

Introduction of Ecological Site Descriptions and their Component Parts

A wide-angle photograph of a vast field of tall, golden-brown grasses, likely a prairie or steppe. The grasses are in full bloom, with long, thin stalks and feathery seed heads. The field extends to a flat horizon under a clear, light blue sky. The overall scene is bright and natural, suggesting a healthy, open landscape.

Homer Sanchez

Range Management Specialist

National Grazing Lands Team

Fort Worth, TX

USDA-NRCS

What is an Ecological Site?

* An ecological site is defined as a distinctive kind of land with specific physical characteristics that differs from other kinds of land in its ability to produce a distinctive kind and amount of vegetation.



Rough Breaks Site



Wet Bottomland Site

Each Ecological Site is the product of all the Environmental Factors responsible for its development.



Soils



Topography



Climate

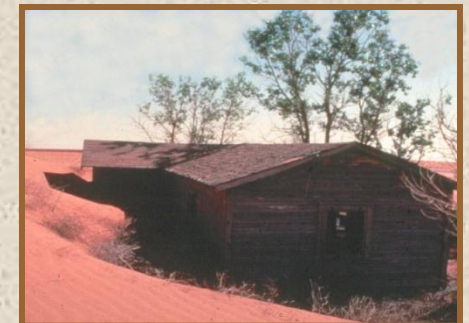
Other factors include Natural Disturbances such as:



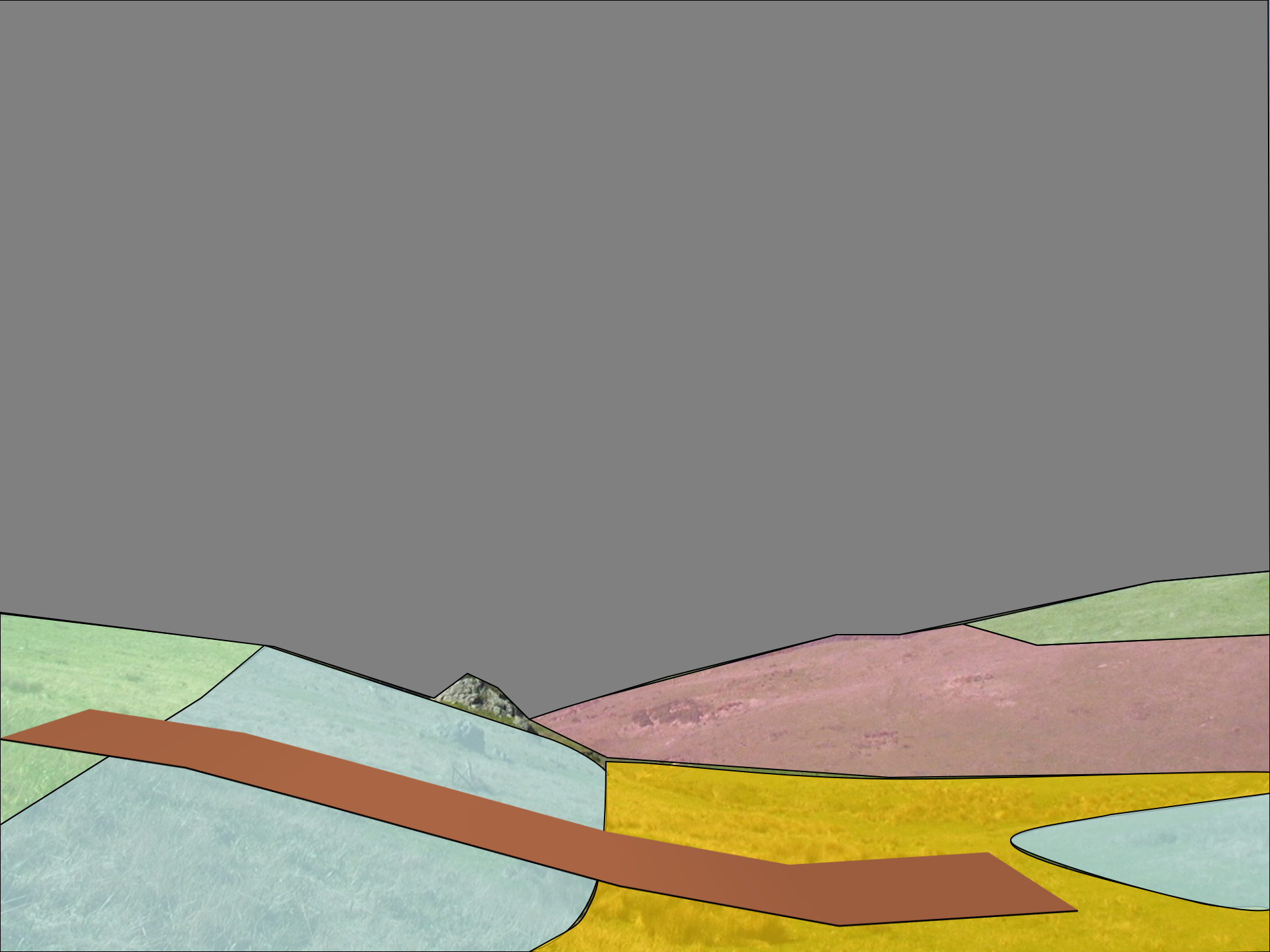
Fire



Herbivory

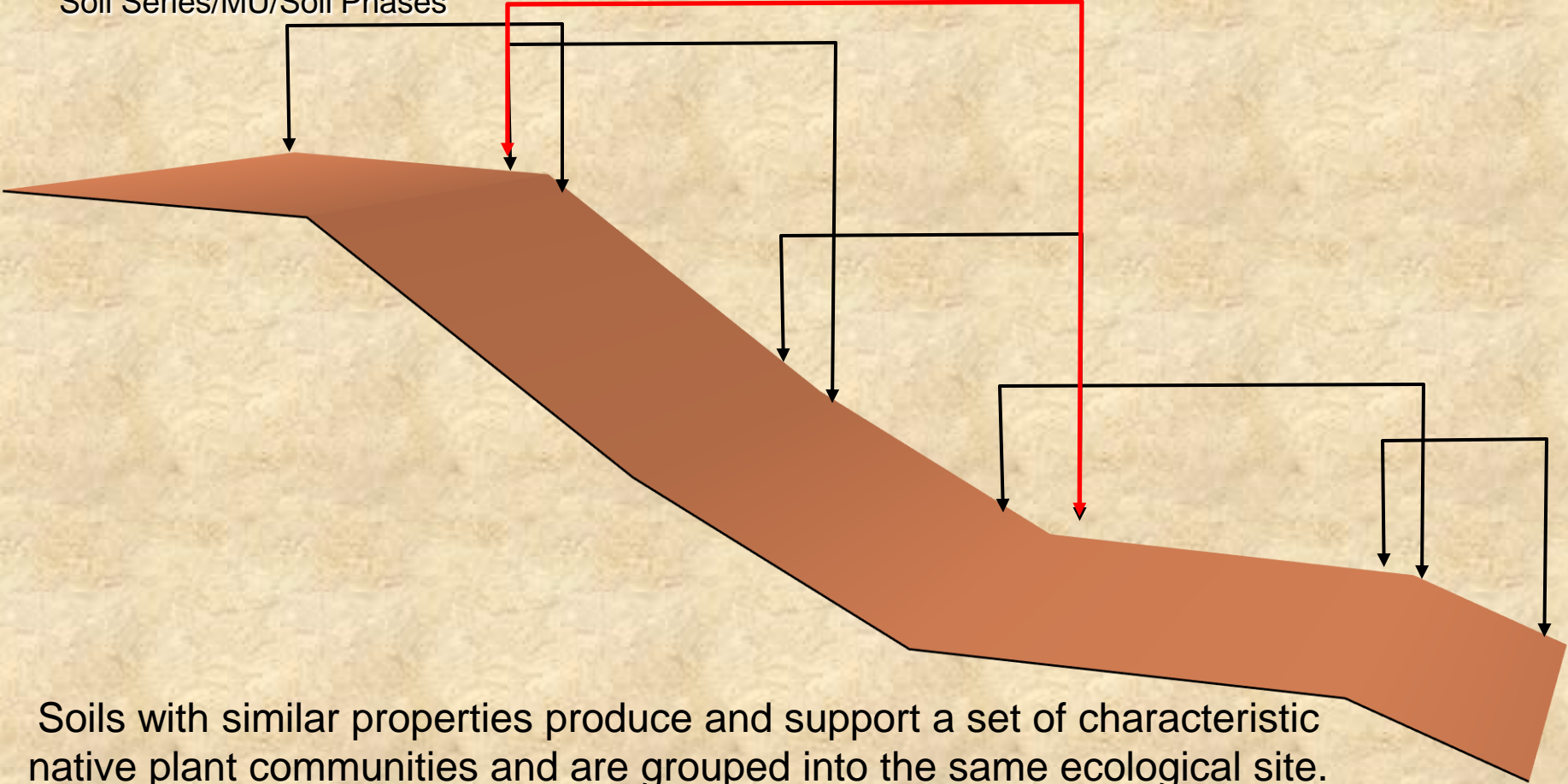


Drought



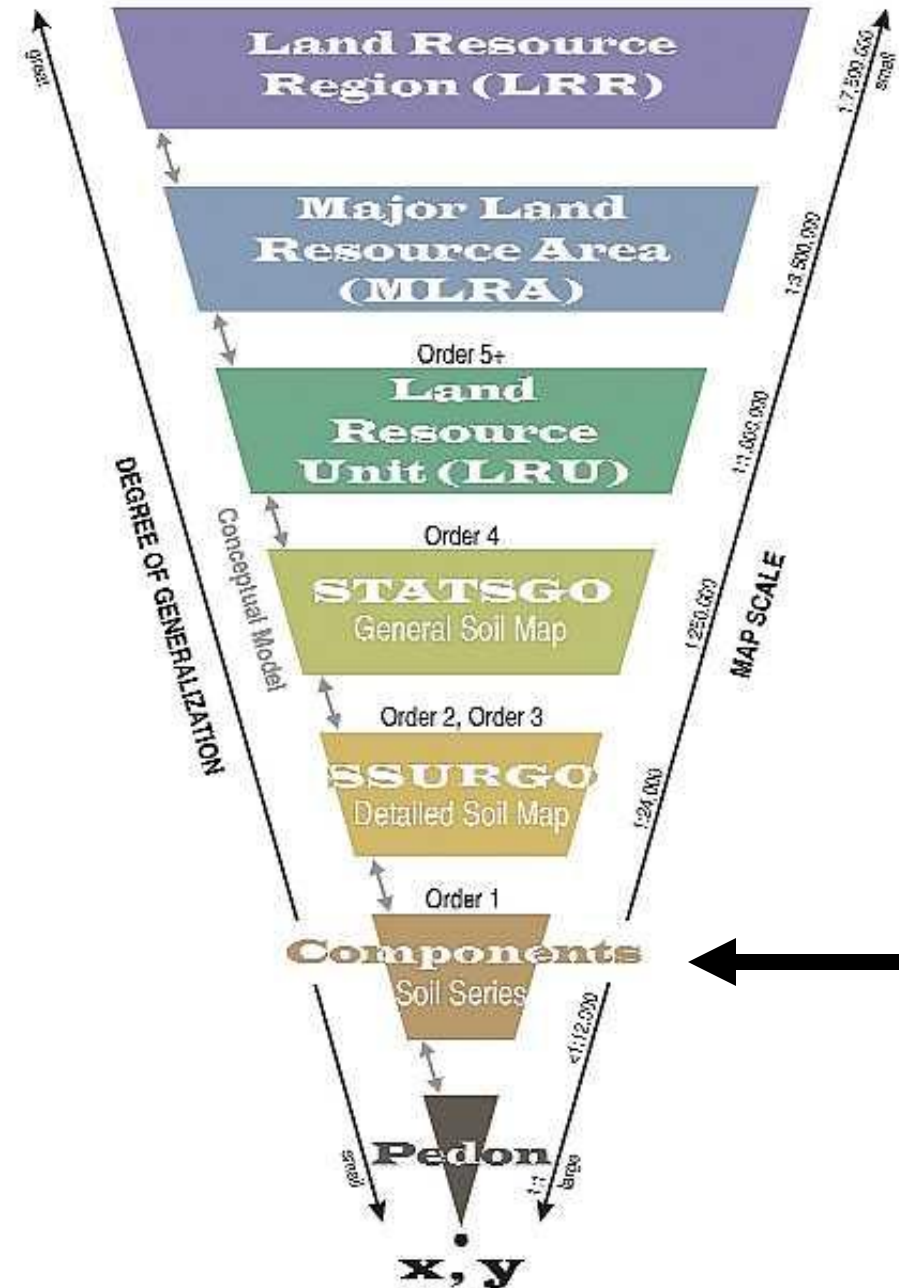
Ecological site

Soil Series/MU/Soil Phases



Soils with similar properties produce and support a set of characteristic native plant communities and are grouped into the same ecological site.

