



## Steps to Create a Soil Survey

If the proposed project involves new construction, acquisition of undeveloped land, conversion of land uses and the proposed project location is not located in exempt area, the project will be subject to [7 CFR Part 658](#) and will be required to make a soil map using the [USDA NRCS Web Soil Survey](#) tool.

To Create a Soil Map: Use the [USDA NRCS Web Soil Survey](#).

**STEP 1: Go to the Web Soil Survey website. Click on Start WSS.**

USDA United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

# Web Soil Survey

Home About Soils Help Contact Us

You are here: Web Soil Survey Home

Search  
Enter Keyword   
All NRCS Sites

Browse by Subject

- Soils Home
- National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS)
- Archived Soil Surveys
- Status Maps
- Official Soil Series Descriptions (OSD)
- Series Extent Explorer

The simple yet powerful way to access and use soil data.

**START WSS**

**Welcome to Web Soil Survey (WSS)**

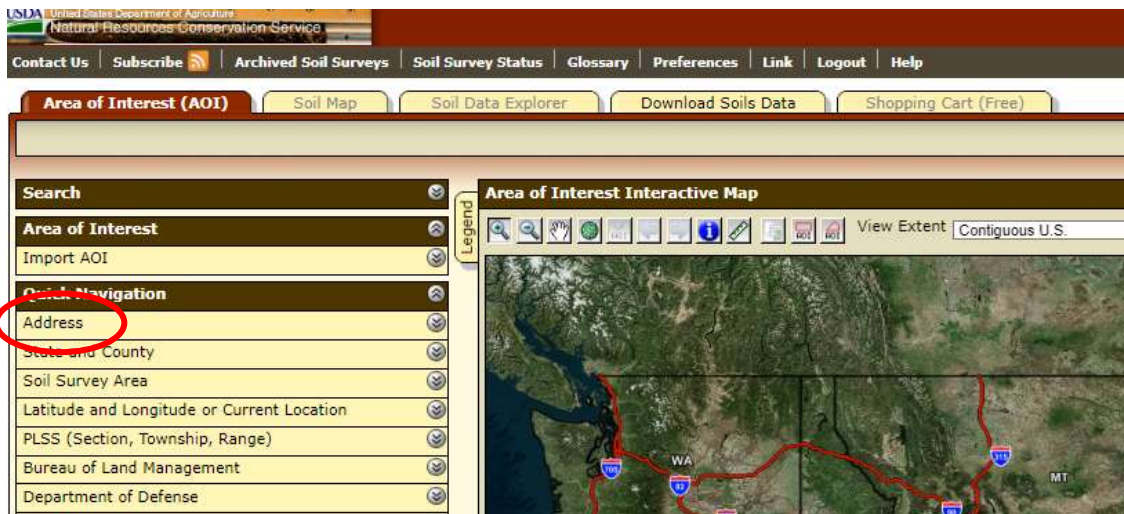
Web Soil Survey (WSS) provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. It is operated by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and provides access to the largest natural resource information system in the world. NRCS has soil maps and data available online for more than 95 percent of the nation's counties and anticipates having 100 percent in the near future. The site is updated and maintained online as the single authoritative source of soil survey

I Want To...

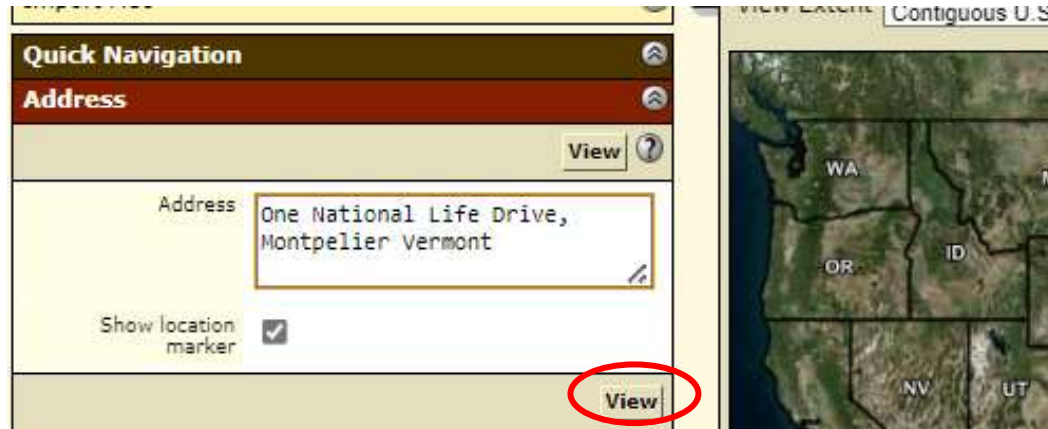
- Start Web Soil Survey (WSS)
- Know Web Soil Survey Requirements
- Know Web Soil Survey operation hours
- Find what areas of the U.S. have soil data
- Find information by topic
- Know how to hyperlink from other documents to Web Soil Survey
- Know the SSURGO



