



Natural Resources Conservation Service

North Carolina

Section I-(B)

Source Data for the Official Soil Survey

General

The traditional final product of first generation soil survey mapping has been the soil survey publication. Each publication included soil map unit descriptions, series descriptions, tables of information (attributes), and maps. The new soil survey is a digital product named SSURGO. Electronic files may be downloaded from the Soil Data Mart. A web-based application, the Web Soil Survey, has also been made available for public use. It consists of the newest NRCS SSURGO soils data, along with information from other official federal data sources such as 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. If no SSURGO is available, one copy of this publication is retained at the USDA Service Center, NRCS Field Office, and designated as the "Official Copy" of soil maps. The official copy was established to maintain the most current soil information for a survey area.

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.

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