LRR-MLRA-LRU Land Resource Hierarchy



NRCS Hierarchical Classification System

LRR

MLRA

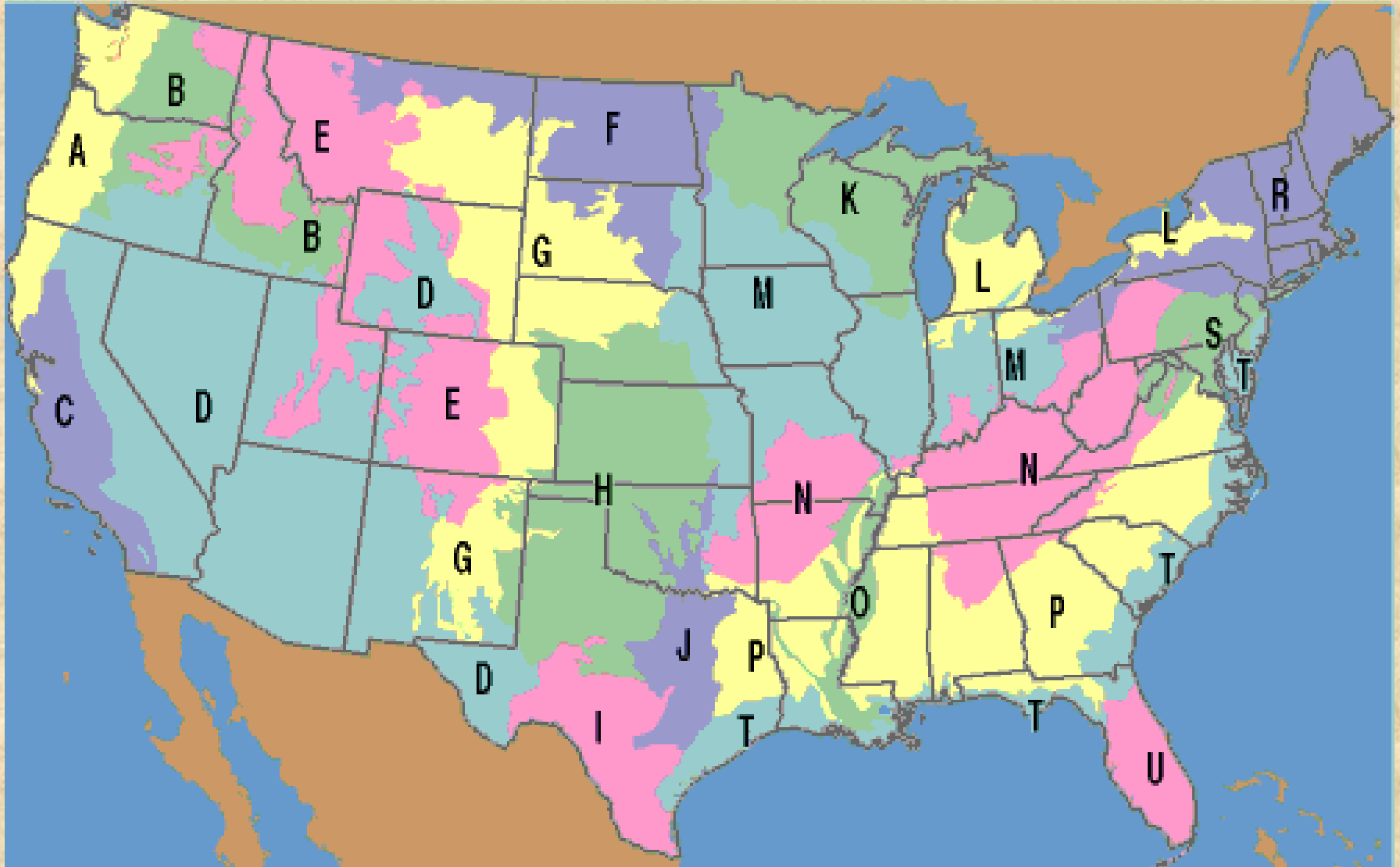
LRU

General Soil Map

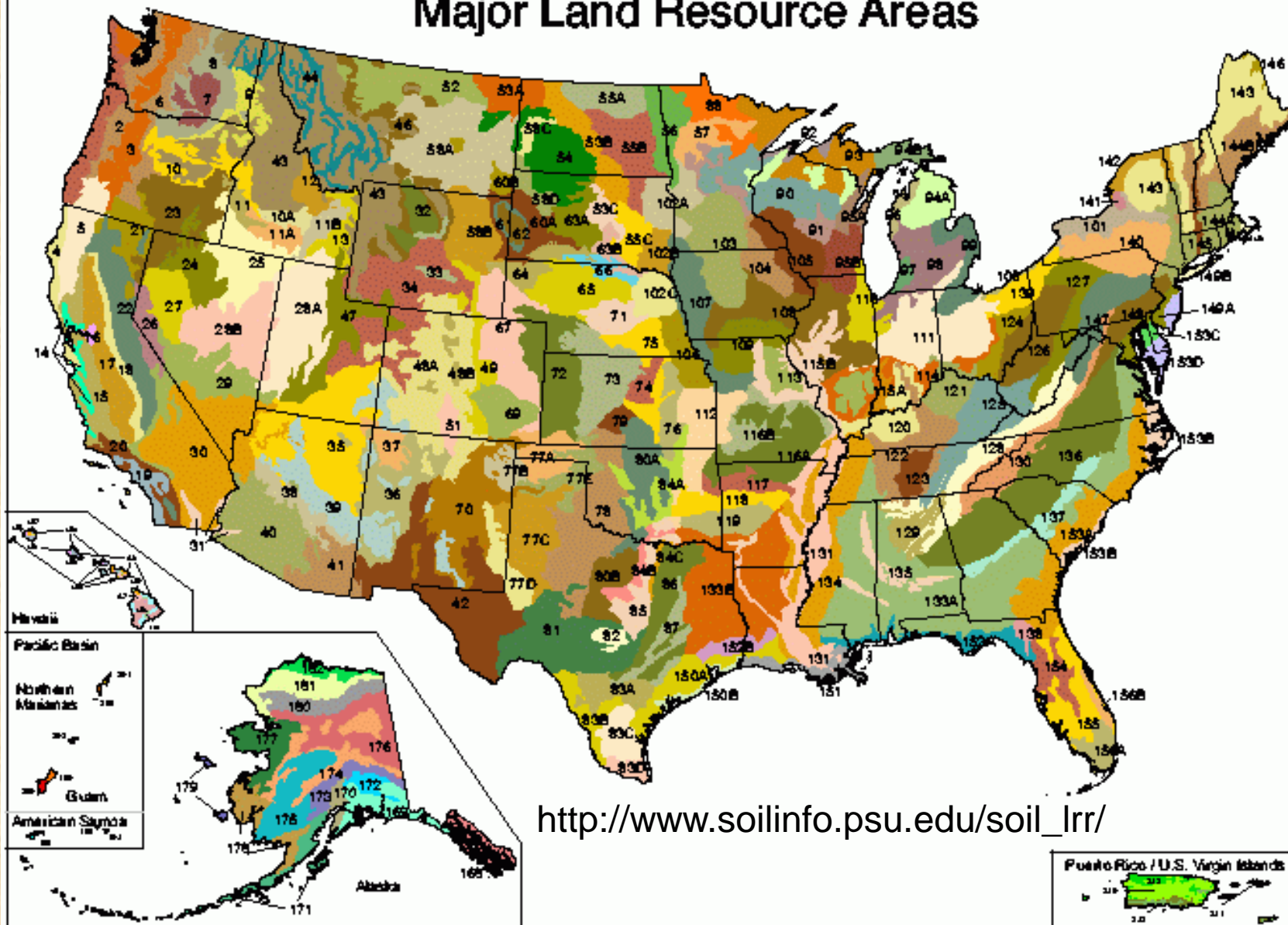
Detailed Soil Map

ESD – developed at soil series level/map unit component

Land resource regions (LRR) are geographically associated groups of major land resource areas and consist mainly of areas that have very broadly related patterns of soil, climate, water resources, and land use.



