USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

Coastal Zone Soil Survey Workshop

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

Why Now?

Demand has grown

- Water quality, quantity
- Urban agriculture
- Wetlands
- Climate change
- Watershed planning

Needs have changed

- Field to county to national in scope
- New customers
- Enhanced data
- Updates

If we don’t do it someone else is!


Soils2026

Why Focus Teams?

1. **Changes in workforce**
    1. FTE decrease
    2. Slow loss of expertise through attrition
2. **Emerging areas of need**
    1. Coastal zone
    2. Urban
    3. Soil Biology
    4. Outreach
    5. Leadership development
3. **Diversity of expertise**
    1. Geographic
    2. Organizational
    3. Cooperators
4. **Silo busting**
    1. Outside traditional chain-of-command
    2. Transparency
    3. Communication

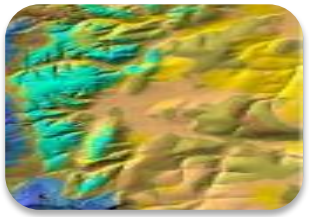
Teams vs Committees

- **Teams**
  - Results driven
  - Timely
  - Changeable
  - Field-based
  - Bottom-up

- **Committees**
  - Process driven
  - Timeless
  - Rigid
  - Management-based
  - Top-down

FOCUS TEAMS

Initial Inventory



Digital Soil Mapping

Coastal Zones

Urban Soils

Ecological Sites

Dynamic Soil Properties

Databases

Research

Soil Taxonomy

Training

Leadership & Recruitment

NCSS

Outreach

Natural Resources Conservation Service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SSD Director (David Lindbo, NRCS, NHQ)

NSSC Director (David Hoover, NRCS, NSSC)

Regional Directors (Chad Remley – RO5, Eva Muller – RO4)

State Soil Scientists (Cory Owens - OR, Debbie Surabian - CT, Wade Bott - ND)

NCSS Cooperators (Larry Laing - USFS, Mickey Ransom – Kansas State U, Joey Shaw – Auburn U, Ron McCormick - BLM)

National Leader (Mike Robotham, NRCS, WDC)

- Provide leadership, guidance, and coordination to the Focus Teams
- Provide a national perspective to regions and teams

General Team Charge

- Act as liaisons across Divisions, Agencies and NCSS
- Provide leadership, guidance and coordination with their specified area of activity
- Serve as a repository of information in specified area of activity
- Coordinate with other teams to ensure continuity of activities, training and information exchange
- Supplement and enhance activities of regional and local board of advisors (BOA) and management teams (MGT)
- Provide a national perspective to regions and other teams
- Report directly to Steering Team
- Develop and maintain website(s)

So how does this all work?

1. **Volunteer if interested – contact the Team Leader**
    1. All welcome
    2. Get permission from your supervisor
2. **Communications**
    1. Websites
    2. Teleconferences
    3. Face-to-face meetings
3. **New Teams – propose to Steering Team**
4. **Additional Questions?**

FOCUS TEAM INFORMATION

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ main/soils/focusteams

USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

Coastal Zone

Greg Taylor,
Rob Tunstead,
Jim Turrene. Leads

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COASTAL ZONES

- Coordinate coastal zone activities across the SSD (procedures, equipment, safety)
- Identify training needs, make recommendations
- Identify needs to update standards and taxonomy, propose solutions
- Identify needs to update taxonomy – propose solutions
- Assemble existing data, identify gaps
- Identify coastal zone research needs
- Broaden partnerships in coastal zone areas
- Communicate importance of coastal zone inventory

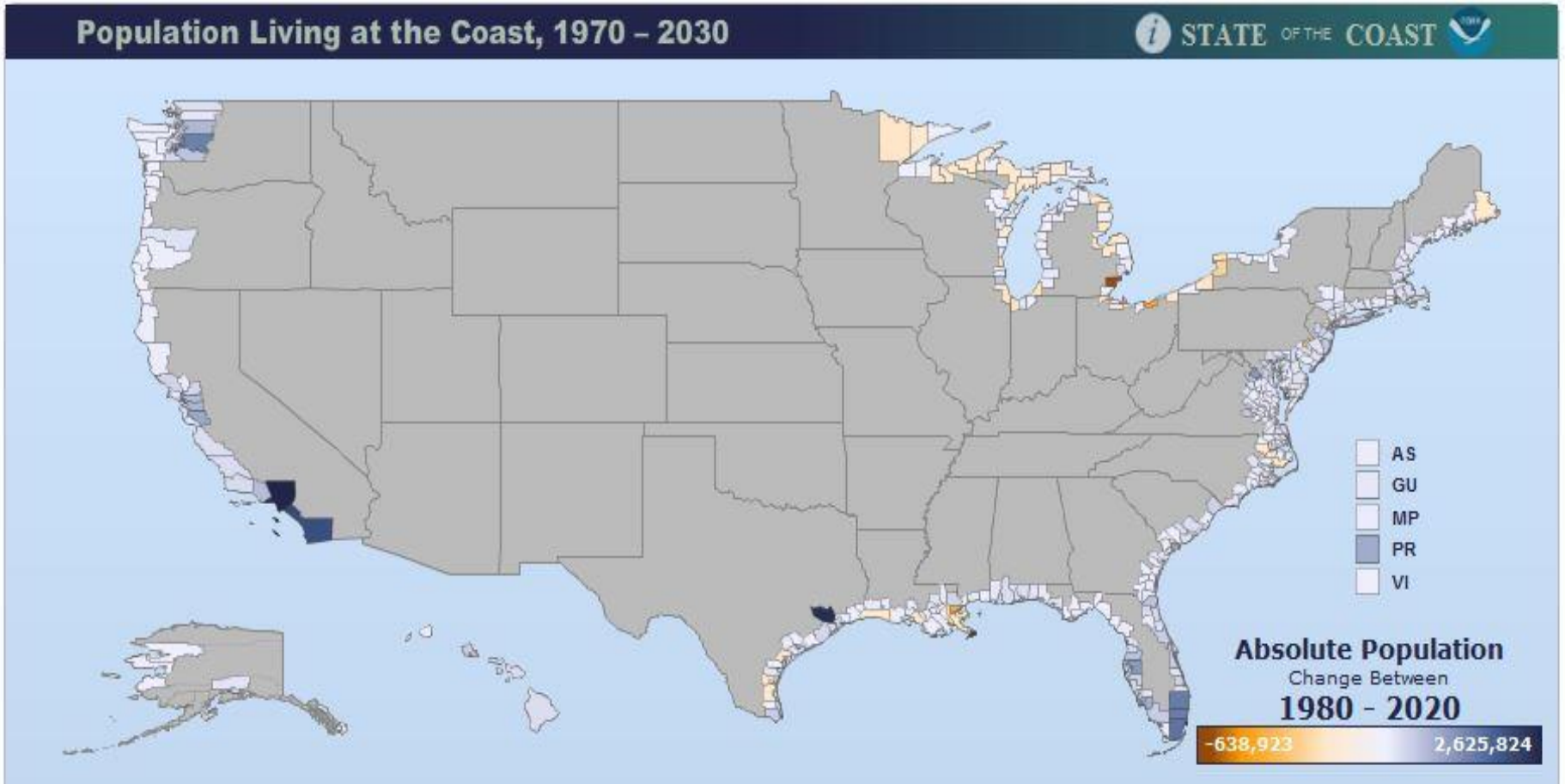
Coastal Zone Soil Survey – Why?