## STEP 2: Select Address on the left-hand side of the page.

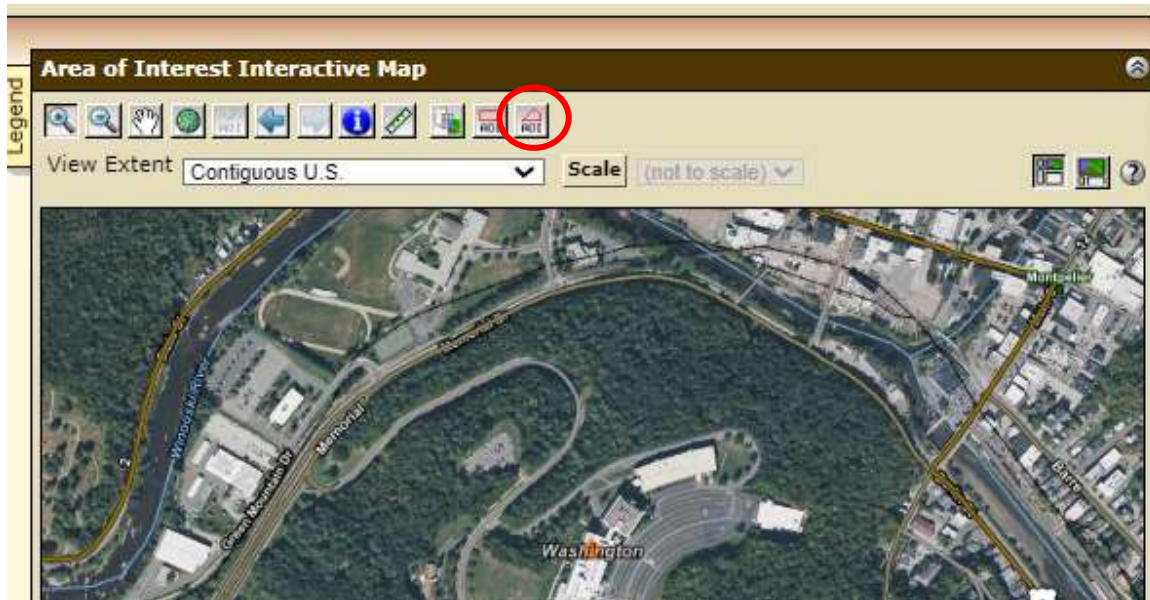


## STEP 3: Type in the project address and hit enter or select View.

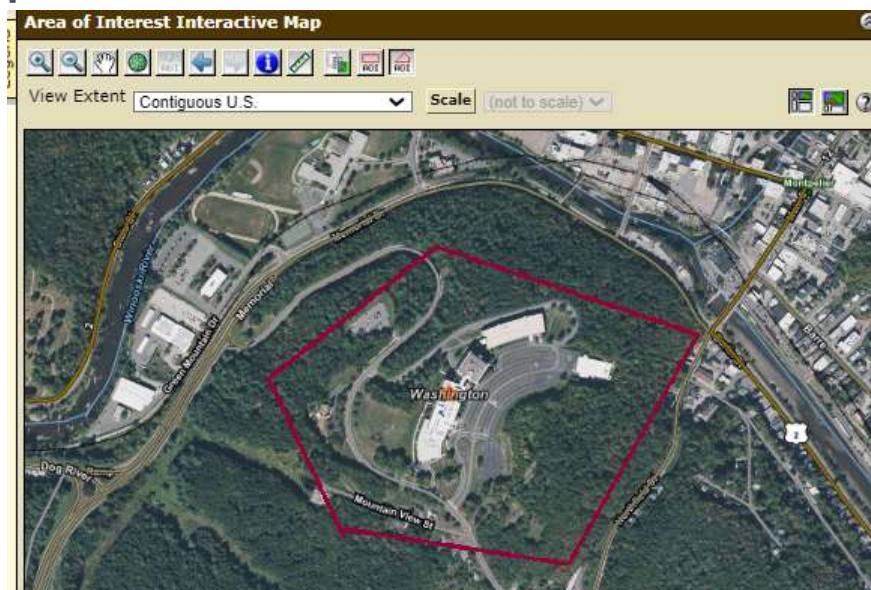




**STEP 4:** The next page will show an aerial view that includes the Project Area. Select AOI (Area of Interest), as shown below, to define the boundaries of the Project Area.