Major Land Resource Areas



http://www.soilinfo.psu.edu/soil_lrr/

Quick Access

- > PLANTS
- > Plant Materials
- > ESIS
- > ESD Home
- > FSGD
- > ESI-Forestland
- > ESI-Rangeland

United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

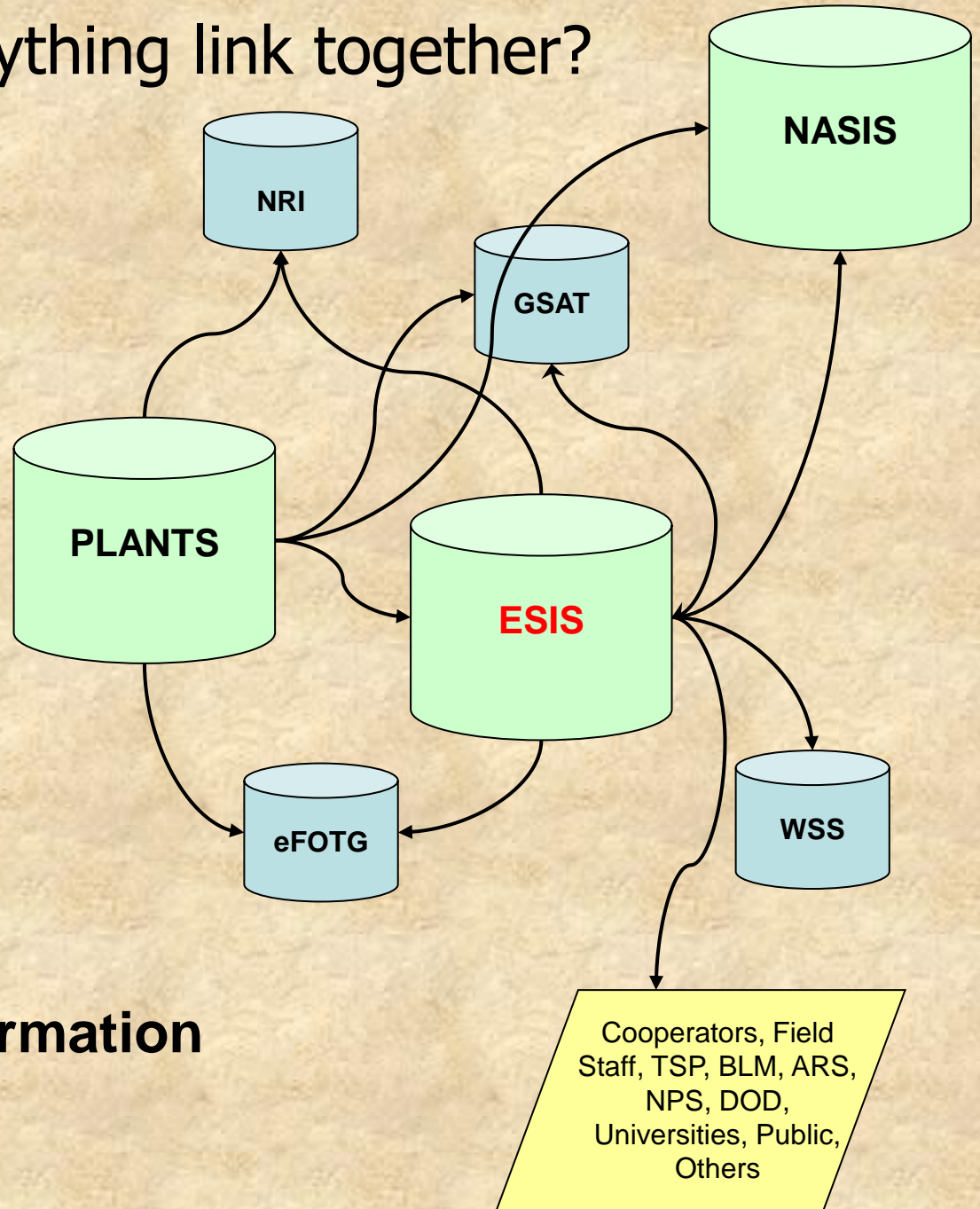
Ecological Site Information System



The Ecological Site Information System (ESIS) is the repository for the data associated with the collection of forestland and rangeland plot data and the development of ecological site descriptions. ESIS is organized into two applications and associated databases:

- Establishes a national repository for ecological site description products (ESD)
- Facilitates NASIS link between soils and ecological sites
- Facilitates (ESD) information to be linked to other databases such as:
 - Web Soil Survey
 - eFOTG

So, How does everything link together?



Ecological Site Information (ESIS) Flow Chart

Access

ecological site descriptions

Advanced search
Language tools

Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky



ecological site descriptions

Search

About 1,650,000 results

Advanced search

Everything

Images

Videos

News

Shopping

More

Show search tools

[ESD - Ecological Site Description System](#)

The **Ecological Site Description (ESD)** application provides the capability to enter, edit, and view reports of rangeland and forest land **ecological site descriptions ...**

esis.sc.egov.usda.gov/Welcome/pgESDWelcome.aspx - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

[Ecological Site Information System](#)

ESIS is the NRCS repository for **ecological site descriptions** and for ...

esis.sc.egov.usda.gov/ - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

[Approved ESD Reports - Ecological Site Description System](#)

Anyone may view reports of approved **Ecological Site Descriptions**. To view ...

esis.sc.egov.usda.gov/Welcome/pgReportLocation.aspx?type=ESD - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

[Ecological Site Descriptions | Montana NRCS](#)

Jun 16, 2005 ... Montana's **Ecological Site Descriptions** are in the process ...

www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/ecs/range/ecolsites/ - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

[Ecological Sites](#)

What is an **Ecological Site Description**? By Tracey Jean Wolfe. SRM Certified Professional in Rangeland Management. During the first part of the century farms ...

nevada.rangelands.org/.../2008-10%20What%20is%20an%20Ecological%20Site%20Description.pdf - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

[Ecological Site Descriptions | The Jornada](#)

This page provides some definitions for **ecological site descriptions (ESDs)** and provides tools and literature pertaining to their development. A comprehensive ...

jornada.nmsu.edu/esd - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

In The News

- Energy Estimator: Tillage
- Web Soil Survey

Program Delivery

Environmental Easements

- Land Evaluation Site Assessment (LESA)
- CSP Self-Assessment

Operations

- SCIMS Link Manager (customers)
- Affiliates Affiliates has been redesigned. Information about the changes to this application may be found in the Affiliates Help system.
- USDA Service Center Forms
- Service Center Agencies Online Services
- Office Information Profile (OIP)

USDA eAuthentication

- ProTracts Cost-Share Agreements
- Fund Mgr Fund Manager
- PRS Performance
- Points Program Tracking
- WebTCAS Time and Attendance
- eFOTG Field Office Technical Guide
- CSG Conservation System Guides
- CPS Conservation Practice Standards
- Gateway Resource Data
- SCIMS Customers

Support

- Customer Service Toolkit Permissions
- Customer Service Toolkit Home
- ProTracts Support Site

Related Links

- NRCS Information Technology Center

Downloads

- Hydraulic Hydraulic Formula Program (National Bulletin 210-3-5)
- Soil Data Viewer CCE Download (Team Services login required)
- Survey Engineering Tool (SET)
- Pond Design (WinPond)
- Nutrient Management Planning (AFO Pro)

Accountability

- TechReg Technical Service Providers
- TechPRS TSP Performance As of June 21, 2005, TSP accomplishments will be reported in PRS. For more information, see Make the Switch to PRS.
- Workload Analysis (WLA)
- FSA Compliance Reviews

Resource Information

- PLANTS Database
- Ecological Sites (ESIS)
- Soil Data Viewer
- Soil Survey
- Vegetative Planning and Design (VegSpec)

Resource Analysis

- Economic Tools by Landuse
- Manure Master
- Energy Calculator
- Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (STIR)



- Image Gallery
 - 30,000+ Plant Images
 - Submit Your Images to PLANTS
- Download
 - Complete PLANTS Checklist
 - State PLANTS Checklist
 - Symbols for Unknown Plants
 - State PLANTS GSAT Lists
 - PLANTS Posters
- Related Tools
 - Crop Nutrient Tool
 - Ecological Site Information System**
 - Plant Materials Web Site
 - Other NRCS Tech Resources
 - VegSpec
- Plant Links
 - PLANTS Links

Search

Name Search

Scientific Name

State Search

Advanced Search

SEARCH TIPS

PLANTS Topics

Web Site Modernization

We are modernizing PLANTS to fit the new USDA Web standard, which is part of a broader USDA initiative called [Web Site Development and Maintenance](#). To date the PLANTS home page, Name Search results page, Classification Report, State Search and PLANTS Profiles have been updated, with the rest to follow.



Submit Your Photos

Contribute your photos to PLANTS! We are looking for accurately identified submissions of 100 or more images, preferably with supporting information including date and location.



PLANTS Posters

Dress up your home or office with PLANTS Posters featuring lovely plants such as small-whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*) and red columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*). Our seven printer-friendly posters can be downloaded in two formats (8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17"), and printed at home or at your local print shop.



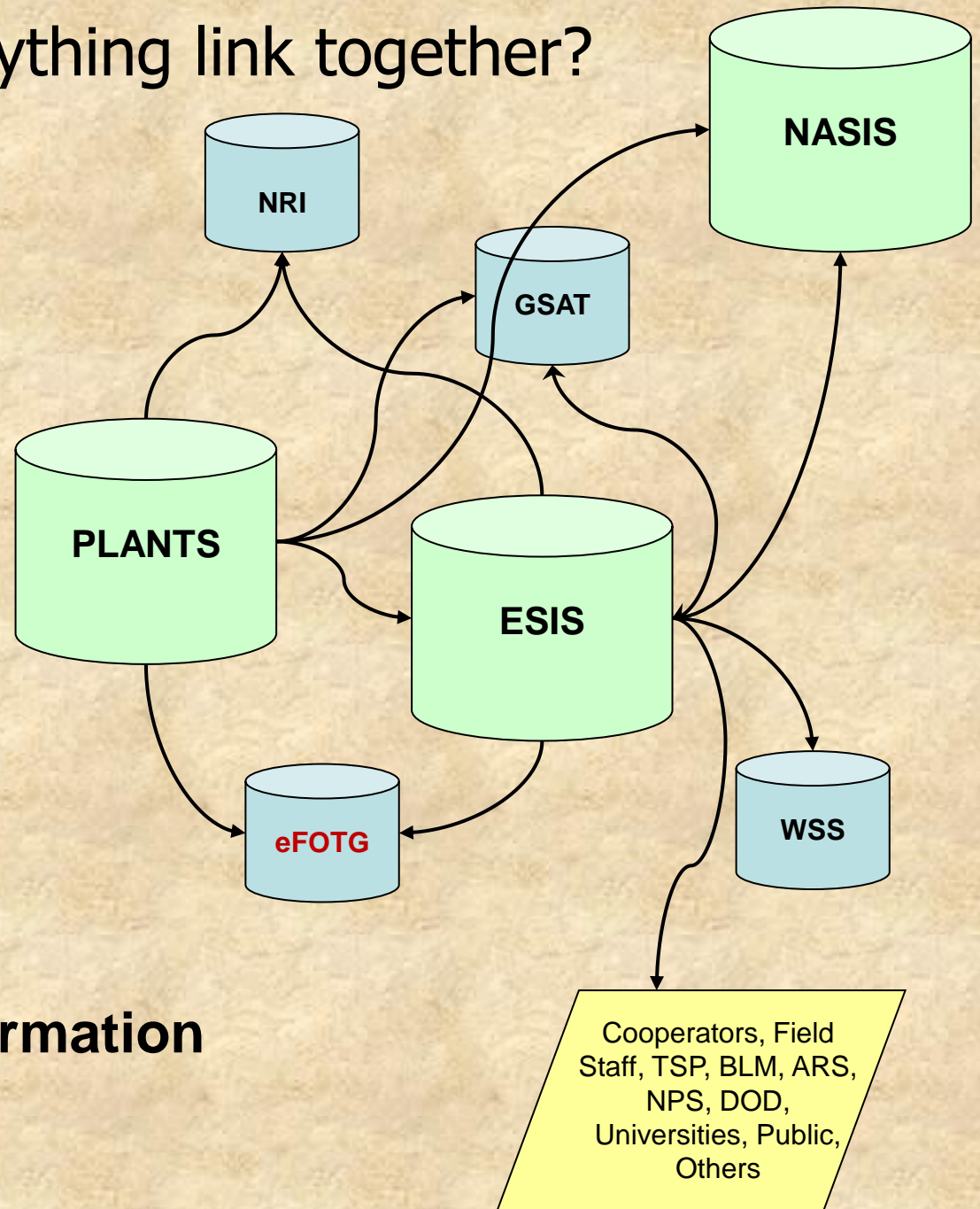
NPDC Product Catalog (PDF; 702KB)

This publication highlights the National Plant Data Center's products and information, and provides information on future products under development. Requires [Adobe Reader](#).