39%
Percent of the nation's total population that lived in Coastal Shoreline Counties in 2010 (less than 10% of the total land area excluding Alaska).
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011

34.8 million
Increase in U.S. Coastal Shoreline County population from 1970 to 2010 (or a 39% increase).
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011

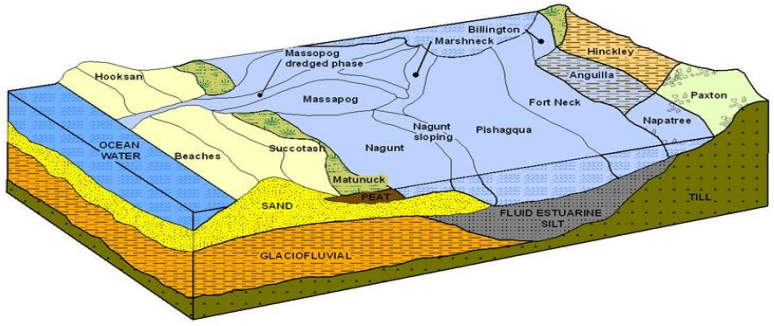
446 persons/mi²
Average population density of the Coastal Shoreline Counties (excluding Alaska). Density in U.S. as a whole averages 105 persons/mi².
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011

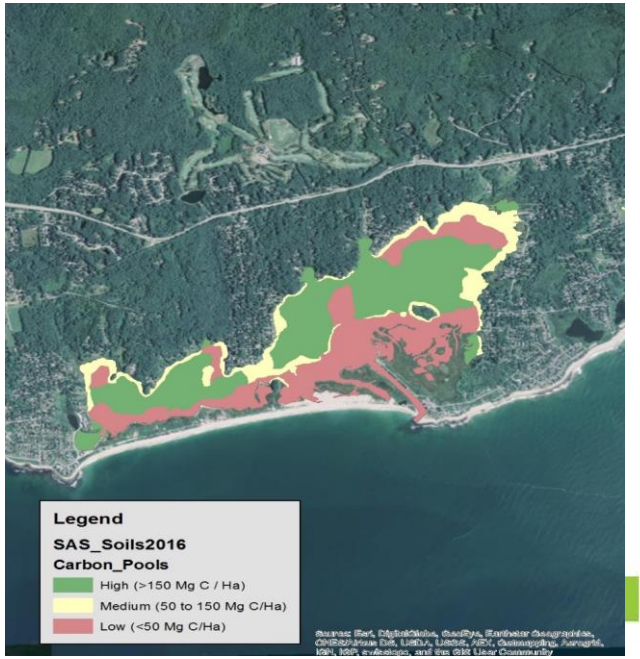
37 persons/mi²
Expected increase in U.S. Coastal Shoreline County population density from 2010–2020. Expected increase for entire U.S. is 11 persons/mi².
Source: Woods & Poole, 2011; NOAA, 2012



Coastal Zone Soil Survey Interpretations

- Eastern oyster and hard clam suitability and restoration potential
- Land utilization of dredged materials interpretation
- Salt marsh / thin layer placement potentials
- Eelgrass suitability potential and maps
- Mooring and deadweight interpretation
- Living Shoreline Project Interpretation
- Blue carbon pool maps





Current Conditions

- Support for CZSS from
  - Division
  - States
  - NCSS
- Limitations to overcome
  - Funding
  - Personnel
  - Public Relations
  - Project vs acre goals
- Need for a plan
  - Cooperation
  - Flexible given limitations
  - Iterative

Expected Outcomes

- Framework for a 10 year plan
- Estimates of
  - Priority areas
  - Costs
  - Sampling
  - Lab setup
  - Equipment
  - Travel
  - Human capital
- Details on sampling and sampling procedures
- Sharing of resources including data
- Development of common goals for CZSS

In order to succeed…

- Cooperation – break down silos
- Innovation – everyone can innovate
- Willingness to do different

Change is inevitable…

…and scary at times

Resource Needs

The will to do better

Freedom to be innovative

Talk to me

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Questions?