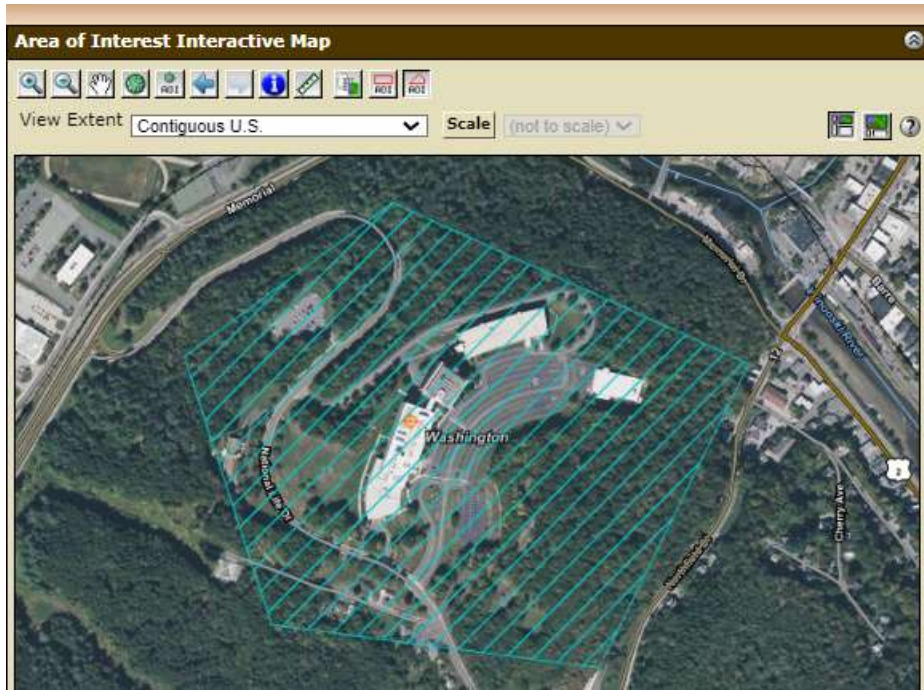


**STEP 5:** Draw the AOI to define the Project Area. Begin drawing the AOI by clicking once in an area of the project boundary and continue to drop points to define the full perimeter.





**STEP 6:** Once the perimeter is complete, double click and the AOI will be created, as shown by the below screen.



**Step 7:** Once the project perimeter has been finalized and is accurate, move the cursor to the Shopping Cart (Free), as indicated below.





**STEP 8: Create a title for the Project. Once completed, move the cursor to the upper right-hand side to select Check Out.**

Area of Interest (AOI) | Soil Map | Soil Data Explorer | Download Soils Data | **Shopping Cart (Free)** | **Check Out** ?

**Search**

**Report Properties**

**Title**

Title: Custom Soil Resource Report for Washington County, Vermont

**Subtitle** (circled in red)

Area of Interest Name: (none defined)

Custom Subtitle:

None

**Map Options**

Map Scale:

Printed Sheet Size:

Show UTM Coordinate Ticks:

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**STEP 9: After selecting Check Out, you will be given two options; get now or download later. Select Get Now and hit Ok.**

**Checkout Options**

**Delivery Options**

Select a Delivery Method

Get now

Download later

Cancel OK

**STEP 10: Save the Soils Report as a PDF and upload it to the Supporting Documents page under your Environmental Review in GEARS.**



A product of the National Cooperative Soil Survey, a joint effort of the United States Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies, State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local participants

**Custom Soil Resource Report for Washington County, Vermont**

**Sample Soil Map**



**STEP 11: Within the report, you will see your Project Area and code(s) on the aerial map. This tells you how many soil types are present within your Project Area. In this case, there are five.**



**STEP 12: Search within the Soils Resources Report to determine if there are any farmland soils on the site. You can try to search within the PDF using the Find feature (Control F) and the word “farmland” to locate areas in the document where they discuss if the soils are considered farmland or not.**