[conservation purposes](#)

- I Want Help**
- [Introduction to PLANTS](#)
 - [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
 - [Citing the PLANTS Database](#)
 - [Intellectual Property Statement](#)
 - [Contribute Your Photos to PLANTS](#)
 - [Update PLANTS Distribution Maps](#)

So, How does everything link together?



Ecological Site Information (ESIS) Flow Chart

Search menu:

eFOTG FYI

- [-] eFOTG
 - [-] Section I
 - [-] Section II
 - [-] Table of Contents
 - [-] A. Soils Information for All Texas Soil Survey Areas
 - [-] B. Climatic Data
 - [-] C. Cultural Resources Information
 - [-] D. Threatened and Endangered Species
 - [-] E. Forage Suitability Groups
 - [-] F. Ecological Site Descriptions
 - [-] Section III
 - [-] Section IV
 - [-] Section V

eFOTG Home Page

What is eFOTG?
 Technical guides are the primary scientific references for NRCS. They contain technical information about the conservation of soil, water, air, and related plant and animal resources. [...more](#)

For additional information and requirements please contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

What's in eFOTG?
 Section I -General References
 Section II -Natural Resources Information
 Section III -Conservation Management Systems
 Section IV -Practice Standards and Specifications
 Section V -Conservation Effects [...more](#)

In The Spotlight

Tools

Technical Materials



What's Changed Recently

What's Changed Recently

- [Determining Effluent Application Rates \(4/27/2006\)](#)
- [Determining Effluent Application Rates \(4/27/2006\)](#)
- [Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats](#)
- [Texas Supplement for MLRA 83 & 150 \(4/25/2006\)](#)

[...more \(Last 30 days\)](#)

Draft eFOTG



State Specific Notices



Information Thunderbook

Search menu: [input] [GO]

eFOTG FYI

- Section I
- Section II
 - Table of Contents
 - A. Soils Information for All Texas Soil Survey Areas
 - B. Climatic Data
 - C. Cultural Resources Information
 - D. Threatened and Endangered Species
 - E. Forage Suitability Groups
 - F. Ecological Site
 - Descriptions
 - 1 Texas MLRA Map
 - 2 Precipitation Effectiveness (P-E) Map
 - 3 Ecological Site Descriptions
 - MLRA 42
 - MLRA 70B
 - MLRA 77A
 - Deep Hardland 25-36
 - R077AY001TX
 - ESD - Deep Hardland 25-36
 - Reference Worksheet

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In The Spotlight



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[...more \(Last 30 days\)](#)

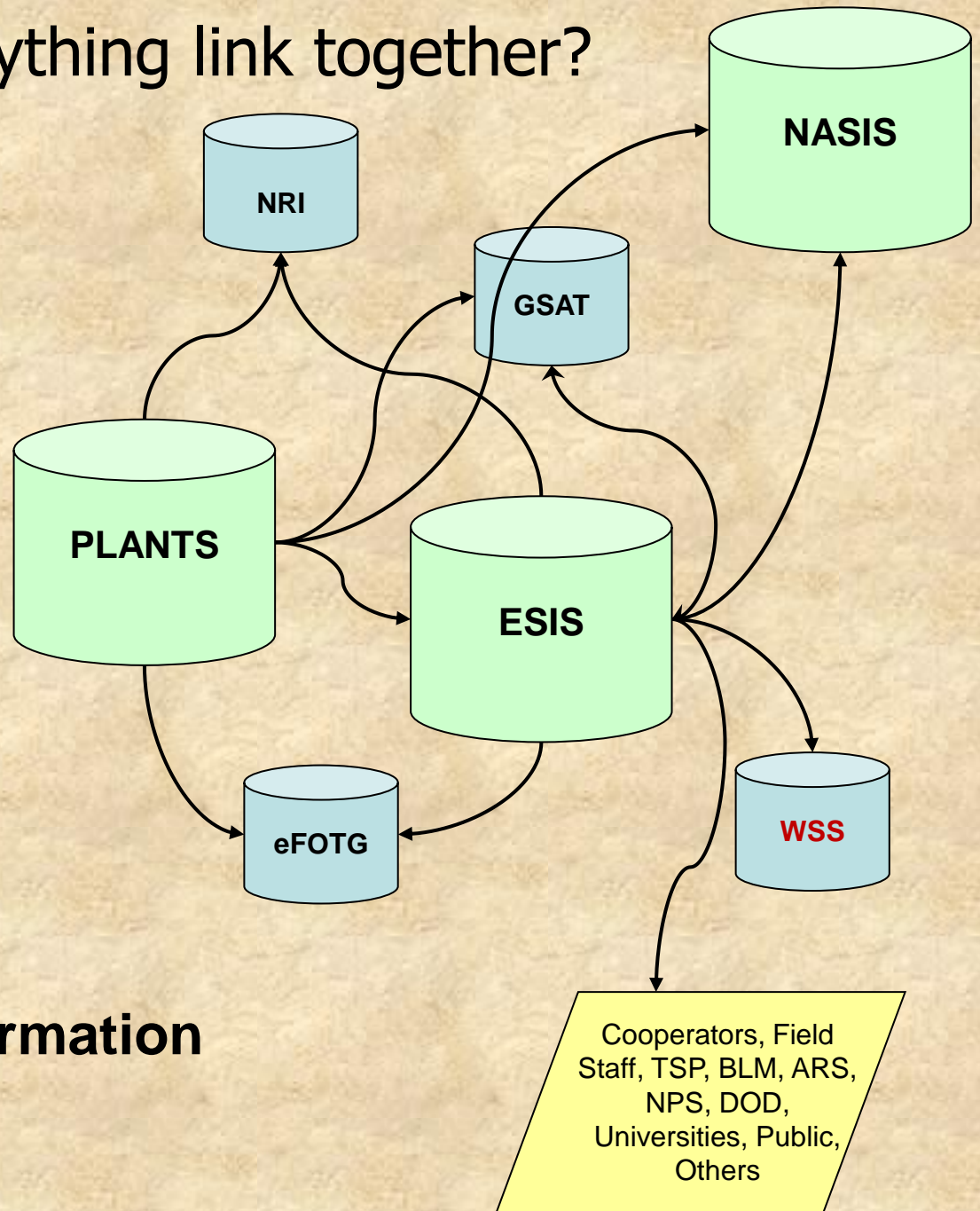
Draft eFOTG



State Specific Notices



So, How does everything link together?



Ecological Site Information (ESIS) Flow Chart

So, How does everything link together?

Soil Data Mart

Web Soil Survey - Home - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address: http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Web Soil Survey

Home About Soils Help Contact Us

You are here: WSS Home

Search: Enter Keywords [Go] All NRCS Sites

Browse by Subject: Soils Home, National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS), Archived Soil Surveys, Status Maps, Official Soil Series Descriptions (OSD), Soil Series Extent Mapping Tool, Soil Data Mart, Geospatial Data Gateway, eOTG, National Soil Characterization Data, Soil Geochemistry Spatial Database

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 information.

Three Basic Steps

- 1 Define...

Use the **Area of Interest (AOI)** to define your area of interest.

I Want To... Start Web Soil Survey (WSS), Know the requirements for running Web Soil Survey, Know whether my web browser works with Web Soil Survey, Know the Web Soil Survey hours of operation, Find what areas of the U.S. have soil data, Announcements/Events: Web Soil Survey 2.0 has been released! View description of new features.

How to use Web Soil Survey

Web Soil Survey

Soil Data Mart - Home - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address: http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Soil Data Mart

Welcome to the Soil Data Mart! The Soil Data Mart allows you to:

- Determine where soil tabular and spatial data is available.
- Download data for one soil survey area at a time. (Download requests for more than one survey area at a time can be submitted through the Geospatial Data Gateway, using the Geospatial Data Gateway also provides the option to obtain data on CD or DVD.)
- Download a template Microsoft Access® database for working with downloaded data.
- Generate a variety of reports for one soil survey area at a time.
- Find soil data by contour for information about soil data for a particular state.
- "Subscribe" or "unsubscribe" to a soil survey area, a person who is subscribed will automatically be notified whenever data for that soil survey area is updated. You must register and login before doing this.

An alternative presentation of the soil survey area data contained in the Soil Data Mart, including on screen or printed soil maps and survey area manuscripts, when they exist for the corresponding survey area, is available through [Web Soil Survey](#).

Before you start, read [Soil Data Mart - Purpose and Procedures \(2/27/95\)](#).

Please either select from the list of options across the top of the page, or to request a download or generate reports, begin by selecting a state or territory.

Select State

The Soil Data Mart may be unavailable on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mountain time due to maintenance activities.

The Soil Data Mart has been tested under Mozilla Firefox® 3.0 and later, Microsoft Internet Explorer® 8.0 and later, and Netscape Navigator® 4.0 and later for Microsoft Windows®. There are differences in site navigation and mechanics under different versions of these browsers. There are some major differences under Netscape Navigator® 4.0 and 8.0. For details on site navigation and mechanics under different versions of these browsers, please see [Navigation and Using the Soil Data Mart on the Soil Data Mart page](#).

The Soil Data Mart provides an entry point to allow its pages to be integrated easily into other web sites. [See detailed information.](#)

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Ecological Site Information System (ESIS)

Ecological Site Information System (ESIS)

Quick Access: Home ESIS, ESIS Name, ESIS Range, Forage Suitability Group, ESIS - Forest, ESIS - Range

Technical Resources: ESIS-NCSS Data, Web Soil Survey, Geospatial Data Gateway, Soil Character Data

Technical Guidance: National Range & State Technical, National Policy, National Policy Manual, National Policy Handbook, National Policy Manual, National Policy Manual, National Policy Manual, National Policy Manual

Ecological Site Information System (ESIS)

ESIS is the NRCS repository for ecological site descriptions and for information associated with the collection of forested and rangeland plot data. ESIS is organized into two applications and associated databases: the Ecological Site Inventory (ESI) application and the Ecological Site Inventory (ESI) application. This section, plus the access tabs on the right provide quick access to technical resources and technical guidance for developing and understanding ecological sites.

Ecological Site Description (ESD)

The ESD application is used to enter, edit and store ecological site information. Only approved ecological sites for forested and rangeland are available to the public. Open this section to access approved and non-approved ESDs. Entry/ESR privileges are required to access non-approved sites. Click on HSA/State of interest, and available ESDs within the HSA/State for the state will be displayed.

Forage Suitability Group Descriptions (FSGD)

Forage suitability group descriptions (FSGDs) are descriptive reports which provide a soil and plant science basis for conservation planning when forage crops are grown. FSGDs identify suitable forage areas, report forage production estimates and distribution of production during the growing season. Open this section to access approved and non-approved FSGDs. Click on HSA/State of interest, and available FSGDs within the HSA/State for the state will be displayed.

Ecological Site Inventory (ESI)

The Ecological Site Inventory (ESI) application provides the capability to enter, edit, and retrieve rangeland, forestry, and agroforestry plot data. ESI stores plot data collected in the Soil-Water-Correlation Field Data Sheet (SC2-010), the Rangeland Soil-Plant-Inventory Data Sheet (SC2-044) and the Production and Conservation Record (SCAR-471). To access ESI information, open the section in click on either the Forest or the Rangeland, Tabular for the left.



