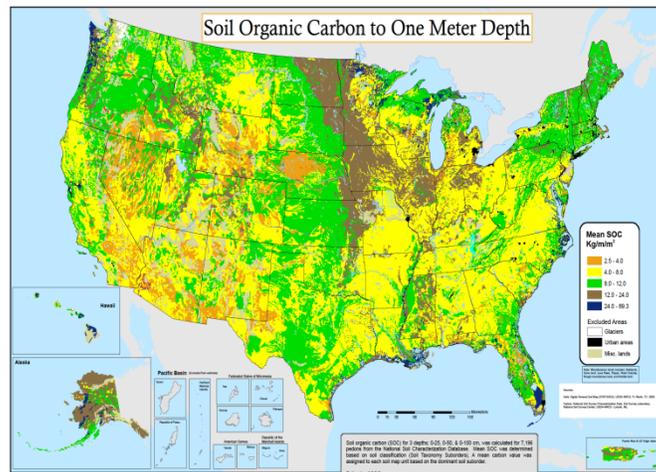


Fact Sheet

Rapid Assessment of U.S. Soil Carbon for Conservation Planning and Modeling

This is a nationwide effort by the USDA-NRCS, Soil Survey Division, to inventory soil carbon stocks.

- Sampled soils are grouped by similar properties, land uses, agricultural management, and ecosystems.
- Carbon data will be used to determine the effects of conservation practices on soil carbon stocks, for global carbon accounting.
- The soil carbon inventory will encompass all lands and include all major ecosystems. Benchmark soils, other extensive soils, and soils that represent important ecosystems (e.g., wetlands and flood plains) will be sampled.
- The sites or locations for measurement have been chosen randomly using USDA-NRCS soil maps and land use data. They will be aggregated to regional scales based on the soil and land use present. No ownership information will be collected or stored. The location of each data point is confidential.
 - Soil pits will be evaluated at five a points within a site.
 - At each location a small pit will be dug and samples collected to measure soil carbon, bulk density and related measures.



Products:

- Improved maps and knowledge about the distribution of U.S. soil carbon stocks
- Scientifically and statistically defensible inventory of the effects of soil properties, agricultural management, land use, and ecosystem properties on soil carbon stocks
- Soil Survey databases, selectable by land use and management, on soil carbon levels and related properties.
- Land use and management based data that will help conservation planning by estimating gains or losses of soil carbon from land use and management changes.
- Publically accessible soil carbon database for model development and validation

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