#### **Washington County, Vermont**

**41E—Buxton silt loam, 25 to 45 percent slopes**

**Map Unit Setting**

*National map unit symbol: 9h42*

*Elevation: 300 to 1,200 feet*

*Mean annual precipitation: 36 to 50 inches*

*Mean annual air temperature: 37 to 46 degrees F*

*Frost-free period: 90 to 135 days*

*Farmland classification: Not prime **farmland***

**Step 13: Discuss in the ER Checklist whether farmland soils are present in the Project Area. Discuss if they will be permanently converted to non-farmland use.**



**STEP 14: If the location of the Project Area is not in an existing urban area (defined on [TigerWeb](#)), you will need to complete a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form. There are two different versions of the form, depending on project activities. For both forms, the sections that you will complete are those labeled, “To Be Completed by Federal Agency”. See below for specific steps if the Farmland Conversion Form is required for your project.**

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**STEP 15: If the project involves the construction of a new septic system or waterline, complete the [CPA-106 Form: Farmland Conversion Impact Rating for Corridor Type Projects](#). Submit the form to [Chadd Cupit](#) at NRCS.**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Natural Resources Conservation Service		NRCS-CPA-106 (Rev. 1-81)	
<b>FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS</b>			
<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request	4. Sheet 1 of _____
1. Name of Project	5. Federal Agency Involved		
2. Type of Project	6. County and State		
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		1. Date Request Received by NRCS	2. Person Completing Form
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form).		4. Acres Irrigated / Average Farm Size	
YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>			
5. Major Crop(s)	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction	7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA	
	Acres: %	Acres: %	
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System	10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS	
<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		<b>Alternative Corridor For Segment</b>	
		Corridor A	Corridor B
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly			
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services			
C. Total Acres In Corridor			
<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>			
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland			
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland			
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted			
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value			
<b>PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative Value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)</b>			
<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))</b>		Maximum Points	
1. Area in Nonurban Use		15	
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use		10	
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed		20	
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government		20	
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average		10	
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland		25	
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services		5	
8. On-Farm Investments		20	
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services		25	
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use		10	
TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS		160	
<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>			
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100	
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)		160	
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>		260	
1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project.	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used?
			YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Reason For Selection:			
Signature of Person Completing this Part:			DATE
<b>NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor</b>			





**STEP 16:** For all project activities that result in permanently converting farmland to non-farmland, complete the [AD-1006 Form](#). Fill out all sections labeled 'To be Completed by a Federal Agency' and submit it to [Chadd Cupit](#) at NRCS.

U.S. Department of Agriculture							
FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING							
<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>			Date Of Land Evaluation Request				
Name of Project			Federal Agency Involved				
Proposed Land Use			County and State <i>county and state</i>				
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>			Date Request Received By NRCS		Person Completing Form:		
Does the site contain Prime, Unique, Statewide or Local Important Farmland? <i>(if no, the FPPA does not apply - do not complete additional parts of this form)</i>			YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated	Average Farm Size	
Major Crop(s)		Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: %		Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %			
Name of Land Evaluation System Used		Name of State or Local Site Assessment System		Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS			
<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>			Alternative Site Rating				
			Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D	
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly							
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly							
C. Total Acres In Site							
<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>							
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland							
B. Total Acres Statewide Important or Local Important Farmland							
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted							
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value							
<b>PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion</b> Relative Value of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)							
<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Site Assessment Criteria</b> <i>(Criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5 b. For Corridor project use form NRCS-CPA-106)</i>			Maximum Points	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
1. Area In Non-urban Use			(15)				
2. Perimeter In Non-urban Use			(10)				
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed			(20)				
4. Protection Provided By State and Local Government			(20)				
5. Distance From Urban Built-up Area			(15)				
6. Distance To Urban Support Services			(15)				
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average			(10)				
8. Creation Of Non-farmable Farmland			(10)				
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services			(5)				
10. On-Farm Investments			(20)				
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services			(10)				
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use			(10)				
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS			160	0	0	0	0
<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>							
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)			100	0	0	0	0
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or local site assessment)			160	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>			260	0	0	0	0
Site Selected:		Date Of Selection		Was A Local Site Assessment Used?			
				YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>			
Reason For Selection:							
Name of Federal agency representative completing this form:						Date:	
<i>(See instructions on reverse side)</i>						Form AD-1006 (03-02)	



**STEP 17: Once the completed form is received back from NRCS, determine if the point total is greater or less than 160. If the total score is less than 160, no further consideration or protection is needed. If the score is higher than or equal to 160, protection of the area should be considered, alternative sites should be evaluated, and/or mitigation will be required.**

### Environmental Review Contact Information

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