You are here: WSS Home

Search

Browse by Subject

- ▶ [Soils Home](#)
- ▶ [National Cooperative Soil Survey \(NCSS\)](#)
- ▶ [Archived Soil Surveys](#)
- ▶ [Status Maps](#)
- ▶ [Official Soil Series Descriptions \(OSD\)](#)
- ▶ [Soil Series Extent Mapping Tool](#)
- ▶ [Soil Data Mart](#)
- ▶ [Geospatial Data Gateway](#)
- ▶ [eFOTG](#)
- ▶ [National Soil Characterization Data](#)
- ▶ [Soil Geochemistry Spatial Database](#)

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



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Three Basic Steps

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[Use the Area of Interest tab](#) to define your area of interest.

I Want To...

- [Start Web Soil Survey \(WSS\)](#)
- [Know the requirements for running Web Soil Survey](#)
- [Know whether my web browser works with Web Soil Survey](#)
- [Know the Web Soil Survey hours of operation](#)
- [Find what areas of the U.S. have soil data](#)

Announcements/Events

- [Web Soil Survey 2.0 has been released! View description of new features.](#)

I Want Help With...

- [How to use Web Soil Survey](#)
- [Known problems and](#)



Area of Interest (AOI)

Soil Map

Soil Data Explorer

Shopping Cart

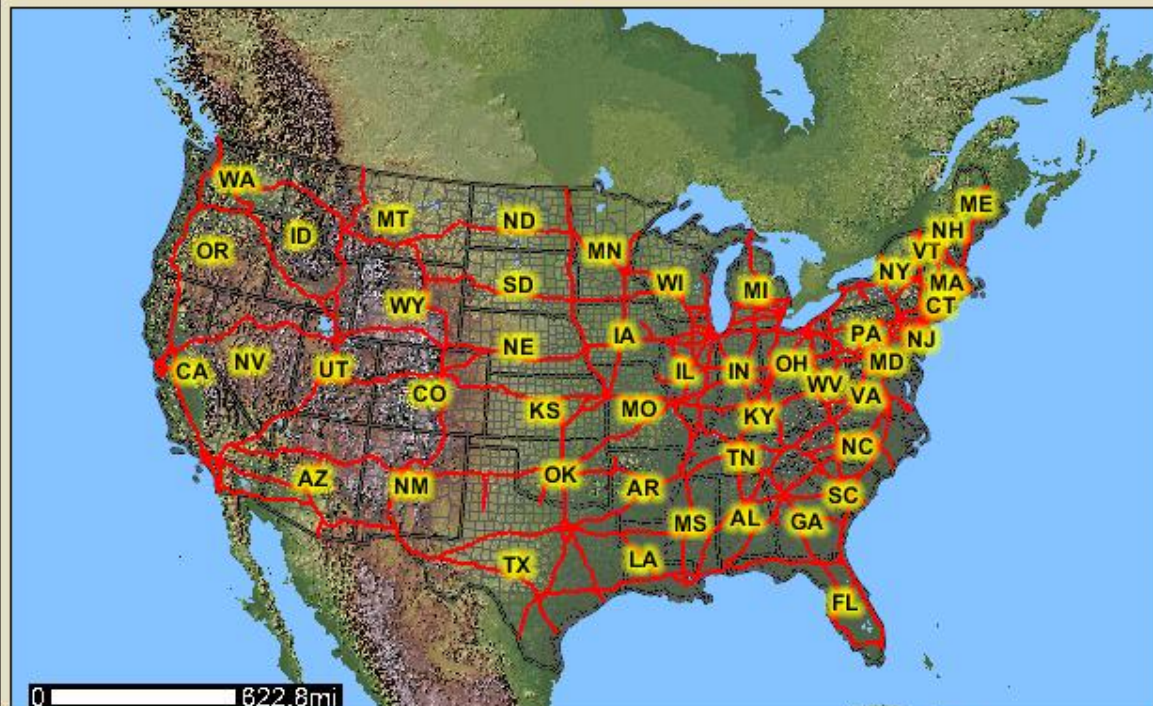
Quick Navigation

Navigate By...

- Address
- State and County
- Soil Survey Area
- Latitude and Longitude
- PLSS (Section, Township, Range)
- Bureau of Land Management
- Department of Defense
- Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Hydrologic Unit

Area of Interest Interactive Map

Legend View Extent Continental U.S. Scale 1:26,800,000 ± 1 %



0 622.8mi



Quick Navigation

Navigate By...

Address

State and County

View

State Texas

County (optional) Dallam

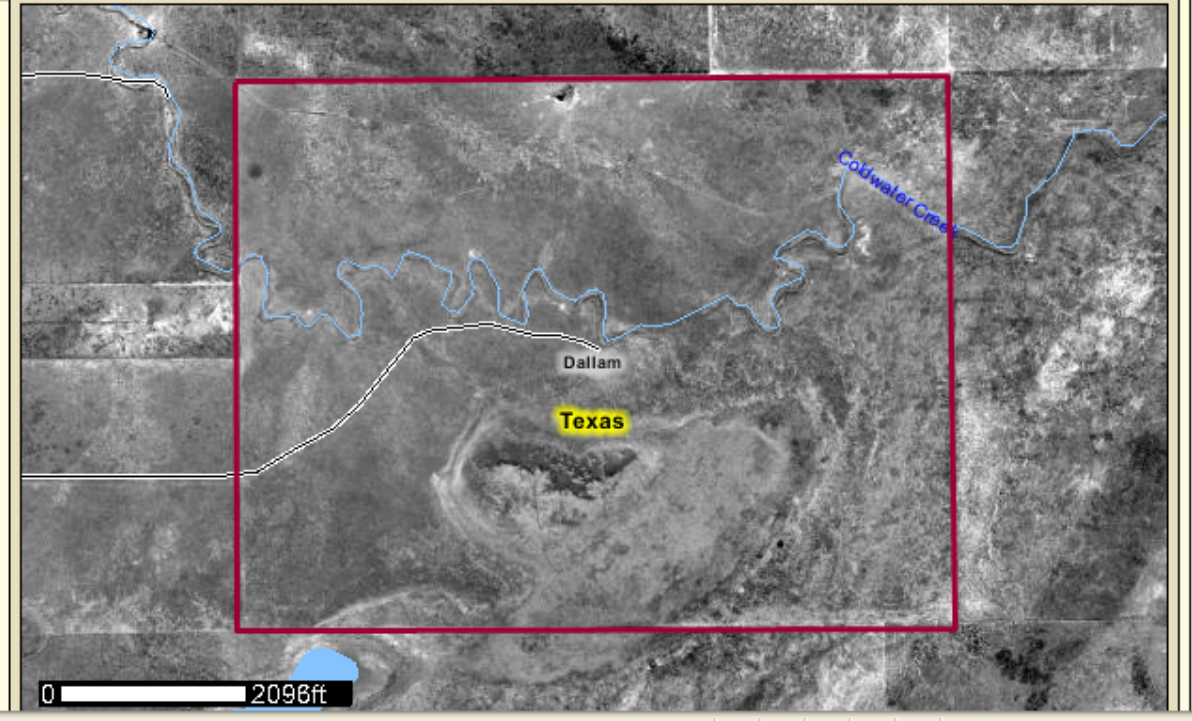
View

- Soil Survey Area
- Latitude and Longitude
- PLSS (Section, Township, Range)
- Bureau of Land Management
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- National Park Service
- Hydrologic Unit

Area of Interest Interactive Map

Legend

View Extent Continental U.S. Scale 1:17,100 ± 1 %



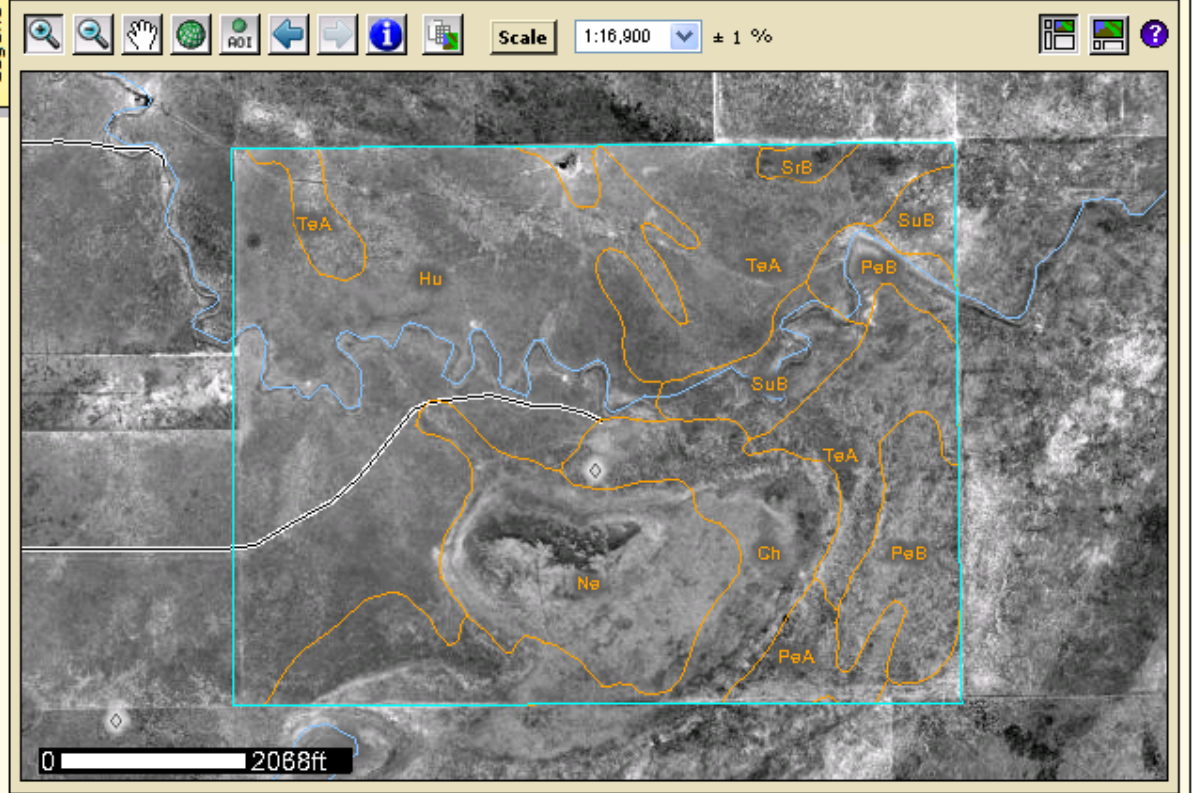
0 2098ft

Map Unit Legend

Dallam County, Texas (TX111)

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Ch	Church soils	159.7	14.2%
Hu	Humbarger loam	427.4	38.0%
Ne	Ness clay	139.5	12.4%
PeA	Perico fine sandy loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	31.3	2.8%
PeB	Perico fine sandy loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	86.8	7.7%
SrB	Spurlock soils, hummocky	14.5	1.3%
SuB	Sunray loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	53.8	4.8%
TeA	Texline loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	210.4	18.7%
VkE	Valentine-Spurlock complex, 5 to 15 percent slopes	0.3	0.0%
Totals for Area of Interest		1,123.7	100.0%

