



## Soils Information for Electronic Field Office Technical Guide

### **General**

All Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) soils tabular information can be accessed in this section and its subsections. Most of the FOTG soils reports can be produced from the soil database on the Web Soil Survey web site.

The traditional soil survey consisted of soil lines and symbols published on an aerial photographic background. Additional information such as roads, streams and cultural features were added to aid in orientation and location. This additional information has never been considered official federal data.

### **SSURGO and Web Soil Survey**

The new soil survey is a digital product named SSURGO. A web-based application, the Web Soil Survey, has been made available for public use. Electronic files may be downloaded from the Web Soil Survey referenced below. It consists of the newest NRCS SSURGO soils data, along with information from other official federal data sources such as the US Geological Survey and the US Census Bureau. These generally include an orthophotographic background, roads, streams, coordinates, and other data for orientation and location purposes.

Small areas of contrasting soils that have different interpretations may not be shown on the soil maps due to the scale of the mapping. Soil surveys seldom contain detailed, site-specific information. This dataset is not designed for use as a primary regulatory tool in permitting or siting decisions, but it may be used as a reference source. These data and their interpretations are intended for planning purposes only. They are public information and may be interpreted by organizations, agencies, units of government, and others based on needs; however, these entities are responsible for the appropriate use and application of these data. Federal, state, or local regulatory bodies are not to reassign to the Natural Resources Conservation Service any authority for the decisions that they make. The Natural Resources Conservation Service will not perform any evaluations of these reports for purposes related solely to State or local regulatory programs.

## ***Accessing Soil Databases***

Digital data files are periodically updated. Reports are dated and users are responsible for obtaining the latest version of the data. The latest official soil survey data can be accessed on the Web at the Web Soil Survey:

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

For information on the official source of soil survey information for a particular county and how to access it, refer to Section II A. There are individual fact sheets under each county folder on this eFOTG site. Open the county folder with your web browser, and click on the Adobe file for directions on obtaining soil surveys and soil survey data. A link to Web Soil Survey has been added to each county folder. The link will connect you directly to each county Soil Survey database.

The kinds of products available and instructions for obtaining published or digital soil surveys are listed on the county fact sheet.

## ***Soil Geospatial Data Tools***

Soil Data Viewer is a tool built as an extension to ArcView® that allows you to easily create soil-based thematic maps using SSURGO. Soil Data Viewer shields users and applications from the complexity of the soil database and incorporates rules for appropriate use of soil data. It provides an easy to use tool for geospatial analysis of soil information for resource assessment and management. The requirements to run the Soil Data Viewer are listed on:

<http://soils.usda.gov/sdv/userguide.html>