Soil Map





View Soil Information By Use: Rangeland

Printable Version Add to Shopping Cart

Ecological Sites

Open All Close All

All Ecological Sites

View All Ecological Sites Info

View Options

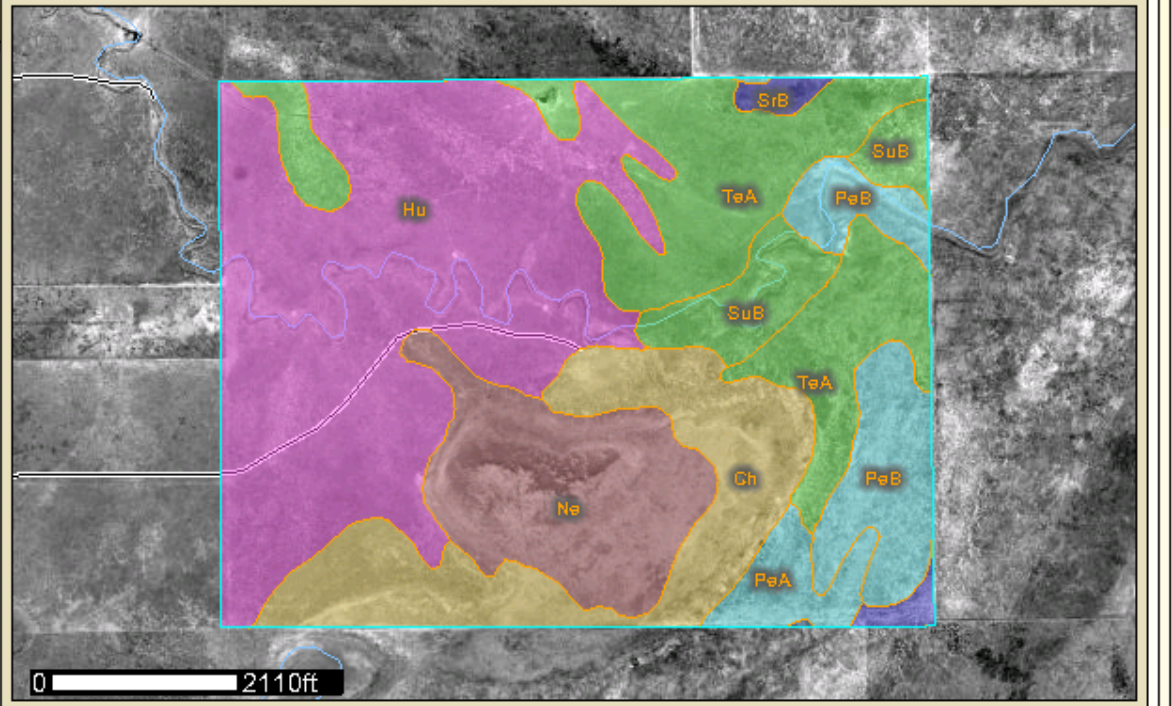
- Dominant Ecological Site Map
- Ecological Sites by Map Unit Component Table

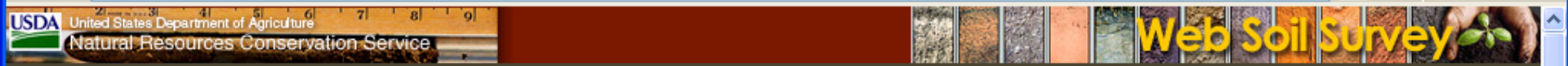
View All Ecological Sites Info

R077AY005TX — Playa PE 25-36	⌵
R077AY006TX — Limey Upland PE 25-36	⌵
R077AY009TX — MIXEDLAND SLOPES PE 25-36	⌵
R077AY012TX — Sandy Loam PE 25-36	⌵
R077BY011NM — High Lime	⌵
R077BY019TX — MIXEDLAND SLOPES PE 25-36	⌵
R077BY020TX — SAND HILLS PE 25-36	⌵
R077EY058TX — Loamy Bottomland PE 25-36	⌵

Map — Dominant Ecological Site

Legend Scale 1:17,200 ± 1 %





Ecological Sites [Open All] [Close All] [?]

- All Ecological Sites
- R077AY005TX — Playa PE 25-36 [v]
- R077AY006TX — Limey Upland PE 25-36 [v]
- R077AY009TX — MIXEDLAND SLOPES PE 25-36 [v]
- R077AY012TX — Sandy Loam PE 25-36** [^]

This Ecological Site

[View Ecological Site Info]

View Options [^]

- All Plant Community Photos
- State Transition Diagram
- Ecological Dynamics Description

[View Ecological Site Info]

- 1. Midgrass/Shortgrass/Tallgrass Community
- 2. Shortgrass/Midgrass/Forb/Shrub Community

All Plant Community Photos — R077AY012TX — Sandy Loam PE 25-36 Ecological Site [^]

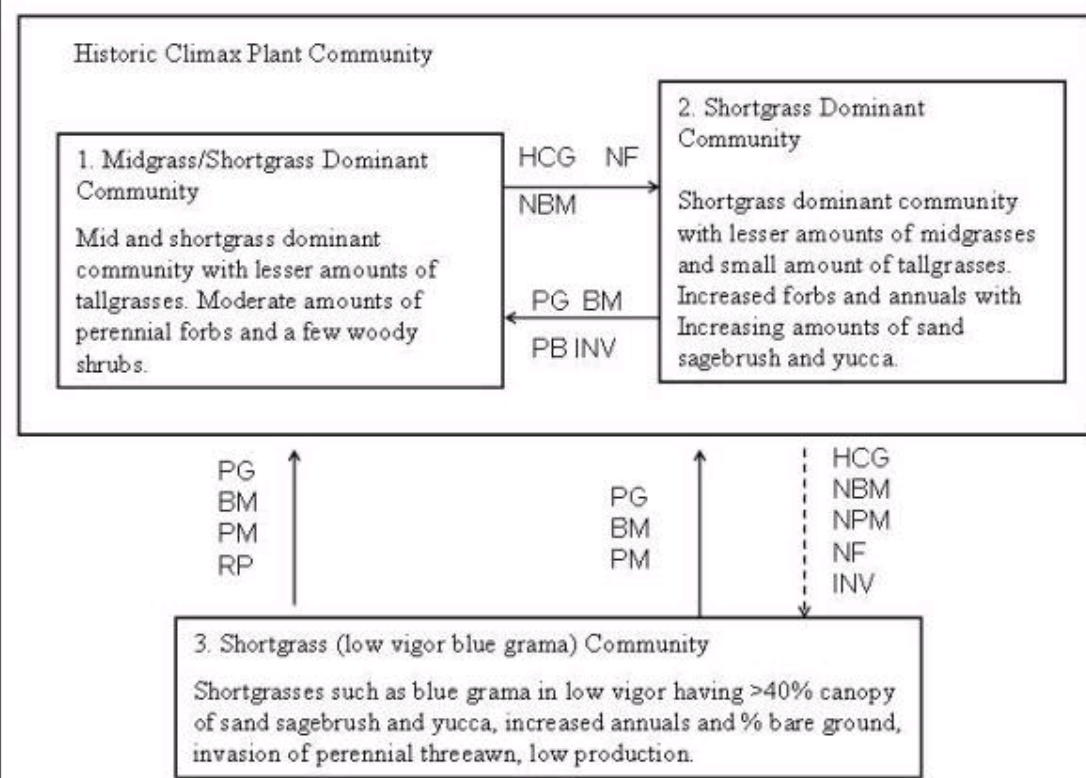
1. Midgrass/Shortgrass/Tallgrass Community



2. Shortgrass/Midgrass/Forb/Shrub Community

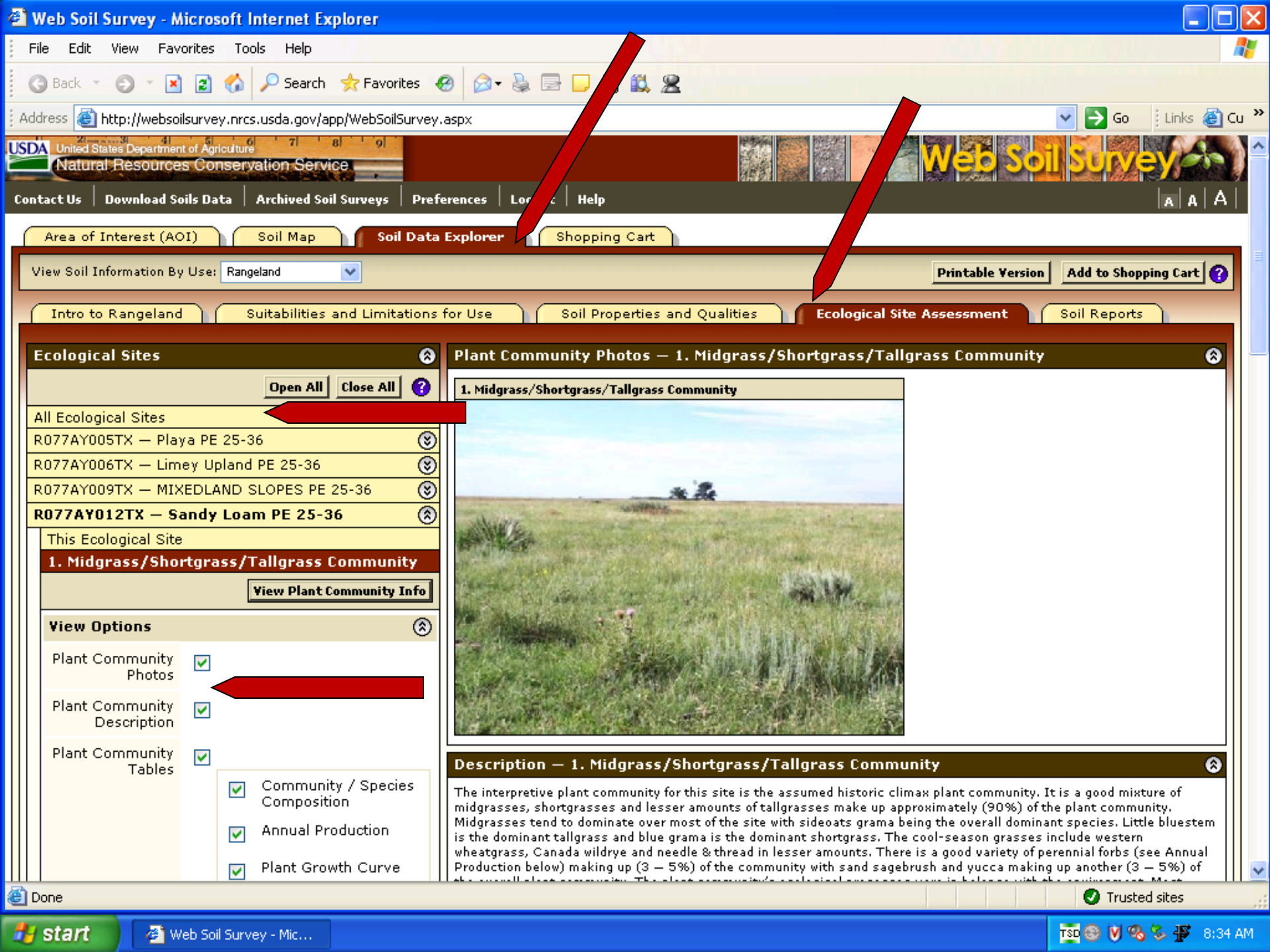


State Transition Diagram



LEGEND

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| BM - Brush Management | HCG - Heavy Continuous Grazing |
| PB - Prescribed Burning | HCPC - Historic Climax Plant Community |
| PG - Prescribed Grazing | PM - Pest Management |
| INV - Brush Invasion | RP - Range Planting |
| NBM - No Brush Management | NF - No Fire |



Ecological Sites

- All Ecological Sites
- R077AY005TX - Playa PE 25-36
- R077AY006TX - Limey Upland PE 25-36
- R077AY009TX - MIXEDLAND SLOPES PE 25-36
- R077AY012TX - Sandy Loam PE 25-36**

This Ecological Site

1. Midgrass/Shortgrass/Tallgrass Community

View Plant Community Info

View Options

- Plant Community Photos
- Plant Community Description
- Plant Community Tables
 - Community / Species Composition
 - Annual Production
 - Plant Growth Curve

Plant Community Photos - 1. Midgrass/Shortgrass/Tallgrass Community

1. Midgrass/Shortgrass/Tallgrass Community



Description - 1. Midgrass/Shortgrass/Tallgrass Community

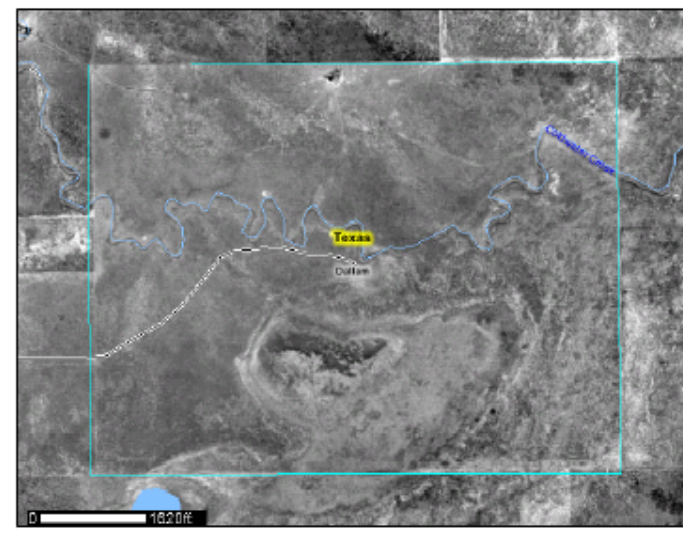
The interpretive plant community for this site is the assumed historic climax plant community. It is a good mixture of midgrasses, shortgrasses and lesser amounts of tallgrasses make up approximately (90%) of the plant community. Midgrasses tend to dominate over most of the site with sideoats grama being the overall dominant species. Little bluestem is the dominant tallgrass and blue grama is the dominant shortgrass. The cool-season grasses include western wheatgrass, Canada wildrye and needle & thread in lesser amounts. There is a good variety of perennial forbs (see Annual Production below) making up (3 - 5%) of the community with sand sagebrush and yucca making up another (3 - 5%) of the community. The plant community's ecological succession is related to the environment. Most



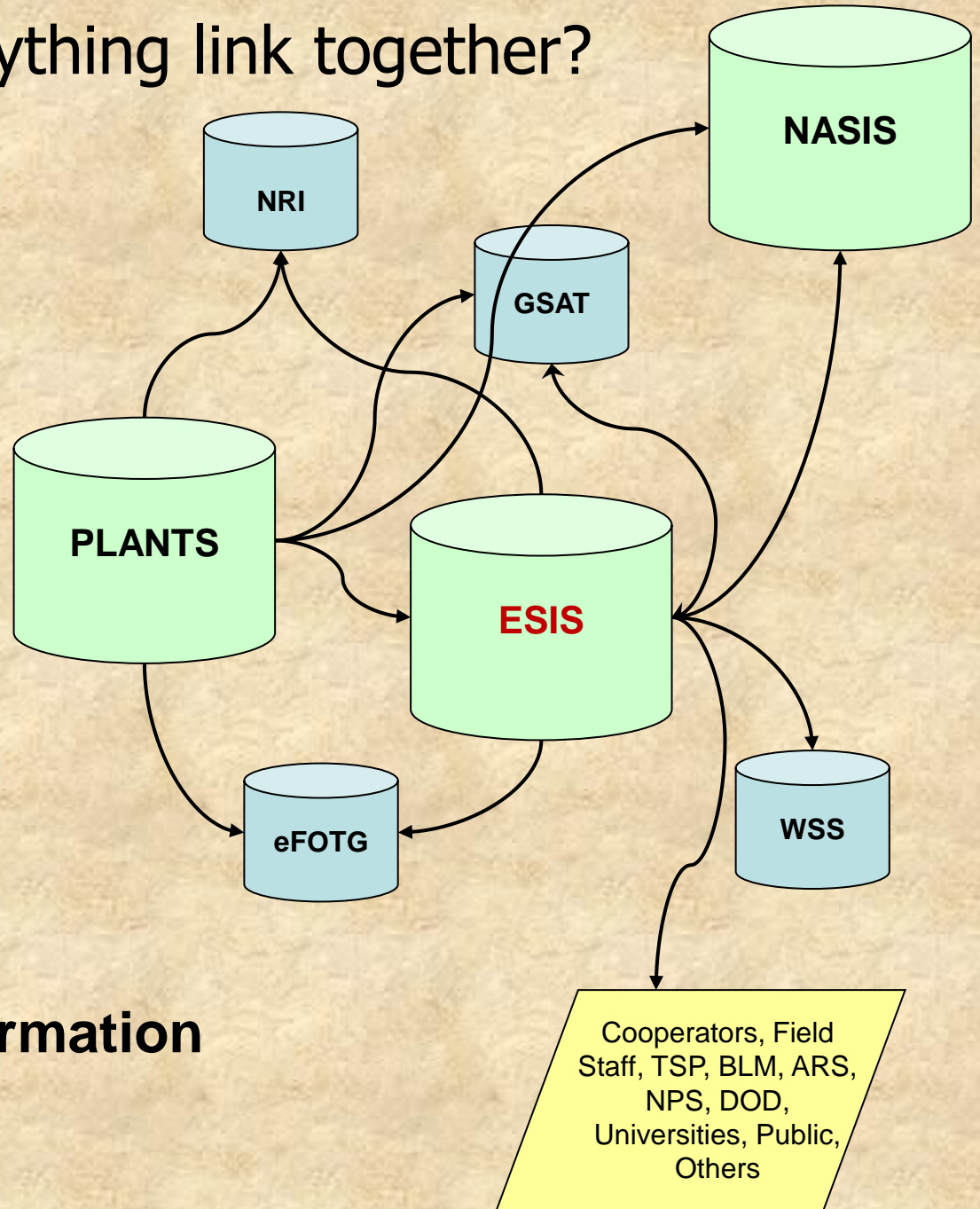
A product of the National Cooperative Soil Survey, a joint effort of the United States Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies, State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local participants

Custom Soil Resource Report for Dallam County, Texas

My Place



So, How does everything link together?



Ecological Site Information (ESIS) Flow Chart

ESIS- ESD

Ecological Site Description

<http://esis.sc.egov.usda.gov>

United States Department of Agriculture
NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Ecological Site Information System

PLANTS ESIS ESD FSGD ESI Rangeland ESI Forestland

Quick Access

- ▶ About ESIS
- ▶ ESD Home
- ▶ FSGD- Forage Suitability Groups
- ▶ ESI - Forest
- ▶ ESI - Range

Ecological Site Information System (ESIS)

ESIS is the NRCS repository for ecological site descriptions and associated databases; the Ecological Site Description application and the Ecological Site Inventory (ESI) application. This section, plus the access tab on the right, provides quick access to technical resources and technical guidance for developing and understanding ecological sites.

Ecological Site Description (ESD)

The ESD application is used to enter, edit and store ecological site information. Only approved ecological sites for forestland and rangeland are available to the public. Open this section to access approved and non-approved ESD's. Entry/Edit privileges are required to access non-approved sites. Click on MLRA/state of interest, and available ESDs within that MLRA/LRU for the state will be displayed.

Forage Suitability Group Descriptions (FSGD)

Forage suitability group descriptions (FSGDs) are interpretive reports which provide a soil and plant science basis for conservation planning where forage crops are grown. FSGDs identify adapted forage species, yearly forage production estimates, and distribution of production during the growing season. Open this section to access approved and non-approved FSGD's. Click on MLRA/state of interest, and available FSGD's within that MLRA/LRU for the state will be displayed.

Ecological Site Inventory (ESI)

The Ecological Site Inventory (ESI) application provides the capability to enter, edit, and retrieve rangeland, forestry, and agro-forestry plot data. ESI stores plot data collected via the Soil-Woodland Correlation Field Data Sheet (ECS-005), the Windbreak-Soil-Species Evaluation Data Sheet (ECS-004) and the Production and Composition Record (RANGE-417). To access ESI information, open this section or click on either the Forest or the Rangeland, "button" to the left.

Technical Resources

- [USDA - ARS Range Database](#)
- [Web Soil Survey](#)
- [Ag Handbook 296](#)
- [Climate Data](#)
- [Soil Change Guide](#)

Technical Guidance

- [National Range & Pasture Handbook](#)
- [National Biology Manual](#)
- [National Biology Handbook](#)
- [National Forestry Manual](#)
- [National Soil Survey Handbook \(NSSH\)](#)

ESI Forest

ESI Range

Reports

- > Approved ESD Reports
- > Approved Reference Sheets

Data Access

- > Data Edit/Entry, Download, Reports
- > GSAT Downloads

**Welcome to the
Ecological Site Description (ESD) System
for Rangeland and Forestland**

The Ecological Site Description (ESD) application provides the capability to enter, edit, and view reports of rangeland and forest land ecological site descriptions. Anyone may view reports of approved Ecological Site Descriptions. Data entry, edit, download, and viewing draft reports is for authorized users only.

ESIS User Guide

For questions about this database as a whole, contact:

Rangeland:

Homer Sanchez

Rangeland Management Specialist
National Grazing Lands Team
Central National Technology Support Center
Fort Worth, Texas
Phone: 817-509-3227
Fax: 817-509-3336

Forestland:

Ray Stoner

Forester
Central National Technology Support Center
Fort Worth, Texas
Phone: 817-509-3215
Fax: 817-509-3336

For questions pertaining to an individual state's data, contact:

NRCS State Range Specialist or Forester for that state.

Please address all comments and suggestions about the contents of this Web page to homer.sanchez@ftw.usda.gov

If you are having problems with this Web page, please let us know at plantswebmaster@plants.usda.gov

Updated May 10, 2010



Plants | **ESIS** | ESD | ESI Forestland | ESI Rangeland

Reports

- > Approved ESD Reports
- > Approved Reference Sheets

Data Access

- > Data Edit/Entry, Download, Reports
- > GSAT Downloads

Welcome to the Ecological Site Description (ESD) System for Rangeland and Forestland Data

Anyone may view reports of approved Ecological Site Descriptions. To view the various reports select a State or MLRA or both and Submit. From the subsequent list, select the ESD you wish to view.

Major Land Resource Areas (MLRA) are a portion of the spatial framework utilized by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the planning, design, implementation, and evaluation of natural resource management activities. MLRA boundaries reflect nearly homogenous areas of landuse, elevation, topography, climate, water resources, potential vegetation, and soils.

If you need assistance in locating the MLRA, click on the [MLRA Explorer](#) link below. The MLRA Explorer is an interactive map-based application of USDA Agriculture Handbook 296. With the tools in this application, you can:

- (1) search for your MLRA by entering your State and County,
- (2) search for LRRs and MLRAs using a variety of geographical and textual queries.

[MLRA Information](#)

[MLRA Explorer](#)

State

None Selected

MLRA

None Selected

Submit

MLRA Selection Method

MLRA Report Components



Interactive

LRR/MLRA

State/County

Fed. Lands

Ecoregion

HUC-8

PLSS

U - Florida Subtropical Fruit, Truck Crop, and Range Region

154 - South-Central Florida Ridge

Select MLRAs

- Check/Clear All
- Physiography Climate
- Geology Water
- Biology Soils
- Land Use LRR Overview

Layers

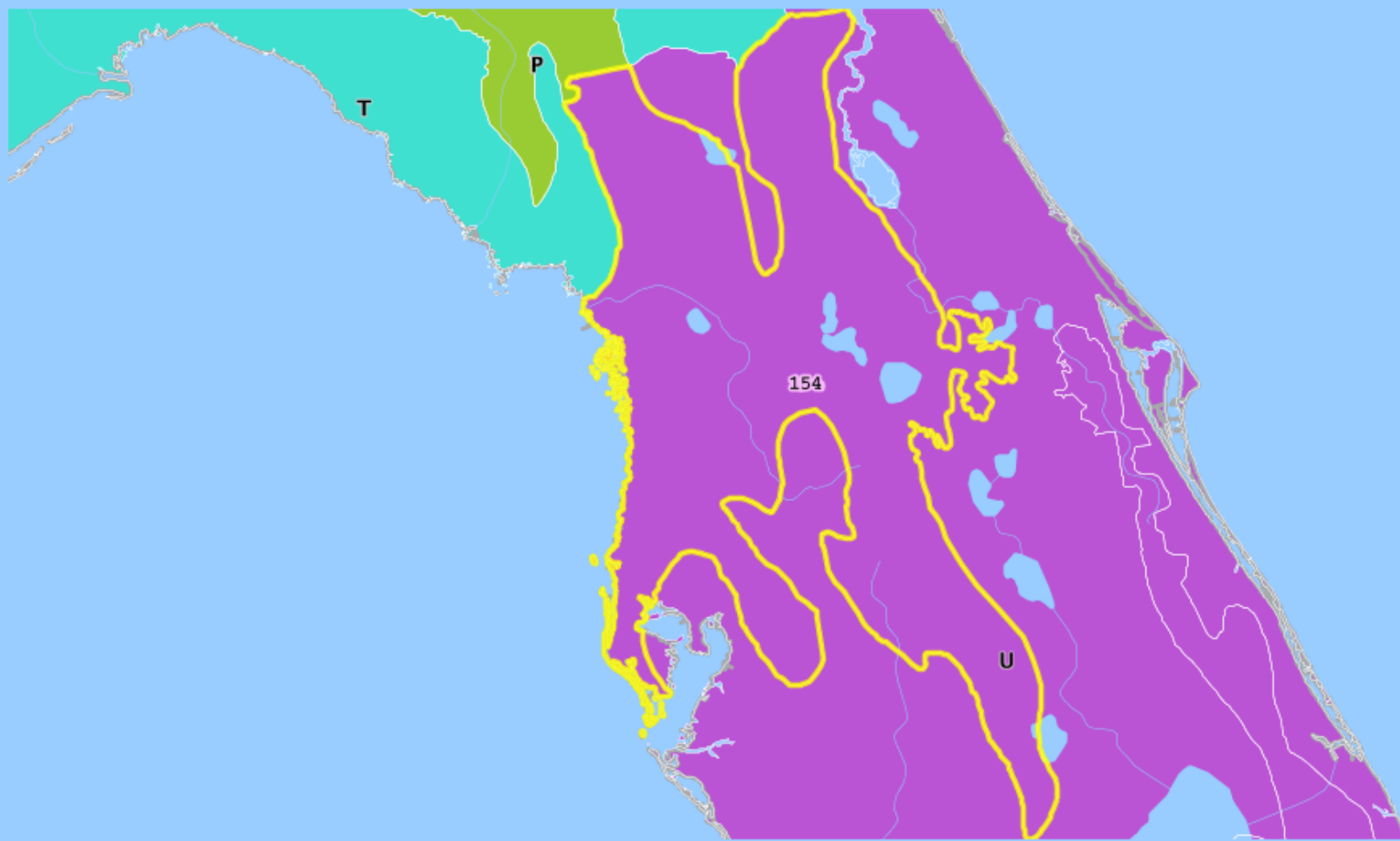


Clear Map

Legend

Continental U.S.

Create report



1 selected MLRA:

154

MLRA 154 - South-Central Florida Ridge

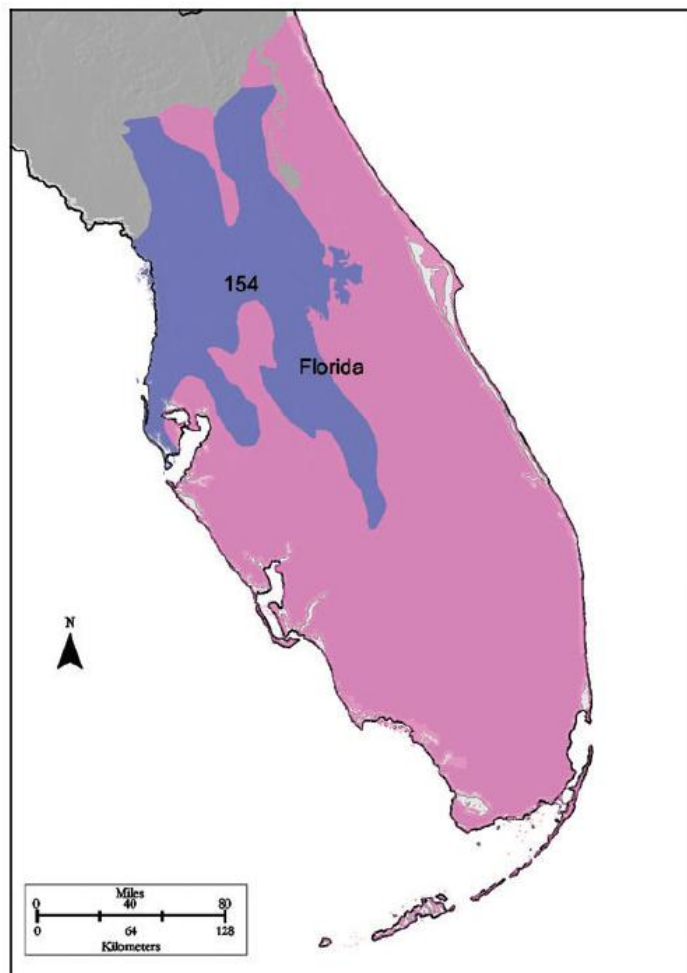


Figure 154-1: Location of MLRA 154 in Land Resource Region U

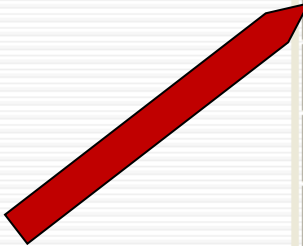
Introduction

This area is entirely in Florida (fig. 154-1). It makes up about 8,285 square miles (21,470 square kilometers). Parts of the east side of the city of Tampa Bay and the west half of Orlando are in this area. Interstate 75 parallels the north-south axis of the northern half of this MLRA, and Interstate 4 crosses the southern tip. The Ocala National Forest and the Withlacoochee State Forest are in this area.

- Reports**
- > Approved ESD Reports
 - > Approved Reference Sheets
- Data Access**
- > Data Edit/Entry, Download, Reports
 - > GSAT Downloads

Ecological Site Description Selection

Select a site to view Report



ID	Type	MLRA	Site Name	Biotic Name
R077DY038TX	R	077D	Clay Loam 12-17" PZ	
R077DY039TX	R	077D	Draw 12-17" PZ	
R077DY040TX	R	077D	High Lime 12-17" PZ	
R077DY041TX	R	077D	Lakebed 12-17" PZ	
R077DY042TX	R	077D	Limy Upland 12-17" PZ	
R077DY045TX	R	077D	Sand Hills 12-17" PZ	
R077DY046TX	R	077D	Sandy 12-17" PZ	
R077DY047TX	R	077D	Sandy Loam 12-17" PZ	
R077DY048TX	R	077D	Shallow 12-17" PZ	
R077DY049TX	R	077D	Very Shallow 12-17" PZ	
R077DY591TX	R	077D	Gyp 12-17" PZ	

For questions about this database as a whole, contact:

Rangeland:

Homer Sanchez
 Rangeland Management Specialist
 National Grazing Lands Team
 Central National Technology Support Center
 Fort Worth, Texas
 Phone: 817-509-3227
 Fax: 817-509-3336

Forestland:

Ray Stoner
 Forester
 Central National Technology Support Center
 Fort Worth, Texas
 Phone: 817-509-3215
 Fax: 817-509-3336

What does an ESD Look Like?

Ecological Site Description System - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites Recycle Mail Print Mail New Folder Favorites

Address http://esis.sc.egov.usda.gov/esis_report/fsReport.aspx?approved=yes&id=R077AY001TX Go

United States Department of Agriculture
NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service
Ecological Site Description

Plants ESIS ESD ESI Forestland ESI Rangeland

Report Selections

- General
- > Physiographic Features
- > Climate Features
- > Water Features
- > Soil Features
- > Plant Communities
- > Site Interpretations
- > Supporting Information
- > Complete Report
- > HTML Printable Format

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

ECOLOGICAL SITE DESCRIPTION

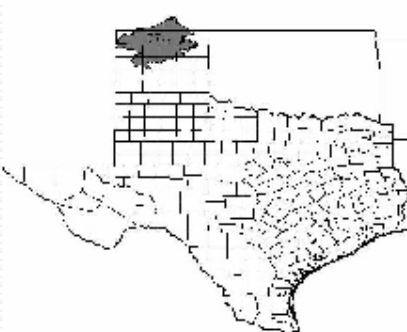
ECOLOGICAL SITE CHARACTERISTICS

Site Type: Rangeland

Site Name: Deep Hardland PE 25-36

Site ID: R077AY001TX

Major Land Resource Area: 077A - Southern High Plains, Northern Part



WHY ESDs?

Draft

Interagency Ecological Site



Handbook for Rangelands

21 July 2011



"Helping People Help the Land"

Landscapes are Divided Into Ecological Sites for the Purposes of :

- Inventory
- Evaluation
- Management



Potential Uses for ESDs

- Standard reference for natural resource information for all federal agencies and other interested groups/organizations
- Training tool and information source
- Tool to assess lands for potential values or resource specific concerns
 - wildlife habitat
 - carbon sinks
 - vulnerability to loss or degradation
 - Site restoration
- Tool to prioritize and target limited program dollars



Questions, Comments, ..Thank you



- The Web Soil Survey:
<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>
- The Ecological Site Information System (ESIS):
<http://esis.sc.egov.usda.gov/>